



—NCRR BANNER—

January 2022



DAY OF REMEMBRANCE 2022

“Power of Communities: Building Strength Through Collective Action”



2022 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE by Richard Katsuda

During this stressful time, when so many people feel that they're under siege from the searing polarization between white grievance and fighting systemic racism, it is easy to feel alone and powerless. Given these conditions, the Day of Remembrance (DOR) Committee coalesced

around the idea that we all need to look back and remember how diverse communities often came together to support each other and give each other strength during times of crisis.

DOR 2022 will take place on February 19 at 2 PM. The theme will be “Power of Communities: Building Strength Through Collective Action.” The program will highlight how Japanese Americans felt so alone and abandoned by fellow Americans during WWII but were uplifted and strengthened during the Japanese American redress movement by allies from the Black, Latinx, and other communities. Clips from the 1981 Los Angeles hearings of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) will illustrate how the Japanese American community was devastated by the WWII incarceration but, after 40 years of silence, was finally able to reclaim its voice and speak out for redress and reparations.

The CWRIC clips will include footage of the testimonies of former LA Mayor Tom Bradley, former LA City Council member Robert Farrell, and Gilbert Sanchez from the Boyle Heights Latinx community, who all brought great support for the Japanese American redress movement. The program will also show the powerful speech by former Congressperson Ron Dellums on the House of Representatives floor, who eloquently and forcefully called for the passage of HR442, which became the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

The featured presentation will be a conversation about lessons from the Japanese American redress movement and the importance of supporting the current Black

reparations campaign. Kathy Masaoka and traci kato-kiriyama, both longtime activists in NCRR and Nikkei Progressives, will be in conversation with Dreisen Heath, an expert on reparations and reparatory justice, about the need for solidarity around reparations work in the present day.

Emiko Kranz, a graduate student in Asian American Studies at UCLA, will open the program with a historical overview of the 80 years since Executive Order 9066. The program will be virtual because of the continuing coronavirus pandemic. It will be available for viewing at YouTube.com/JANMdotorg.

BUILDING SOLIDARITY AND PARTNERSHIPS IN 2022 – NP/NCRR REPARATIONS COMMITTEE

by Kathy Masaoka



Nikkei Progressives and NCRR came together in late 2020 with the desire to build greater understanding and support for Black reparations within the Japanese American community. Realizing that this education had to start with ourselves, NP and NCRR leadership did joint study on the history of slavery, Jim Crow and the continued legacy of racism – the basis for reparations for African Americans. The NP/NCRR Reparations Committee had its first

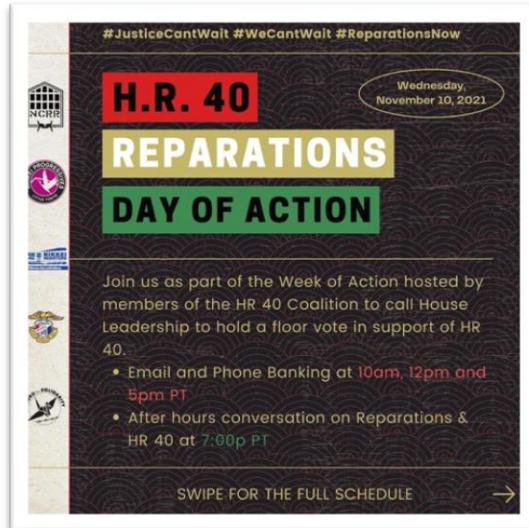
formal meeting in April 2021 but hit the ground running earlier in February when there was a call to write letters in support of HR 40 and to testify before the Judiciary Committee in February. It was a year of building relationships with individuals and organizations, like Dreisen Heath of Human Rights Watch and the other 300 plus organizations on the **HR 40 Coalition**.

We strengthened our ties with other Japanese American organizations, such as the **JACL, Tsuru for Solidarity and San Jose Nikkei Resisters** through joint Zoom calls to Congress people and letter mailings to the House Leadership.

The graphic features the logos for Nikkei Progressives (a stylized bird) and NCRR (a building). The text reads: "NP & NCRR Presents", "Reparations Then! Reparations Now!", "CWRIC 40th Anniversary Event", and "August 26th, 2021 at 6pm PT". Below the text are two photographs: one showing a large audience in a conference room and another showing several people seated at a table during a hearing. At the bottom, it says "Register here: tinyurl.com/RepThenRepNow".

In late August, the NP/NCRR Reparations Committee organized a program, called **Reparations Then! Reparations Now!** to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the 1981 Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC), to share the importance and impact of the CWRIC and to

support HR 40's call for a commission. This program included Black legacy organizations, such as the **National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA) and the National African American Reparations Commission (NAARC)** and voices from many others working on HR 40 locally. In the fall, NP/NCRR mobilized for a Town Hall which helped to inform more people about the urgency of a vote on HR 40 and energized people to hold actions during the week of Action in November. NP/NCRR held a **Day of Action**, a full day of phone calling, letter writing to Representatives who had not yet sponsored the bill and then had an evening social so that people could just get to know each other. We were fortunate to have both Dreisen and Kenniss Henry, a longtime activist from N'COBRA on the call with former JA camp survivors who spoke personally and openly about their own experiences.



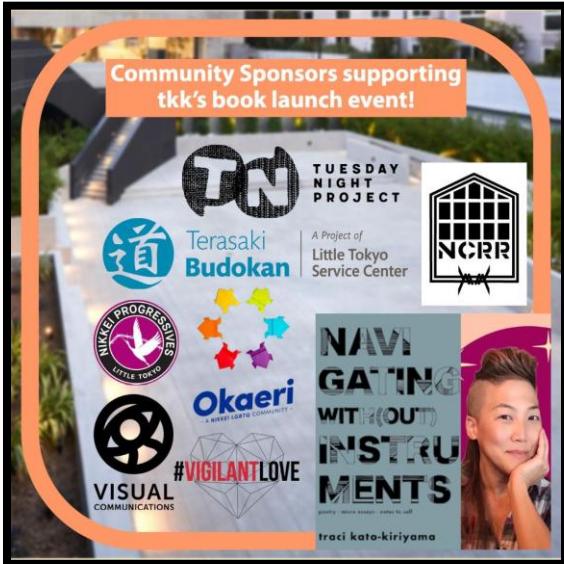
NP/NCRR Reparations Committee is organizing itself to respond to all the work in 2022. In the past couple of months, the committee has been asked to speak at various programs/classes and to different media. The NP/NCRR Reparations Committee anticipates continued requests and

is working on a Speakers' Pool/Training, similar to the Speakers Bureau that NCRR formed during the redress campaign. The committee is committed to continued education starting each of our general meetings with some education and discussion. Many of the committee members participated in **Vigilant Love's 4-part series called "Liberatory Lineages: Unpacking and Resisting Anti-Blackness"** and will continue to follow up on the many themes raised in the workshop. We look forward to a continued partnership with Vigilant Love. We will continue to follow the work of the California Reparations Task Force (AB3121), build connections with local groups and efforts on reparations, initiate workshops on reparations in the community to share the history of JA redress and the importance of solidarity and reparations for African Americans today.

Please join us in the work to get HR 40 passed now!

- Contact us if you would like us to come speak to your group or if you need more information. Email: Nikkeipprogressives@gmail.com
- Follow the California Task Force sessions: January 27, 2022 and January 28, 2022 [Meeting Notice and Agenda](#)
- Listen to recent programs: DemsAbroad on 1/16/22:
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=hU11Rlkfymk&feature=youtu.be>
- ConversationsReparations:
[Conversation Reparations - Black Talk Radio Network](#)
- The HR 40 Coalition is urging House leadership to pass HR 40, The Commission to Study and Develop Reparations Proposals for African Americans Act - please ask your

organizations to sign onto the **Repair Can't Wait** letter! [Please sign-on here](#). We invite you to share with your networks as you see fit.



SAVE THE DATE traci kato-kiriyama's long awaited book *Navigating With(out) Instruments* will launch at Little Tokyo's Terasaki Budokan on April 10, 2022 at 3 PM, The Budokan is located at 249 South Los Angeles St.

40TH ANNIVERSARY: THE 1981 CWRIC TESTIMONIES - MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER! by Kay Ochi

This past year, 2021, was highlighted by the 40th anniversary of the 1981 Hearings of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC). The Hearings proved to be a watershed moment for the Japanese American community as the impact of Executive Order 9066 was at last shared and recorded to create the history that had long been denied. The testimonies remain

tremendously important in our efforts to educate others about the dire and deeply personal impact of E.O. 9066.

NCRR continues its efforts to preserve and promote these historic testimonies through its 41-year collaboration with Visual Communications. As co-producers of the CWRIC testimony videos, last August, VC and NCRR launched the "Speak Out for Justice" website that showcases ALL of the 158 Los Angeles testimonies in celebration of the 40th anniversary.

The Los Angeles testimonies can be found at [vcmedia.org/speakout](#). The testimonies are presented in chronological order - August 4, 5 and 6 – with each day's testimonies divided into smaller segments. The segments are introduced by community friends including seven people who testified in 1981: Harry Kawahara, Jim Matsuoka, Kathy Masaoka, Mark Masaoka, Alan Nishio, Roy Nakano, and Phil Shigekuni.



Screen shot of VC/NCRR meeting June 2021

NCRR and VC continue to meet regularly to develop ways to promote the viewing of the testimonies on the website and to promote their broader educational use. We are also involving more community friends to share more of the very interesting back-story to selected testimonies.

Currently, six of the Los Angeles testimonies are being shown in an exhibit in San Diego by the Coronado Historical Association entitled "Uprooted: The Story of Japanese Americans in Coronado". This exhibit uses the testimonies of San Diegans Harry Kawamoto and Francis L. Honda, as well as, testimonies of Dr. Mary Oda,



Martha Okamoto, Jim Kawaminami and Robert Hayamizu. The testifiers provide the personal stories that enrich and add emotion to the Museum's depiction of the Japanese American experience. This exhibit runs through April, 2022.

GVJCI DAY OF REMEMBRANCE 2022

Camp Creativity:
Resilience Through Art

DOR Virtual Week Schedule
A week-long virtual event posted on the GVJCI website
www.jci-gardena.org

Tuesday	Feb. 22	- Big Band Music in the Camps
Wednesday	Feb. 23	- Camp Comedy Performances
Thursday	Feb. 24	- Japanese Cultural and Performing Arts
Friday	Feb. 25	- Fine Art in the Camps/Haiku
Saturday	Feb. 26	- Live Virtual Program (2:00-4:00 pm) Featuring keynote speaker Delphine Hirasuna

This year, the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute's Day of Remembrance (DOR) 2022 event will be held online via Zoom on Saturday, February 26th, 2022 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. This year's DOR theme will be "Camp Creativity: Resilience Through Art" with the intention to highlight the resilience and creativity of camp survivors through their art and creative healing, and creativity of camp survivors through their performances, big band music, and more. From February 22-25, the GVJCI will be posting these stories throughout the week via social media, film clips, music playlists, and photos. On Saturday, February 26th the program will feature a keynote speaker, Delphine Hirasuna, author of *The Art of Gaman and All That Remains*. There will also be interviews with some of those featured throughout the week of the virtual DOR, including internment camp survivor Ley Mariano Wong (Golden Legend: Japanese Traditional Performer), Amy Tan (The World War II Internment Camps), and Amy Keki (Serenaded). We hope the community will be able to walk away with a greater understanding of the history of this time period and the fortitude and resilience of its survivors.

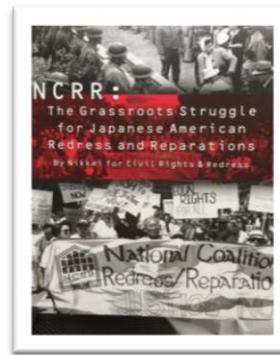
To register for the live program, please visit the GVJCI website (www.jci-gardena.org). Admission is FREE but donations are greatly appreciated. Those who donate a minimum of \$20 are eligible for a commemorative GVJCI DOR pin set gift!

This program is co-sponsored by the George and Sakaye Aratani CARE Award and UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute
(310) 524-6011
info@jci-gardena.org www.jci-gardena.org
facebook.com/GVJCI [@gardenavalleyjci](https://twitter.com/gardenavalleyjci)

More info at www.jci-gardena.org
NCRR supports the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute's 2022 Day of Remembrance!

The NCRR book, published in 2018, is a 391 page comprehensive history of NCRR's roots and participation in the redress movement.



NCRR: The Grassroots Struggle for Japanese American Redress and Reparations can be purchased at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles (jamnstore.com/products/ncrr-the-grassroots-struggle) , at the UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press (www.aasc.ucla.edu/aascpress/books/ncrr.aspx) , and through Amazon (www.amazon.com/NCRR-Grassroots-Struggle-Japanese/)

Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress

Website: www.ncrr-la.org

Email: ncrrla@yahoo.com

Membership: \$30/year, \$15 students and seniors;

lifetime membership \$500. Send check to:

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