



Banner

Winter
2016

DOR 2016 to Explore Parallels Between Internment and Islamophobia

By Kay Ochi

“Is It 1942 Again? Overcoming Our Fears and Upholding Constitutional Rights for All” is the theme of the 2016 Los Angeles Day of Remembrance (DOR) program which will take place on Saturday, Feb. 20 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Japanese American National Museum 100 N. Central Ave., Los Angeles.

This year’s theme recognizes the importance of addressing the recent upsurge in anti-Muslim and anti-refugee sentiment spurred by the terrorist events in Paris and San Bernardino and exacerbated by public leaders calling for actions that scapegoat Muslim Americans and refugees, similar to what happened to JAs during World War II.

“Given the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II, and having been the target of rampant racism, Japanese Americans have a unique legacy and an urgent responsibility to recall and share the devastating effects and long-term impacts of such treatment,” stated Kay Ochi, NCCR Co-chair and DOR

committee member.

“We must support other targeted communities. Had our community been supported by other groups during WWII, the course of history and the lives of over 110,000 Japanese Americans may have been spared tremendous hardship,” said Ochi.

Although some neighbors and friends showed support to JAs, the only national organization that defended JAs and openly opposed the exclusion and incarceration was the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). The AFSC will be celebrating its Centennial in 2017 and will be acknowledged at this year’s DOR program.

“The unlawful incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II was a shameful chapter in the history of the United States, one for which the government itself apologized. To view it otherwise, or to believe that such action should be emulated today with regard to those who follow Islam, is a tragic mistake,” said Greg Kimura,

president and CEO of the Japanese American National Museum.

“In order to move towards a nation where the Bill of Rights and Constitution apply to everyone, it’s necessary to start within our own community. The DOR committee urges everyone to attend the program and bring those who may benefit from both the traditional commemoration of Executive Order 9066 and hearing from our friends in the American Muslim and Syrian refugee communities,” added Ochi.

The sponsoring organizations of the 2016 Los Angeles Day of Remembrance (and their respective DOR committee members) include: the Manzanar Committee (Bruce Embrey); the Japanese American Citizens League/Pacific Southwest District (Traci Ishigo, Stephanie Nitahara); JANM (Elizabeth Lim, Mark Robbins, Koji Sakai); NCCR (Richard Katsuda, Suzy Katsuda, Kay Ochi).

A reception catered by Carrie Morita’s Community Catering will follow the program.

Standing Up for Unity and Peace

By Kathy Masaoka

Under the name #VigilantLove, close to 400 people gathered for a Candlelight Vigil and March in Little Tokyo on December 10, 2015 to support the victims of the Paris and San Bernardino attacks as well as all victims of war and violence.

The organizers of the vigil, NCCR, JAACL PSW, the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) Greater Los Angeles, the Muslim Public Affairs Council, Asian Americans Advancing Justice LA and the Tuesday Night Project, wanted to speak out against Islamophobia and scapegoating

of American Muslims, Sikhs and South Asians.

The vigil began with the Muslim evening prayer followed by an interfaith gathering led by Shakeel Syed of the Southern California Shura Council. He was joined by Rev. Nori Ito of Higashi Honganji, Rev. Mark Nakagawa of Centenary, Rabbi Aryeh Cohen and Jyotswaroop Kaur of the Sikh community. A representative from Service Employee International Union (SEIU) expressed appreciation to the group and to the American Muslim community



for their immediate support of the victims, 11 of whom belonged to SEIU.

The interfaith and organization reps carried the coalition banner, designed by David Monkawa, with the words “Standing Up for Unity

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Remembering Jim Saito

By Kay Ochi

On September 23, 2015, long-time NCRR member and activist Jim Saito passed away at age 93.

Jim and his wife Kathy joined NCRR in 1981 after witnessing the federal commission hearings and became active in the campaign for redress. They remained active in NCRR for over 20 years.

At the 1995 Day of Remembrance program, Jim was awarded NCRR's Fighting Spirit Award for his strong commitment to redress, his support of others who held principled positions, like Frank Emi and the Resisters of Conscience, and for his struggle for justice in all areas of his life.

In addition to his feisty temperament in matters of justice and fairness, Jim's life was highlighted by a long career as a meter reader for the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (DWP). Jim was an exemplary worker: efficient, innovative and always willing to support other meter readers.

Although it was DWP's practice to reward innovation in the workplace, Jim's techniques to improve efficiency were not acknowledged initially. After years of attempts for fair compensation, Jim took the DWP to court and justice prevailed. Jim won!

Jim had an amazing family life with his wife Kathy. They had three sons, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Jim and Kathy enjoyed babysitting, and as the children grew older, they attended the children's numerous sporting events. He always had good advice—telling one child, "You're gonna be small, better be decent in sports, watch Bob Cousy." He was an origami enthusiast, crossword puzzle whiz and a great body surfer.

Throughout his life, Jim met and maintained life-long friendships with folks like Charlie Tajiri, John Akimoto, Vernon Ward, Wallace De Cuir and Babe Lester, a very multicultural group. He enjoyed playing Bridge at the Seinan Center and continued driving until he was 90.

In 2013, Jim suffered a hip fracture and eventually lived at Keiro Nursing Home. At his Memorial Service, Kathy Masaoka and I spoke on behalf of NCRR and extended our sincere condolences to the family. Jim's grandson Justin was able to designate a \$500 award from his employer's charitable foundation to NCRR for our community service.

NCRR was very fortunate to have known Jim as an activist and as a friend.



At the 1995 DOR, Jim Saito (center) is congratulated by his wife Kathy and friends from the Seinan Center after receiving NCRR's Fighting Spirit Award. (Photo by Janice Yen)

Remembering Bob Toji

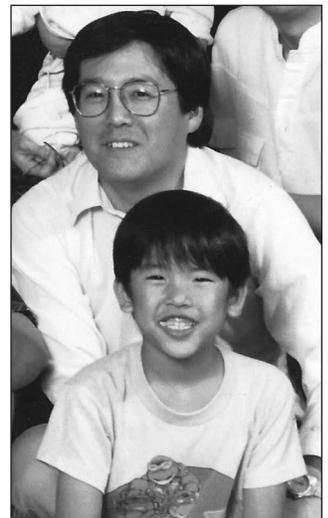
By Kathy Masaoka

Bob Toji was committed to his community and in the early 1980s became involved in NCRR. He worked hard lobbying to get a presidential apology and \$20,000 to Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during WWII. Bob helped to coordinate outreach and presentations to churches and community groups, and organized the mail outs that were essential to keep people informed and involved.

After the redress victory, Bob continued to work on educating others about the camps and redress as chair of the Education Committee and served as co-emcee of the Day of Remembrance commemorating the 50th anniversary of the camps in 1992. He gained useful skills, called every event a "party" and was proud to say, "I was one person in a huge movement that accomplished an act of American justice for my parents and all their friends—MY people." Bob was able to write about his involvement in NCRR and redress and the impact it had on his life for the NCRR book.

While Bob and Suzanne raised their boys, Jared, Kirk and Marcus, Bob worked as an engineer at ACCO, a large commercial HVAC (heating, ventilating, air conditioning) company, from 1981. He got his physical engineer license, became a controls engineer, and worked on the Staples Center, Getty Museum, ARCO Towers, etc.

He was also active at Senshin and joined the Board of Directors, serving as board



Bob Toji, above. Photo courtesy of Kathy Masaoka.

Continues on next page

Remembering Lillian Nakano

By Richard Katsuda

Lillian Nakano was an incredible source of inspiration and guidance for many members of NCCR throughout her many years in the redress movement for Japanese Americans as well as other progressive movements for justice and dignity for all.

Lillian worked side by side with her husband, the late Bert Nakano, to help shape the direction of NCCR since its founding in 1980. Although she was actually a Sansei from Hawaii, she and Bert were seen as strong Nisei voices who countered many of the sentiments of more conservative Nisei who advocated a quiet and low profile regarding redress for Japanese Americans. Lillian also helped give Bert a well-balanced and thoughtful perspective as national spokesperson for NCCR.

Lillian was ever-present as a force to ensure that women were treated as equals and respected as leaders within NCCR as well as the larger community. As June Kizu recalls, "She was the one who encouraged me to step up, raise my hand, talk. Ultimately I agreed to become co-chair of NCCR. That was a big deal. I had never spoken in front of a crowd. She was the one who would call me at home and say, 'You can do it.'"

Lillian had a soft-spoken yet forceful presence as she moved others to take action and stand up for their beliefs. While she encouraged others to take stands, when necessary Lillian did not hesitate to express her own views. This demeanor served Lillian well as she talked to members of the community when NCCR was doing outreach presentations.

Jim Matsuoka remembers that Lillian "was never confrontational. People were always willing to talk to her. She did it in such a way that you were inclined to want to agree with her."



Lillian Nakano. Photo by Janice Yen.

While dedicated to the community as a whole, Lillian was especially focused on ensuring that voices from the grassroots community be heard and respected.

Lillian said, "It was very hard. They'd say, 'Oh, no, don't start this. We don't want to get hassled again by the government. We had enough of that.' And they would be just totally hostile. But we just kept at it. We just wanted Niseis to talk it out. And you know what? The more they did, the more angry they got. And pretty soon [they were saying] 'there's nothing to be ashamed of, we don't have to be embarrassed, we don't have to be intimidated.'" Lillian also insisted on respecting other minority communities and aiding them in their pursuits for social and economic justice.

Beyond Lillian's commitment to social justice, she was also a master of the shamisen, with a love for the instrument that began when she was a young child. She was trained in classical shamisen and became a natori master certified to teach shamisen.

In her later years, Lillian made a risky break from classical shamisen and collaborated with her nephew Glenn Horiuchi, a jazz pianist. Although such a departure is frowned upon by most classical shamisen artists, Lillian did not let that deter her, just as she had not let more conservative folks deter her from acting upon her beliefs for social justice.

As her son Erich noted, "She always said her teacher is probably turning over in her grave." Lillian, Glenn, and Francis Wong, a jazz saxophonist from the Bay Area, played at various venues in the U.S., Mexico, Canada, and Europe. At the same time, Lillian did not forget her classical roots, and she continued to teach classical shamisen and formed an ensemble called San Mi.

Throughout all of Lillian's activities, her love and care for people came through very clearly. That warmth certainly resonated in Lillian's relations with her family. She and Bert were a constant presence at all NCCR activities. Lillian loved to spend time with her son Erich, daughter-in-law Sandra, and granddaughter Alina and grandson Gabriel.

Remembering Bob Toji, cont.

president in 2000. After he retired from ACCO. Bob worked at the family restaurant, Feast from the East, stayed involved with Senshin and supported community events.

Bob battled his cancer for six years, giving support to others in the Cancer Support Group at UCLA and living life with a smile until his passing on August 9, 2015.

Remembering Tetsujiro “Tex” Nakamura

Excerpted from *Rafu Shimpo* Obituary By Martha Nakagawa

Tex Nakamura was a civil rights advocate and attorney who worked with Wayne Collins on the Japanese American renunciation cases, the Tokyo Rose Iva Toguri d’Aquino case, and Japanese Latin American cases. He was incarcerated in the Tule Lake Segregation Center, where he worked in the camp legal aid department when President Roosevelt signed Public Law 405 in 1944, which allowed U.S. citizens, in time of war, to renounce their citizenship upon the approval of the Attorney General. The government had passed this law in order to legally deport U.S. citizens of Japanese descent to Japan.

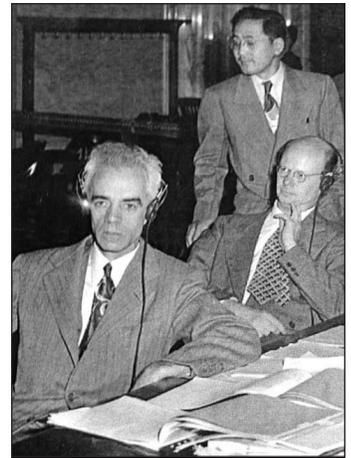
Fear and confusion ran rampant in Tule Lake, which resulted in mass renunciation among the Tuleans. Many had renounced their citizenship out of anger at the U.S. government or fear that their families would be separated or even hope that they could wait out the war in camp. When many started voicing a desire to reverse their renunciation, Nakamura contacted Wayne Collins, who agreed to take on the renunciation cases.

To pay for Collins’ legal fees, Nakamura organized the Tule Lake Defense Committee. Collins was able to halt the immediate deportation of an estimated 4,700 renunciants in 1945, but it would take another two decades and the filing of more than 10,000 affidavits to restore the U.S. citizenship of the renunciants. While assisting Collins with the renunciation cases, Nakamura helped Collins halt the deportation of Japanese Latin Americans who had been forcibly brought to the U.S. to be used in hostage exchanges between the U.S.

and Japan, and he also traveled to Japan to gather affidavits and testimonies for the Tokyo Rose trial.

Barbara Takei, a Tule Lake Committee member, had this to say: “Mr. Nakamura was a civil rights hero, who worked tirelessly with Wayne Collins and the Tule Lake Defense Committee to reverse the injustice of the Department of Justice’s renunciation and deportation program... In the decades following the wartime incarceration, he championed the rights of thousands of Japanese Americans in a 20-year battle with the Department of Justice to return what was unfairly taken.”

Bill Nishimura, a former renunciant, called Nakamura his “lifesaver. Mr. Wayne Collins and Mr. Tex Nakamura are my *inochi no onjin* (lifesaver). The government was harassing us and suppressing information, and here, these two gentlemen came out to help us and got us favorable results. *Eien no onjin* (my lifesaver forever). *Anohitotachi no okage de* (because of them) I’m here at 95, and I’m trying to tell the story so it will never happen again.”



Tex Nakamura, standing, with Wayne Collins (left) and George Oshausen (right), at courthouse in Del Rio, TX to file an action to stop deportation of Japanese Latin Americans. Photo courtesy of Nakamura family.

NCCR: The Grassroots Struggle for Japanese American Redress and Reparations

By Richard Katsuda

The NCCR Book Committee is very pleased to announce that we have finally turned the corner in our long journey to produce a book that tells the NCCR story. We wanted a book that appealed to college students as well as to the broader general community.

We were so fortunate that Prof. Lane Hirabayashi graciously and enthusiastically consented to be our editor. By digesting the articles written by NCCR members, and given initial editing and organizing chapters by the Book Committee, he has taken the bull by the horns by writing introductions to three of the chapters and making further edits of the articles. Prof. Hirabayashi then commissioned Qris Yamashita to do a mock-up of the chapters.

The Book Committee presented the mock-up at the December NCCR General Meeting, and the response was overwhelmingly positive. Everyone agreed that the mock-up was visually pleasing and well organized.

Prof. Hirabayashi has injected a tone that reflects his intimacy with how NCCR has conducted its work by trying to uphold the grassroots community’s interests and desires and by the integral and egalitarian role that women have played in all of NCCR’s activities. At the same time, he has placed NCCR’s work within the larger context of how individuals and groups have historically shaped society.

Prof. Hirabayashi is so dedicated to the book and the belief that it will be an important contribution that he will be taking a sabbatical from his teaching duties at UCLA during the winter quarter to complete his work on the remaining chapters. Meanwhile the Book Committee will continue to assemble and organize photos that will be used in the book.

We are all confident that the book will be completed by mid-2016.

Remembering Rep. Jim Wright

By Jim Matsuoka

NCCR remembers with gratitude the Congressional support for redress from former House Speaker Jim Wright of Texas. A powerful House Democrat with enormous influence over three decades, Speaker Wright was key to opening the door so that the redress bill could reach the floor of Congress.

After Congressman Mervyn Dymally introduced a bill in 1982 to “test the waters,” Representative Wright worked closely with members of Congress like Dymally, Norman Mineta and Robert Matsui to bring together a redress bill that would stand a chance of passing yet also meet the expectations of former internees.

He introduced the “Civil Liberties Act of 1983,” which called for \$20,000 individual reparations, an apology and

an educational fund. Unfortunately, the bill—H.R. 4110—died in subcommittee, where the reputation of subcommittees as “graveyards of bills,” was well-founded. Undeterred, Rep. Wright again introduced the redress bill in 1985 as H.R. 442. This bill would suffer the same fate in subcommittee.

Redress, however, was gaining strength nationally. An intense struggle waged by JA communities and friends across the nation brought more support and a demand for a resolution to this injustice. Gaining momentum, more and more members of the House were willing to join as co-sponsors of a redress bill.

H.R. 442 was brought forward again in 1987. In January of that year, it was introduced by Democratic Majority Leader Tom Foley of Washington. It cleared the dreaded Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee and reached the floor of Congress for what we now know was a historic vote for redress.

Jim Wright, in the meantime, was targeted by his political enemies for his decision to accept a generous royalty check for a book about his life. Under attack by an Ethics Committee spearheaded by Newt Gingrich, Wright was forced to step down as Speaker.

Through it all, Wright remained steadfast in his support of redress. He continued to use his influence and clout to keep the bill alive during his term in office. Jim Wright passed away in May 2015 at the age of 92.

NCCR salutes him for his efforts towards redress and as a friend of the Japanese American community.



Rep. Jim Wright (far right) with Rep. Mervyn Dymally (center) and NCCR members Bert Nakano (far left) and Miya Iwataki (second from right). Photo from NCCR archives.

Remembering Masaji Inoshita

Excerpted from an article by Carrie Morita

In early November, the beautiful blue skies of Arizona welcomed over 75 people, including nine from the Los Angeles area, four of them NCCR members, to the site of the former Gila River Concentration Camp, for a memorial cleanup in honor of Nisei Masaji “Mas” Inoshita who passed away in July 2015.

Ted Namba of the Arizona JACL was the principle organizer and was the emcee for the program. He organized the cleanup to honor Mas Inoshita and took over for Mas and Jim Kubota as Chair of the Gila River Monument Maintenance Committee six years ago when Mas and Jim wanted to slow down a bit with their activities.

After Executive Order 9066, Mas’s family was forced to give up their 55-acre farm, located in Guadalupe, CA. Mas’s family, including his parents and eight siblings, spent three years at the Gila River Camp, located south of Phoenix.

Mas enlisted in the U.S. Army and joined the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) and served as a translator in Burma, India, and China. Mas worked tirelessly to educate everyone from children, college students and to other communities about the camps and the need for diversity of races in workplaces, schools and in society. He spent most of his adult life as a historian and civil rights advocate.

Mas was a proud member of American Legion Post 84, the Ira H. Hayes Post from Sacaton, AZ. Post 84 is made up mostly of veterans who live in the Sacaton area. Post 84 was named after Ira H. Hayes, a Gila River Indian Community member and one of the Marines on the iconic sculpture depicting the



Mas Inoshita (right) with Navajo Code Talker at Ira H. Hayes Parade. (Photo by Kathy Masaoka.)

raising of the flag over Mt. Suribachi in Iwo Jima.

Ted introduced Carrie Morita as Mas’s #1 fan from Southern California.

Her fondest memories are of accompanying Mas to the Ira H. Hayes Parade

with Kathy Masaoka. Mas was hugely popular, with many in the stands and along the road shouting his name and he in turn, waving back and shouting, “Mas is here! Post 84!”

Update on the Support of “Comfort Women” (Halmonis or Grandmas)

By Kathy Masaoka

NCCR members David Monkawa and Kathy Masaoka were able to travel to San Francisco to speak in support of the SF Board of Supervisors’ resolution to establish a memorial to the “Comfort Women” and to conduct education around the issue. The resolution was sponsored by Eric Mar, SF Board Supervisor who had been working with a various community groups to develop the resolution.

It passed unanimously on September 22, 2015 in spite of efforts by the Japanese Consulate to dissuade Board members from supporting the resolution. NCCR members were joined by John Ota, former NCCR SF Chapter member who spoke in support of the resolution along with close to 200 people who testified both for and against the resolution.

Grandma Yong Soo Lee traveled from Korea to speak before the committee and to share her experience as a “comfort woman”. She had been taken as a young girl of 15 years old to Taiwan. At several points during the hearing, Supervisor Mar had to admonish some speakers, who tried to say that the women were prostitutes and willing participants, by telling them “I will not let you call Grandma Lee a liar.”

In addition to the Board of Supervisors meeting, NCCR was able to testify before the SF Commission on the Status of Women and to share our work in Los Angeles with the SF Japantown Task Force which was

concerned that they had not been included in the process. Eric Mar responded to that concern and recommended that the Task Force be part of the committee that will determine the design, placement and wording etc. of the actual memorial.

There was an active group in Japantown called Asian Americans for Peace and Justice that came together during the support work for Ehren Watada. As a result of the “comfort women”

issue many of them are now part of the coalition called the Comfort Women Justice Coalition. One of the activities that the Japanese American members have been working on is creating more dialogue among members of Japantown.

NCCR is also concerned about creating better understanding of the issue in the Japanese American community. We held a reception where Grandma Lee was able to share her story, moving many in the audience to tears. She does not blame Japanese people but is clear that the government of Japan was responsible for the “comfort women” system.

She herself was protected for a time by a kind



Grandma Lee (Photo courtesy of Kathy Masaoka)

Continues on next page

Standing Up for Unity, cont.

and Peace and Against Islamophobia” from the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center through the Japanese Village Plaza singing “We Shall Overcome” to the guitar playing of Phil Shigekuni and Nancy Gohata.

At the Japanese American National Museum (JANM), others joined the group to hear a welcome by Dr. Greg Kimura of JANM and Kathy Masaoka of NCCR who read the Solidarity Statement signed by 80 organizations. Traci Ishigo of JAACL and Sahar Pirzada of CAIR, as emcees, introduced the speakers and also shared their own personal stories.

Sahar expressed her fear after the San Bernardino attacks since her hijab identified her as Muslim. Haroon Manjlai of CAIR provided information about the rise in hate crimes against American Muslims. Wilbur Sato of NCCR read poems about camp and about his desire for peace, and Jyotswaroop Kaur shared stories about the Sikh community.

Traci Kato-Kiriyama and Sean Miura kept the energy up with their reflections on the stories and on the meaning of #VigilantLove. Salam Al-Marayati provided ways for people to take action and express to officials when they do the right thing and when they don’t. Even a simple thing like a call to the mosques to express support is very welcome.

We ended with a lighting of the menorah and the human peace symbol which brought everyone together with a strong message for “Peace”.

Post vigil: The LA County Board of Supervisors voted to support a resolution, sponsored by Hilda Solis, against Islamophobia and NCCR was able to speak in support of it. NCCR joined other organizations in a meeting with Congressman Xavier Becerra who wanted to know what he could do to promote more understanding and combat hate crimes and anti-Muslim rhetoric, especially among political officials.

Building off the energy and support from the vigil and march, the #VigilantLove Coalition plans to continue and will hold a meeting of all the signers of the Solidarity Statement in mid-January. To join the Coalition’s efforts, please contact NCCR at (213) 284-0336 or nccrila@yahoo.com.

CWRIC Tapes in Second Year of NPS Grant Cycle

By Janice Yen

The Education Committee is on track to update the Los Angeles Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) DVD set and the accompanying Viewer's Companion, and to create a testifier highlights DVD for teachers.

Committee members Steve Nagano, Patty Nagano, Kathy Masaoka, Suzy Katsuda, Kay Ochi, and Janice Yen have met monthly and at times weekly to view and select testimonies for the highlights DVD. Steve is our project director and the lead on menu-driving the Speak Out for Justice 13-DVD set.

With over 2000 Stand Up for Justice curriculum guides distributed to educators, the committee held fewer teacher training workshops in 2015. On September 20 Patty, Kathy and Janice trekked out to the Ronald Reagan Library in Simi Valley to screen Stand Up for Justice to receptive teachers at a workshop at the 11th Annual Constitution Day Conference. NCRR was invited to participate by Phyllis Hayashibara, an active member of the Venice Japanese American Memorial Marker Committee.

Although our stock of the curriculum guides is almost depleted the guide can be seen and downloaded from NCRR's website, www.ncrr-la.org.

Stay tuned in 2016. Towards the end of the year we hope to hold a community program so that those interested can learn about the new menu-driven Speak Out for Justice DVD set and highlights DVD!



Janice Yen, Kathy Masaoka and Patty Nagano with Phyllis Hayashibara at Constitution Day Conference. (Photo courtesy of Janice Yen)

Halmonis, cont.

Japanese soldier and after the war, she was able to return to her family who thought she was dead. She never married and has been cared for by her brothers her entire life. Yet she has a positive spirit and sang a song she learned in Taiwan with the group at the Little Tokyo gathering.

The recent "settlement" between the Korea and Japan does not meet the demands of the Halmonis. It did not include them in the discussion, does not provide individual reparations and there is no direct and clear apology to each victim. For more details, please see NCRR's statement on the website www.ncrr-la.org.

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Are You a Member? NCRR Needs You to Renew!
Not a Member? Join Now!

NCRR is a not-for-profit organization that operates solely on grants and contributions from individuals like you. In order to keep up the fight for civil rights and justice, we need you to join or renew today.

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Victory At Last!

After 20 years, the hotel workers at the Double Tree Hotel (formerly the New Otani Hotel) have finally won their fight to unionize with the UNITE HERE Local 11. The workers celebrated their victory in September 2015 with Mayor Eric Garcetti and community supporters who joined them in pickets and visits to the management. (Top:



NCRR members Kathy Masaoka, Patty Nagano and Janice Yen congratulate UNITE HERE Local 11 president Maria Elena Durazo. Bottom: Workers celebrate with Mayor Garcetti. Photos courtesy of Kathy Masaoka)



New Collaborative Project to Feature Voices of Former Internees

By Suzy Katsuda

NCRR is collaborating with Traci Kato-Kiriyama and Kennedy Kabasares on an exciting new project called the "PULL" project. Traci and Kennedy want to highlight the voices of former internees who spoke at the 1981 Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) hearings held here in Los Angeles. The project will experiment with unique presentations of these testimonies in partnership with NCRR and in collaboration with various artists/experts in video arts, sound, stage and aerial arts. Kennedy will incorporate trapeze movements along with tracking the CWRIC testimonies using visual techniques by Traci. They received a \$10,000 grant from the Network Ensemble Theatre Exchange. The project may take up to two years to complete.

For more information, please visit our website at ncrr-la.org.

Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress

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Details Inside!