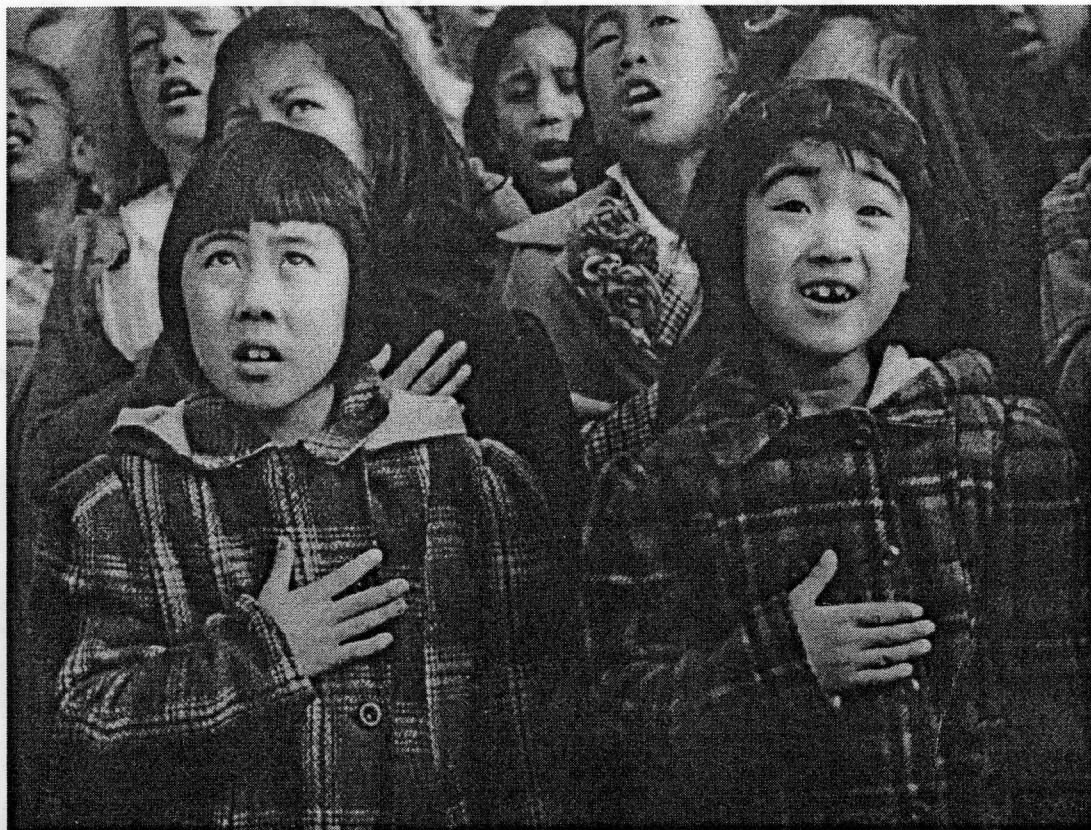


# 2001 Day of Remembrance

Building a Stronger Community through Civil Rights & Redress



Remembering February 19, 1942 and America's Concentration Camps  
Building a Community for Today Through Preservation of Civil and Human Rights  
and Cultural and Historical Heritage

Saturday, February 17, 2001

2 - 4 pm

Japanese American National Museum George and Sakaye Aratani Central Hall

PRESENTED BY NIKKEI FOR CIVIL RIGHTS & REDRESS,  
JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUES PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT  
AND  
JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

# Day of Remembrance 2001

## WELCOME

Chris Komai, Japanese American National Museum

## CO-HOSTS

Tritia Toyota, Kathy Nishimoto-Masaoka

## MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF REDRESS ATTORNEYS

Alex Fukui, Lisa Ikemoto, Scott Yamaguchi, Julia Mass, Patrick Hattori, Reggie Chun, Robin Toma, Paul Mills, Manjusha Kulkarni, Christopher Prince

### FIGHTING SPIRIT AWARD

Alan Nishio

co-founder, LA Community Coalition on Redress/Reparations, National Coalition for Redress/Reparations, Vice President of Student Affairs, California State University Long Beach

### JACL COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Mitchell T. Maki

Professor, University of California at Los Angeles, co-author, "Achieving the Impossible Dream: How Japanese Americans Obtained Redress"

### VIDEO INTRODUCTION

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Alberta Lee

Daughter of Dr. Wen Ho Lee

### VIDEO INTRODUCTION

### CAMPAIGN FOR JUSTICE SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Congressman Xavier Becerra

Karen Parker

Mariko Nakanishi

### CLOSING

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PROGRAM

# The Struggle for Justice Continues...

## GUILTY BY REASON OF RACE: THE CASE OF DR. WEN HO LEE

Race prejudice, one of the reasons cited in a Commission finding as the cause of Japanese American internment, reared its ugly head in the case of Dr. Wen Ho Lee. Dr. Lee is an American citizen, born in Taiwan, who worked at Los Alamos National Laboratory since 1980. He was involved with maintaining and enhancing computer software that is used for design of nuclear weapons.

In March 1999, Dr. Lee was suddenly fired following a New York Times article claiming that Los Alamos was the source of W88 information supposedly lost to the PRC. Shortly after this, it was discovered he transferred some possibly classified weapons design software in 1993 and 1994 to computers internal to Los Alamos that were not cleared for classified materials. He was also accused of writing some of this software to portable tapes. There is no evidence that these tapes or the software ever left Los Alamos laboratory.

Dr. Lee was held in essentially SOLITARY CONFINEMENT and kept in CHAINS whenever he was out of his cell (1 hour a day for exercise, 1 hour a week to visit his family). This unusually severe incarceration came about because some Laboratory executives provided the astonishing testimony that Dr. Lee's behavior could directly lead to the nuclear destruction of the United States. The facts that Dr. Lee had always cooperated with his accusers and he had shown no tendency for flight were discounted in setting his severe pre-trial detention conditions.

These conditions were maintained for over 200 days, in spite of countless protests from the scientific community, some laboratory employees, concerned citizens and the community of Chinese and Asian Americans.

For more information, please contact [www.wenholee.org](http://www.wenholee.org).



Photos courtesy of [wenholee.org](http://wenholee.org)

## EQUAL JUSTICE DENIED: JAPANESE LATIN AMERICANS' STRUGGLES FOR REDRESS

For nearly five years, Campaign for Justice—Redress Now for Japanese Latin Americans! has been seeking redress and reparations for the 2,264 men, women and children of Japanese ancestry who were kidnapped from their homes in Latin American countries such as Peru and shipped to US concentration camps.

In 1996, Carmen Mochizuki, Alice Nishimoto and Henry Shima, as representatives of a class of Japanese Latin Americans, filed a lawsuit against the US government seeking an apology and monetary compensation, much like the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (CLA)

In 1998, Japanese Latin Americans and supporters tasted a bittersweet victory when they reached a settlement with the US Department of Justice, for an apology and \$5,000 in redress payments. Faced with an aging class, with more and more of their friends and family passing away, the plaintiffs agreed to the settlement.

Campaign for Justice has continued the fight for redress equity and has gained the support of Congressman Xavier Becerra, who will be introducing the Wartime Parity and Justice Act of 2001 in the new 107th Congress. This legislation includes provision for public educational funding, reparations for Japanese Americans who have been unjustly denied redress under the CLA and redress equity for Japanese Latin Americans.

For more information, contact Mariko Nakanishi of Campaign Justice at 323-549-9425.



Photo by Janice Yen

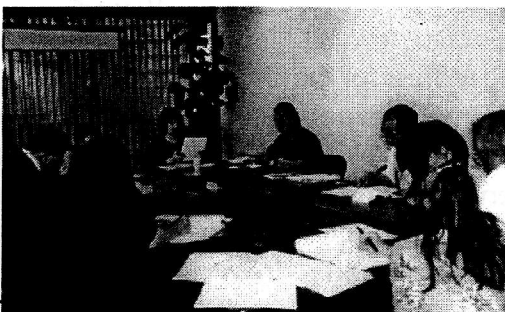


Photo by Janice Yen

## JACL PSWD Community Achievement Award



The Japanese American Citizens League Pacific Southwest District will present its Community Achievement Award to Professor Mitchell T. Maki, assistant professor in the UCLA School of Public Policy and Social Research and a respected scholar on the Japanese American redress movement.

In September, 1997, Maki, along with Dr. Harry Kitano and Megan Berthold, received a Civil Liberties Public Education Fund grant and coordinated the "Voices of Japanese American Redress Conference" held at UCLA. This conference brought together seventy of the high profile participants in the redress campaign to engage in discussions and an analysis of the movement.

Along with Kitano and Berthold, he authored "Achieving the Impossible Dream, How Japanese Americans Obtained Redress," a detailed description of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. In December, 2000 the book was a recipient of the Gustavus Myers Outstanding Book Award which is given to books addressing the study of bigotry and human rights in North America.

He is also the author of numerous articles on the delivery of social services to ethnic minority populations. In 1998 Maki received the UCLA Department of Social Welfare's nomination for a university wide distinguished teaching award. He received his bachelor's degree in Public Affairs and his master's and doctorate degrees in Social Work from the University of Southern California. Maki is a licensed clinical social worker and has provided mental health services in various health and social service settings.

Also an active participant in the Asian and Pacific Islander American community in Los Angeles, Maki serves on the boards of the Asian American Drug Abuse Program, Inc, the Bruggermeyer Memorial Library in Monterey Park, and is also a member of the advisory board for the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program. Maki has served as the Vice President of the East Los Angeles chapter of the JACL and was an active member of the JACL PSWD's Civil Rights Caucus.

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## Special Recognition of Redress Attorneys

Ten southern California lawyers involved with redress lawsuits will be recognized at the 2001 Day of Remembrance. They will be recognized for their pro bono work on behalf of Japanese Latin Americans and many former evacuees or internees who were denied redress.

**Alex Fukui**—immediate past president of the Japanese American Bar Association, helped to bring together the Legal Team to work on redress cases, and co-represents Wendy Hirota, a child of "voluntary evacuees" who were not allowed to return to their homes on the West Coast.

**Lisa Ikemoto**—a professor of law at Loyola Law School, successfully represented Carole Song, whose parents had received inadequate notice of the rescission order.

**Julia Mass & Scott Yamaguchi**—represented Carol Higashi, another child of "voluntary evacuees" born after an arbitrary date set by the Office of Redress Administration.

**Patrick Hattori**—along with Alex Fukui, represents Wendy Hirota.

**Reggie Chun**—successfully represented families of railroad workers who were fired without reason soon after the US entered WWII.

**Robin Toma, Paul Mills, Manjusha Kulkarni**—Attorneys on Mochizuki vs. US, the class-action lawsuit filed by Japanese Latin Americans who are seeking redress for the kidnapping and forced relocation they and their families experienced.

**Christopher Prince**—represents NCRR on a malfeasance suit against the US government for failing to invest the redress funds during the 1990s, thus causing underfunding of educational programs and Japanese Latin American redress claims. (cont.)



# NCCR Fighting Spirit Award

Long time Asian American activist, Alan Nishio has been selected as this year's recipient of the NCCR's "Fighting Spirit Award." Given in conjunction with each DOR program, this award honors individuals who have exhibited a strong commitment to the struggle for justice and have shown the fighting spirit necessary to help win redress for the Japanese American community.

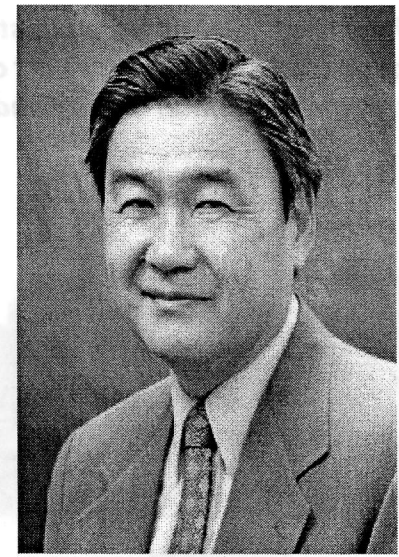
Nishio, who currently serves as the Associate Vice President of Student Services at California State University, Long Beach, was one of the early participants in the Asian American Movement, a call for social change that swept through college campuses and Asian communities during the 1970's. Heavily influenced by the civil rights movement and the opposition to the war in Vietnam, the movement involved many Japanese Americans in a nation-wide push for social change.

After graduating from UC Berkeley, Nishio, a native of Culver City/Venice, returned to southern California to participate in a Master's degree program in Public Administration at USC. At USC he started his career as Assistant Director at the Center for Social Action. After graduation, he accepted the position of Director for the Asian American Studies Program at UCLA. Many have credited him with developing this program into one of the largest centers of Asian American scholarship and activity in the nation.

Beyond his work at college campuses, Nishio was one of the earliest of the Sansei generation who sought to resurrect and save the historic Little Tokyo community. He was a founding member and President the Little Tokyo Peoples Rights Organization (LTPRO). In the 70's, this grassroots group challenged the evictions caused by the redevelopment in Little Tokyo that threatened to displace many cultural groups, social service organizations and elderly Issei tenants who lived in the small hotels in the area.

Moving LTPRO forward, Nishio helped to bring the organization into the campaign for redress in 1980. He was a founding member of the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations, now known as the Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress. He has served as a Co-Chairperson of NCCR and is widely credited as one of the architects of NCCR's historic lobbying effort to Washington D.C. in 1987.

His ties to the local community have always been strong, evidenced by his service on the boards of Visual Communications and the Japanese American Community Services organizations. He remains very committed and active in Asian American affairs. Having served as past president of the Little Tokyo Service Center, he is currently on its board as well as on the board of LTSC's Community Development Corporation.

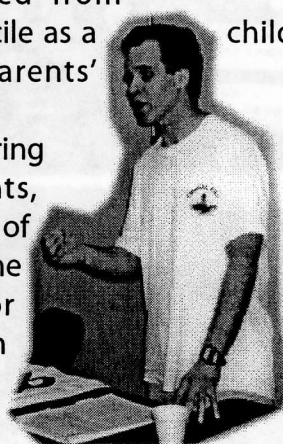
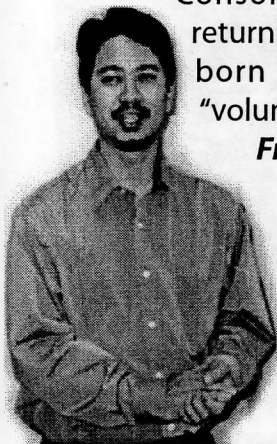


The following lawyers also worked on redress cases and have been recognized by the Fighting Spirit Award in prior years:

**Bruce Iwasaki**—for his pro bono work to NCCR during the redress movement and assisting on later cases including the Consolo/Ishida cases.

**Gerald Sato**—for his successful representation of Linda Kawabe Consolo, who was prohibited from returning to her former domicile as a child born after her parents' "voluntary" evacuation.

**Fred Okrand**—for his untiring work for civil rights, beginning at the time of internment through the redress struggle for Japanese Latin Americans.



## Fighting Spirit Award

### Past Recipients

- 1987 Frank Emi, Reverend Paul Nakamura
- 1988 Amy Ishii & the Uno Family
- 1991 Tom Shiroishi
- 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 Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee
- 2000 Carmen Mochizuki, Alice Nishimoto  
Fred Okrand

*The redress movement understood that the fight for interned Japanese Americans was part of a broader struggle for human dignity and social justice.*

## Common Struggles for

Through the Little Tokyo People's Rights Organization, we helped Little Tokyo tenants organize to fight evictions and preserve housing like the Alan



Hotel, to the left, which was torn down in the late 1960s due to redevelopment.



We boycotted Shell and other companies who did business in South Africa and demanded that apartheid be abolished.

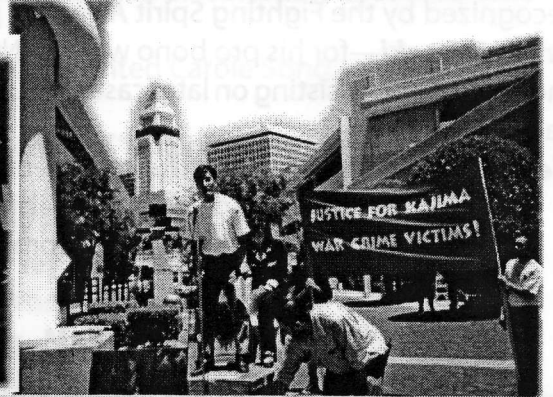


We met with and shared experiences with minorities living in Japan.



We support the New Otani workers' right to organize and condemned Kajima

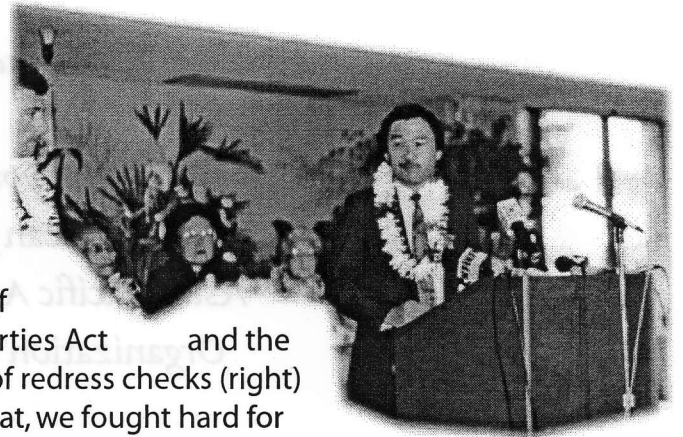
Corporation for its war crimes like the Hanaoka slave mine. We celebrated with our friends in Japan the victorious settlement agreement with Kajima.



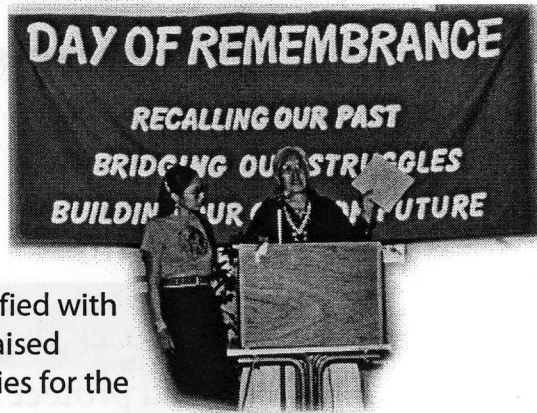
# Civil Rights and Redress



We celebrated the signing of the Civil Liberties Act and the distribution of redress checks (right) but before that, we fought hard for appropriations by speaking out at press conferences and staging the Day of Protest.



In 1989 we supported Korean and other foreign residents in Japan in protesting the practice of being fingerprinted by presenting petitions to the Justice Ministry in Tokyo during the Human Rights week.

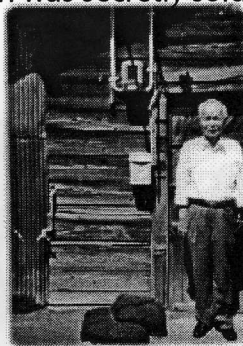


We identified with and raised supplies for the Native Americans who were fighting

evictions so uranium companies could strip mine the tribal lands.

This law was challenged in the courts and finally abolished.

We supported the Korean residents of Utoro, Japan, who were seeking reparations from Nissan Motor Corp and the Japanese government for forcibly conscripting Korean Laborers during WWII. Descendants of those laborers were facing eviction from their land which was secretly sold to developers by subsidiary of Nissan.



And now we support the Little Tokyo Rec Center, in its goals to provide safe recreational space for

youth and seniors as well as revitalize Little Tokyo into the center of community it once was.

## Acknowledgements

Thank you to our endorsers  
American Jewish Committee  
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance  
Organization of Chinese Americans

### Special Thanks to the following:

John Esaki  
Miles Hamada  
Alan Kondo  
Evan Leong  
Carrie Morita  
Candace Murata  
Casey Peek  
Glenn Suravech  
Members of the Day of Remembrance planning  
committee

