



Day of Remembrance 2020

Democracy in Crisis: 1942 and 2020

By Richard Katsuda

The theme for Day of Remembrance (DOR) 2020 is "Democracy in Crisis: 1942 and 2020." The program will take place on Saturday, February 15, 2 PM, at the Japanese American National Museum. Sen. Mazie Hirono will address the audience with a special DOR video, and Dr. Satsuki Ina will speak on the program's theme.

Our community remembers how Japanese Americans in 1942 were removed from the West Coast and incarcerated without any formal charges or trial. They were victims of what the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians concluded was "race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership." All three branches of our federal government fell in line and failed our democracy as they denied Japanese Americans the promises of equal protection and due process of law under our Constitution.

DOR 2020 tackles the dangerous and exhausting crisis our nation is facing as Congress confronts President Trump's conduct in carrying out his duties to determine whether he should be impeached and removed from office. The partisan divisions in our government are tearing away any semblance of reasonable dialogue in viewing the President's actions and judging what the Constitution and our nation's founders called for in such a situation. The country as a whole is terribly distressed about this crisis in our democracy and wonder whether our fundamental democratic system will survive.

Continued on Page 3

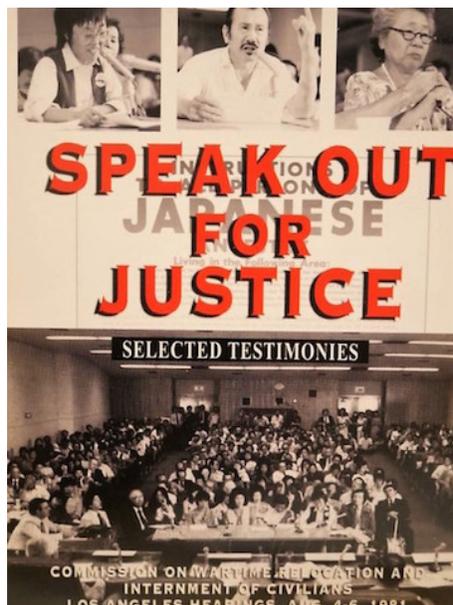
Education Committee Report

by Janice Yen

Thanks to a grant from the Historic Community Neighborhood Council the Committee was able to reproduce 200 more DVD copies of "Speak Out for Justice Selected Testimonies." The DVD which has 21 selected testimonies from the 1981 CWRIC Los Angeles Hearings as well as comments from the Commissioners is a valuable educational resource. The original NCRR/Visual Communications project was funded by grants from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program and the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund. Steve Nagano was the coordinator of the project for the Education Committee. The first batch was quickly distributed to teachers, educators, and the community. We are grateful for the Historic Community Neighborhood Council grant!

Table of Contents

- Page 2 Solidarity & Support Work Vigilant Love
- Page 2 Solidarity & Support Work Nikkei Progressives
- Page 3 Solidarity & Support Work Comfort Women
- Page 4 The NCRR Book a Hit!
- Page 5 Book Talk in San Diego
- Page 5 Jim Matsuoka Receives Award
- Page 6 In Memoriam



John, Janice and Ann Yen at Literature table at Manzanar Pilgrimage



Solidarity and Support Work:

Vigilant Love, Nikkei Progressives and Comfort Women

By Kathy Masaoka

Vigilant Love:

NCRR continues its solidarity with the Muslim community through its support of the Solidarity Arts Fellowship (SAF) and the Iftar organized by Vigilant Love. Fifteen college-aged Muslim and Japanese American young people participated in the SAF and presented a cultural performance at the Iftar in May. Over 400 people attended this third VL-sponsored "breaking the fast" event which was started by NCRR 9/11 Committee in 2001 to learn more about Islam/Ramadan and to build relationships across communities.



Nikkei Progressives

Nikkei Progressives

NCRR continues to be the fiscal sponsor of Nikkei Progressives (NP) which has spent the past year building support for immigrants through the Tsuru for Solidarity (TFS) project and a very successful fundraiser this past September. Under the guidance of Kimi Maru and Tony Osumi, the community created quilt squares with the theme that "families belong together" in opposition to the separation of children from their parents. In June, NCRR and NP joined 11 other JA and Little Tokyo organizations in a rally of over 700 people in front of the Japanese American National Museum to protest



Taiko Project



Aloe Blacc



Young Activists

the plan to detain children at Fort Sill, a former internment center for JAs during World War II.

The community support was overwhelming with over 50 monetary sponsors and \$25,000 raised by the fundraiser/concert called "We Got Your Back...Pack" held at the Aratani Theatre at the JACCC. The spirit of community was strong in the filled-to-capacity theatre as people listened to Quetzal and friends, including Aloe Blacc, Maya Jupiter, Alice Bag, Cambalache and the TAIKOPROJECT. Supporters packed backpacks and a Care-van took the supplies to Mexico in December and will deliver checks to the beneficiary groups: Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice, Our Lady of Soledad of the Diocese of San Bernardino and the Immigrant Defender Law Center.

NP, NCRR, and many other community organizations are supporting the Tsuru for Solidarity by folding and stringing 25,000 tsurus (cranes) of the 125,000 that will be taken to Washington DC in June, 2020 to represent Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during WWII and those currently detained in camps in the US today. TFS plans to bring 300 former JA incarcerated to DC, rally at the White House and lobby Congress to change the inhumane immigrant policies. More information will be shared at the tsuru workshops - the next ones are on January 5 and January 19 at the Far East Lounge. Nikkei Progressives: www.nikkeiprogressives.org. NP was fortunate to receive an HCNC grant for the quilt project and other grants to support the upcoming work.

Continued on page 3



Kathy Masaoka, traci kato kiriyama, and Phyllis Kim

Solidarity and Support Work:

Continued from Page 2

Comfort Women

NCRR was asked to join a Comfort Women Working Committee along with the Comfort Women for Action Redress and Education, Thai CDC, the Pilipino Workers Center, OCA and others. This committee was established by the office of Councilman David Ryu who plans to establish a memorial to the Comfort Women in the City of LA in order to educate others about this history and to help prevent the abuse of women. Los Angeles is one of the most heavily trafficked cities in the country and more needs to be done to prevent the enslavement of women as sexual slaves and domestic workers. The film, "Shusenjo" (The Main Battleground) by Miki Dezaki will be shown on March 28, 2020 at the Glendale Public Library along with another film about the "comfort women." NCRR cosponsored the film last November and Kathy spoke on behalf of NCRR at the program held at the Emmanuel Presbyterian Church.



Mike Yanagita demonstrates tsuru origami



Nikkei Progressives

DOR 2020

Continued from Page 1

Sen. Mazie Hirono has been a strong warrior in the Senate, calling out what she sees as destructive and impeachable offenses by the President. She is tremendously busy at this time and will not be able to speak at DOR in person, but in a video specially prepared for DOR, she will share her perspective on the issues that the Senate is grappling with.

Dr. Satsuki Ina is a survivor of the Tule Lake Segregation Center and Crystal City Internment Camp. She draws upon her expertise as a psychotherapist and experience in WWII camps to speak out about the devastating effects of detention centers on migrant parents and their children. She is a leading member of Tsuru for Solidarity, which has been

organizing protests against these detention centers.

DOR 2020 will act as a reminder about how fragile our democracy really is. NCRR and other organizations of the DOR Committee will propose actions that our community can take to defend our democracy. The DOR Committee includes Japanese American National Museum, Pacific Southwest District/JACL, Kizuna, Manzanar Committee, NCRR, Nikkei Progressives, Progressive Asian Network for Action, Go for Broke National Education Center, and Organization of Chinese Americans-Greater Los Angeles.

For more information about DOR, please call JANM at (213) 625-0414.



Book Talk in San Diego

By Kay Ochi

On Sunday, November 17, 2019, the Buddhist Temple of San Diego (BTSD) and the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego (JAHSSD) co-sponsored a community book talk with NCRR. Held at the BTSD, NCRR members Janice and John Yen, Kathy Masaoka, Miya Iwataki and Jan Tokumaru participated in the event, along with Kay Ochi who worked with the BTSD and the JAHSSD to organize the program.

Kay shared that the Temple held a fundraiser lunch on that day to help keep the Church service attendees on the premises to stay for the book talk. "I'm grateful to the generous people who volunteered their time to prepare the teriyaki chicken lunch. Approximately 80 people attended the program!"

While Janice filmed and photographed the program, Miya shared her poem "Gambare" and spoke about the power and impact of the CWRIC hearings. Jan Tokumaru reflected on the 1980's as NCRR's organizer in the San Diego area, and shared her remembrances of the San Diegans that supported the redress movement. Kathy spoke about NCRR's work with other communities and NCRR's support of the anti-apartheid movement, Native Americans, Comfort Women.

Feedback from those in attendance showed that the issues of incarceration and reparations continue to provoke complex memories and emotion. Many said that they learned a lot and enjoyed the program.



Mr. Ikeda, father of NCRR member Edna Horiuchi



Kay Ochi



Kathy Masaoka and Jan Tokumaru



Kay Ochi with helpers Daniel Lim and Sara Lim, her grandnephew/niece



Miya Iwataki (foreground) and
Kathy Masaoka (background)



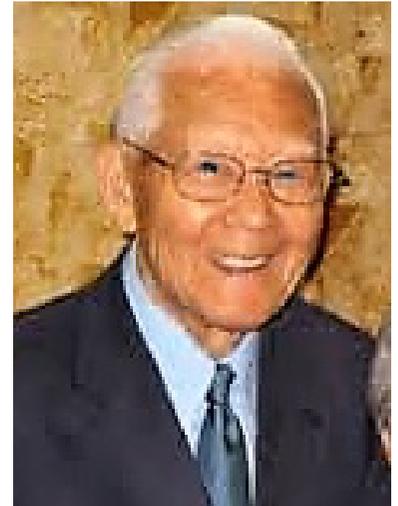
In Memoriam



Well-known to many in NCRR as "Auntie Linda", Ayako Linda Seu passed away in March, 2019, at age 86. Linda's energy and enthusiasm made her memorable, as well as her generosity and constant support of her niece Kay Ochi, her good friend Wilbur Sato and of NCRR.



Long-time NCRR member Lucille Nakahara passed away in 2019. Lucille's friendliness brightened NCRR events and the annual DORs. Her article in the NCRR book shared her steadfast outreach efforts during redress and beyond in her Los Angeles neighborhood and with her circle of friends.



Reverend Paul Nagano lived a long life filled with love and appreciation of family and friends. Accompanied by his wife Florence, he attended many NCRR events, including the yearly shinnenkai. Reverend Paul passed away in April 2019 at the age of 99.



Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress

231 E. Third Street, G104
Los Angeles, CA 90013
(213) 284-0336
ncrrla@yahoo.com
www.ncrr-la.org

General Meetings:

The first Saturday of the month

Membership:

NCRR Membership Levels (tax deductible)

\$30 One year

\$15 Students, seniors and low-income one year

\$500 Lifetime membership