

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW NORTHERN CALIFORNIA TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

Vision Statement:

“Learn from the past to safeguard the future”

The coalition of Northern California Japanese American Citizens League chapters shall annually conduct Time/Day of Remembrances activities to remember the tragic lessons of the unjust incarceration of persons of Japanese ancestry during World War II and will join with other Americans in activities to ensure the basic rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution are not denied for any of its citizens.

Mission:

- Annually provide leadership, participation and resources, in the planning of community-wide remembrance activities and educational programs for students in Northern California.
- Develop partnerships with other institutions and organizations to coordinate, plan and conduct the community-wide program and student education program, such as, the California State University, Sacramento, Library, Special Collections, Japanese American Archival Collection, the California Museum, and the Elk Grove United School District Superintendent and Board.
- Coordinate and train volunteers to participate in the educational presentations for students and adults on the incarceration experience of persons of Japanese ancestry.
- Develop partnerships with other JACL Chapters and organizations to promote, to advocate, to participate and to provide sensitive and responsive support for any persons or groups experiencing acts of injustice. (Adopted, May, 7, 2002: representatives from Florin, Lodi, Marysville, Placer County and Sacramento JACL chapters).

Timeline:

**1983-
2002**

Florin JACL chapter under the leadership of Mary Tsukamoto, planned and organized a two-part educational program regarding the incarceration of Americans of Japanese Ancestry during World War II. This was part of the education, promotion and advocacy of the redress and reparations campaign.

For twenty (20) years, a two-week educational program was presented at the Elk Grove Unified School Board Room for 5th graders and a community-wide program was held the first Saturday in March at the Florin YBA Hall.

The programs were planned in partnerships with the Elk Grove Unified School District Board and the California State University Sacramento, Library, Special Collections, Japanese American Archival Collection.

The Elk Grove Unified School District Superintendent and Board is the only school district in California who has passed a Board Resolution in support of Time of Remembrance activities. They provided time and financial support for teacher training and student field trips to participate in these activities, since 1981 to the present day.

2002

Florin chapter' invitation to surrounding JACL chapters to join in planning Northern California TOR activities, in lieu of individual chapter events. Established purpose and goals, participation requirements, operating budget and sponsorship goals.

An initial meeting on November 18,2002, was held with chapter representatives from: Florin, Marysville, Sacramento and Stockton at the Sacramento JACL office. At that time there was agreement to form a joint group of chapters to hold annual TOR program in lieu of individual chapters. Other chapters who were invited and expressed interested requiring their Board's approval: Placer County, Lodi, French Camp and Solano.

Members of the organizing committee were: Edwin and Debbie Hatanaka (Stockton), Ernest Abe, Amos and Mary Freeman, George Furukawa, Frank and Joanne Iritani, Sam Kashiwagi, Walter Kawamoto, Ted Kobata, Kern Kono, Lenny Mizusaka, Tom Nakashima, Andy Noguchi, Twila Tomita, Heidi Sakazaki, Marielle Tsukamoto, Stan and Christine Umeda, and Bob Uyeyama (Florin), Darrell Naruto and Frank Hatamiya (Maryville), Gary Kuwabara and Miko Sawamura (Sacramento).

Marielle Tsukamoto met with Ross McGuire, Executive Director and Kelly Bitz, Educational Coordinator regarding holding the student educational program at the Golden State Museum aka California Museum.

**July
2002**

First meeting of Florin, Marysville, and Sacramento chapters to organize and plan the 2003 joint Northern California Time of Remembrance program activities.

Other interested JACL chapters awaiting Board approval were, Stockton, Placer County, Lodi, French Camp, and Solano.

First organizing committee members consisted of; Florin, Marysville, Placer County, Sacramento and Stockton JACL chapters.

The California Museum for History, Women and the Arts aka Golden State Museum, became a partner in addition to the Elk Grove Unified School District and CSUS, Library, Special Collections.

Annual Time of Remembrance Community Events:

February 2003: 1st Joint program held at the Golden State Museum. Lane Nishikawa, guest speaker.

February 2004: 2nd program: "Day of Independence" film and Guest Speakers, Directors/Producers: Tim Toyama and Chris Tashima.

February 2005: 3rd program: "From A Silk Cocoon", Satsuki Ina, speaker, film Director, Cinematographer and Co-Producer.

February 2006: 4th program, Eric Muller, Constitutional Law Professor, guest speaker.

February 2007: 5th program: "Cats of Mirikitani", Sacramento premiere showing with Executive Director/Producer, Linda Hattendorf, Jimmy Mirikitani, film subject and Masa Yoshimura, Producer.

February 2008: 6th program: John Christgau, writer/lecturer "From Enemy Aliens to Kokomo Joe: World War II Internment Stories", the Enemy Alien program and incarceration of Japanese, Italian and German Americans.

February 2009: 7th program: "The Betrayed", play directed by Dennis Yep of Inter-Act, written by Hiroshi Kashiwagi.

February 2010: 8th program: "Dawn's Light", play of the life of Gordon Hirabayashi, performed by Ryun Yu of East West Players, LA.

February 2011: 9th program: "Enemy Alien", film of Farouk Abdel-Muhti, produced and directed by Konrad Aderer. Robert Fletcher recognized as an "Unsung Hero" for his tireless efforts to take care of the farms of Japanese family during their incarceration.

February 2012: 10th program: "Prisoners and Patriots", film about the Department of Justice center in Santa Fe, New Mexico, produced and directed by Neil Simon. Mary Tsukamoto Daruma Award to Georgiana White, former archivist of the CSUS, Japanese American Archival Collection and Kelly Bitz, CA Museum for bringing the TOR program to the museum.

February 2013: 11th program: "Honor and Sacrifice", Roy Matsumoto and his service in the MIS. 25th anniversary Civil Liberties Act of 1988: Honorees: Jerry Enomoto and Robert Trigg; Champions of Redress candlelight. Reception followed.

Annual Time of Remembrance Community Events (cont'd):

February 2014: 12th program: "Relocation, Arkansas" film by Lie Schiffer, producer/Director.
Honorees: Retired Board of Supervisors Illa Collin and Toby Johnson.

February 2015: 13th program: "Legacy of an Enduring Spirit", Paul Kitagaki, Jr., photographs of descendent of iconic WWII images. Honorees: Ted Kobata and his barrack construction team.

February 2016: 14th program: "The Untold Story: Internment of Japanese Americans in Hawaii". Film presented by Carole Hayashino, ED of Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii. Honorees: Reiko Nagumo and Kiyo Sato.

February 2017: 15th program: "Remember Our Past, Guarding Our Future", "Resistance at Tule Lake" film by Konrad Aderer. Honorees: Shigeo Yokote and Priscilla Morita Ouchida.

February 2018: 16th program: "Honoring Our Past and Building Unity for the Future", film AND THEN THEY CAME FOR US by Abby Ginzberg and Ken Schneider shown with Q & A with Satsuki Ina. Honoree: George and Joan Oki.

February 2019: 17th program: "Achieving the Impossible Dream: How Japanese Americans Obtained Redress". Guest speaker, Mitchell T. Maki, President and CEO of Go For Broke National Education Center. Honoree: Floyd Shimomura, former National JAACL President during Redress campaign. Unity Candle Light Ceremony: "Achieving the Dream, Moving Forward with Hope."

February 2020: 18th program: "Standing Up for the Voiceless", film assembled by Emiko Omori.
Q & A with Emiko Omori, award-winning cinematographer and documentary film director and Satsuki Ina, award-winning film-maker, activist and psychotherapist.
Unity Candle Lighting Ceremony: "Protest: Lessons, Impact and Hope".

February 2021: 19th program: "Uncomfortable Conversations: Racism, Equity, and Belonging".
Panel members: Emily Akpan, mixed heritage proud black and Japanese American, NYC based activist; Jessie Morris, Jr., Black and Japanese, criminal justice attorney; and Mia Yamamoto, Japanese American "born doing time" in Poston incarceration Center, criminal justice attorney. Historical background on Asian American and Black American relations in the Sacramento area presented by Andy Noguchi.

February 2022: 20th program: "Beyond Confinement: Stories of Japanese American and Native American Resistance". Panel members: Lisa Nakamura, clinical psychologist who serves on the leadership council for Tsuru for Solidarity; Annette Reed, member of the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation and Chair of the Department of Ethnic Studies at California State University, Sacramento; Sage Andrew Romero, performance artist and member of the Tovowahatu Numu (Big Pine Paiute) and Tuah-Tahi (Taos Pueblo) Tribes; and Kiyo Sato, retired United States Air Force captain, public health nurse, and author.