

Campaign for Justice

Redress Now For Japanese Latin Americans!

Fall/Winter Newsletter
2008-2009

Redress update:

Thankful for the past year, and Gearing up for the 111th Congress



Reflecting back on year 2008 and the 110th Congress, I am proud to say that we have made significant headway in our efforts for justice for Japanese Latin Americans (JLAs).

Our partner organizations have exponentially increased, now at 85 and growing. We continue to build support in legal, faith-based, civil rights, human rights, immigrant rights, and academic communities. We have increased our number of core volunteers. And we have successfully

organized and participated in a number of forums and events to educate the general public and our communities about the ongoing importance of the fight for JLA redress and government accountability. Of course, our year came with some disappointments as well. The hearing on our JLA Commission bill that was scheduled for July of 2008 was cancelled due to a referral error, and it was not re-scheduled in the House Immigration Subcommittee as we had hoped.

Requesting Signatures: Scholars Letter to Congress

Campaign for Justice, along with seven academics who are well-known in the fields of Asian American Studies and Law, have collectively written a letter that will be submitted to members of Congress in the first session of 111th Congress. The purpose of this letter is to establish scholars' support of the passage of the "Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act."

We encourage all scholars and professors affiliated with a college or a university to sign this letter in order to emphasize the gravity of this matter, as well as to show solidarity behind the passage of this act. To read a copy of the letter, visit our website at www.campaignforjusticejla.org. Please send this letter out to your contacts in academia and encourage them to sign onto the letter. If you would like to sign onto the letter, please contact Christine Oh at ohchristine@gmail.com by Friday, January 9, 2009.

But more than ever, our commitment and drive to expand education and mobilization efforts are extremely high. With the recent changes in Administration and Congress, we have increased resolve to get our JLA Commission bill passed in 2009! Our sponsors, Senator Daniel K. Inouye and Representative Xavier Becerra hold senior level leadership positions in the Senate and the House, respectively. We have strong support from Representative Zoe Lofgren -- the Chairwoman of the House Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law -- to push our commission bill. And our partner organizations, supporters and volunteers continue to grow in numbers, diversity and capacity. I am extremely excited to begin 2009 and the 111th Congress with more passion and commitment than ever before.

We want to thank all of you who have been a part of this journey for justice. We are indebted to you for your financial support, for your words of encouragement, and most of all, for voicing your support to your representatives in Congress and being a part of this cause that is larger than ourselves.

We look forward to persevering on this road to redress with you in the coming year. Best wishes for an amazing year!

Sincerely,
Christine Oh
Legislative Campaign
Manager



In this issue...

| | |
|--|---|
| Redress update | 1 |
| Requesting Signatures: | 1 |
| CFJ and Partner Organizations host Second Annual JLA Educational Forum | 2 |
| Partner Highlight: The Legal Sector | 2 |
| Campus Speaking Tour Kicks Off at UCLA | 3 |
| Former Internee Profile | 3 |
| How It Affects Me, You, and Us | 4 |
| Volunteer Bio | 4 |
| Thank You To Our Donors! | 5 |
| Upcoming Events | 5 |
| History In A Box | 6 |
| JLA Resources | 6 |

CFJ and Partner Organizations host Second Annual JLA Educational Forum

“Redress Remembered: WWII Rendition of Japanese Latin Americans,” a program discussing the abduction and internment of Japanese Latin Americans (JLA) by the U.S. government during WWII, was held at the Japanese American National Museum on October 25, 2008. The event emphasized the tragic reality that, even 20 years after the enactment of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, not all persons of Japanese ancestry who suffered government violations of their constitutional and human rights have received proper redress. The program also underscored the JLA redress struggle as a human rights issue with relevance today for all people concerned with government accountability for abuse in the name of national security.

This educational program highlighted a panel of activ-



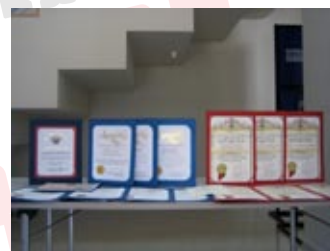
ists in the JLA redress struggle: Karen Parker, Counsel for former Japanese Peruvian internees in U.S. courts and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; Richard Katsuda, Educator and Co-chair of Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress; and Craig Ishii, Regional Director of Japanese American Citizens League Pacific Southwest District. The panel was moderated by Grace Shimizu, Director of Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project and Coordinator of Campaign For Justice: Redress Now for Japanese Latin Americans! The event also included a screening of “Stolen Lives,”

an in-progress documentary by Tara Entertainment and a spoken word performance by D.H. Naomi Quiñones, a grand-daughter of a former Japanese Peruvian internee.

Supporters of JLA redress were encouraged to write letters to their local congressmen and work with Campaign For Justice to pass a bill creating a commission to investigate the Japanese Latin American rendition during WWII.

The program was hosted by Campaign For Justice: Redress Now for Japanese Latin Americans!, Japanese

American National Museum, Discover Nikkei, Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress, Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project, and Japanese American Citizens League-Pacific Southwest District. We thank our cosponsoring organizations, Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Los Angeles, Japanese American Bar Association, Korean American Bar Association of Southern California, Department of Cultural Affairs at City of Los Angeles, Civil Rights Caucus of Japanese American Citizens League-Pacific Southwest District, and Council on American-Islamic Relations. We are also appreciative of our partner organizations, Manzanar Committee and Tomo no Kai at University of California at Irvine.



Certificates from various elected officials recognizing CFJ and other organizations

Partner Highlight: The Legal Sector

Campaign For Justice is fortunate for the support we’ve received from our partner organizations. Over the years, we have partnered with over 80 organizations from diverse sectors of our community and we are grateful for their continued support for our campaign. Please contact Christine Oh at info@campaignforjusticejla.org so your civic organization, campus group, religious institution can partner with us for JLA redress. You can see the full list of our Partner

Organizations and read their support letters on our website. You can see the full list of our Partner Organizations and read their support letters on our website.

We would like to extend a special thanks to the legal organizations and bar associations for their strong support this year. The following is the list of our partner organizations in the legal sector:

- *Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area*

- *Asian American Justice Center*
- *Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund*
- *Asian Law Alliance*
- *Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Los Angeles County*
- *Asian Pacific American Bar Association of South Florida*
- *Association of Humanitarian Lawyers*
- *Japanese American Bar Association*
- *Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund*
- *National Asian Pacific American Bar Association*
- *Orange County Korean*

- *American Bar Association*
- *Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund*
- *Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association*
- *Asian Pacific Bar Association (Asian Pacific Islander Justice Coalition)*
- *Korean American Bar Association of Northern California (Asian Pacific Islander Justice Coalition)*
- *Korean American Bar Association of Southern California*
- *Vietnamese American Bar Association of Northern California (Asian Pacific Islander Justice Coalition)*

Campus Speaking Tour Kicks Off at UCLA

By Richard Katsuda

On November 13, 2008 at UCLA, "Hidden Internment: the Art Shibayama Story" was shown to an audience of students, faculty and staff, and Nisei alumni. The film captures the political events that led to the kidnapping, deportation, and internment

of Japanese Latin Americans as well as the individual story of what happened to Art Shibayama and his family during and after the war. After the film, Art shared his memories of that period and spoke about his struggles to secure U.S. citizenship after he and other Japanese Latin Americans had been declared illegal aliens.

Performance artist Traci Kato-Kiriyama explored the depths of fears and human losses from the WWII hostage exchanges that reemerge



Shigeru Tsuha



Volunteers from the Nov UCLA event

Former Internee Profile: Libia "Libby" Hideko Maoki Yamamoto

Libby is a Japanese Peruvian Nisei who was interned at age seven in a WWII Department of Justice camp. She is a founding member of the Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project, who generously shares her family story at community events and in classrooms as well as with members of Congress and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

"My father migrated to Peru in 1914 as a contract laborer and became a successful businessman and well-respected leader of the Japanese community. One night in January 1943, the police came to our house and took him to jail. The next morning we all gathered outside the police station. About twenty fathers were put onto a truck and

we said good-bye. Nobody knew where they were going to be sent. Our mothers were weeping, silently, holding their sadness in. We did not hear any word from my father. We didn't know if he was still alive or dead. Finally, about a month later, we received a letter from my father. He said he was in Panama, in a US military camp. Later they were taken to the US to be shipped to Japan in a prisoner exchange.

"Our family was told to leave Peru in July 1943. We were put on a ship, about eight of us in a small cabin, always under the guard of the soldiers. When we arrived in New Orleans, I remember seeing inspectors taking things out of suitcases and trunks and throwing them

today in Guantanamo and other detention centers. Shigeru Tsuha of Campaign for Justice gave an update on current efforts to obtain redress equity and restore dignity for Japanese Latin Americans.

The program was part of the George and Sakaye Aratani

overboard. I was afraid that the inspector was going to take my doll and throw it overboard. Later we were put on a train and taken to Crystal City internment camp in Texas where we reunited with my father.

"After the war, the government told us to leave the country because we were "illegal aliens." My sister and her family went to Japan. Her letters said they pulled weeds so they could have something to eat. Her five-month old baby passed away of malnutrition.

"In 1947, my family and I were paroled out of camp under the sponsorship of relatives in Berkeley, California. For almost one year, our home was a church basement. At age 12, my days were filled with going to school, doing housework, raising my

Speakers Series hosted by Dr. Lane Hirabayashi, and was sponsored by UCLA Asian American Studies Center, UCLA Nikkei Student Union, UCLA Chicano Studies Center, Campaign for Justice: Redress Now for Japanese Latin Americans! and Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress.

younger siblings and helping my father at his job.

"During those years, many older children and our parents suffered a great deal. But we learned to make the most of the situation and never be defeated. My parents' philosophy was to do the best that you can no matter what the circumstance and look to things in a positive way. Seeing the hard work of Reps. Becerra and Honda and Sen. Inouye and the CFJ volunteers, I remain hopeful that we can achieve proper redress for our families."



How It Affects Me, You, and Us:

JLA Redress

By Shigueru Julio Tsuba

I have been involved with CFJ for about two years. It has been a major challenge to bring a relatively invisible Japanese Peruvian community issue -- our hidden history of government abuse and uphill struggle for justice -- into the public spotlight.

As a Japanese Peruvian, I have a highly personal investment in this issue because I am part of this community and because this issue is bigger than just my community.

The fight for Japanese Latin American (JLA) redress is about immigrant rights. With globalization, we have seen increased waves of migration around the world. The JLA issue can help draw attention to the harsh realities faced by immigrants, most who are displaced by political, economic and military forces outside



their control.

JLA redress is also an issue of human rights--especially during wartime. Learning about WWII rendition of JLAs will help us to address challenges we face today. In the face of legislation like the PATRIOT Act, we must review history in order to better understand the risks when human rights are suspended in the name of national security and the

necessity for government accountability.

The JLA issue is not only an Asian/Asian American/Latino issue. It is, ultimately, a human rights issue. By studying this history, we come to understand our human condition and how governments can mistreat and divide us on the basis of skin color, speaking different languages, practicing different

cultures and religions, gender, sexual orientation or class distinctions.

Ultimately, I am involved because I would like to see people make connections and understand our separate histories of oppression as also being interconnected and part of a larger comprehensive history of struggle.

Shigueru Julio Tsuba is a graduate student at UC Riverside working on his dissertation on the ethnic identity of Japanese Peruvians in Southern California. He is Sansei/ Yonsei, born in Peru and immigrated to Los Angeles at age 11 with his parents in 1992.



CAMPAIGN FOR JUSTICE
REDDRESS NOW FOR JAPANESE LATIN AMERICANS!



Volunteer Profile Natalia Maki Yamashiro

Natalia Maki Yamashiro was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina and raised in Southern California. She graduated from California State University, Fullerton with a B.A. in Business Administration and a minor in Spanish Literature. She is currently a graduate student in the Asian American Studies Department at UCLA. Prior to returning back to school, she worked in the auto and workers' compensation insurance field as well as in student affairs at the university level.

Natalia is a co-founder and president of Japanese American Living Legacy. She has served on the board

of Organization of Chinese Americans-Orange County chapter, Nikkei Bridge, and Southwest Oral History Association. In addition, Natalia volunteers for Japanese American National Museum and Discovery Nikkei.

With her expertise in event organizing and non-profits, Natalia contributes to CFJ's Community Outreach Committee and Campus Outreach Committee.



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

Champion of Justice

(\$600 or more/year,
\$50 or more/month)

Dale Minami

Guardian of Liberty

(\$365 or more/year,
\$30 or more/month)

Chieko Kamisato

Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga

Defender of Rights

(\$120 or more/year,
\$10 or more/month)

Haru Kuromiya

Esther Taira

Wesley Ueunten

Protector of Freedom

(\$60 or more/year,
\$5 or more/month)

Bertha Ganaja

Arthur Gorai

Rev. Nobuaki Hanaoka

Don C. Matsuda

Mike M. Morizono

Tazuko Shibusawa

Paul & Katsuye Tsuneishi

Takeko Wakiji

Advocate

(\$36 or more/year,
\$3 or more/month)

Paul Nagano

Sustainer

(\$20 or more/year)

Jane Hara Wong

General Donors

JACL of Hawaii
Honolulu Chapter

John Christgau

Victor Endo

Catherine Harada

George & Shizuko
Hasegawa

Mas Hashimoto

Julie Hatta

Betty Kano

Zelda Holland

Lisa Ikemoto

Janet N. Ishigame

Hiroshi Kashiwagi

Suzy Katsuda

Amy Kawahara

Kimiko Kitayama

Yuri Kochiyama

Miho Kim

Eugene G. Kodani

Mits & Sadame Kojimoto

Charles Kubokawa

Pam Tau Lee

Kathryn W. Madara

Denise Martini

Saburo & Marion Masada

John & Gloria Masunaga

Gloria Morita

Kenji Murase

Kinjiro Nakatogawa

Takeshi & Patricia
Nakayama

Karen Narasaki

Itsuko Nagao Saito

Yasuko Nakamura

Bill Nishimura

Rose Nishimura

Harumi Serata

Fumie Shimada

Edith Shimokochi

Eucaly Annette Shirai

Takeo Shirasawa

Ryan Suda

Masayoshi Suematsu

Marie M. Sugiyama

Ben Takeshita

Hiroko Tsuda

Marielle Tukamoto

Hiroshi Frank Yamada

Douglas Yamamoto

Mas & Helen Yamasaki

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TASTY SUPPORT!



Arroz con pollo!
Papa a la Huancaína! Oishii!
Campaign For Justice appreciates the following Peruvian restaurants for donating their delicious food at our educational and public events. What a tasty way to enhance the cultural and educational experience of learning about Japanese Latin American history. Thank you for your generous support in sharing the delicious goodies with us!

El Virrey Restaurant

1353 W Rosecrans Ave
Ste 6
Gardena, CA 90247
(310) 327-1848

Kotosh

2408 Lomita Blvd
Lomita, CA 90717
(310) 257-1363

Pollos El Brasero

2281 W Pico Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90006
(213) 381-6060

Mario's Peruvian & Seafood

5786 Melrose Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90038
(323) 466-4181

Special Thanks...

to the San Francisco Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League for donating proceeds from their Spaghetti Crab & Shrimp Feed fundraiser to CFJ!



Upcoming Events

Day of Remembrance at UC Santa Barbara
Thursday, February 19, 2009
@ 7:00 PM
UCSB Campus (specific auditorium TBA)

Contact info:

Lynnette Yamamoto
lyamamoto@umail.ucsb.edu
626-485-0571 (NSU Co-President)
Kristyne Wada
kwada@umail.ucsb.edu
650-483-5508 (NSU Co-President)
Diane Fujino
fujino@asamst.ucsb.edu
805-893-2960 (NSU Advisor/Asian American Dept Chair)

During the month of February, there will be many Day of Remembrance events happening around the country. Look out for a calendar of events at dayofremembrance.org

HISTORY IN A BOX:

Nov., Dec., Jan.

December 7, 1941

Following the Japanese military attack on Pearl Harbor, the secret US-Panama agreement is implemented whereby the US assumes all expenses and responsibility for round-up and interment of persons of Japanese, German and Italian ancestry in Panama

December 15, 1941

Rendition of 15 persons of Japanese ancestry from Peru (mostly tailors and merchants) to US military base in Panama

JLA RESOURCES: DOCUMENTARIES

Hidden Internment:

The Art Shibayama Story

A documentary produced in 2004 by Peek Media, reveals the WWII rendition of over 2200 Japanese Latin Americans. The half-hour film centers on the life story of Art Shibayama, who, at age 13, was forcibly deported from his home in Peru with his family and interned in Crystal City, Texas, for the purpose of hostage exchange for U.S. citizens trapped in the Far East war zone. Art's commitment to truth and justice inspires the ongoing struggle



for government accountability for war crimes and other human rights violations. Available in English and Japanese. To order, contact NJAHS at 415-921-5007 or njahs@njahs.org.

Canal Zone.

January, 1942

Rio de Janeiro conference of Pan American foreign ministers adopt US recommendation to restrict, intern and deport "dangerous enemy aliens" in Latin America.

November 23, 1981

2 former Japanese Peruvian internees testify at New York hearing of Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians.

January 7, 1999

Court approves Mochizuki

Here, In America? Immigrants as "The Enemy" During WWII and Today



A 15-minute documentary produced in 2006 by Peek Media, contains highlights from a two-day public testimonial event, the "Assembly on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (AWRIC)". This DVD focuses on the little known stories of US citizens and immigrants of Japanese, German and Italian ancestry in the US and from Latin America who were classified as "enemy aliens" during WWII as well as members of Muslim, Arab and South Asian American communities who are targeted as "the enemy" in the after-

settlement, providing to eligible Japanese Latin American internees an apology letter and \$5000 compensation (¼ of the amount awarded to Japanese Americans) and permitting internees to seek legislation for equitable redress.

January, 2001

Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upholds dismissal of Kato, Yano and Ogura v. USA lawsuit, brought by 6 claimants of Japanese descent, born in 3 different countries (US, Japan, Peru), who charged the US with a continuing policy

of discrimination for the violation of their fundamental civil rights during WWII and then later denying them redress. The Court ruled that the internees had one year after release from prison camp to file a lawsuit against the US government.

math of 9/11. A companion AWRIC Report includes historical information, chronology, map of camps, and glossary. To order, contact NJAHS at 415-921-5007 or njahs@njahs.org.

Stolen Lives

A "work-in-progress" documentary produced by Tara Entertainment. It will provide an overview of the US enemy alien program dur-

ing WWII and its impact on German, Italian and Japanese communities in the US and Latin America. Viewers will gain a new perspective on balancing national security and protecting civil liberties as they follow Naomi Quiñones and her search to find out what happened to her grandfather, a victim of the U.S. Latin American rendition scheme. Contact Tara Entertainment at romming@sbcglobal.net or 805-646-5579 for more information.

November 9, 2002

First reunion of former internees of Japanese and German ancestry at Crystal City Internment Camp in Texas.

ABOUT CAMPAIGN FOR JUSTICE

Campaign for Justice was founded in 1996 as a collaborative effort by individuals and organizations including the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress (formerly known as the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations), and the Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project.

Campaign for Justice has two primary goals. First, it continues

to help former Japanese Latin American internees secure proper redress. Second, it works to educate the public about the wartime and redress experiences of the Japanese Latin Americans.

Campaign for Justice
P.O. Box 1384
El Cerrito, CA 94530
(510) 528-7288
www.campaignforjusticejla.org
info@campaignforjusticejla.org