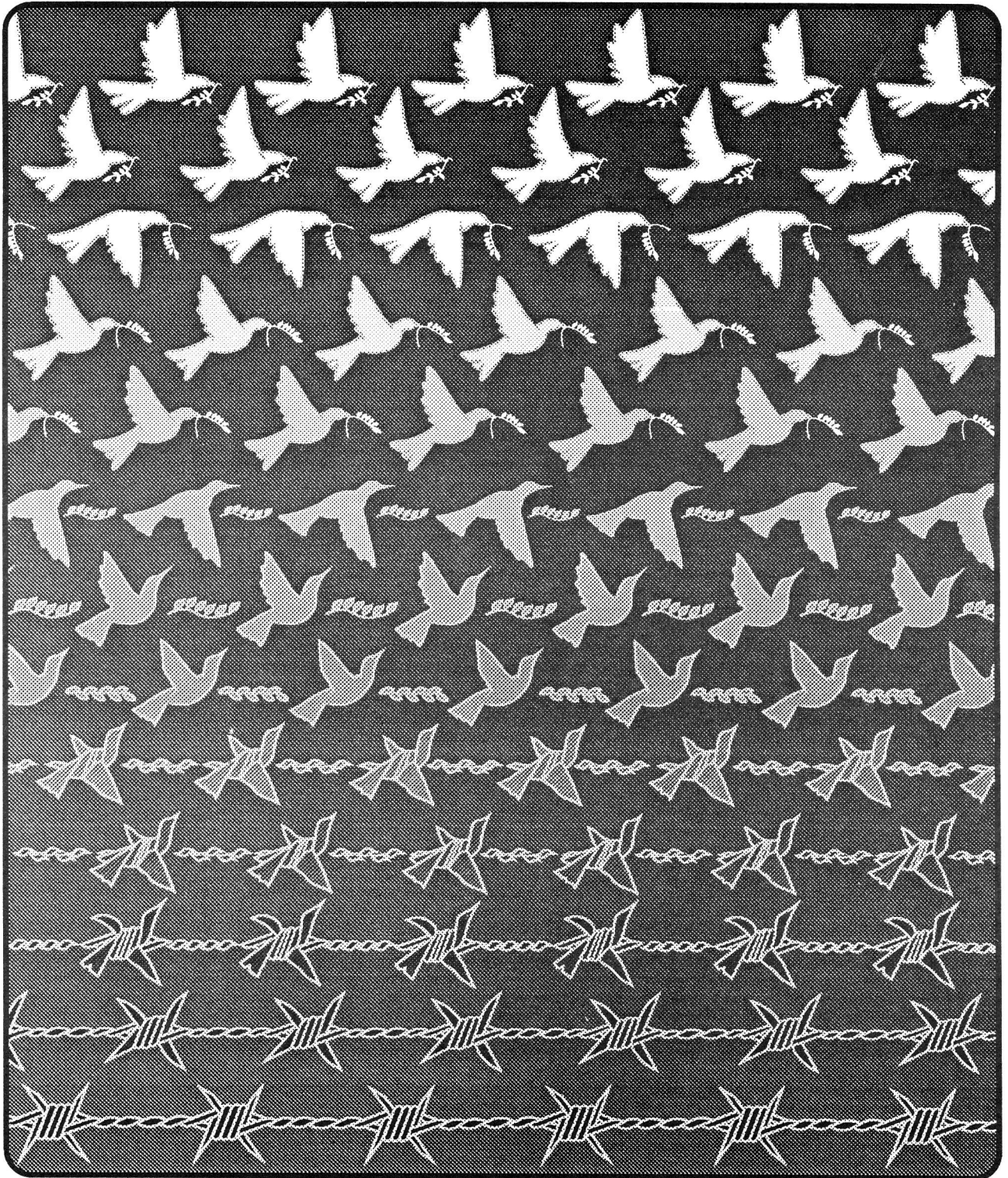


COMMUNITIES UNITED: FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE



NCRR'S 15TH ANNUAL "DAY OF REMEMBRANCE" 1996

**The National Coalition for
Redress/Reparations presents**

The 15th Annual

Day of Remembrance

“Communities United: Fighting for Justice”



*Sunday, February 19, 1996
Japan America Theater*

Cultural Vignettes



The Cultural Vignettes are a special presentation of the 15th Annual Day of Remembrance illustrating our 1996 theme of "Communities United: Fighting for Justice." These Vignettes are unique partnerships between artists and community advocates, highlighting four major issues challenging the Japanese American and Asian Pacific Islander (API) communities today. They bring together people of various ages and ethnicities who are actively involved in the issues being presented.

For many, the campaign for Japanese American Redress did not end in 1989, and NCRR is continuing to work on behalf of those who were denied. We chose to highlight one of the most dramatically compelling categories that have been denied reparations, the controversial and long-hidden Prisoner Exchange program. In this first vignette, the stories of NCRR's Reiko Nimura who was 13 years old during WWII, and the tragedy which befell Brian N.'s family will be dramatized. Both families were coerced into leaving their country, sailing on the Gripsholm to India where they were exchanged for White Americans who were held prisoners in Asia.

In the second Vignette, the voices of immigrant workers who are currently involved in campaigns for decent wages, safe working conditions and the American right to join a union are visually highlighted to the music of "Profits Enslave the World" written by Pilipino labor hero, Philip Vera Cruz.* The piece will close with six of the recently liberated El Monte Thai garment workers performing a Thai dance- a first.

Asians have historically seen receiving welfare as shameful. Our third vignette dramatizes the actual story of a first generation Asian, a U.S. citizen who worked 15 years in aerospace. He paid \$10,000 a year in taxes and supported a stroke-ridden mother and mentally incapacitated brother, both too ill to pass the U.S. citizenship tests. With the aerospace industry lay-offs, he was forced to seek public assistance for the first time. The skit reminds us that welfare is a right to survival, a safety net for those in need.

Affirmative Action may become one of the defining issues in the 1996 elections. API students have been a visible and vocal force in the efforts to defend Affirmative Action, and are working with other advocates to reframe the debate in positive ways that do not pit Asians against women and other communities of color. This final vignette will be an education "Rap" complete with API Rappers, D.J. and Break Dancers.

The Cultural Vignettes will open with a multicultural drumming performance coordinated by Johnny Mori of the band Hiroshima on Taiko Drum, with performances by Korean, Pilipino and Thai drumming groups. The drummers will also perform to provide a connecting "bridge" between the Vignettes.

* Philip Vera Cruz was a first generation, "manong", who came to the USA with the first wave of Pilipino immigrants. He spent over 50 years laboring in the fields and for farmworker's rights. He was part of the strike of Filipino farmworkers in Coachella in 1965 which helped to launch the United Farm Workers union. He served as the Vice President of the union. He passed away on June 10, 1994.



The Day of Remembrance Program

“Communities United: Fighting for Justice”

Welcome - Emcees Miya Iwataki & Mario Machado

NCRR Statement - Richard Katsuda, NCRR President

The 1996 Fighting Spirit Award - Ayako Hagihara, UCLA
Awarded to Yuri Kochiyama & the late Bill Kochiyama

Cultural Vignettes

Multicultural Drums

Campaign for Redress Continues

Immigrant Worker Campaigns

Defeat Welfare Reform

Defend Affirmative Action

Tribute to Congressman Norman Y. Mineta, Ret.

Video Presentation

Keynote Address

Norman Y. Mineta

Closing Remarks

*Reception following the program in the North Gallery,
Japanese American Cultural & Community Center.*



**The Official Portrait
of**

**The Honorable
Norman Y. Mineta**

**Chair of the Public Works &
Transportation Committee
1993-1994**

September 18, 1995

**Portrait Artists:
George Pollard &
Jim Pollard**

Emcees

Mario Machado is a well-known voice and face to most Southern Californians. He is an Emmy-Award winning broadcaster presently heard on KABC Talk Radio, and has been seen in countless films and television programs. Machado, a naturalized American citizen, was born of mixed parents in Shanghai, China.

Miya Iwataki is a founding member of NCCR and the recently formed API-FIRE. She is a long-time activist working in the areas of redress, immigrant rights, health and legislative policy. She produces EAST WIND, heard each Friday at 7:00 p.m. on KPFK 90.7 FM Pacifica Radio.

Norman Y. Mineta

Norman Y. Mineta was born in San Jose on November 12, 1931. As a child, he was one of 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry who were forcibly removed from the West Coast by the U.S. Government during World War II and imprisoned in internment camps. In 1974, Mineta was elected to the House of Representatives in the 94th Congress. During the historic 100th Congress, Mineta was the driving force behind the passage of H.R. 442, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which won reparations for the injustices endured by Americans of Japanese



Ancestry during the war. Congressman Mineta worked closely with NCRP during the 10 year campaign for redress/reparations. He always maintained strong ties and a genuine fondness for his community. Mineta's style of work in Congress was characterized by his open door policy and his willingness to share significant information on a timely basis. He was special to the community because he valued the community and recognized their vital role in winning redress.

Mineta was also respected by his Democratic colleagues in the House of Representatives, who elected him Chair of the powerful House Committee on Public Works and Transportation. Mineta was the first Asian American to chair a major committee in Congress. From 1982 to 1995, Mineta served as the Deputy Whip of the House Democratic leadership.

During the 103rd Congress, Mineta joined with nine colleagues from the House and Senate to fund the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, the counterpart to the influential Black and Hispanic Congressional Caucuses. He was elected to serve as the founding Chair of the Caucus.

Congressman Mineta was a business executive by profession, but served in public office since 1967 when he was appointed to fill a vacancy on the San Jose City Council. In 1971, he was elected mayor of San Jose, becoming the first Japanese American mayor of a major U.S. city. Three years later he was elected to Congress.

In October, 1995, Mineta ended a 21-year career with the House of Representatives to become Senior Vice President and Managing Director of Lockheed Martin IMS' Transportation Systems and Services line of business. In this position, he heads a business that focuses on commercial vehicle operations and electronic toll and traffic management.

The community will miss Norm Mineta's strength of conviction on issues of justice and equality; and his willingness to stand side by side with, and be the voice for the Japanese American and Asian Pacific concerns in Congress.

Thank you, Norm!

“Communities United: Fighting for Justice”

EL MONTE THAI WORKERS

Last August 2, 1995, 72 Thai Garment workers were liberated from slave conditions in an El Monte sweatshop by the actions of the California State Labor Commission and other federal agencies. These 67 women and 5 men had been forced to work as much as 115 hours a week for as little as \$1.60 an hour. Some were kept in the guarded and barbed wire enclosed compound for as long as 7 years. Only through the bravery of an escaped worker, who risked deportation and threats of violence against her family in Thailand, were the authorities alerted. Their plight exposes the real conditions under which many immigrant workers in the Southern California garment industry labor, which is “the nation’s largest, and demonstrates how sweatshop-produced, made in the USA clothing ends up on the racks of some of the nation’s leading retail chains. . .Mervyn’s, Macy’s, Filene’s and other major retailers,” authorities said. The Thai Community Development Center (CDC) has been supporting the Thai workers who are now working in other garment shops or as domestics. They will continue to need community support for a variety of medical problems as they push forward on their civil suit against the manufacturers and retailers. Chancee Martorell, Thai CDC Director, stated, “The Thai workers are determined to stay and fight to win their back wages and must not be forced to return to Thailand until the fear of intimidation and threats to their families is gone, their health conditions are improved and the US government in cooperation with the Thai government has extradited and brought to justice the two remaining members of the slave ring.”

NEW OTANI HOTEL WORKERS

The workers at the New Otani Hotel in Little Tokyo have been trying to unionize for the last three years. Currently, a majority of the workers have signed a petition in favor of a union. These workers, mostly Latino with some Japanese, Pilipino, a few Caucasians and Blacks, have seen conditions worsen at the hotel. They do not enjoy any seniority rights or job security and must pay \$100 a month for health insurance for their families. New Otani workers have experienced a lack of respect, verbal abuse, and sexual harrassment from the management and have seen a whole department fired without notice, while three workers were fired last year for their unionizing activities. This treatment of workers is not uncharacteristic of Kajima International which owns a controlling share of the East West Development Corporation, owners of the New Otani. Currently, Kajima is also being sued by 11 surviving Chinese workers who were forced to work in the Hanaoka Copper Mine in Akita Prefecture where over half of the 986 people died due to the sub-human conditions and torture. Hotels for elderly Issei and Latino families, a building housing the community and cultural groups, and small mom and pop businesses were evicted to make way for the New Otani. NCCR is part of the New Otani Support Committee which has joined in the boycott of the New Otani Hotel called by the workers and the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Local 11. They are protesting the conditions at the hotel and are picketing every Friday and ask the community not to patronize the New Otani Hotel.

JESSICA MCCLINTOCK

Jessica McClintock is a designer and manufacturer of expensive dresses sold under such labels as Gunne Sax, Scott McClintock and Jessica McClintock. Twelve garment workers in a sweatshop called Lucky Sewing Company in Oakland were suddenly left without jobs and without pay when the owner declared bankruptcy and shut down his operation. As with many immigrant workers, the women were working 10 -12 hours a day and 6-7 days a week. With the help of Asian Immigrant Women’s Advocates in Northern California, the workers wrote a letter to Jessica McClintock, the manufacturer who ordered the dresses and made the profits from their labor, asking her to take responsibility for the actions of her contractors. She makes a profit fo \$145 million a year yet she refuses to sit down with the workers who lost \$15,000 in back wages. The workers are asking her to take corporate responsiblity and hope to set a precedent for other garment workers. The Korean Immigrant Workers Advocates in Los Angeles has been active in supporting the boycott of any and all Jessica McClintock merchandise, including perfume, and has organized demonstrations in front of the Jessica McClintock Beverly Hills store for the past two years.

Yuri & Bill Kochiyama



Yuri and the late Bill Kochiyama have been fighters all of their lives. Respected by both Sansei and Nisei alike, Yuri and Bill are being recognized for their "fighting spirit" by the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations. Bill knew what hard times were as he grew up an orphan in New York, later joining the 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II. Yuri's family was forced to evacuate from the San Pedro area to the Jerome, Arkansas concentration camp. She and Bill met at the USO where Yuri volunteered. Active in the early civil rights movement, Yuri recognized the importance that the Black liberation movements would have on other minorities and all Americans. She has served as a model showing us the need to link all issues and all struggles for justice.

When NCRR needed a representative, Bill was always ready to go to Washington, D.C. to testify on behalf of redress. He and Yuri played an important role in gathering support for redress in New York City and on the East Coast. They both joined the lobbying delegation of 125 people organized by NCRR in 1987. This delegation of Sansei's and Nisei's sharing their stories helped to convince many in Congress to vote for the redress bill, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. It was in Washington that Bill and Yuri met and gained the admiration of draft resisters who respected them for their stand on civil rights, which included their support of the draft resisters. They saw that the fight for redress united all of us. Both of them, in different ways, served as examples of fighters for justice. Yuri - outspoken and bold, and Bill - unassuming and determined, but sharing the same desire and passion to win redress. The National Coalition for Redress/Reparations thanks Yuri for continuing to energize all of us, and we remember, with love, the late Bill Kochiyama.



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Reception for Norman Y. Mineta*



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*Norman Mineta
for his leadership*

on the

15th Annual

Day of Remembrance

1

**Hotel Employees & Restaurant
Employees Union,
Local 11
AFL-CIO**

9

*Congratulations to Yuri Kochiyama
and the late Bill Kochiyama*

**Sindicalizar a los
no-sindicalizados !**



**Movilizar a los
sindicalizados !**

*On the occasion of NCR's
15th "Day of Remembrance"*

**Organize
the Un-organized**

9

321 S. Bixel St., L.A., CA 90017 (213) 481-8530

6

Thank You Congressman Mineta

For your many years of outstanding service

Japanese American Alliance

*Promoting political participation and representation of the
Japanese American Community*

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*In Honor of your courage & Commitment,
we Congratulate
Norman Y. Mineta, Yuri Kochiyama,
the late Bill Kochiyama & NCRR.
Your Friends at
The UCLA Asian American Studies Center*

*Japanese American Historical Society
of Southern California*

Extends its best wishes to NCRR



...with appreciation to the Honorable
Norman Mineta for his many years of
dedicated service to our country.



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The Manzanar Committee

Thank you, Norm

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Congratulations Congressman Mineta

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*Thank You
Congressman Mineta and
NCRR for continuing the struggle!*

Jeff Murakami, Director
Asian Pacific American Student Services
University of Southern California
(213) 740-4999; jeff@stuaaff.usc.edu

In Memory Of
Luz G. Arambula
of Delano
A friend to Japanese Americans

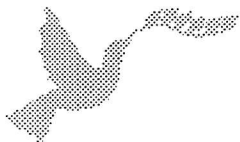
In Memory of
Frank M. Saito

*His family expresses sincere appreciation
to all who participated in the blood drive.*

To Norman Y. Mineta,
**Thank you for always making the Community
feel welcome in Washington, D.C.**
Thank you for putting some soul in Congress.
Thank you for your personal support.
-- Miya Iwataki

Congratulations to NCCR
for continuing the fight for justice

Evelyn, Bruce and Naomi Iwasaki



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Day of Remembrance Cultural Vignettes

Credits

Redress & Reparations

Writers: Jude Narita (Song for a Sansei), Sachi Oyama, Tim Toyama (Visas for Virtue)
Actors: Jude Narita, Chris Tashima (Requiem)
Flute: George Abe
Taiko: Johnny Mori

Immigrant Worker Campaigns

Vignette Coordinators: Chancee Martorell & Kathy Nishimoto Masaoka
Slideshow: John Delloro, Mike Murashige, Kathy Nishimoto Masaoka
Slide Production: Kaz Ota & Judy Nishimoto
Slides: John Delloro, Mike Murashige, Local 11, Korean Immigrant Workers Advocates
Song: Bong Vergara ("Profits Enslave the World" by Philip Vera Cruz)
Guitar: Vernon Villanueva
Dancers: Wila Chunbomrung, Instructor and El Monte Thai Workers

Welfare Reform

Writers: Sue Cho, Betty Song with Jaenam Ko
Actors: Ping Wu (Paper Angels), Molina Lee
Drummers: Korean American Cultural Troupe HA NU RI with Jaenam Ko

Affirmative Action Rap

D.J.: D.J. Dwenz, Madd Haus Entertainment, Funkollective
Rapper: Randall Park, Funkollective
Crew: Goof Troop Breakers
Back-Up Rappers: R-R AP Crew (Ayako, John D., Miya, Kathy, Sue, Eric, Betty)

Drummers

Johnny Mori on Taiko Drum
Korean American Cultural Troupe HAN NU RI
Pilipino Drums with Jerome Academia
Thai Drummers

Vignette Director: Tim Toyama
Vignette Producer: Miya Iwataki

Special Thanks to Eric Wat & Darrel Kunitomi.



**National
Coalition
for Redress/
Reparations**

**Los Angeles
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And special thanks for 15 years of artistic support to:

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