



# Day of Remembrance 2003

*1942*

**“Race Prejudice, War Hysteria, Failure of  
Political Leadership”: Then & Now**

*2003*

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Presented by Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress

Japanese American Citizens League/Pacific Southwest District  
and the

Japanese American National Museum

**Saturday, February 15, 2003**

**2:00 – 4:00 pm**

George & Sakaye Aratani Central Hall

Japanese American National Museum

# Day of Remembrance 2003 Program

## Welcome

John Katagi, Japanese American National Museum

## Co-Hosts

Kay Ochi, Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress  
Dan Ichinose, JACL Pacific Southwest District

## Highlights from "Stand Up for Justice"

The Ralph Lazo Short Drama  
John Esaki, Director

## NCRR Fighting Spirit Award

Presented by Kathy Nishimoto Masaoka

**Janice Harumi Yen**

Founding Member of NCRR  
Community Redress Activist

## JACL Community Achievement Award

Presented by Gary Mayeda

**Robin Toma**

Executive Director, Los Angeles Human Relations Commission  
Campaign for Justice: Redress Now for Japanese Latin Americans!

## Legislative Update

Congressman Xavier Becerra

## Keynote Address

Congressman Mike Honda

## Performance

Denise Uyehara

## Community Update

Salam Al-Mayarati, Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)  
Ra'id Faraj, Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)

## NCRR 9/11 Committee Video Highlights

## Closing

Reception to Follow Immediately After the Program



## Keynote Speaker

## Congressman Mike Honda

For over 25 years, Mike Honda has dedicated his career to public service from the San Jose City Planning Commission, to the San Jose Unified School District Board, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, the California State Assembly and currently the United States House of Representatives. Mike Honda has provided leadership in addressing such issues as health and human services, housing, land use/open space, transportation and law enforcement. Mike Honda has championed legislation such as AB 1915, the California Civil Liberties Public Education Act and AJR 26, which reaffirmed that Asian Pacific Americans should not be falsely characterized or stereotyped in light of the alleged spy scandals at the country's national laboratories.

In 2000, Mike was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Mike serves on the House Budget Committee, the House Committee on Science, including its subcommittee on Research, and on the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, including its subcommittees on Aviation, Highways & Transit, and Water Resources & Environment.

As a member of the prestigious Budget Committee, Mike is dedicated to passing a responsible budget that pays down our

national debt, while protecting top priorities such as Social Security, Medicare and public education. As a member of the influential Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Mike is working hard to make sure the Silicon Valley gets its fair share of federal transportation funding to make the daily commute safer and more efficient for the residents of the fast-growing region.

As a Congressman for Silicon Valley, Mike is taking a leading role in bringing Democrats and Republicans together to better understand technology issues. In this vein, Mike has formed a bi-partisan Wireless Task Force to enable Congress to better understand and support innovative technologies for next generation wireless deployment.

Mike has been selected by his Democratic colleagues to serve as the Regional Whip for Northern California, Hawaii, American Samoa and Guam. As Regional Whip, Mike works with the Democratic Leadership by communicating legislative priorities and strategies to members within his region. Mike also serves as Vice Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and continues to be a strong voice for the cause of social justice, tolerance and civil rights.

## Community Update

## American Muslim Political Coordinating Council

### Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)

The Muslim Public Affairs Council is a national organization with chapters throughout the country. They have been active in promoting an understanding of Islam and have led campaigns against homelessness. Recently they have helped to coordinate the monitoring of the INS "special registration" and have spoken up in defense of the democratic rights of Muslims and all people in this country. MPAC has been active in building alliances with Muslim and non-Muslim groups. Their Vision Statement includes the goal of establishing "a vibrant American Muslim community that will enrich American society through the promotion of Islamic values of Mercy, Justice, Peace, Human Dignity, Freedom and Equality for all."

### Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)

The Council on American-Islamic Relations, a non-profit

grassroots membership organization with their headquarters in Washington, D.C., was established to promote a positive image of Islam and Muslims in America. CAIR is dedicated to presenting an Islamic perspective on issues of importance to the American public and seeks to empower the Muslim community in America through political and social activism. CAIR issues action alerts to local communities to promote local activism and grassroots response. CAIR believes that local response is a key factor in making their voices heard. They have also helped to coordinate the recent monitoring of the INS "special registration."

MPAC and CAIR along with the American Muslim Council (AMC) and the American Muslim Alliance (AMA) recently formed the American Muslim Political Coordinating Council (AMPCC) whose goal is to repeal or amend the Patriot Act.

## Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress 9/11 Committee

The NCRR 9/11 Committee formed in response to the need to continue building support and understanding between the Japanese American community and the Muslim, American Arab and South Asian communities. It has developed a working relationship with these organizations through sponsoring several educational programs on the Middle East, Civil Liberties and National Security and Women in

Afghanistan, as well as a candlelight vigil on September 8, 2002. The NCRR 9/11 Committee has deepened these ties through joint exchanges such as picnics and "Break the Fast" events at Senshin Buddhist Temple. Last September the Islamic Center presented the Muslim Appreciation Award to NCRR.



## NCCR Fighting Spirit Award

Janice Harumi Yen

Janice Harumi Yen is the recipient of NCCR's 2003 Fighting Spirit Award. As a founding member of NCCR, Janice exemplifies the determination, dedication and fighting spirit that made redress a reality. For over 22 years, Janice has devoted countless hours in the campaign for the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, and continued during the 1990's with the campaign to support and assist all who were denied redress. Highlights of her volunteer work include traveling to Washington, D.C. on several redress lobbying delegations, working with attorneys on redress denial cases, and, most recently, serving as the Assistant Producer for "Stand Up for Justice."

The first child of farming parents Masaharu and Haruko Iwanaga in Santa Cruz, California, President Roosevelt had signed EO 9066 just one month before Janice's birth. When she was one month old, the family was sent to the Salinas Assembly Center, and at three months of age she and her parents were shipped off to the Colorado River (Poston) "Relocation Center" in Arizona. Two years later Janice and her mother reunited with her father in Cleveland, Ohio where he had found work in a factory.

"Although I attended small, rural schools in San Martin and Morgan Hill, California, I had some wonderful teachers. I credit them for their positive influence on me. I learned that there was a spectrum of political and social views out there and that we have to analyze for ourselves what is the 'truth.' The 1942 internment had a profound effect on Japanese Americans, including myself. My parents and relatives never spoke about camp in terms of constitutionality and racism...subjects that were too painful to discuss. I questioned why we, a farming family, spent six years of our lives outside of California in places that were 'too hot, too cold, and so far from home.' Also, our government's annihilation of over 100,000 civilians in the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was unfathomable and unconscionable to me. It was in high school that I decided I would work for 'the common good.'

"Like many in the 1960's, I was impressed by the struggle of minorities for self-determination and equality. In the 1970's I was drawn to the Little Tokyo People's Rights Organization (which later became the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations) because of the intensity and determination of its membership to work for positive change and to redress some of the wrongs of the past. Today Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress continues to support those who have suffered from discrimination and works for positive change in our community. I am deeply honored to receive the 2003 Fighting Spirit Award."

—Janice Harumi Yen



February 1998 - Assistant Attorney General Bill Lann Lee announces the decision to give redress to former railroad and mine workers and family members. Pictured (left to right): Alex Fukui, Janice Yen, Richard Katsuda, Fumi Shimada, Al Muratsuchi, Bill Lann Lee, Sharon Tanihara, Bruce Iwasaki, Kay Ochi and Mike Shimada.

## 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
2002	Art Shibayama



## JACL Community Achievement Award

Robin Toma

Acknowledging his commitment to human rights and justice through his work with Japanese Latin Americans and the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission, Robin Toma has been selected by the Japanese American Citizens League/Pacific Southwest District as the recipient of the JACL Community Achievement Award.

After five years with the Commission, Robin was appointed its Executive Director in 2000. Before coming to the Commission, he served as staff attorney with the ACLU of Southern California promoting civil rights and building multi-ethnic coalitions to bring about institutional change. While with the Commission, Robin authored such publications as "Day Laborer Hiring Sites: Constructive Approaches to Community Conflict" and "A Primer on Managing Intergroup Conflict in a Multicultural Workplace." Additionally, he established a tax-deductible 501(c)(3) non-profit organization to assist the Commission's work and organized the effort to address a rash of hate violence in the L.A.'s Harbor Gateway area and in Long Beach's Cambodian neighborhood.

Robin's community involvement is equally impressive. In 1996 Robin served as co-lead counsel for the Japanese Latin American Redress class action lawsuit *Mochizuki v. United States* with the late Fred Okrand. When this lawsuit was settled in 1998, the terms fell short of complete justice. He then joined efforts to champion a congressional bill working with Congressman Xavier Becerra and other community members. The bill HR619 sought to fully recognize everyone that was wronged by the illegal incarceration of Japanese Latin American and also to restore full funding to redress education for the entire experience. The effort to bring redress to Japanese Latin Americans continues still.

A native of Los Angeles' Silver Lake and Echo Park neighborhoods, Robin obtained a bachelor's degree in Sociology and Economics at the University of California, Santa Cruz, a master's degree in Urban Planning with a juris doctorate from UCLA, and completed a three-year Kellogg National Fellowship Program studying intergroup conflict management and community organizing. Robin enjoyed living two years in Barcelona, Spain and is fully fluent in Spanish.

Robin enjoys a fulfilling family life with his wife Debra and daughter Nina.



Washington, D.C. lobbying delegation (left to right): Alice Nishimoto, Manju Kulkarni, Robin Toma, Fred Okrand, Art Shibayama and Rose Shibayama.



## Performance

Denise Uyehara

Denise Uyehara is an interdisciplinary performance artist/writer/playwright whose work has been presented across the United States as well as in London, Tokyo, Vancouver, Helsinki, and Hairou, China. Her performances ultimately evoke what marks us in our migration toward more borderless identities. Today she will present excerpts from "Big Head," a project made possible by the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program.

She is also a founding member of the Sacred Naked Nature Girls. The recipient of numerous awards, Uyehara recently received an Asian Cultural Council fellowship and was a Poets

& Writers 'Writer on Site' at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and Beyond Baroque Literary Center. She continues as a member of the California Arts Council Touring Roster. She teaches workshops in the community, including the ongoing Rad Asians workshop, and conducts public art projects that encourage others to tell their own stories. Uyehara is a guest instructor in performance at the University of California, Irvine, where she also received a B.A. in Comparative Literature. Look for her upcoming book *Maps of City & Body: Shedding Light on the Performance and Process of Denise Uyehara* (forthcoming from Kaya Press).

For more information: [www.deniseuyehara.com](http://www.deniseuyehara.com)

# Upcoming Programs

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- There will be an educational forum on the Patriot Act on March 1st at the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, 244 S. San Pedro Street, Second Floor at 2:00 pm sponsored by NCRR 9/11 Committee and MPAC.
- There will also be a Monitor Training on February 18 at Centenary Methodist Church, 300 S. Central Avenue at 6:30 pm to prepare people to help monitor the INS on February 21, the last day for non-immigrant males, 16 years and older, from Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, to register.

## **Acknowledgments**

### **Thank you to the Endorsers of the Day of Remembrance 2003:**

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance  
Asian Pacific American Legal Center  
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)  
JACL Progressive Westside Chapter  
Korean Immigrant Workers Advocates  
NCRR September 11 Committee  
Wilshire JACL  
Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)

### **Special thanks to:**

John Esaki  
John Guzman  
Allison Kido  
Chris Komai  
Masaki Miyagawa  
David Monkawa  
Carrie Morita  
Candace Murata  
Martha Nakagawa  
Gina Nieto  
Azusa Oda  
Glenn Suravech

All of the volunteers who generously gave their time

### **Day of Remembrance Planning Committee**

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