

2001 Day of Remembrance



1942 WITHOUT DUE PROCESS 2002
From Japanese American Internment to Arab American
& Muslim American Detention

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

Saturday, February 16, 2002

2 - 4 pm

Japanese American National Museum
George and Sakaye Aratani Central Hall

This program is made possible in part by a grant from
the California Council on Humanities, a state affiliate of
the National Endowment for the Humanities.

HUMANITIES

**CALIFORNIA
COUNCIL
FOR THE
HUMANITIES**

Day of Remembrance 2002

Program

WELCOME

Chris Komai, Japanese American National Museum

PERFORMANCE

Shida Pegahi

CO-HOSTS

Tritia Toyota, Christina Shigemura

CAMPAIGN FOR JUSTICE

NCRR FIGHTING SPIRIT AWARD

Isamu Carlos Arturo "Art" Shibayama
Former Japanese Latin American internee
Redress activist

VIDEO BY CASEY PEEKS

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF REDRESS LITIGANTS AND ADVOCATES

Carol Higashi, Wendy Hirota, Kay S. Kato, Ogura Family, Robert Murakami, Carole Song, Janet Saisho,
Henry Shima & Jane Yano

JACL COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Korean Immigrant Workers Advocates

PERFORMANCE

Zero 3

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Michel Shehadeh
Western Regional Director
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee

PERFORMANCE

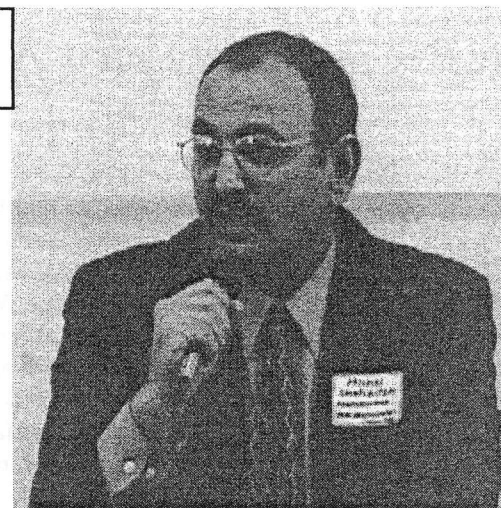
Denise Uyehara

CLOSING

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PROGRAM

Keynote Speaker

Michel Shehadeh



Michel Shehadeh is the Western Regional Director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC). Shehadeh

ADC is a civil rights organization committed to defending the rights of people of Arab descent and promoting their rich cultural heritage. ADC, which is non-sectarian and non-partisan, is the largest Arab-American grassroots organization in the United States. It was founded in 1980 by former Senator James Abourezk and has chapters nationwide.

ADC is at the forefront combating defamation and negative stereotyping of Arab Americans in the media and wherever else it is practiced. In doing so, it acts as an organized framework through which Arab Americans can channel their efforts toward unified, collective and effective advocacy; by promoting a more balanced U.S. Middle East policy and serving as a reliable source for the news media and educators. By promoting cultural events and participating in community activities, ADC has made great strides in correcting anti-Arab stereotypes and humanizing the image of the Arab people. In all these efforts, ADC coordinates closely with other civil rights and human rights organizations on issues of common concern.

Shehadeh is also one of the "LA 8," eight Palestinians and one Kenyan arrested in 1987 for their alleged affiliation with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), contraband for its association with "international communism," which later became referred to as "international terrorism." The LA 8 are all accused of engaging only in legal political activities which are protected by the First Amendment. No criminal charges have ever been filed against them.

Since then, the eight have successfully fought off government efforts to deport them. A U.S. immigration judge has ruled that if the Justice Department wishes to proceed with the deportations of two of the LA8, long time legal residents Khader Hamide and Shehadeh, it must do so under the McCarran-Walter Act charges under which they were first arrested. Since these laws are no longer in effect, it is clear that any further attempt to deport any of the LA 8 would be nothing more than persecution.

60 Years Since E.O. 9066

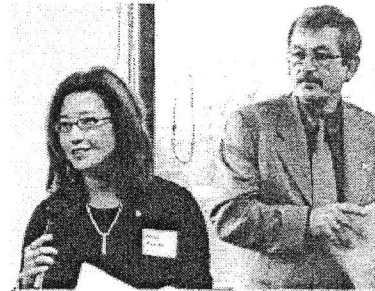
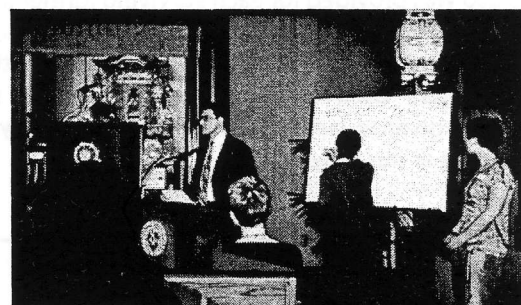
September 11, 2001 changed all of our lives. For some of us, Sept. 11 has brought back memories of our own communities experience after December 7, 1941- Pearl Harbor. In order to never forget the injustices perpetrated on Japanese Americans by the U.S. government, Japanese American communities nationwide hold Day of Remembrance events to remember Executive Order 9066, signed on February 19, 1942, and the ensuing violations of civil rights.

There are many lessons to draw on from the camps and from the campaign to win redress for those who were interned. We learned that we must be vigilant so that the camps never happen again. We learned that we must safeguard our civil liberties especially in times of perceived threats to national security and we learned that we must support others who face discrimination because of their ethnicity or race. The campaign for redress was successful in not only winning compensation for many in our community but also in educating many Americans about the camps. Because of our history, we are able to draw on these lessons today.

Sept. 11 was a day of many deaths but it also gave us opportunity to reflect on our own lives and our own values both individually and as a country.

Since the tragic events of Sept. 11, a community coalition of concerned individuals and organizations began to meet and plan events and activities to educate ourselves as well as reach out to the American Muslim and Arab American communities in Los Angeles. Following a candlelight vigil on Sept. 28 (pictured right center), this coalition, called the NCRR Sept. 11 Committee, has held a Breaking of the Fast with Muslim Americans at Senshin Buddhist Temple (pictured right top) and an educational panel on balancing civil liberties and national security (pictured left, top to bottom—Lillian Nakano, former internee, Omar Ricci, Muslim Public Affairs Council; pictured right bottom, emcees Akemi Arakaki and Nader Abuljebain).

On Feb. 19, it will be exactly 60 years since E.O. 9066 was signed into law. At this Day of Remembrance, please reflect on how far we have come and how much farther we have yet to go until civil liberties are no longer at stake in the name of national security or public safety.



NCCR Fighting Spirit Award

ART SHIBAYAMA

Isamu Carlos Arturo "Art" Shibayama is the recipient of the 2002 Fighting Spirit Award by the Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress (NCCR). NCCR selected Shibayama for his activism and fighting spirit in seeking justice for Japanese Latin Americans and his ongoing struggle to receive reparations from the U.S. government through his lawsuit, *Shibayama v. Reno (USA)*.

During World War II, the United States government kidnapped over 2,200 Japanese Latin men, women and children to be used in a hostage exchange program with Japan. Shibayama and his family, natives of Lima, Peru, were forcibly removed from Peru in 1944 and imprisoned at Crystal City, Texas for two and a half years. Once an affluent businessman, Shibayama's father struggled to support his family of eight children through a variety of odd jobs after they were released from camp. The family traveled from Texas to the Seabrook Farm in New Jersey and then to Chicago to find suitable work. The elder Shibayama passed away in 1976.

By 1993, most eligible Japanese Americans had been issued an apology and reparations from the government through the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. However, many Japanese Latin Americans were being denied the \$20,000 because the legislation provided compensation for only U.S. citizens and permanent residents. The Japanese Latin Americans had their passports taken from them before their imprisonment in the U.S. and now were being denied redress for their illegal alien status during the War.

Shibayama and his brothers were denied redress on this technicality. Although Shibayama served in the U.S. Army from 1952-54, he did not become a U.S. citizen until 1970. In the mid 1990's, he joined the Campaign for Justice: Redress Now for Japanese

Latin American! (CFJ) and participated in several lobbying delegations to Washington D.C.

In 1996, the CFJ and lawyers helped a small group of Japanese Latin Americans file a lawsuit against the U.S. government to win reparations. The offer of an out-of-court settlement in 1998 was accepted even though only \$5,000 was provided for each surviving former internee. Shibayama and his brothers, Kenichi Javier Shibayama and Takeshi Jorge Shibayama, both of Chicago, refused the settlement along with 14 other former internees. These "opt-outers" believed the settlement was not sufficient given the larger amount given to Japanese Americans. The Shibayama brothers' case remains pending at this time.



CFJ MEMBERS (L-R) ALICE NISHIMOTO, MANJUSHA KULKARNI, ROBIN TOMA, FRED OKRAND, ART SHIBAYAMA, ROSE NISHIURA IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

NCCR 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
- 2001 Alan Nishio

JACL PSWD Community Achievement Award

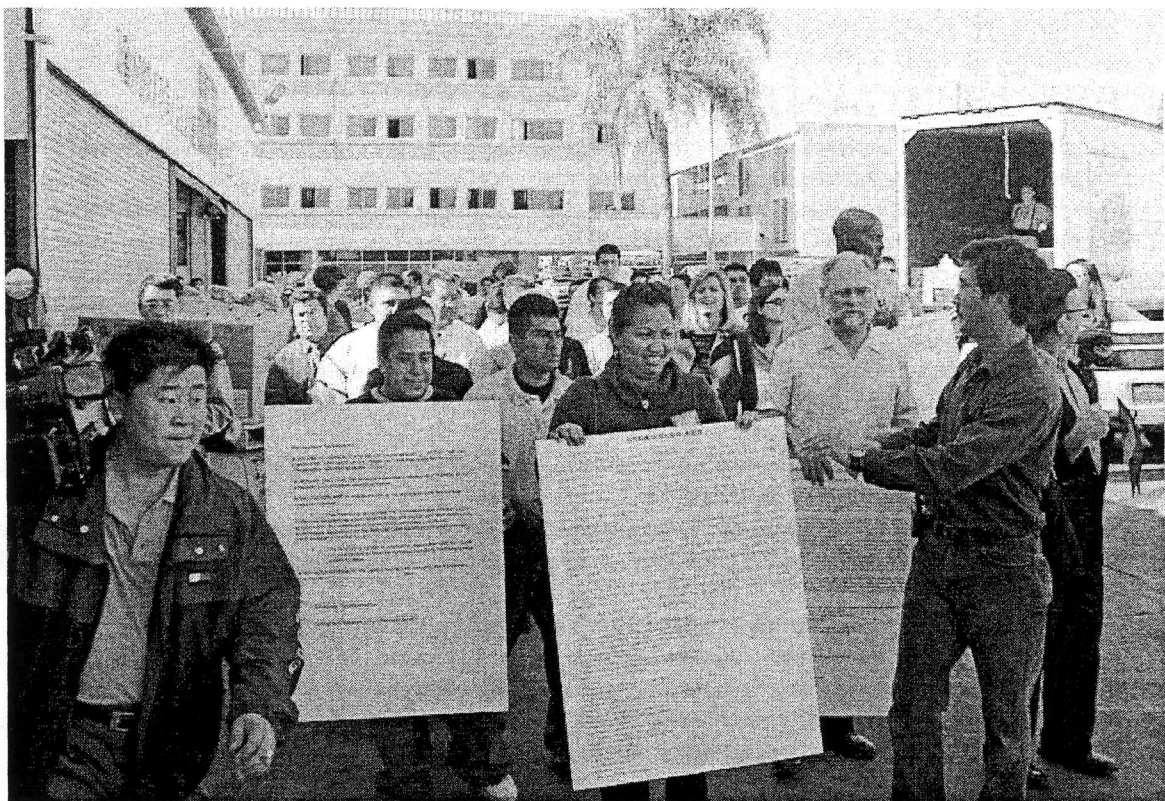
KOREAN IMMIGRANT WORKERS ADVOCATES

The Korean Immigrant Workers Advocates (KIWA) is the recipient of the 2002 JACL PSWD Community Achievement Award.

Founded in March 1992, KIWA has made significant contribution to the empowerment of Korean immigrant workers and to the development of a progressive constituency in the Korean community. Following the April 1992 Civil unrest, the Korean American Relief Fund, a self-appointed group of conservative businessmen, denied relief money to worker victims. KIWA organized 45 displaced Korean and Latino workers to demand inclusion of workers in relief fund distributions. The workers eventually succeeded in receiving \$109,000 in relief funds.

In 1997, KIWA helped win over \$2 million for workers from retailers and manufacturers connected with the El Monte "slave shop" operators. KIWA organized 55 Latino garment workers and was a part of the legal team that eventually won this landmark case. In collaboration with other progressive organizations, KIWA fought to maintain the state's affirmative action programs, raise the minimum wage, lower bus rates for the poor, save hundreds of union jobs at two local hotels and win dignity and respect for workers locally and internationally.

KIWA initiated the Koreatown Restaurant Workers Justice Campaign. Immigrant restaurant workers in Koreatown labored up to 72 hours per week for as low as \$2.20 an hour and faced brutal abuse from their employers in the form of unfair firings and physical abuse. The problems were exacerbated by the fact that the workers were not provided workers compensation and healthcare benefits even though they often work in unsafe work environments. KIWA organized Korean and Latino restaurant workers to demand an industry-wide reform that included raising sub-minimum wages, raising substandard working conditions, gaining a voice for workers in the industry and in the community through collective activism.



MARKET WORKERS AND SUPPORTERS DELIVER LETTER TO SUPERMARKET OWNERS DEMANDING WORKER RIGHTS.

SHIDA PEGAHI



Performance artist/character actor Shida Pegahi is a dancer, choreographer and faculty member of the Westside Academy of Dance. She is the artistic director of her own company, Ney Nava Dance Theatre (www.neynava.com) in Los Angeles, which performs contemporary, mystical and traditional Persian dance.

Shida has appeared in several plays in her native Farsi. A board of directors member of Levantine Cultural Center, she is a frequent guest on international television talk shows, speaking on Middle Eastern cultures, feminism and dance. Banned in her native Iran since the Islamic Revolution in 1979, Shida continues to keep Persian dance alive while constantly infusing it with new ideas. Her performance piece, "Chadoor" is written by Iranian poet/multimedia artist Gita Khashabi, and in it one can see the cross-pollination of Muslim/Middle Eastern feminism, dance choreography, poetry and drama. At first "Chadoor" may strike the viewer as anti-Islamic, but Khashabi's text does not lend itself to simplistic interpretations or soundbytes. Khashabi was born in Iran and came to the United States to study visual arts. She graduated from the Visual Arts program at Cal Arts. Her recent exhibit last November was a poetry and photography montage, "Alef Ba," at Track 16 Gallery, Bergamot Station.

NCCR Special Recognition

REDRESS LITIGANTS AND ADVOCATES

NCCR is pleased to honor eight Japanese Americans who were willing to sue the U.S. government for reparations and one redress advocate who helped countless applicants at her community center receive redress.

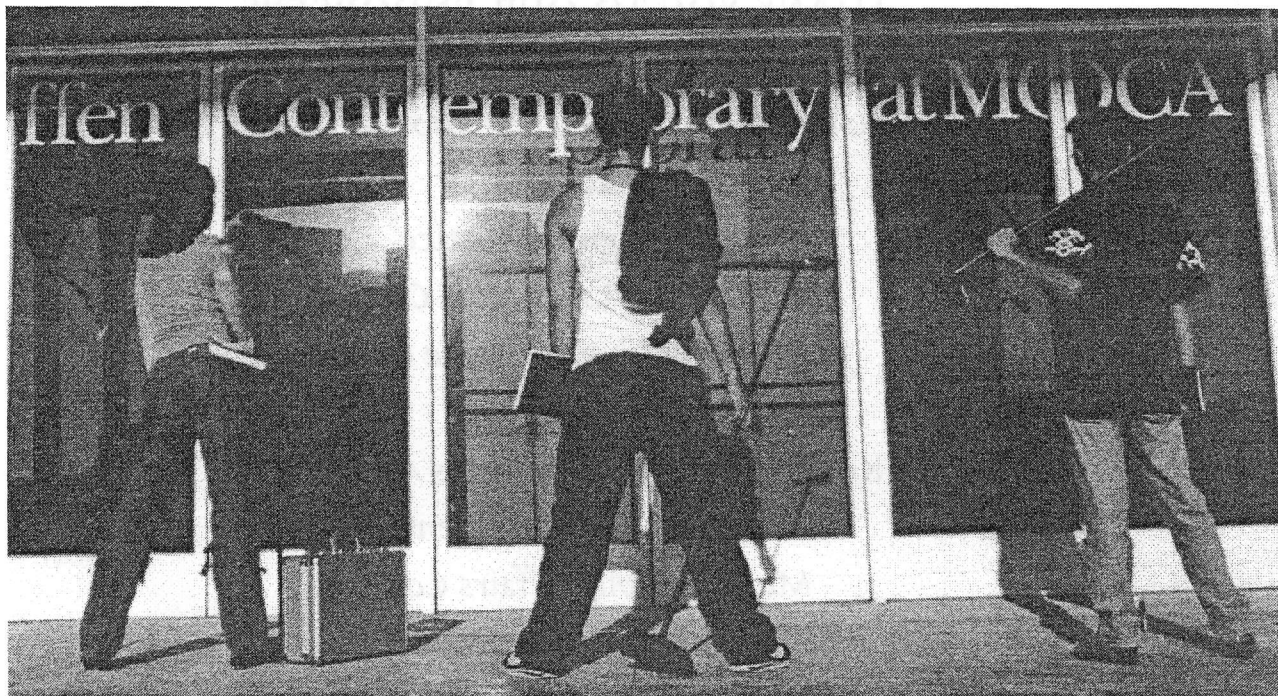
Each of the following redress litigants had applied for but was denied reparations in the early 1990's because of the Department of Justice's strict interpretation of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. The eight worked closely with several lawyers who volunteered their time to bring justice to those denied justice. Although only one of the litigants has thus far successfully won redress through the courts, NCCR is hopeful that the others, and the categories of people that they represent, will ultimately obtain redress through the Campaign for Justice's push for legislation in Congress.

1. Carol Higashi was born February 6, 1945 less than three weeks after the eligibility cutoff birth date of January 20, 1945. Ironically, because her father couldn't earn a living outside of camp Carol's family returned to Tule Lake after her birth and remained at Tule Lake until July 21, 1945.
2. Wendy Hirota, whose father was subjected to an individual exclusion order and could not return to the West Coast, was born in Colorado after the January 20th cutoff date.
3. Kay Kato, a lawful resident of San Francisco on a renewable merchant visa, was interned at Rohwer, Arkansas with his wife and son. Despite his imprisonment with other Japanese Americans, he was denied redress because of his lack of permanent residency status.
4. Robert Murakami was born one month after his father's individual exclusion order was lifted in July 1945.
5. The four members of the Ogura Family were kidnapped from their home in Peru and brought to Crystal City, Texas by the U.S. government. Unable to return to Peru they settled in Japan where they still live.
6. Henry Shima was forcibly removed from Peru by the U.S. government and held at Crystal City, Texas. Like other Japanese Latin Americans he was to be used in exchanges for American citizens captured by Japan.
7. Carole Song was born in New Jersey after the January 20, 1945 cutoff date. She received a favorable ruling from the court in *Song v US* because her parents, who worked at Seabrook Farms, had not received adequate notice that they could return to their West Coast home.
8. Jane Yano was born in the Department of Justice Internment Camp at Crystal City, Texas in 1947. Although an internee, she was born after the June 30, 1946 eligibility date established by the Civil Liberties Act (Crystal City Internment Camp remained open until 1948).

Senior Advocate Janet Saisho worked tirelessly on behalf of redress applicants who came to the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center for help. She corresponded with the Office of Redress Administration, traveled to Washington, DC and lobbied California's senators on behalf of Mr. Kay Kato and others who were denied redress.

Performers

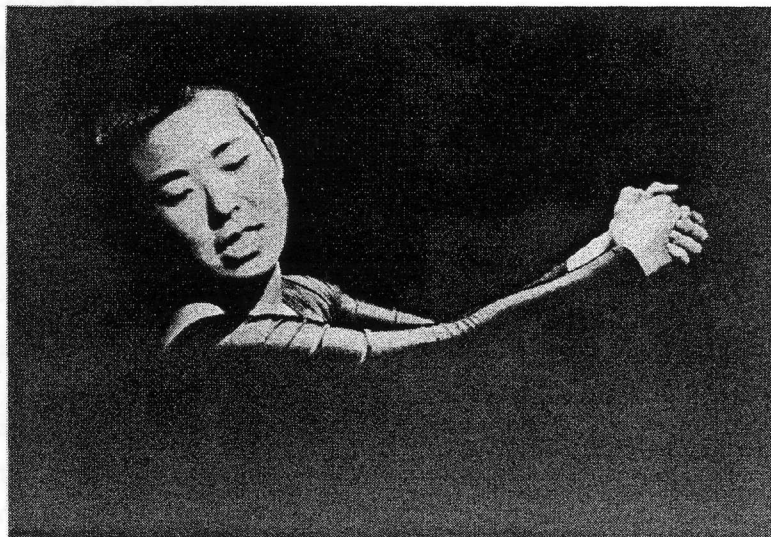
ZERO 3



Coming off of their successful one-night performance at the UCLA Armand Hammer Museum in December, Zero 3 will be performing a new spoken word piece focusing on their observation of the media-fueled frenzy after the September 11 attacks. Zero3 is made up of Kennedy Kabasares, Traci Kato-Kiriyama and Edren Sumagaysay. The trio made their debut in April 2000 at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center's Fresh Tracks series at the David Henry Hwang Theatre in Little Tokyo. Since then, Zero 3 has been performing in various venues across Southern California including the Vogue Theatre in Hollywood, the Natural History Museum in Los Angeles and Highways Performance Space in Santa Monica.

DENISE UYEHARA

Denise Uyehara is an award-winning performance artist and writer whose work has been presented in the U.S., London, Vancouver, Helsinki, Tokyo and Hairou in China. She will perform an excerpt from her work-in-progress, Big Head, which explores racial profiling of Japanese Americans, Arab Americans and Muslims during times of crisis. Uyehara was recently a Poets & Writers resident artist at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and Beyond Baroque Literary Center.



Acknowledgments

THANK YOU TO OUR ENDORSERS

Asian American Professional Association

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance

Blacklava

Campaign for Justice

JACL Greater LA Singles Chapter

JACL Progressive Westside Chapter

Katalyst

Korean Immigrant Workers Advocates

Korean Resource Center

Muslim Public Affairs Council

Muslim Student Association/UCLA

NCCR Sept. 11 Committee

Organization of Chinese American—Greater Los Angeles

Pilipino Workers Center

Thai Community Development Center

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING:

David Monkawa

Carrie Morita

Candace Murata

Casey Peek

Glenn Suravech

All the volunteers who generously volunteered their time

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