

## LACCRR

A lot of us were members of the Little Tokyo Peoples Rights Organization (LTPRO). Our main concern was the perception that the JACL was in favor of some sort of an educational study in place of real reparations. I can't say they were illogical. After all, we would have to convince the very people that put us into the camps to pay compensation and apologize! Governments don't usually do that! In fact, they could easily rely on the Supreme Court rulings that said that the evacuations were "justified due to wartime necessity."



The people that decided to join together to form LACCRR were a mix of young and old. Many had participated in the opposition to the war in Vietnam. For those of us from LTPRO, we had spent almost a decade struggling with the City of Los Angeles over redevelopment in Little Tokyo. For me, having fought for low-income housing and better social services for the residents of J Town, a campaign to confront the people who destroyed our communities and robbed us of our dignity was hard to resist!

**June Hibino, LTPRO/NCRR**

Adding to my resolve was the fact that I was a former internee and someone who was drafted to serve two years of active service in the Army.

At first, we were not sure about how to deal with the Hearings. Some felt that it would be a sham and that we should boycott and picket the event! Others felt that the best way to make an impact would be to participate in it. Our discussions were often spirited but always congenial. We realized that we would be taking on the federal government so we needed to be united in purpose, not only among ourselves, but, with our entire community.

We were a small but determined group of people. We often met at the offices of John Saito, who was associated with the JACL Pacific Southwest District. Other times, we found ourselves upstairs in Amy Ishii's apartment at the Little Tokyo Towers. One evening, we found ourselves meeting on the sidewalk outside of the Cultural Center in Little Tokyo, because we had no place to go!



**David Monkawa & Kimi Maru, LTPRO/NCRR**

We used to set up these cubes with pictures on it and stack them in a pile at the corner of First and San Pedro by the Kajima Building to illicit discussion and publicize our meetings and events. Our big events were community meetings that we would call using the dining room of the Little Tokyo Towers, however, we were willing to go

almost anywhere to get the message of redress across! The college campuses were a great help. Because of the struggle for ethnic studies and the opposition to war in Vietnam, students became a great source of support for redress activities. The Manzanar Pilgrimage, the Shimpo and some of the churches also proved to be of great help. House meetings were another way that we managed to spread the word about our activities. I remember one where I spoke to a group in my broken Japanese. I still wonder to this day if they knew what I was talking about.



[Mark Masaoka LTPRO/NCRR](#)

Jim H. Matsuoka (February, 2004)