

PRESENTED BY  
FOR REDRESS & REPARATIONS  
JAPANESE (NCR) & AMERICAN  
NATIONAL



COMMON DAY OF  
HISTORY OF  
CELEBRATING THE STRUGGLE  
AMERICANS FOR REDRESS!  
LATINO AMERICANOS!

REMEMBRANCE 2000  
SHARED STRUGGLES  
OF JAPANESE LATINOS  
JUSTICIA POR JAPONES

SAT. FEB 19, 2000 2PM  
RECEPTION FOLLOWS PROGRAM  
JANM 369 E. FIRST ST.  
IN THE CENTRAL HALL  
LITTLE TOKYO

# NCRR Fighting Spirit Award

*Each year, the Fighting Spirit Award is given to one or more individuals who have demonstrated the courage to stand up and fight for their rights and for the rights of others.*

*This year, NCRR is proud to give this award to Carmen Mochizuki and Alice Nishimoto for their tireless work as advocates for Japanese Latin American (JLA) internees, and to Fred Okrand for defending the civil rights of JAs, JAs and all Americans for more than 50 years.*

*Past recipients of the Fighting Spirit Award include:*

*1987 Frank Emi  
Reverend Paul Nakamura*

*1988 Amy Ishii & the Uno  
Family*

*1991 Tom Shitoishi*

*1992 Bert Nakano  
Bernadette Nishimura  
Lily Okamoto*

*1993 Jim Matsuoka*

*1994 James Omura*

*1995 Jim Saito  
David Monkawa*

*1996 Bill & Yuri Kochiyama*

*1997 Linda Kawabe Consolo  
Bruce Iwasaki, Gerald Sato*

*1998 Michi Weglyn*

*1999 The Heart Mountain Fair  
Play Committee*

## Dedication



*From the Michi Weglyn Estate (2000.77.7)  
Photograph by Dick Marshall*

*Day of Remembrance 2000 is dedicated to Michi Weglyn, noted author, researcher and redress activist. Her book, *Years of Infamy: The Untold Story of America's Concentration Camps*, which was published in 1976, helped to galvanize the Japanese American community in the redress campaign. She passed away in April 1999.*

# Fighting Spirit Awardees



Carmen and Alice speak at a press conference in 1998 at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center.

## *Carmen Mochizuki*

When Carmen was 11, she and her family were forced to leave Peru for an unknown destination on March 1, 1944. After three weeks, the family arrived at Crystal City, Texas, where they were kept until December 1, 1945. Upon release from camp, they were forced to go to Japan and eventually to Okinawa. Now living in Montebello with her husband Mike, Carmen took a big step toward JLA redress by becoming one of the named plaintiffs in the class action lawsuit *Mochizuki v. U.S.*

## *Alice Nishimoto*

Alice's parents arrived in Peru in the early 1920s. They lost their house and plantation and were kidnapped from their home and brought to the U.S. by government agents in 1944. Alice's family stayed in Crystal City from March 1944 to December 1945, when the family was forced to go to Japan. Now living in Gardena with her husband Cyrus, Alice joined Carmen in 1996 as named plaintiffs in the historic *Mochizuki* lawsuit.

## *Fred Okrand*

Fred Okrand is Legal Director Emeritus of the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California. During World War II, he was co-counsel in the Southern California ACLU's challenge of the internment. In 1996, Fred joined the pro bono legal team in *Mochizuki v. U.S.*

## **JAPANESE LATIN AMERICANS!**

• Campaign For Justice



Fred Okrand with members of Campaign for Justice.

# Seeking Justice for Japanese Latin Americans



From 1941 to 1945, the U.S. government orchestrated the mass abduction and forcible deportation of 2,264 men, women and children of Japanese ancestry from 13 Latin American countries to be used as hostages in exchange for Americans held by Japan. Over 800 Japanese Latin Americans (JLAs) were included in two prisoner of war exchanges between the U.S. and Japan. Those who remained were imprisoned in U.S. Department of Justice detention camps. Since JLAs who were kidnapped by the U.S. were improperly classified as "illegal aliens," and since many of them were barred from returning to their home countries in Latin America, more than 900 incarcerated JLAs were forcibly deported to war-devastated Japan.

The passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (CLA 88), which provided for an official apology and token reparations of \$20,000 to eligible Japanese Americans, was an historic achievement. Yet because the U.S. maintained that JLAs were "illegal aliens," they were excluded from CLA 88.

In 1996, a class action lawsuit (*Mochizuki v. U.S.A.*) was filed against the U.S. government on behalf of all JLA internees who were denied justice under CLA 88. Campaign for Justice, a coalition of civil rights, human rights and community organizations, was founded the same year to support JLA redress efforts. A controversial settlement agreement reached in 1998 provided for an official apology and \$5,000 in compensation payments to eligible JLA internees. While the majority of JLA internees accepted the settlement, many of them felt that they were receiving unequal treatment.

The struggle for justice continues for JLAs. Campaign for Justice is currently seeking equitable resolution of remaining redress issues for JLAs as well as for those Japanese Americans who have not received redress and strongly urges our communities to support these efforts to resolve this unfinished business.

# **Common History, Shared Struggles:** **Celebrating the Struggle of Japanese Latin Americans for Redress**

*Welcome*

*Darcie Iki  
JANM*

*Introduction*

*Jenni Emiko Kuida & Tony Osumi  
Emcees*

*Dedication to Michi Weglyn*

*Kay Ochi*

*Personal Reflections on the Japanese  
Latin American Experience*

*Alice Nishimoto*

*Fighting Spirit Award*

*Richard Katsuda*

*Presented to:*

*Carmen Mochizuki*

*Alice Nishimoto*

*Fred Okrand*

*Special Performance*

*hereandnow & Visiting Violette*

*NCCR Statement/Closing*

*Jenni Emiko Kuida*

*Following the program, a reception catered by Union Center Cafe will be held in the  
Aratani Central Hall.*

# Performance Notes

*This performance was inspired by a meeting between hereandnow, Visiting Violette, Alicia Nishimoto, Carmen Mochizuki and Hector Watanabe. The red cloth begins as a symbol of the American flag once carried by a Japanese Latin American man through the streets of Little Tokyo...the cloth is transformed to express the struggle of the Japanese Latin Americans and the strength of their spirit.*

## Sweet Belief

Music by Glenn Suravech & Lee Takasugi  
Lyrics by Lee Takasugi  
copyright 2000 Visiting Violette

*Times like these*

*They kick our ass  
So take me to a place  
Where we can laugh*

*There's so much world  
That we haven't seen yet  
There's so much past  
That we've tried to forget*

**Chorus:** *So take me  
Take me to a place  
Our hearts unleash  
Just take me  
Take me to a place  
of sweet belief...*

*Some dreams of ours  
lit up in flames*

*Burdened by sadness  
Burdened by blame*

*But...there's so much world  
That we haven't seen yet  
There's so much world  
beyond regret*

**Chorus**

*Ghosts we've named  
Like shadows cast  
Live in our footsteps  
And drink from our neglect*

*But...there's so much you  
That you're scared of yet  
There's so much me  
To raise and accept*

**Chorus**

*Just take me  
Take me to a place  
Where color's sweet  
Where hearts don't bleed  
Yeah, just take me  
Take me to a place  
Where we can breathe  
In our own  
belief...*

# About the Artists

## *hereandnow theatre company*

*An Asian American theatre company led by artistic director John Miyasaki. hereandnow tours to more than 100 colleges, conferences and festivals across the United States, annually. The company consists of 19 performing artists who write and create thought-provoking pieces to tell the stories from a young, Asian American perspective. Artists-in-Residence at East Los Angeles College in Monterey Park, the company also produced premieres of *Fentor* and *Romeo and Juliet Pinoy/Pinay Style*.*

## *Visiting Violette*

*Based out of the Silverlake community of Los Angeles, Visiting Violette is an all original Album Alternative rock band which combines melodies with driving guitar and bass lines. The group has performed over 300 dates along the West Coast including Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, San Diego and Phoenix. The band also lends its talents toward writing music and score for film and television including work with Kayo Hatta, Larry Clark and Derek Nakamoto.*

*In the Fall of 1998, hereandnow and Visiting Violette joined forces to create collaborative pieces which feature music, theater, dance, movement and spoken word. The two groups will present "Real," a special performance at the Japan America Theater on Saturday, March 11. hereandnow and Visiting Violette would like to thank the NCR and JANM for the opportunity to create for the Day of Remembrance and work with the youth from Casa Heiwa. They would like to dedicate this piece to the inspiring struggle of Carmen Mochizuki and Alicia Nishimoto, and all Japanese Latin Americans who endured the injustice of their kidnapping and incarceration..*

# *Day of Remembrance 2000*

## *Sponsors:*

*Japanese American National Museum  
National Coalition for Redress/Reparations*

## *Endorsers:*

*American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California  
Asian Left Forum  
Campaign for Justice  
JACC Pacific Southwest District Civil Rights Caucus  
Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California  
Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project  
Justice for Filipino American Veterans  
Korean Immigrant Workers Advocates  
Little Tokyo Service Center  
Thai Community Development Center  
UCLA Asian American Studies Center  
UCLA Nikkei Student Union  
USC Asian Pacific American Student Services*

*NCCR would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their help  
with Day of Remembrance 2000:*

*Children of Casa Heiwa  
Flowers by Eiji  
hereandnow  
Little Tokyo Art Workshop/Miles Hamada  
David Monkawa  
Visiting Violette*