

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE 2006

Claiming History — Justice Along Color Lines



Train station, Los Angeles
The removal of Mexican American families
to south of the U.S. border.



Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, Los Angeles
The removal of Japanese American families
to assembly centers.

Saturday, February 18, 2006

2:00 PM

George & Sakaye Aratani Central Hall
Japanese American National Museum
369 East First Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Sponsored by:

Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress
Japanese American Citizens League / Pacific Southwest District
Japanese American National Museum



JAPANESE AMERICAN
NATIONAL MUSEUM

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE 2006

Claiming History — Justice Along Color Lines

The Day of Remembrance is held each year to commemorate President Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, which authorized the unconstitutional forced removal of 120,000 Japanese Americans from the west coast and Hawai'i during World War II.

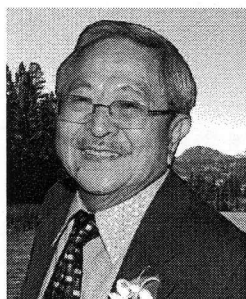
More than forty years later, the United States government apologized, setting the record straight and silencing those who argued that the internment was justified. Or so we believed. Now as then, supporters of those illegal actions challenge history with arguments that seek to defend the indefensible. The program for Day of Remembrance 2006 explores the legacy of redress, and considers its potential as a powerful tool for the many working to refute revisionist interpretations of history. Presenters will draw upon that legacy to suggest ways it can be used to strengthen connections with other ethnic and cultural communities seeking their own forms of redress, primarily Japanese Latin Americans, Mexican Americans, Muslims, Arab Americans, and South Asians and others who continue to fight to protect our civil liberties.

IN MEMORIAM

TOM HAYASHI

Tom Hayashi was a member of the Day of Remembrance planning committee. Already active with JACL/PSWD, Tom recently joined NCRR with a great deal of energy. He had been speaking out for justice his whole life and it was no surprise that he brought up issues around Black reparations and pushed to include Mexican repatriation as one of the central themes for today's program. He worked with Black and Latino youth and other minorities for much of his life.

Tom's first job was working with gang members as part of the staff of the Catholic Youth Organization and later with inmates at the California Youth Authority. He not only directed a community center in Watts, Tom also was a primary force in saving the Watts Towers. He also contributed to the East L.A. Community Service Organization and the Central City Action Committee. Tom did not talk about himself so many of us learned these things from people who spoke about him at his service in December. He had just attended the DOR meeting a few days before he suddenly passed away. We will miss his smile, his energy and his support.



CAMPAIGN FOR JUSTICE

On February 15, Senator Daniel K. Inouye (HI) and Congressman Xavier Becerra (CA-30) introduced a bill entitled Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act. This bill would establish a federal commission to investigate and determine the facts surrounding the removal, deportation, and internment of Japanese Latin Americans by the U.S. government during World War II. The commission would recommend any appropriate remedies based on its findings. Campaign for Justice (CFJ) will make efforts to build momentum within Congress, the Japanese American and Japanese Latin American communities, and the American public in order to seek timely passage of the bill and its implementation, especially as Japanese Latin Americans are quite advanced in age.

CFJ also continues to work with Congressman Becerra on the Wartime Parity and Justice Act, which would resolve the remaining redress issues for Japanese Latin Americans and Japanese Americans who have been denied redress. This act also seeks funding for educational projects in order to fulfill the intent of Congress, in its passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, for public education about the Japanese American internment experience.

2006 Day of Remembrance

Welcome

Japanese American National Museum

Statement on Day of Remembrance

Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress

Robin Toma, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Human Rights Commission

Campaign for Justice: Justice Now for Japanese Latin Americans!

Honorable Xavier Becerra, U.S. Congressman

Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act

Film: Here in America?

Assembly on the Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians

Poet Gloria Alvarez

Poet Amy Uyematsu

Reflections on the Internment and Repatriation

Dr. Francisco E. Balderrama

A Decade of Betrayal: Mexican Repatriation in the 1930s

Muslim Community Public Affairs Council

Community Action

Poet Junichi Semitsu

Reflections on America Post 9/11

Closing

Reception

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 19, 2006

Dear Organizers of the Day of Remembrance:

We, as Members of Congress, deeply appreciate your diligence to increase public awareness about the Day of Remembrance and its importance in the history of the United States.

The Day of Remembrance has become a significant tradition in the Japanese American community, rooted in recognition, education, and activism for redress and social justice. First commemorated in 1978 in Seattle, Washington, the Day of Remembrance continues to be observed with educational events around the country on or around February 19. On that day in 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 that led to the mass internment of persons of Japanese ancestry. Many Italian and German Americans also faced severe restrictions that included required identification cards, travel limitation, seizure of personal property, forced relocation, internment, and forced prisoner exchange that branded them "enemy aliens."

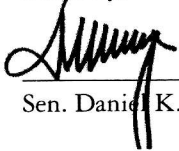
Over the past years, recognition of the significance of the Day of Remembrance has gone beyond the Japanese American community. On March 4, 2004, the House of Representatives unanimously passed a resolution supporting the goals of the Japanese American, German American and Italian American communities in recognizing a national Day of Remembrance to increase public awareness about the World War II experience of their communities and provide an opportunity for all people to reflect on the importance of justice and civil liberties during times of crisis and war.

This year, we recognize the 25th anniversary of the public hearings held by the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. Between July and December 1981, the commission held 20 days of hearings and took testimony from more than 750 witnesses. The commission's report, which is rooted in both its hearings and in archival research, brought light to findings and gave recommendations that ultimately led to the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

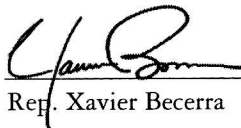
Public education is crucial to raise awareness and to prevent recurrence of past mistakes. Despite the historic passage of legislation recognizing the wartime violation of the constitutional rights of many Japanese Americans, there are an estimated 1,200 Japanese Americans and Japanese Latin Americans who have yet to receive appropriate redress. The German and Italian American communities still have not been properly acknowledged or apologized to for the violation of their rights. The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus is heartened that there continue to be efforts to educate and raise awareness of redress issues through films, petitions, and public testimonial events. We encourage the organizers to share educational materials, resources and ideas to inform and educate the broader public.

We appreciate your efforts in continuing the tradition of the Day of Remembrance and urge you to keep fighting the good fight.

Sincerely,



Sen. Daniel K. Inouye




Rep. Xavier Becerra



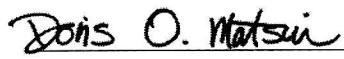
Sen. Daniel K. Akaka



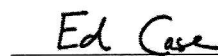
Rep. Michael M. Honda



Rep. Neil Abercrombie



Rep. Doris O. Matsui



Rep. Ed Case



Rep. Madeline Z. Bordallo



Rep. David Wu

YOUR HOSTS

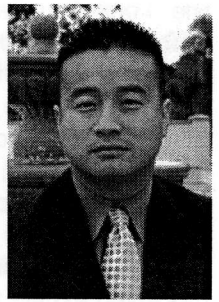
Alayne Yonemoto

Alayne Yonemoto grew up in the San Gabriel Valley of Southern California where she attended Alhambra High School. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Anthropology from The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Throughout college she was active in the Nikkei Student Union where she was Cultural Night Director for two years. After college, she worked at the UCLA Events Office as Assistant Manager for Scheduling with Special Projects. She is currently working for CAST Management Consultants, Inc., a financial management firm located in Downtown Los Angeles. Outside of work she volunteers for organizations such as Planned Parenthood Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Free Clinic. In the last several years, she has volunteered most of her time with the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) serving on the Chapter, District, and National levels. In 2003 she was appointed Dinner Committee Chair for the JACL National Gala Dinner, "An American Testimonial: A Salute to Japanese American National Leaders." She is starting her term as Governor for the Pacific Southwest District of JACL.



Junichi P. Semitsu

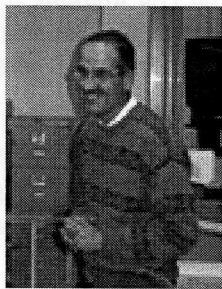
Junichi P. Semitsu is a Lawyering Skills Instructor with the University of San Diego School of Law. Prior to his move to Southern California, Junichi taught at the University of California at Berkeley in both the Boalt Hall School of Law and in the Department of African American Studies. While at Berkeley, he was the director of June Jordan's Poetry for the People. Semitsu is an honors graduate of Stanford Law School, where he won Best Individual Oral Advocate in the Kirkwood Moot Court Competition and served as senior editor/ombudsman of the *Stanford Law Review* and director of the law school musical. After graduation, Semitsu clerked for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and practiced for a year before choosing to retire from the legal profession. His publications include "Burning Cyberbooks in Public Libraries: Internet Filtering Software vs. the First Amendment," published in the *Stanford Law Review*, as well as essays in the *Chicago Tribune*, *New Crisis* (the NAACP Magazine), *Mizna*, *Hardboiled*, *ChopBlock*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. He has appeared and/or performed in the San Francisco Poetry Slam finals, Pacifica radio's "Democracy Now" with Amy Goodman, the Asian Pacific Islander Issues Conference, and at the Building Unity Conference in Wisconsin. In his spare time, he is busy collecting Pez dispensers, playing poker, planning his wedding (next month), preparing a manuscript, and looking for parking.



ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Francisco E. Balderrama

Francisco E. Balderrama is Professor of Chicano Studies and History at California State University Los Angeles where he was selected as Outstanding University Professor in 1997. Previously, Balderrama served as Chair of Chicano Studies from 1984 to 1993 and 1997 to 1999. He also has held faculty and administrative appointments at Texas Tech University, Adams State College, and The Claremont Colleges. Professor Balderrama is a Chicano Historian with special interest in the American West particularly California and Los Angeles. He offers a variety of courses in Chicano History for the Chicano Studies Department and teaches classes on Los Angeles, California, and the American West for the History Department. Balderrama holds a Bachelor of Arts from Loyola University and both a Master of Arts and Doctorate from University of California, Los Angeles.



Balderrama's research program focuses on the Mexican community during the early 20th century with particular attention to relations with the Mexican nation. He is co-author with Raymond Rodríguez of *Decade of Betrayal: Mexican Repatriation in the 1930s* (University of New Mexico Press, 1995 and revised edition, 2006). The Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Human Rights has proclaimed *Decade of Betrayal* as an outstanding work on intolerance in North America. Balderrama also has written *In Defense of La Raza: The Los Angeles Mexican Consulate and Community, 1929-1936*. (University of Arizona Press, 1982). In addition, his work has appeared in *Encyclopedia of the American West*, *Historians of the American Frontier: A Bio-Bibliographical Sourcebook*, *Encyclopedia of the History of Chicago*, *Radical History* and *A Guide to the History of California*. Furthermore, Balderrama has completed a term as a managing editor of *Ethnohistory: Journal of the Ethnohistory Association*.

Speakers continued on 6

Balderrama is recipient of the UCLA Doctoral Advancement fellowship, Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, and the Ford Foundation Senior Post Doctoral Fellowship. Among his professional awards are the Winthrop Rockefeller Distinguished Lectureship at the University of Arkansas and the Senior Fulbright Lectureship in American Immigration History at the University of Rome, Italy. The Ford Foundation, Western Association of Colleges and Universities, Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education, and the Educational Testing Service has retained Balderrama as a consultant and reviewer. He also has given expert testimony for the California State Senate Select Committee for Citizen Participation.

Xavier Becerra

First elected to the House of Representatives in 1992, Rep. Becerra is the only member from Southern California currently serving on the powerful House Committee on Ways and Means. His committee is responsible for formulating our nation's tax, Social Security, Medicare, trade and welfare laws. Rep. Becerra has dedicated himself to promoting issues affecting industries critical to the Southern California region such as entertainment, high technology, health care, and stimulating free, yet fair, trade.



The first Latino to serve on this committee, he has used his position to increase opportunities for working families, to improve the Social Security program for women and minorities, to combat poverty among the working poor through our welfare laws, and to strengthen Medicare and ensure its long-term viability. Rep. Becerra currently serves on the Human Resources and Social Security subcommittees.

Rep. Becerra is a member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) where he served as Chairman during the 105th Congress (1997-98). The Congressman is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. At the international level, he serves as Vice Chairman of the U.S.-Korea Interparliamentary Exchange. Most recently, Becerra was asked by the Speaker of the House and the Democratic Leader to serve on the Smithsonian Board of Regents, which oversees the Smithsonian Institution's expansive collection.

Prior to his election to Congress, Rep. Becerra served one term in the California Legislature as the representative of the 59th Assembly District in Los Angeles County. He is a former Deputy Attorney General with the California Department of Justice. The Congressman began his legal career in 1984 working in a legal services office representing the mentally ill.

Rep. Becerra is married to Dr. Carolina Reyes. They are the proud parents of three young daughters: Clarisa, Olivia, and Natalia. The Becerra family resides in the Los Angeles neighborhood of Eagle Rock.

Gloria Enedina Alvarez

Gloria Enedina Alvarez, Chicana poet/intermedia artist, literary translator and curator, presently teaches creative writing and works as a consultant in public schools, universities, libraries, museums, and art centers. Her literary/artistic efforts have been recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts, Cultural Affairs Department, City of L.A., and Poets & Writers, Inc., among others. She has been a writer in residence at the Social and Public Art Resource Center, East L.A. College, Getty Research Institute for the History of the Arts and Humanities, Beyond Baroque Literary Center, Los Angeles County Art Museum, Los Angeles Public Library, and faculty at U.C. Berkeley, California State University at Los Angeles, California State University at Northridge, and Cal Arts. She has published and read widely in the U.S., Latin America and Europe. Her books of poetry in English and Spanish include *La Excusa/The Excuse* and *Emerging en un Mar De Olanes*. Her poetry has been published in various anthologies including *Chicana Creativity & Criticism*; *New Frontiers in American Literature*, *Ciudad Híbrida/Hybrid City*, *The Production of Art in "Alien Territory"*, *Urban Latino Cultures: La Vida Latina en L.A.*, *Revista Mujeres an Invocation L.A.: Urban Multicultural Poetry*. Her epic play *Los Biombos/The Screens* has been produced by Cornerstone Theater and directed by Peter Sellars. Her libretto, a new version for the opera, *Cuento de un Soldado/Story of a Soldier* was also directed by Peter Sellars and conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen, produced by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and performed worldwide. She has collaborated on the opera, *El Niño, La Nativeté*, produced by Chatelet Theatre Musical de Paris, France and San Francisco Symphony.



Amy Uyematsu

Sansei Amy Uyematsu started writing poetry as an undergraduate at UCLA during the burgeoning Asian American Movement of the late 1960's and 70's. As she and many others began to define themselves as Asian Americans, Uyematsu found poetry to be her most natural and effective vehicle for expression. Her earliest work was published in *Gidra*, the first Asian American newspaper. Since then, she has produced three critically acclaimed poetry collections, including her latest, *Stone Bow Prayer* (Copper Canyon Press). Previous anthologies, both published by Story Line Press, are *30 Miles from*



J-Town, which won the 1992 Nicholas Roerich Poetry Prize, and *Nights of Fire, Nights of Rain*.

Uyematsu's poems have also appeared in scores of literary magazines and anthologies. In 1998 and 2000, she was a featured poet at the *LA Times* Festival of Books; one of 24 poets in the MTA's Los Angeles Poetry in Motion project; a profiled writer in the *LA Weekly's* "A Guide to Literary L.A.;" and a poetry editor for *Greenmakers: Japanese American Gardeners in Southern California*. Her literary influences heavily draw from contemporary "minority"

poets in America such as Lucille Clifton, Linda Hogan, Li-Young Lee, Cathy Song, and Lawson Inada as well as international poets Pablo Neruda, Rumi, Basho, and Wislawa Szymborska. Still, her voice is very much her own as she creates work reflecting a core belief in the promise of "poetry as activism."

Currently, in addition to an active writing career, Uyematsu teaches high school mathematics in Los Angeles. She has worked for many years with Pacific Asian American Women Writers West (PAAWWW), co-sponsor of tonight's event.

OTHER UPCOMING 2006 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE EVENTS

February 19 5:30 PM

26th Annual San Jose Day of Remembrance 2006: Stand Up For Justice

San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, San Jose, CA

Screening of the film *Stand Up for Justice*, speakers, cultural performances, candlelight procession and reception.

<http://www.sjnoc.org>

Presented by Nihonmachi Outreach Committee

February 26 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Carrying the Light for Justice: Legacy of the Redress Hearings 25 Years Later

AMC Kabuki Theater and JCCNC

in San Francisco Japantown

Speakers include: Senator Daniel Inouye (invited) and Satsuki Ina, Screening of the films *From Resettlement to Redress* and *Here in America?* Assembly on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, Candle lighting ceremony, cultural performances, reception

www.dayofremembrance.org

February 22 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Preserving Japanese American & Japanese Latin American Memories

Social Science Lecture Hall 100,

University of California, Irvine

Dinner, cultural performance, panel, video screening.

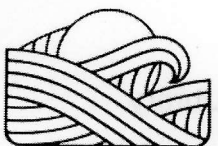
Speakers include: Grace Shimizu, Director of Peruvian Oral History Project; Megumi, Bilingual Storyteller; Mitsuye Yamada, Poet; Hiroshi Kamei, Poston; Jun Fukushima, MIS Veteran.

Presented by Tomo No Kai.

For more information Itanaka@uci.edu

For additional information on the German American/German Latin American Incarceration during WWII, please visit www.foitimes.com

Additional support provided by



**ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN
LEGAL CENTER
OF
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

The Asian Pacific American Legal Center

joins you in
the 2006 Day of Remembrance,
ensuring that the lessons of the past
are never forgotten.

Kazuye Tsuchiyama Oye

Greater L.A. Singles Chapter JACL

**Immediate Past President of
Santa Maria Chapter JACL**

ENDORSED BY

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San Fernando Valley, Ventura County, Gardena Valley,
Venice/ Culver, West Los Angeles, Orange County,
Riverside, South Bay, Downtown LA
Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance

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Gary Ono
Casey Peek
Janis Wong
Tracy Tsutsumoto

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE

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PROGRAM DESIGN & COVER IMAGE

Tracy Tsutsumoto

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FURTHER INFORMATION

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