

Los Angeles

Bay Area

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WINTER

1997

Newsletter of the National Coalition for Redress/ Reparations

REDRESS

## Redress Update:

# ONLY 18 MONTHS LEFT FOR THE FINAL BIG PUSH!

by Kay Ochi



NCCR community meeting, May '96. Applicants who were "born after evacuation & or camp" get updated on recent developments and discuss ways to advance grassroots advocacy.

**O**n August 10, 1998, the Office of Redress Administration (ORA) will officially close down its operations. With only 18 months left the National Coalition for Redress/ Reparations once again calls for community support on several actions. Although we are glad that, so far, 80,120 redress payments have been made, there are still thousands of former evacuees and internees who have not been redressed. NCCR urges everyone in the community to help with this final big push for redress.

## Children born to evacuees/ Children born after their parents left camp

The victory of the Consolo and Ishida court cases in July 1995, made over 1400 claimants who were previously denied redress, potentially eligible. However, the ORA proposed using January 2, 1945, as the cut-off birth date for eligibility. There are 500 claimants in this category who were born after January 2, 1945; they may not get redress unless the community continues to put pressure on the Department of Justice (DOJ). Last

(cont. pg 4)

## "Minor Relocates" Get Justice, At Last

**I**n October 1996, 125 Japanese Americans, categorized as the "minor relocatees," finally received redress and a presidential apology after a 3-year campaign. During the war, as children they were relocated to Japan with their parents in exchange for white prisoners of Japan. Anyone who went to Japan during the



Three victorious "minor relocatees" who persistently fought for justice. L-R: Sam Miyamoto, Reiko Nimura, & Kaz Rikimaru, with his wife Connie.

war had been previously denied redress.

The efforts of many community advocates contributed to this recent victory. In particular, Sam Miyamoto and Reiko Nimura of NCCR led the local efforts. In the Bay Area, attorney Gen Fujioka contributed important legal points which led to the reconsideration of this group of former internees' ineligibility.

"I didn't think I would get redress after my appeal was denied twice. It was

1

(cont. pg 4)

## KEIKO & KAZU MATSUI

featured at  
**DAY OF REMEMBRANCE  
1997**  
**"...AND JUSTICE  
FOR ALL"**



**Saturday, March 22, 1997  
7:00 PM at the Japan  
America Theatre**

**T**his year's DOR not only commemorates the historic effects of EO 9066 on the lives of 120,000 Japanese Americans, the proceeds from this event will support the on-going efforts of the Japanese Latin Americans, court cases for those denied redress, and other redress efforts.

Keiko Matsui, an accomplished jazz composer/ keyboardist,  
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# Redress for Japanese Latin Americans

by Ayako Hagihara

**A**s Japanese Americans, we are aware of our history in this country and the injustices we have suffered. Our stories are now being told to others... not only to educate but also to ensure that no other group of people will experience the humiliation, helplessness, and the complex emotions felt by Isseis and Niseis stripped of their liberty, civil and human rights.



Campaign for Justice forum, Jan '97—Alicia Nishimoto (2nd - left), Japanese Peruvian internee, explains how she & her family were kidnapped from home, branded "illegal aliens" and taken to U.S. internment camps. (L-R- Mitch Maki, Nishimoto, Fred Okrand, Legal Dir. Emeritus, ACLU of So. Calif.)

Justice was denied for over forty years until the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (CLA) granted redress to those U.S. citizens and permanent residents who suffered WWII internment. This came after a decade-long struggle to reclaim our past and demand that the U.S. government grant redress to those whose rights it violated.

Unfortunately the CLA excluded certain categories of people from being eligible for redress. As NCCRR and others continued to pursue redress for ALL whose rights were violated, more cases of injustice emerged.

- Children who were forced to go to Japan on prisoner exchange ships because their parents were coerced into doing so by the U.S. government.

- Families in which one sibling was eligible for redress, but her sister was not because she was born after

January 2, 1945, a cut-off date determined by the Office of Redress Administration despite the fact that the last camp was not closed until June 30, 1946.

We were shocked at these new revelations of injustice but in particular we were appalled by what the U.S. government did to Japanese Latin Americans (JLAs) during WWII.

Even before its entrance into the war, the U.S. government began to address the need to repatriate American citizens from war zones in Europe and the Far East. A hostage-exchange program was conceived where the U.S. would send Japanese nationals in exchange for American civilians in Japan. The U.S., at that time, was unable to secure a pool of people of Japanese ancestry that it could

ship without facing legal and international charges of forcibly exchanging American citizens of Japanese descent for other U.S. citizens.

The U.S. government began to look beyond its borders and found concentrations of Japanese Latin Americans (JLAs) in Peru where anti-Japanese sentiment was rising as economic conditions worsened and the FBI spread anti-Japanese propaganda among Latin American countries.

Soon after the Japanese militarist attack on Pearl Harbor, JLAs, many of whom had established roots and had successful businesses in Latin America began to be apprehended. Latin American government officials, assisted by FBI agents, deported the victims without warrants, hearings or indictments. The



## President's Message

by Richard Katsuda

**A**s NCCRR enters its eighteenth year in 1997, many people might ask, "Why are you guys still around?" After all, they might say, we won redress in 1988, and that's what NCCRR was all about, right?

Well, it's been almost nine years since the historic signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which authorized redress and reparations for Japanese Americans. But in those nine years, NCCRR has been busy fighting for justice for all those deprived of liberty during World War II.

First, there was the push in 1989 to get appropriations for the Civil Liberties Act. No, reparations were not automatic with the signing of the Act. It was another tough battle, but redress payments and apologies finally began in October 1990.

Then, in 1992, when it was discovered that there were more surviving internees than the original 60,000 estimated, we made a successful push for a congressional amendment to add appropriations to redress 20,000 more people.

Since then, we became aware that thousands of Japanese Americans were being denied redress. Despite the fact that many in the Japanese American community thought that the redress campaign was over in 1988, NCCRR has always known that our work was not done until all those who were deprived of liberty during WWII received their redress.

While continuing to fight on behalf of those being denied redress, NCCRR has always tried to remain true to one of our founding principles of unity: to support other groups who are engaged in similar struggles for justice. Just as we have called upon others to support the redress campaign, NCCRR believes that we must in turn help other struggles for justice.



## NCCR Joins New Otani Workers to Build Support in Japan

by Kathy Nishimoto Masaoka

Last November, NCCR was invited by the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union, Local 11 to participate in a delegation of workers, union and community supporters to Japan. The delegation's purpose was 1) to publicize the terrible working conditions at the New Otani Hotel in Los Angeles, 2) to meet with the New Otani management in Tokyo, and 3) to build ongoing support for the campaign among worker and community groups in Japan. NCCR was one of the founding organizations of the New Otani Workers Support Committee and played an important role in building community support for the New Otani workers. NCCR had ties with minority rights groups in Japan due to our long history of human rights and redress advocacy in the US and Japan.



Delegation urges Kajima Corp. to redress the 11 survivors of the Kajima run slave labor camp, & to urge the New Otani to meet with the Union. (L-R, Francisca Hinojosa, Ana Alvarado, Masaoka, Dwight Kelly, Maria Elena Durazo and Kajima rep.)

### The New Otani Workers

The strong voices of the three workers enabled us to accomplish much; housekeeping supervisor Francisca Hinojosa, cook Dwight Kelly and former housekeeper Ana Alvarado. As I listened to them tell their stories to US Ambassador Walter Mondale, and at many other press conferences, interviews, rallies and large forums, my respect for the workers and my understanding of the conditions at the hotel deepened.

Francisca talked about an older coworker who fell in the hotel elevator

(cont. pg 7)

## Civil Liberties Public Education Fund Board to Disburse Funds

by Janice Yen

Eight years after the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 became law, the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund Board (CLPEFB) became a reality in 1996. The Board's mission is to grant funds for research and public educational activities about the Japanese American internment and to disseminate the findings of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC).

Unfortunately, the total available funds for the program, including administrative costs comes to only five million dollars. The original amount thought to be allocated by the Civil Liberties Act

was 50 million dollars. More individuals are now eligible for redress than originally expected and these payments take precedence over the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund.

The board members appointed by Clinton are all "recess appointments" with terms of only one year, which means that they must be reappointed in January, 1997. The eight members of the board are Dale Minami, board chair—San Francisco, Susan Hayase, -San Jose, Don Nakanishi, Los Angeles, Elsa Kudo, Honolulu, Leo Goto, Denver, Peggy Nagae, Eugene, Fr. Robert Drinan and Yeiichi Kuwayama

### REDRESS HIGHLIGHT

## LANDMARK LEGAL VICTORY!

Linda Kawabe Consolo and attorney Gerald Sato were honored at a reception hosted by NCCR in August, 1995, for the historic, landmark victory of the Consolo v. United States court case. The decision of Judge James Turner to grant redress to Consolo has made over 1400 similarly situated Japanese Americans potentially eligible for redress. After Consolo was found ineligible for redress by the ORA and her



Linda Kawabe Consolo

appeal denied, Sato filed suit in the United States Court of Federal Claims in May, 1993. The suit claimed that Consolo, who was born in Utah after her parents had evacuated the West Coast in March 1942, was prohibited from returning



## "Only 18 More Months..."cont. from pg 1

summer, the ORA received 246 responses which opposed their proposed amendment. NCCR spent much time and energy to research and compose compelling arguments against this premature date. We expect the final decision from the DOJ by the end of February or in March. Until that time, please send your letters to Attorney General Janet Reno urging the use of June 30, 1946, as the determination date. This would include the majority of claimants and be consistent with the dates used in the Civil Liberties Act.

## Japanese Latin Americans' Campaign for Justice

In addition, we are urging that you write a letter to President Clinton on behalf of the Japanese Latin Americans who were kidnapped from Latin America and incarcerated by the U.S. government during WWII. Because the JLA's have been denied redress, a class action lawsuit was filed in August, 1996. We are asking President Clinton to settle the lawsuit on behalf of JLA's. If enough of us spend a little time to write Reno and Clinton, it could tip the scales in favor of those remaining claimants. (Please see

the article on the Japanese Latin Americans.)

## 3100 Unknowns

There are still 3100 "Unknowns," that is, former internees/evacuees whose whereabouts are unknown and who may be eligible for redress. The ORA is stepping up its outreach efforts by publishing the Unknowns List by camps, and by publicizing more. If you know anyone who may be eligible for redress, please have them contact the ORA at (888) 219-6900 (toll-free) or NCCR at (213) 680-3484.

Also, the Unknowns List is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.usdoj.gov>. From the DOJ home page, click on "Justice Department Organizations-Alphabetically by Organization Name." On the next page click on "Civil Rights Gopher Information." On the next page are 2 entries - The Office of Redress to Locate Interned Japanese Americans (this is explanatory text) and right below it is "Names of Missing Interned Japanese Americans."

## Railroad Workers

NCCR and others like Michi Weglyn have often urged the ORA to do more research in cases where the burden of proof seems to lie with the claim-

ant. In response, the ORA hired a researcher to work on the cases of railroad workers who were fired and left in dire straits after Pearl Harbor. The ORA has denied redress to this category of claimants. The independent researcher's report has been completed and will be reviewed at the Appellate Division. The ORA will let NCCR know when this is occurring. Also, attorney Gerald Sato filed a lawsuit on behalf of a fired railroad worker. The case was turned down in federal court; he recently filed an appeal of this decision.

\* By attending our 1997 Day of Remembrance, you will help support court cases like this.

### Please write to:

**Attorney General Janet Reno**  
U.S. Department of Justice  
10 Constitution Ave., NW  
Wash DC 20530

**President Bill Clinton**  
The White House  
c/o The Campaign for Justice  
P.O.Box 214  
Gardena, CA 90248

## "Minor Relocates..."cont. from pg 1

a pleasant surprise to get it, " commented Reiko Nimura. "Too many people take it for granted that the government would give redress to them. It took hard work," she added. Nimura went to Washington, DC with the NCCR delega-

**"Too many people take it for granted that the government would give redress to them. It took hard work."**

—Reiko Nimura

tion in September 1993, to meet with Justice Department officials. Miyamoto wrote dozens of letters to the Justice Department as well as collecting hundreds of signatures for petitions to the government.

## "Landmark..."cont. from pg 3

to her domicile in Los Angeles, and had suffered deprivation of liberty at the hands of the federal government.

The Judge's ruling in June, 1994, favored Consolo.

The government then appealed the decision. At that time, Bruce Iwasaki on behalf of NCCR filed an amicus curiae, friend of the court brief, which helped to sway the U.S. Court of Appeals to affirm Judge Turner's decision as well as reverse the ruling of a similar case, Dou-



L-R: Robert Consolo, Linda Kawabe Consolo, Gerald Sato and Bruce Iwasaki at NCCR reception in 1995.

glas Ishida v. United States, in which the lower court denied Ishida's redress. The impact of this court case is far reaching, and, for this, NCCR congratulates and thanks Linda Kawabe Consolo, Gerald Sato, and Bruce Iwasaki.



## "Day of Remembrance..."cont. from pg 1

recently released her newest CD "Dream Walk." Last year she was the only female nominated along with Pat Metheny, Boney James and Fourplay for the "Best Jazz Album of 1995" at the prestigious Soul Train Music Awards. In addition, her previous album "Sapphire" ranked in the Top Five over-all of independently-released contemporary jazz albums of 1995, according to Billboard Magazine.

Kazu Matsui is a master of shakuhachi, the traditional Japanese bamboo flute. He is also Keiko's husband and current producer. Kazu has shared his musical artistry with NCRR's audience before when he and Keiko performed at NCRR's 10th anniversary conference in 1990.

Also featured is Lane Nishikawa, San Francisco based performance artist. Well-known for his one-man show, "I'm on a Mission from Buddha," Nishikawa has served as the Director of the Asian American Theater Company, and has performed recently in two successful plays, "The Ballad of Yachiyo," and "Gate of Heaven."

Prior to the entertainment, NCRR will present its 1997 Fighting Spirit Awards to Linda Kawabe Consolo, attor-

ney Gerald Sato and attorney Bruce Iwasaki for their tremendous contribution to the redress campaign with the landmark court case, *Consolo v. United States*. Their efforts will benefit over one thousand former internees and evacuees who had been denied redress.



Day of Remembrance '96—Thai garment workers who escaped from a slave-like sweatshop in El Monte, CA, perform a traditional dance for audience.

Departing from its long tradition of free admission to DOR's, NCRR hopes to raise much needed funds for other court cases of those denied redress, the Campaign for Justice, and for other redress efforts:

- **Student Admission & post-concert dessert - \$25**
- **General Admission & post-**

**concert dessert - \$40**

• **Silver Admission (includes pre-concert buffet dinner and post-concert dessert) - \$75**

• **Gold Admission (includes pre-concert buffet, post-concert dessert & preferred seating) - \$100**

Tickets can be purchased from NCRR members, or by phoning NCRR at (213) 680-3484 or by mail to NCRR, c/o Little Tokyo Service Center, 231 E. Third St., Suite G104, Los Angeles, CA 90013.

If phone or mail orders are received after March 8, the tickets will be held at Will Call at

the theatre.

"Your support is needed now as much as ever in the redress campaign. With only 18 months left before the ORA closes down, we hope you will make the effort to support the Day of Remembrance, the continuing redress struggle. . . And Justice for All," concluded NCRR President, Richard Katsuda.

## "Education Fund..."cont. from pg 3

both from Washington, DC. Staff members hired by the board are Executive Director Dale Shimasaki, Deputy Director Martha Watanabe, and consultant Julie Hatta. Offices of the board are located in San Francisco and Washington, DC.

NCRR is relieved that the CLPEFB is in operation and has acted quickly to put into motion the criteria and standards necessary to disperse the funds. The lessons learned from the incarceration of 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry as well as several other moving experiences of Japanese Americans which have come to light in the last fifteen years must never be forgotten and must become an integral part of American history.

Some new facts uncovered: the wholesale firing of Japanese American miners and railroad workers from their jobs after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the illegal transport of thousands of Japanese Latin Americans from countries such as Peru to U.S. internment camps, and the resistance by Heart Mountain internees against their unconstitutional internment. All of these facts must be preserved for the future. Our



L-R: Toshi & Jim Ito shared memories of Heart Mountain at May '96 Teachers Workshop with NCRR Education Committee member, Patty Nagano.

civil rights can only be maintained by an informed and vigilant public.

NCRR is participating in the grant application process as follows:

- (1) In collaboration with Visual Communications, the L.A. chapter of NCRR has submitted a grant proposal for three projects; a) preserve the 30-hour, 1981 CWRIC Los Angeles hearings videotape produced by NCRR and Visual Communications (the tapes are deteriorating and must be transferred to a durable, digital format), b) make

an edited, 30 minute copy of the commission hearings for use in schools, museums, and libraries, and c) produce a civics docudrama video for use in high school classrooms. The two classroom tapes will be accompanied by curriculum guides. We believe that these projects will become essential curricula for middle and high schools.

(2) NCRR support for Glen Kitayama's application to write about NCRR's role in the redress campaign. Among the major organizations that fought for redress, NCRR's contributions have not been published.

(3) NCRR - Bay Area applied to fund teacher workshops in northern, central, and southern California.

It is important that the lessons from the internment, and the years-long struggle for redress be told through many media. Future generations will learn that they can make a difference for their communities by becoming politically active.

Over 200 grant applications have been submitted to the CLPEFB. Independent panels will review the proposals and in February or March '97, the grant awards will be announced.



## "Jpnse Latin Americans..."cont. from pg 2

U.S. State Dept. ordered U.S. Consulates not to issue visas to deportees. Army and Navy officials who took the deportees into custody confiscated their passports. Upon arrival into the U. S., the 2,264 JLAs were labeled "illegal aliens" and were detained in Department of Justice internment camps.

From July 1942 to September 1943, in two exchanges with Japan, the U.S. traded over 800 JLAs for U.S. citizens held by the Japanese. As "illegal aliens," the JLAs had no recourse against the U.S. government, who controlled their incarceration and deportation.

It is undeniable that the civil liberties and human rights of JLAs were grossly violated. They were abducted from their countries; businesses, homes, and properties confiscated; incarcerated and deported at will and exploited as cheap labor for U.S. farms and factories. However, they are not eligible for redress because the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 states that "...only those who were U.S. citizens or permanent residents at the time of internment," are eligible. The JLAs were forced to become "illegal aliens"

and therefore ineligible for redress!

On August 28, 1996, a class action lawsuit, Carmen Mochizuki v. The United States was filed in federal court to seek inclusion of the JLAs in the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, on the grounds that denying them eligibility for redress violates constitutional guarantees against irrational and unjust

### **The Japanese Latin Americans were forced to become "illegal aliens" and therefore ineligible for redress!**

discrimination. A letter-writing campaign has been launched by the Campaign for Justice, a coalition of individuals and human and civil rights organizations founded by

NCRR, the Japanese American Citizens League, the American Civil Liberties Union and the Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project.

Broad public support is needed to ensure that justice long overdue is served to these JLAs. Please take a few minutes of your time to write President Clinton urging him to settle the lawsuit to grant redress to JLAs and send the letter to the Campaign for Justice. We will multiply the impact of your letter when former JLA internees present your letters to President Clinton in March to show support for their demands.

As Japanese Americans, we cannot let justice be denied to these former internees any longer. Please join this struggle for justice by writing the letter, urging others to write letters, donating money, or simply by signing onto the campaign.

For more information on the Campaign for Justice and ways you can help, contact:

**NCRR representative,  
Ayako Hagihara - (310) 344-1893  
P.O. Box 214  
Gardena, CA 90248.**

## "President's Message..."cont. from pg 2

Why? because we believe that the redress movement and these other campaigns all strengthen the American ideals and promise of justice and equality.

Some of the more recent campaigns that we have been involved in are:

\*Decrying the harassment of Arab Americans during the Persian Gulf War;

\*Fighting the indiscriminate taking of mug shots of Asian youth by the Fountain Valley police;

\*Defending immigrant rights and speaking out against Prop. 187;

\*Supporting the New Otani workers' campaign for a healthy and respectful work environment;

\*Defending affirmative action and opposing Prop. 209.

NCRR knows that there are those people who think that NCRR should not be in the business of supporting these other struggles for justice, but rather that we should stick solely to the fight for redress for Japanese Americans. Some say that our energies for the redress battle are diluted by helping in other campaigns.

However, NCRR also knows that many people, both within our Japanese American community and outside our community, have come to rely on NCRR as a fighter for justice. They know that there are very few organizations like NCRR who have a most basic faith in the will of the grassroots, common people—in "we the people." For

NCRR believes that it is "we the people" who hold the ultimate, decisive power in determining the course of events. We believe that the key to winning justice is to galvanize the grassroots people and to unleash their power.

NCRR has always had faith in our



L-R: NCRR member, Janice Yen, Bruce Yamashita, who filed a discrimination lawsuit against the U.S. Army with Suzy Katsuda and Richard Katsuda.

community. At times, the stands we have taken were not popular at the beginning. Nevertheless, through perseverance and dialogue within the community, in the end, the community has always come through for justice, whether it's redress or another arena of justice. That is what has driven NCRR in the redress movement and will continue to drive us in 1997 and beyond.

We must say, at the same time, that it hasn't been easy. There have been tough times when we've wondered whether we had enough people power and energy to carry off our campaigns. There have been other times when we get flak from those who don't like us or just disagree with us; some-

times we wonder if we're getting our due respect. Yes, it's been frustrating at times, but it's all been worth it when, in the end, justice is won.

And that's our outlook as we start 1997. We know that we have our work cut out for us as we fight for those who have yet to see their redress—the toughest categories of redress are those that remain. We have only eighteen months before the Civil Liberties Act expires. That's why we've devoted this year's Day of Remembrance to fundraising. We need funds for concerted grassroots and legal efforts. We need the community to come out in full force to our fundraiser on March 22.

NCRR also needs fresh new faces and energies in 1997. We encourage people to come check us out. Last year, we started a new Social Issues Committee that is made up of mostly younger people who had not been involved in NCRR but who were concerned about such issues as affirmative action, immigrant rights, and welfare reform. NCRR also has an ongoing Education Committee, whose main goal is to educate the public about the Camp experience. The Education Committee has already organized two educational workshops and plans to do more programs.

As NCRR looks forward to 1997, we know that there are going to be many struggles. But we also know that NCRR plays a unique role in organizing and empowering the grassroots community to fight for justice. We figure that's what NCRR is really all about.



## "New Otani, Japan trip..."cont. from pg3

and was fired after three months on disability. She expressed the insecurity that older workers feel at a hotel that has no pension plan and felt that her nineteen years of employment meant nothing and that she



Tokyo—Masaoka & Kelly talk with U.S. Ambassador to Japan, Walter Mondale, who gave his support to the workers.

would retire in ten years and the same way she entered, "with empty hands."

Dwight Kelly was hired as a cook nineteen years ago when the New Otani first opened. Yet he was the first to be laid off five years ago during a remodel of the coffee shop while others with less seniority remained on the job. He returned after six months but believed that the New Otani recalled him only because they feared a possible discrimination charge. Out of a workforce of almost 300, Dwight is one of only a handful of African Americans.

Ana Alvarado was another exemplary worker who had been promoted to floor supervisor in the housekeeping department. She had positive evaluations over sixteen years until she initiated a drive to unionize the hotel. Ana immigrated from El Salvador to find a better life, but found only disrespect from management which called the workers "pigs" and "animals." A single mother of three, she was devastated when the New Otani fired her and two others for trumped up time card violations. She continues to be



Dec. '95—Latino New Otani workers, join Jpn. Americans and other Asians to demand full apology & redress for the Chinese survivors of Kajima's slave labor camp.

active while awaiting the decision of the National Labor Relations Board which charged the New Otani with illegally firing the three women for union activities.

## What We Accomplished

—We gained the support of U.S. Ambassador Mondale for the New Otani workers.

—Rengo, the eight million member Japanese Trade Union Confederation (similar to our AFL-CIO), endorsed all the demands of the New Otani workers:

- Rehire the three pro-union housekeepers,
- sign a "non-intimidation agreement" and decide on the union by a majority of "cards checked" and submitted by employees.
- A permanent support committee was formed in Osaka by the Asian Pacific Workers Solidarity Links and the Kajima warcrimes victims support groups.

The delegation held large demonstrations at the Tokyo New Otani Hotel and Kajima headquarters which were covered by the Japanese and foreign press. The company finally agreed to meet with two current workers, Francisca and Dwight, but refused to meet with Local 11 President, María Elena Durazo and Ana. The workers pressed the management to meet with Local 11 and to rehire the fired workers, but the management denied responsibility for the Los Angeles New Otani and falsely insisted that the L.A. hotel was run independently.



Jun. '96—Anniversary of the Hanaoka Uprising & massacre of Chinese slave laborers by Kajima. A former resident evicted by Kajima to build their New Otani Hotel & a worker unjustly fired by New Otani point out a common legacy.

## Human Rights, Minorities and NCR

Great support came from many independent labor and minority rights groups. As an Asian American, I shared our history as workers and as minorities in the U.S. and why we support the New Otani workers.

The New Otani and majority owner/developer Kajima evicted hundreds of cultural groups and residents when it tore down the Sun Building and their homes to make way for their luxury hotel during the 1970s "redevelopment" of Little Tokyo.

There is great interest in Japan about redress for Japanese Americans due to so many groups pursuing redress there. David Monkawa and I presented the history and lessons of the redress campaign to the Hanaoka Support Committee which is supporting a lawsuit seeking redress by Chinese survivors of a slave labor camp run by Kajima during World War II. We shared a common history of discrimination with the Buraku people and Koreans in Japan and

learned about their current struggles. A visit to the Human Rights Museum in Osaka opened our eyes to the struggles of Okinawans, Ainus, women, the disabled and victims of environmental pollution. We were impressed with the enthusiastic support from all the organizations and individuals.



Osaka—Masaoka & Local 11's, Yuki Terazawa, explain similarities between the Japanese American redress struggle and the struggles for justice by the New Otani workers and minorities in Japan.

## Mutual Support and International Unity

The members of the delegation attended rallies and supported the 10,000 Japan Railroad workers laid-off ten years ago, sanitation workers who were rallying in Tokyo, and unjustly laid-off English language teachers. Although we met many strong and active women, we did not see them in leadership roles. In contrast, our delegation was composed of a majority of women and led by María Elena. We were a visible example of the leading role of women.

We returned strengthened and transformed by the experience. Dwight Kelly was no longer "just a cook" and started to sound like a polished orator. Dwight and Francisca arranged a meeting with the general manager of the New Otani, and brought forty workers to voice their complaints and demand that he meet with Local 11.

On February 19, 1997 there will be a joint action at the New Otani Hotels in



Osaka—Conference by women's groups supporting the sexual harassment victims of Mitsubishi USA. As corporations exploit globally, more victims fight back globally.

Tokyo, Osaka and Los Angeles. The L.A. march will begin at Pershing Square at 4:30 PM and proceed to the New Otani Hotel. The march will be led by AFL-CIO President John Sweeney and the entire leadership of the AFL-CIO, joined by local religious and civic leaders.





NCRR  
231 E. Third St.  
Ste G-104  
Los Angeles, CA  
90013

**Day of Remembrance 1997**  
**Keiko & Kazu Matsui**  
**at the Japan America Theater (see details inside)**

Bulk Rate  
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NCRR, 231 E. Third St., Ste G-104, LA, CA 90013  
Edited by: The Executive Committee of NCRR-LA  
Contributors:  
Ayako Hagihara, Richard Katsuda,  
Kathy Nishimoto Masaoka, Kay Ochi, Janice Yen.  
Production : David Monkawa  
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**NCRR CHAPTERS**

**LOS ANGELES**

231 E. Third St., Ste G-104  
Los Angeles, CA 90013  
(213) 680-3484

**SAN JOSE**

Nihonmachi Outreach  
Committee, NOC  
P.O.Box 2293  
San Jose, CA 95109  
(408) 942-8642

**BAY AREA**

1911 Bush St., #1-G  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
(415) 922-1534

**DENVER**

(303) 455-4987 or  
(303) 333-2130

**NIKKEI FOR CIVIL RIGHTS & REDRESS**

**Tax deductible contributions allowed**

A new organization called Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress, incorporated in Apr. '91, received a tax-exempt, nonprofit status on Oct. '92. This tax status is retroactive to April 1991. The purpose of the Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress is to educate the public about past and current struggles for civil rights in the Japanese American communities. Tax deductible contributions may now be made to this organization to support its educational and charitable programs.

**ed. note**—The National Coalition for Redress / Reparations is an independent body. Contributions to this civil rights organization sustain important and urgently needed advocacy and political lobbying activities, and are not tax deductible.