



GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE DAN LUNGREN AND REDRESS AND REPARATIONS

By Burt Takeuchi, Chair, San Jose Nihonmachi Outreach Committee

As you know, Dan Lungren is running on the Republican ticket for the Governor of California this November. I think that all voters should know more about his very conservative and negative responses to the Redress movement during the 1980's.

The Redress movement was started by Japanese American activists who felt that the US government was wrong in imprisoning JA's during WWII into US style concentration camps. Redress groups and Japanese American organizations across the country banded together to boldly attempt to get an appropriations bill signed into law.

With help from Senators, Congressmen, and other sympathetic organizations, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (HR442) was eventually signed into law by President Reagan. From Redress came an apology from the government by the President of the United States (Bush) with a token payment of \$20,000 for each former internee.

What was Dan Lungren's role in the Redress movement? He has been described as insensitive and one who showed a lack of respect to Japanese Americans who were interned during WWII. In a recent radio announcement in September on NPR, he stated that he was not against Redress. Lungren mentioned that he was for an apology but felt that monetary compensation was not necessary. In June of 1983 "The Commission on Wartime Relocation recommended that the federal Government apologize to the people of Japanese American ancestry and pay \$20,000 to each of the surviving former internees." (AP,



6-16-83) As Vice Chair of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, Lungren was the only member of the 9-person committee that voted against any monetary compensation.

During the 1980's he attended Redress hearings in Los Angeles where personal testimonies were made by former internees. Eyewitnesses at the hearing saw Lungren roll his eyes, talk to his aides, and often leave the room even during the most tearful testimonies. Lungren stated that he objected to the *Issei* (first generation Japanese) giving their personal testimony in Japanese and insisted that they only give written testimonies in English. Lungren repeatedly argued against monetary reparations in Congress during the 1980's.

In July of 1983, Lungren responded to a question by Senator Charles E. Grassley, (R-Iowa), Chairman of the subcommittee examining whether or not to award the \$20,000 reparations. Lungren stated that he

"could see the possibility that other groups, such as the decedents of the Chinese aliens who helped build railroads to the American West or Germans denied rights during WWI, might demand similar compensation."

"Should we return Black Americans the plantations on which their families worked for over 200 years?" Lungren asked. Lungren argued that it is "inappropriate that present-day taxpayers should be held accountable for actions that occurred 40 years ago."

On September 17, 1987 Lungren vetoed HR 442, the Japanese American Civil Liberties/Restitution bill that would apologize and provide restitution to eligible Americans of Japanese descent who were relocated to internment camps during WWII and to fund public education efforts about the events surrounding the internment. It passed in the House 243-141.

In August of 1983, Lungren stated "Money is not necessary or appropriate under these conditions. I don't think that gestures have to have money to be sincere. Besides, just because mistakes were made in times of war, taxpayers of later generations shouldn't have to pay." (NY Times 8-12-83).

For the record, Dan Lungren as a Congressman was completely insensitive to the Redress movement and was clearly sticking to party lines as a conservative right-wing Republican.

Lungren was then associated (and no
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IT'S TIME TO ORDER YOUR COPY OF SPEAK OUT FOR JUSTICE! 1981 L.A. HEARINGS VIDEOS AVAILABLE FOR CHRISTMAS!

By Janice Harumi Yen, NCRR Education Committee

It's ready, we've finally finished it! The Videotape Preservation Project Committee, composed of the NCRR Education Committee and John Esaki from Visual Communications, has worked diligently for the past sixteen months to make available to the public the dramatic testimonies at the 1981 Los Angeles Hearings of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC). The twenty-five hours of uncut, taped testimonies are contained in a set of thirteen tapes and is accompanied by the *Speak Out for Justice! Viewer's Companion*.

Southern California Japanese Americans, as well as government, legal and community leaders, testified before the CWRIC commissioners during three days and one evening in August 1981. They spoke out about the impact of World War II internment on them and the significance of that experience to America's political and legal institutions.

In a hall packed with Japanese Americans, *Issei* (first generation Japanese Americans), *Kibei* (American-born children of the *Issei* sent to Japan for part of their

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August 9 Event Commemorates Sunset of Civil Liberties Act of 1988

By Kay Ochi, Vice President, NCRR-LA

To commemorate the end of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, NCRR sponsored a community program at the Union Center for the Arts in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles on August 9, 1998. Takeshi Nakayama, Assistant Editor of the *Rafu Shimpō*, and Bill Watanabe, Director of the Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC), were honored for their contributions to the redress campaign.



Bill Watanabe and LTSC were acknowledged for their support of redress and NCRR.

Nakayama has written extensively about redress issues during the past two decades. His redress coverage provided the community with much-needed information that supported the long campaign. His dedication to redress and the Japanese American community were acknowledged with NCRR's award.

Watanabe, likewise, was honored for his support of redress and NCRR since 1980. As the Director of LTSC, he provided NCRR the meeting rooms needed to conduct its redress work for over 16 years. His support and that of LTSC were key to NCRR's work throughout the entire campaign.

Also honored were Bob Bratt, former Director, and Joanne Chiedi, Deputy Administrator, of the Office of Redress Administration (ORA). Both were thanked for their commitment and compassion shown to the community. On behalf of the ORA, Chiedi presented NCRR and the PSWD/JACL with awards acknowledging their contributions to redress.

The candlelighting ceremony paid tribute to *Issei* and *Nisei* who did not receive redress and to those individuals who continued to fight for redress after having been denied (see story on next page for more on the denied categories and how they struggled for justice).



Takeshi Nakayama was recognized for his commitment to justice.



Chiedi and Bratt present award to NCRR.

REFLECTIONS ON REDRESS, or AND THEN THERE WAS LUNGREN WHO VOTED NO

By Jim Matsuoka, NCRR-LA

With the ending of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 in August of this year, I can't help but pause to reflect on this momentous struggle that has played such a major role in so many of our lives. Before my memory begins to fade too badly, I want to share some of my recollections of some two decades of the struggle for redress.

High on my list are the Commission Hearings of 1981. These public hearings held nationally ignited the call for redress! Although there were many moving testimonies, I find it hard to forget Ewan Yoshida of Alaska, who after some 40 years made the journey to Los Angeles, hoping to get some word on his father.

His father was a fisherman who was seized by our own government at the outbreak of the war. Ewan never saw him alive again and made an emotional appeal for help in his search, not knowing that his father had passed away after his release from a "relocation camp" after the war.

I also find it hard to forget the ludicrous comments of former Senator Sam Hayakawa. He somehow had come to the conclusion that the camps were a good experience for the Japanese Americans! He destroyed forever my assumption that old age and wisdom went hand in hand!

And then there was Dan Lungren who voted no when the redress bill was voted on by the House of Representatives! How this man, who was a member of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians and who heard the testimonies of

numerous *Nisei* internees and the pleas of people like Ewan Yoshida for an accounting by our government, can vote no on redress is beyond me!

Again, it wasn't as if he didn't know. He heard the testimonies at the Los Angeles hearings. He saw the tears of anguish and heard the bitterness and sorrow of the internees who felt abandoned and betrayed in their hour of need. He heard the voices of the *Issei* and *Nisei* who, finally breaking through a wall of silence after some forty years, said emphatically that a terrible wrong had taken place.

If you note a tinge of bitterness from me, a former internee of Manzanar, you may be right. But thank you anyway, Dan. Now, when your face appears on my television, I know it's time for me to change channels or get up and do something else!

Another fact that makes me pause to think is the scale of our victory! It is impressive by any measure. At the latest count, over 81,000 claimants have been paid, and if my math doesn't fail me, that comes out to be around some \$1.6 billion or thereabouts.

A final item on my list of recollections is the thought of how fortunate I have been. Through the struggle for redress, I have met some of the most warmhearted, intelligent, capable and compassionate people on the face of this earth.

May I say with all sincerity what a joy and privilege it has been to have been associated with people like you!

(LUNGREN, from page 1)

doubt still today) with a group of very conservative Republicans in the House who felt that any apology and/or monetary compensation to any group was wrong. Apparently, listening to the tragic stories told by Japanese Americans at the Redress hearings where internees who were stripped of their Constitutional rights, imprisoned behind barbed wire, forced to give up their land and possessions, was not enough to sway Lungren into accepting the Redress bill in full.

Despite "these mistakes in times of war," as Lungren bluntly put it, the US government should be held accountable for former internees since they were US citizens or residents who were supposed to be under protection of the US Constitution. To Lungren, the issue of Redress became a monetary one, not one of apology and token compensation to those that were wronged by their own government. The saddest part is that by slowing down the political process toward Redress, many *Issei* passed away before Redress payments and apologies could be made to them.

The *Issei* were the generation who suffered the most during those years of internment and who definitely deserved Redress. Clearly, Lungren has missed the point of what Redress stood for and why the wrongful internment of any US citizens and residents should never happen again.



A DECADE OF REDRESS

By Kay Ochi, Vice President, NCRR

August 10, 1988 through August 10, 1998. These dates will forever be significant in Japanese American history.

The long-anticipated sunset date of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (the Act) has come and gone, but not without some fanfare and ceremony. The Department of Justice (DOJ) held its closing ceremony in Washington, D.C. on September 10.

NCRR's program on August 9 in Little Tokyo acknowledged not just the 81,971 Nikkei who received the government's apology and reparations, but it paid tribute to the thousands who would have remained denied their redress had it not been for their continued struggle for redress.

From 1992 to today's on-going struggle of the Japanese Latin Americans, the community has had to continue to fight for its rights. Redress for the 81,971 was not a simple matter.

DOJ's Office of Redress Administration (ORA) sent redress denial letters to thousands of Nikkei who suffered during the exclusion and internment period. The ORA's narrow interpretation of the Act and the limitations of the Act itself left thousands denied.

In the "Gambare" spirit that led to the passage of the Act, Nikkei responded and forced the government to reverse its decisions.

Children of Early Evacuees

One of the six categories of redress claimants who were denied redress were the children of Japanese Americans who left the west coast in March 1942 and moved to interior states. These Nikkei did not enter camp but found life and survival outside of camp to be extremely difficult.

In the 1990's, over 1,400 Nikkei who had been born in the interior states were denied redress. Only through the successful efforts of attorney Gerald Sato who represented Linda Kawabe Consolo and the attorney for Douglas Ishida did the courts uphold Linda and Douglas' demand for redress.

Because of their court victory, over 900 other "children of early evacuees" have since received redress.

Unfortunately, the ORA limited payment to this group to those children born before January 20, 1945. The ORA reasoned that since the exclusion order had been lifted on December 17, 1944, Japanese Americans were free to return home.

Over 500 Japanese Americans born after January 20, 1945 are still denied redress.



NCRR members Kay Ochi, Miya Iwataki and Richard Katsuda with Attorney General Janet Reno at the closing ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Recently, lawsuits were filed on behalf of Carol Higashi, Carol Seno Song and Wendy Hirota.

Minor Relocatees

Although a lawsuit was filed on behalf of another group who was denied redress, the 125 children of Nikkei who left the camps and went to Japan during the War in the government's prisoner exchange program were finally given redress in a reconsideration by the DOJ.

The concerted efforts of NCRR members Sam Miyamoto and Reiko Rikimaru Nimura kept the issue at the forefront. Attorney Gen Fujioka provided information and an opening in the language of the Act so that the ORA could reconsider its position in the case of the minor children.

In October 1996, 125 of the "minor relocatees" were made eligible for redress. Unfortunately, the hundreds of adults who were used in the prisoner exchange are still denied redress.

Hawaiian Japanese Americans

Another large group of Nikkei who were denied redress resided in Hawaii. Although Hawaiian Nikkei for the most part were not imprisoned, many were excluded from their homes and moved to other areas.

Bill Kaneko and members of the Honolulu chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) brought the issues before the DOJ's Appellate Division. The ORA's rejection of these cases was overturned based on evidence that the government classified these residents as a "national security risk" based solely on their Japanese ancestry.

Hundreds of Japanese Americans residing in Puuloa, Iwilei, Waiiau, Puunene and other areas have finally been granted

redress.

Phoenix & Glendale, Arizona

Japanese Americans residing in Phoenix and Glendale were subjected to severe restrictions in their travel. They were not allowed to enter militarily sensitive areas or prohibited zones in their town.

In some cases, Nikkei could no longer go to the schools, businesses, churches or stores that they had gone to before the war without special travel permits. These restrictions were based solely on ancestry.

During the 1990's these Arizona residents were denied redress.

Through the efforts of these claimants, community advocates, and, in particular, through the support of the Arizona JACL, many of the Arizona Nikkei were granted redress in 1996.

Railroad & Mine Workers and Family

In February 1942, hundreds of Japanese Americans were fired from their jobs as railroad and mine workers. Most workers, despite having large families to support, were given days to evacuate company and to fend for themselves in a hostile wartime environment. The workers had been loyal employees for 10, 20, and in some cases, 30 years.



Railroad and mine workers and families at celebration luncheon after announcement of redress by Acting Assistant Attorney General Bill Lann Lee.

It is not hard to imagine the fear and helplessness that this sudden firing caused. While the government denied responsibility for the firings, it is clear that the railroad and mining companies worked in tandem with local civilian wartime security councils who worked closely with the FBI and military officials.

Fifty years later, the surviving railroad and mine workers and their family members were denied redress. Unless there was proof of government responsibility for the firings, the government would not pay redress.

Through the networking of railroad
(See REDRESS, page 4)

workers' family members and researchers such as Michi Weglyn and Andrew Russell, many went in search of "the smoking gun" to prove government involvement the firings. Volumes of research materials were sent to the DOJ to no avail.

In February 1998 a convergence of several factors occurred: First, a growing body of evidence pointing to the government's knowledge and role in the firings; second, the appointment of Bill Lann Lee as Acting Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division; and third, a lobbying delegation to Washington, D.C. where Fumie Shimada and Amy Matsuura, daughters of railroad workers, appealed directly to Mr. Lee.

Two weeks later, Mr. Lee came to Los Angeles and announced at a press conference that railroad and mine workers and their family members would be potentially eligible for redress. While over 125 railroad and mine workers and family members have received redress, it is truly unfortunate that some are still denied due to particular family circumstances.

Japanese Latin Americans

Shock and outrage are common reactions to the story of the 2,264 Japanese Latin Americans (JLA) who were kidnapped from their homes in South America and brought to this country to be used as hostages in the government's prisoner exchange program with Japan.

Hundreds were used in the hostage exchange program and a vast majority of the JLA's were left homeless, stateless people at the end of the war. It is a sad irony that the majority of JLA's were denied redress because they were not citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. during World War II.

Thanks largely to the 1996 lawsuit filed on behalf of the JLA's represented by Carmen Mochizuki, Alice Nishimoto, Henry Shima, Sumiko Tsuboi, and Masaji Sugimaru, the government has offered a settlement which includes a letter of apology and \$5,000 to each former internee.

While the majority of the 730 claimants will accept the settlement, there are some who will not. A lawsuit has been filed on behalf of Henry Shima who has chosen to "opt-out" of the settlement.

Campaign for Justice - Redress Now for Japanese Latin Americans continues its efforts in seeking \$20,000 reparations for JLA's. Their work in the next few months include lobbying Congress for additional funds to provide redress equal to that provided to Japanese Americans.

Although the statutory provisions of the Act have ended, redress is NOT over. The Fairness Hearing for the settlement offered to JLA's will take place on November 17 in Washington, D.C. Several redress-related lawsuits, including those named above for children of early relocatees, have been filed against the government.

On October 2, the ORA reported that 81,971 redress cases have been paid. Unknown historical records number 1,475, and the total found ineligible number 1,504.

THE FUTURE OF SEIGI

By Glen Kitayama, Seigi/NCRR-LA

Seigi (meaning "Justice" in Japanese) was formed in the Summer of 1996 to raise awareness on issues concerning the Japanese American community. Since that time, the group has been meeting monthly to discuss issues such as affirmative action, bilingual education, redress, civil rights, and labor. Lately, one of the topics has been about the future of Seigi once redress work comes to a halt.

The Historic Tours of Little Tokyo has probably been some of our most successful events. We've done it three times now and each Tour has been a smashing success. Unlike many historic tours, which tend to focus only on the history of the area, Seigi showcases Little Tokyo as a vibrant community filled with people who are making a difference. One of our regular stops includes a visit to *Fugetsudo*, a confectionery shop owned by Brian Kito, a *Sansei* who took over the family business started by his grandfather in 1903.

Brian is kind enough to often give a demonstration on how to make manju and also tell why he decided to carry on the family business. Last year, the Tour reached a number of student groups from different campuses, particularly the Nikkei Student Union (NSU) at UCLA. Through our Tours, NSU learned about the history of redevelopment in Little Tokyo and became keenly aware of the many issues affecting our community. At their Annual Cultural Night in February 1998, NSU performed an original play on the redevelopment issue

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NCRR Member David Monkawa speaks about the boycott of the New Otani Hotel and the workers' struggle for justice and dignity.

LAWYERS GROUP UPDATE

By Janice Harumi Yen, NCRR-LA

Volunteer lawyers belonging to the Japanese American Bar Association (JABA) have filed three lawsuits (*Higashi v. U.S.*, *Hirota v. U.S.* and *Song v. U.S.*) on behalf of individuals denied redress by the ORA and the Appeals level of the Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice.

All three plaintiffs were born after the January 20, 1945 eligibility date-of-birth for individuals born outside of camp. Carol Higashi and Carol Song were born before the end of the war with Japan. The third plaintiff, Wendy Hirota, was born after her father's individual exclusion order was rescinded but before the War Relocation Authority program had ended in June 1946.

NCRR firmly believes that the January 20, 1945 date is inappropriate. In 1945, Japanese Americans were not notified by the government that they could return to the West Coast, and they were, in fact, encouraged to move inland where there were no large concentrations of persons of Japanese ancestry. Returnees to the West Coast were subjected to racism and shortage of housing.

NCRR and JABA are searching for more attorneys that can represent other categories of plaintiffs. In particular, we are seeking lawyers that can represent immigrants that did not have permanent residency status at the time of their internment, which is one of the requirements of the Civil Liberties Act.

We contend that the immigrants denied redress were denied their equal protection rights under the Constitution.

NCRR Sues U.S. for Failing to Invest CLA's Trust Fund

On October 13, NCRR, along with Japanese Latin American Joe M. Suzuki filed a federal class action lawsuit alleging that the U.S. Government breached its fiduciary duty by failing to invest \$1.65 billion appropriated to the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund.

For the past eighteen years, NCRR has been working steadfastly to seek proper redress for all Nikkei whose civil liberties were violated during World War II. We have always pushed for the fullest implementation of the Civil Liberties Act towards meaningful reparations and public education.

It has come to our attention that Japanese Latin American worry whether they will receive the \$5,000 reparations provided in their settlement. It is also a concern to us that too few Americans know about this critical part of this country's history.

NCRR seeks to do what our mission calls for - to secure proper redress for all Nikkei deprived of civil liberties and to maximize education about the internment to the public.

(TAPES, from page 1)

formative years), and *Nisei* (American born children of the *Issei* raised in the U.S.) relived the pain, humiliation and anger they had repressed for nearly forty years. The children of the *Nisei*, the *Sansei*, who were either too young to remember camp or who were born after camp, spoke about the profound impact of the internment on their generation. The audience was mesmerized by the magnitude of the suffering caused by the actions of the U.S. government on its own citizens. Ultimately, the testimonies galvanized the community to seek meaningful reparations.

Funding from the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund (CLPEF), which was created by the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, made possible much of the work of the Videotape Preservation Committee. The preservation of the tapes was completed in December, 1997. As with most grants funded by the CLPEF, our project received only partial funding, and thus the committee members willingly donated countless hours of their time to complete the project. Members listened to all 157 testimonies, summarized and indexed each testimony, and added a chronology, glossary, and copies of historic documents to the *Viewer's Companion* appendix. With the proceeds from the sale of the videotapes we hope to make a condensed, thirty-minute classroom version of the hearings tapes, and support the production of *Stand Up for Justice*, a drama about a Mexican American youth who accompanies his friends to camp.

As this project draws to a conclusion, we hope and expect that the twenty-five hours of videotaped testimony, and the accompanying *Viewer's Companion*, will educate and enlighten all who view them. We feel that the tapes will be a valuable resource not only to academic institutions, but also to anyone seeking a better understanding of what happened during a period characterized by the CWRIC as a time of "race prejudice, war hysteria and failure of political leadership" (*Personal Justice Denied*, 1983). We hope that you, after viewing the tapes, will internalize the legacy of the internment experience and speak out in the future if any group is threatened with the deprivation of its human and constitutional rights.

The thirteen-tape set is \$250 for NCRR members and/or friends of Visual Communications, \$300 for individual non-members, and \$500 for institutions. The set includes the *Viewer's Companion*. Each individual tape in the set is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. The individual tape price does not include the *Viewer's Companion* which may be bought separately for \$20. Please add shipping and handling charges of \$30 for the set, and \$5 for each tape and for the *Viewer's Companion* if ordered separately.

In order to receive your tape(s) in early December, please send us your check by November 10, 1998

****Order Form****

Please send me _____ copies of the 13-tape set with *Viewer's Companion*.
Enclosed is: \$250 / \$300 / \$500 per set and \$30 per set for shipping and handling.

Please send me _____ copies of Tape # _____.
Enclosed is: \$25 / \$30 per tape and \$5 per tape for shipping and handling.
(See reverse for alphabetical list of testers and tape numbers.)

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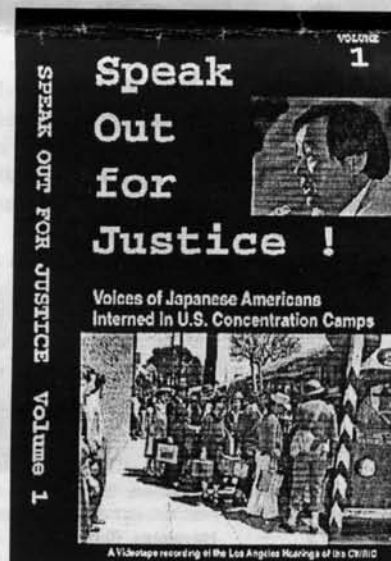
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☐ I am a member of: NCRR / Visual Communications. If you would like to join either organization and qualify for member prices please enclose your membership fee with your order. NCRR membership is \$30 per year, Friends of Visual Communications is \$50.



Looking Back at the 1998 Summer Activist Training

By Larry Katata, UCLA Nikkei Student Union, SAT 1998 Graduate

The 6th Annual Summer Activist Training (SAT) took place July 16-19, and it was co-sponsored by Filipino Workers Center (PWC), Korean Immigrant Workers Advocates (KIWA), Thai Community Development Center (Thai CDC), and NCCR.

Coming into SAT as one of thirteen participants from diverse backgrounds, I originally saw the program as only a means to gain knowledge and skills about community organizing, but what I got out of it instead was far more rewarding and worthwhile. We stayed at the basement of this low-income housing unit called Halifax in the Hollywood area. With our sleeping bags and huge supply of food, we began our intensive training.

However, the surrounding environment provided us with harsh conditions. During the day, we felt the oppressive heat cling to our bodies, and drain us of all our energies. During the night, we were left exhausted, leaving us virtually no time to sleep. And to add even more to our struggle, the only way we were able to enter the bathrooms there was with a key, of which there was only one!

Now I'm not trying to say that this was what was so rewarding and worthwhile for me, but it definitely added to the whole experience! Let's just say, the thirteen of us and the trainers were able to "struggle" together and bond in such a way that helped in creating an atmosphere where we were able to share our thoughts and experiences more easily and comfortably, despite the surrounding conditions.

Looking back, I realize what I appreciated most about the program was when everyone was able to share their thoughts and experiences with each other. We learned most when we talked about the range of topics together. We were able to criticize, analyze, and further discuss in order to come to an understanding together, and through this process, we were able to not only increase our own individual awareness on a certain topic or issue, but everyone else's at the same time. Despite coming from different backgrounds and experiences, we were still able to relate to each other and bring it back on the same level.

On the last day, we actually picketed a Korean-owned restaurant called Bak Hwa Jung. We learned during the program that two particular Latino workers worked there for 12 hours a day, 6 days a week for wages as low as \$2.43/hr! It was a problem that was rampant at other Korean-owned restaurants as well. The two workers

went to KIWA for help, and KIWA agreed to try to get backwages for those workers. The owner of the restaurant agreed to meet with KIWA and the workers, but soon backed out of the meeting and threatened that he would call INS on the workers.

After trying some more times, it reached a point where all KIWA could do was try to put pressure on the owner by picketing. That's where we came in. We had picket signs and we actually went inside the restaurant and started chanting, "Boycott! Bak Hwa Jung!"

The owner immediately called the police, and even tried to drown out the chanting by turning his radio real loud, but that didn't even come close to working. There were so many different peoples there. Latinos, Japanese, Koreans, Filipinos, Thai, *hapas*...you name

it, they were there! We all chanted in English, Spanish, Korean, and possibly some other languages. The police finally came and brought 4 to 5 squad cars with them, and we were immediately diffused. The good news was that we weren't arrested.

When I look back at that moment when we were all chanting together in harmony, it was so empowering for myself to see all these groups of people working and chanting together for a common cause, fighting injustice not on the basis of race, but on the basis of humanity. Much like how during the program, we were all able to

relate to each other through our own experiences, we were able to relate to the workers through their experiences, and through that we came to an understanding that there was injustice, and that some action needed to take place.

The whole SAT experience had a positive impact on me. It actually changed my whole view on activism and the way I even looked at life. I used to be really turned off by politics and activism when I entered UCLA. I would go out of my way to avoid that. People who would be so fervent and diehard in what they do to the point where they would go out, picket, and get arrested just didn't make sense to me, probably because I spent more time running away from the issue, rather than confronting it.

However, being in college the past few years, and getting involved with various organizations, taking Asian American Studies courses, and just thinking and analyzing how my situation relates to the world and how the world relates to it, I think it was this SAT that capped it off and made me realize that activism and community/grassroots organizing wasn't bad at all...it's a great thing.



SPEAK OUT FOR JUSTICE! ALPHABETICAL LIST OF TESTIFIERS WITH TAPE NUMBER

Allard, Dean C. 8	Hashimoto, Elsie 6	Kamei, Hiroshi 12	McGrath, H. Read 11	Nishio, Alan 3	Roth, Irma Brubaker 3
Amemiya, Enosuke 1	Hashimoto, Harry 6	Kawahara, Harry 2	Miyamura, Hiroshi (read by Phil Shigekuni) 4	Nishio, Esther T. 10	Sagawa, Paul 4
Antonovich, Michael 10	Hayakawa, Senator S. I. 1	Kawaminami, Jim 4	Miyashiro, Sheri 12	Nishio, Jane 13	Saito, John J. 10
Boss, Larry 8	Hayamizu, Robert 4	Kawamoto, Harry 6	Mori, Kazuo 12	Nishizu, Clarence 2	Saito, Tetsu 8
Boss, Larry 13	Hayashi, Ken 3	Kight, Morris 2	Morimoto, George 7	Nozawa, Tsuye 4	Sakai, Henry 4
Bradley, Tom 1	Himeno, Edward Terao 9	Kikumura, Akemi 12	Morimoto, Linda 10	O'Brien, Robert 2	Sanchez, Gil 7
Chikahisa, Paul 9	Hirata, Lucie Cheng 11	Kinaga, Thomas 4	Morimoto, Linda 13	Ochi, Rose Matsui 11	Sasahara, Mitsuru 5
Chuman, Frank 1	Hironaka, Masaaki 6	Kitagawa, Frances 11	Morita, Carole Sei 11	Oda, Mary 2	Sasaki, Chiyoko 10
DeLoyd, Akiyo 2	Holmes, Hannah Tomiko (read by Gerald Sato) 3	Kizu, June 6	Murakami, Henry 9	Oda, Mary 13	Sasaki, Hideko 10
Edelman, Edmund 1	Honda, Francis L. 6	Kumamoto, Junji 11	Murase, Mike 3	Oda, Paul 4	Sato, Gerald M. 11
Embrey, Sue 6	Horiuchi, Akira 6	Kuramoto, Ford Hajime 9	Myer, Dillon (read by Lillian Baker) 4	Odagiri, Mary F. 10	Sato, Kuniko Okumura 8
Endo, Frank 13	Ichioaka, Yuji 11	Kurihara, Mary (for Albert) 4	Myers, Elsie Akita 7	Odoi, Mas 12	Seki, Sumiko 5
Farrell, Robert 4	Ikemoto, Yoshio 12	Kurihara, Mary F. 2	Nabeta, Alfred 2	Oekawa, Katsuyo 2	Senzaki, Miyo 7
Fuji, James T. 9	Imahara, David 6	Machida, Michiko 10	Nakagawa, Bill 5	Ogata, Mamoru 9	Shigekuni, Phil 2
Fujikawa, Y. Fred 5	Imai, Joyce S. 2	Marumoto, Barbara 1	Nakamoto, Noboru 8	Ohara, Veronica 2	Shigeta, William 3
Fujimoto, Jack 5	Inoshita, Mas 12	Masaoka, Kathryn 8	Nakamura, Grace 12	Okamoto, Martha 13	Shinkai, Bill 13
Fujimura, Rev. Bunyu 5	Ishizuka, Mary 8	Masaoka, Mark 7	Nakamura, Yoshio 12	Okrand, Fred 10	Shironaka, Beth 6
Fujita, Katsuichi 1	Iwasaki, Mary 13	Mass, Amy Iwasaki 9	Nakano, Roy 3	Okubo, Ruby 12	Sonoda, Kiyoshi 8
Fukai, Mas 1	Kadomatsu, Marian 12	Matsuda, Ann 8	Nehira, Alice T. 7	Ono, Yayoi Arakawa 8	Sugita, Saburo 9
Fukushima, Jun 4	Kaji, Bruce 12	Matsuo, Toru Dave 6	Nicholson, Rev. Herbert 11	Osaki, Rei 10	Takei, George 3
Furutani, Warren 7		Matsuoka, Jim 8	Nishida, Mo 13	Ota, Mabel T. 2	Tamaki, Henry 10
Goto, James 7		Matsushita, Marjorie 7	Nishikawa, Elizabeth 3	Ota, Peter K. 10	Tanibata, Masaharu 9
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Rafu Shimpō Updates

By Kathy Nishimoto Masaoka, Vice President, NCRR-LA

Settlement Reached Between Publisher and Former Production Workers

On August 19, Rafu Shimpō publisher Michael Komai and the former

production workers reached an agreement settling a dispute that arose over their terminations on April 24, 1997. With widespread support from various individuals and the Japanese American community, David Kubo, Alan Kubo, Jose Valdez, and Eddie Gaspar were able to wage a 16-month campaign to win a better settlement.

Especially critical was the "never give up" attitude of the community supporters who sent letters and petitions to the publisher, made calls and visits to the newspaper and informed others through the *Rafu Journal*, *Tozai Times*, *Kamai Forum*, *Los Angeles Magazine*, and the *Los Angeles Times*. The Support Committee would like to thank Glenn Togawa who stepped

In preparation for a *Rafu Journal*, several members of the community were asked, "What is the role of a community newspaper?"

"The Japanese American community is so scattered that it is hard to define our community, and if you are not a member of an organization, then a community newspaper is the primary source and connection to the community. I appreciate hearing about issues in other Asian American communities as well as news and information about national policies that affect us and other Asian Americans." *Kiku Uno*

"Japanese news from Japan does not interest me much. I like to read about sports and my friends' kids. Since we are a minority, what I expect to see are articles about racism and the truth about hypocrisy. The government did not want to publicize the heroism of the 442nd or the Tuskegee Airmen. A community newspaper should bring out the truth about the positive accomplishments of Asian and African Americans." *Jim Saito*

"At its best, a community newspaper should represent absolute integrity. Such integrity must be demonstrated in its commitment to always seek the truth. Of all our institutions, we rely on this integrity and truth most of all." *Reverend Grant Hagiya, Centenary UMC*

The current staff continues to get the newspaper out daily despite the lack of raises for the past eight years, no bonuses last year, restrictive dress codes and low morale. Five members of the English section staff have left the paper in the last three months.

In addition to addressing the poor working conditions, community members have called for the reinstatement of columnists Tony Osumi (NCRR/Seigi member) and Kathryn Imahara who were suspended last January. At the September 22 dialogue session, Motoyasu reported that the *Rafu* Board turned down his recommendation to reinstate them.

Participants reiterated the need for the owners to send a positive message to the community by reinstating these writers who are not only popular but also reflect the different points of views in our community. He agreed to respond in two weeks.

Your support is still needed to improve the conditions at the *Rafu*, to maintain the journalistic quality of the newspaper, and to remind the owners and management that the *Rafu* was and is a community newspaper. If you would like more information about the next dialogue session in October, please call Kent Kawai at (310) 717-7897.



Alan Kubo, left, and Jose Valdez at the signing of the settlement agreement.

forward to help negotiate the final settlement and all of you who helped persuade the publisher to do the right thing. The Support Committee recently celebrated this victory and wound down its business and has now dissolved. The P.O. Box has been closed. For more information, call Alan K. at (626) 288-0059, Ayako H. (213) 430-6442 or Kathy M. (323) 665-5616.

(The following is a letter from ex-Rafu pressman Alan Kubo who had worked at the *Rafu* for 32 years. He has been a part of the Support Committee since its inception.)

I'd like to take a little time to thank you for the support you gave us over the last 16 months.

On day in April of 1997, I was terminated from *The Rafu Shimpō*. I was angered, hurt and ashamed. Over the last months, I have seen the worst in this community and the very best this community has to offer.

The best are Support Committee members, men and women I had never met before, but who gave the ex-workers respect, friendship, time, support and money throughout the struggle. I feel I'm a better person today because of you and because you gave us the chance to stand up and fight back. I'm so grateful for that.

Now when I look back over the last 16 months I feel that I may have lost a job, but I gained much more out of the struggle. I gained friends and self-respect. Now, with my sorrow, I have to ask the *Rafu Shimpō* Support Committee to disband. Because of all we've gone through, I'm proud to have known all of you.

NCRR Participates in Dialogue Sessions with General Manager Mike Motoyasu

Members of NCRR are participating in "dialogue sessions" with *Rafu* General Manager Michael Motoyasu over the newspaper's treatment of its staff and its current direction away from serving as a voice of the community.

(SEIGI, from page 4)

that focused on the need for people to get involved in the community. Much of the content of the play was based on discussions with *Seigi*/NCRR members Jenni Kuida, Tony Osumi, and Jim Matsuoaka.

On Sunday, October 25, *Seigi* will be conducting another Tour of Little Tokyo for local students. Once again, we will give a broad history of the area, but will also visit Fugetsudo, Casa Heiwa, the Japanese American National

Museum, and the Union Center for the Arts. Lunch will be at the newly opened Union Center Cafe.

Seigi believes that the Tour can be a launching pad for getting people interested in community issues and in social justice. We hope to bring in students on these tours to introduce them to issues and also to help facilitate an ongoing dialog on what all of us can do to make a difference.

We hope to include other Asian American communities into our Tours to expand on our awareness of issues and build common ground with other groups. Currently, *Seigi* is in contact with Korean Immigrant Workers Advocates and the Thai Community Development Center to see if we can coordinate a joint tour that would bring together different communities. In many ways, the future looks promising since this is only the beginning.



Feast of Resistance - *Seigi* members share Asian American history through food.

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Tsuboi, Mr. 13
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Tsuneishi, Arthur 5
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Watanabe, Tom 4
Wiedman, Raymond 3
Yagura, Katsumi 3
Yamaga, Henry S. 2
Yamamoto, Joe 4
Yamashita, Kanshi 9
Yamashita, Kiyo 8
Yoshida, Ewan 5, 13
Yoshioka, Vernon 10

NCCR
231 E.
Third
Street
Suite G-104
Los Angeles, CA
90013



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Route No. 2 Date 11/13
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1999 Day of Remembrance

in collaboration with the Japanese American National Museum

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Saturday, February 20

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NCCR 231 E. 3rd St. Ste. G104, LA, CA 90013
Edited by Coordinating Committee, NCCR-LA
Contributors: Larry Katata, Glen Kitayama, Kathy Nishimoto Masaoka, Jim Matsuoka, Kay Ochi, Burt Takeuchi, Janice Harumi Yen
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NCCR CHAPTERS

LOS ANGELES

231 E. 3rd Street
Suite G-104
Los Angeles, CA
90013
(213) 680-3484

BAY AREA

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

SAN JOSE

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

DENVER

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

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