

55TH ANNUAL MANZANAR PILGRIMAGE

PEACE, JUSTICE AND THE DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY

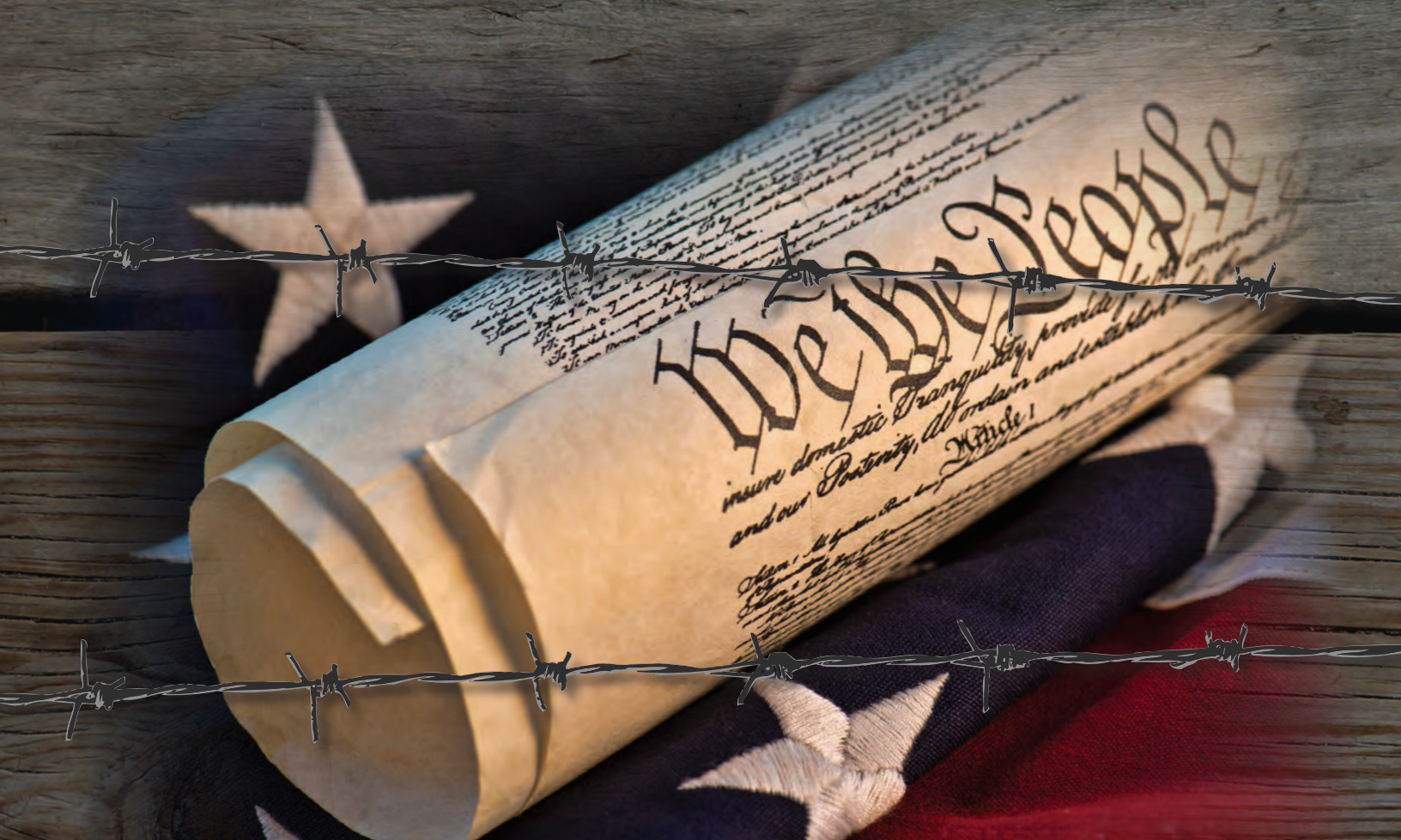
APRIL 27, 2024

THE MANZANAR COMMITTEE

WEBSITE: www.ManzanarCommittee.org

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Congratulations
on the
2024 Manzanar Pilgrimage



 J. T. SATA

IMMIGRANT
MODERNIST

MAR. 15–SEPT. 1, 2024

**Late Night Thursdays
Free for Members**

Japanese American National Museum

100 N. Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90012 | janm.org | 213.625.0414

Felicia Chiao, Imagination (detail), 2023, Copic marker and ink on brown toned paper, courtesy of the artist (above);
J. T. Sata, Untitled (Self-portrait), late 1920s, gelatin silverprint print. Japanese American National Museum,
Gift of Frank and Marian Sata and Family, 2005.187.49 (below).

55th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage

April 27, 2024

PROGRAM

Call to Order

UCLA Kyodo Taiko

Banner Procession

Welcome from Emcees

Wendi Yamashita and Glen Kitayama

Welcome

Jeremiah Joseph, *Cultural Resources Protection for the
Paiute-Shoshone Tribe*

Gavin Gardner, *Acting Superintendent MNHS*

Opening Remarks

Bruce Embrey, *Manzanar Committee*

Musical Interlude

UCLA Kyodo Taiko

Keynote Address

Don Tamaki

Musical Interlude

Bonbu Stories

Student Speaker

Maiya Kuida Osumi, *UCSD*

Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award

Ron Wakabayashi

Musical Interlude

UCLA Kyodo Taiko

Banner Procession

Monica Embrey

Procession to the Monument / Interfaith Service

Bishop Yuju Matsumoto (Koyasan Buddhist Temple), *Los Angeles Buddhist Temple Federation*

Rev. Hibiki (Junkyo) Murakami (Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple),

Los Angeles Buddhist Temple Federation

Rev. John Denham (Episcopalian)

Margaret Hover (Roman Catholic)

Rev. Philip McKean (United Church of Christ)

Rev. Dickson Yagi (Baptist)

Keynote Speaker

Don Tamaki

Don Tamaki is a Senior Counsel at Minami Tamaki LLP having received his B.A. and J.D. from University of California at Berkeley.

He co-founded the Asian Law Alliance in San Jose <http://asianlawalliance.org/>, and has served as the Executive Director of the Asian Law Caucus in San Francisco <https://www.advancingjustice-alc.org/>.

In the 1980's, he was a member of the pro bono legal team that reopened the landmark 1944 Supreme Court case of Fred Korematsu, overturning Mr. Korematsu's criminal conviction for defying the incarceration of almost 120,000 Japanese Americans.

In 2012-13, he co-represented the California State Bar in its successful petition to the California Supreme Court to admit the first undocumented immigrant to the State Bar, Sergio Garcia. Other states have followed this ground-breaking decision, including Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Wyoming.

He co-founded Stop Repeating History, to educate the public on the dangers of unchecked presidential power, drawing parallels between the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II and the Trump administration's policies targeting minority groups based on race or religion.

In 2021, he was appointed by California Governor Gavin Newsom to serve on the nine-member California Reparations Task Force to study the cumulative historic and present-day impact of 246 years of enslavement, 90 years of Jim Crow oppression, and 60 years of segregation and its vestiges, and to recommend to the Legislature what California should do to address these harms.

He is the recipient of the ABA Spirit of Excellence Award (2020), the National Asian Pacific Bar Association Trailblazer Award (2003), and the State Bar of California Loren Miller Award (1987).



2024 Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award

Ron Wakabayashi

Ron Wakabayashi, long time community activist and JACL leader, has been named as the 2024 recipient of the Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award.

The award, named after the late chair of the Manzanar Committee who was one of the founders of the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage and was the driving force behind the creation of the Manzanar National Historic Site, will be presented at the 55th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage on Saturday, April 27, 2024.

Wakabayashi, one of the organizers of the first community wide Manzanar Pilgrimage in 1969, was born in Reno, Nevada during the war years after his family left Rohwer and Topaz concentration camps.

His family returned to Los Angeles in 1947, and Wakabayashi attended California State University, Los Angeles. In the late 1960s he became the National Youth Director for the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL). He was a founder and director of the Asian American Drug Abuse Program (AADAP), and then went on to become the JACL National Director during the redress campaign.

Wakabayashi later became the Executive Director of the Los Angeles City Human Relations Commission and the Director of the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations.

The Manzanar Committee is proud to be recognizing Ron Wakabayashi, one of handful of people who found the courage to come to Manzanar in 1969 to pay homage to our families and to warn our country about the dangers of illegal detention. Ron's distinguished career in civil rights and his consistent leadership before, during and after our successful campaign for redress and reparations has to be held up as a shining example of our collective legacy.



Photo from Densho Digital Repository.



CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL

ROB BONTA

August 10, 2023

Attorney General Rob Bonta Issues Historic Statement and Apology Acknowledging the Complicity of the California Attorney General's Office in the Incarceration and Dispossession of Japanese Americans During World War II

Today, the California Attorney General's Office publicly acknowledges and apologizes to Americans of Japanese ancestry for the Office's role in the unjust deprivation of Japanese Americans' civil rights and civil liberties during World War II. As the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 recognizes, "a grave injustice" was done to citizens and residents of Japanese ancestry and the relocation and incarceration of these civilians was "motivated largely by racial prejudice, wartime hysteria, and a failure of political leadership."

In 1942, California Attorney General Earl Warren testified before Congress in support of Executive Order 9066, which authorized the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans. In his testimony, Attorney General Warren assailed the loyalty of Japanese Americans, using unfounded speculation characterized as "evidence" to justify not only the arbitrary incarceration of some 120,000 Japanese Americans-including children-but also the use of the California Alien Land Law to take possession of agricultural land owned by Japanese American families. The California Alien Land Law of 1913 prohibited Asian immigrants from purchasing or leasing land, until 1952 when the California Supreme Court held the law violated the Fourteenth Amendment.

During and immediately after World War II, this Office instituted over 70 escheat actions under the Alien Land Law to seize land owned by families of Japanese descent. In 1943, California Attorney General Robert Kenny created an "alien land unit" within the Office, which filed escheat cases against Japanese American families that were locked away in War Relocation Authority camps. In 1945, the Attorney General's Office received a \$200,000 grant from the Legislature to investigate and prosecute more Alien Land Law cases as Japanese Americans began to return to California to find their homes had been burned down. As the California Supreme Court ultimately recognized in 1952, the "real purpose" of the Alien Land Law "was the elimination of competition by [foreign-born] Japanese in farming California land" and the basis for the legislation was "race undesirability."

In 1944, this Office joined the states of Washington and Oregon in submitting an amicus brief in the US Supreme Court in the *Korematsu v. United States* case, supporting the imprisonment of Fred Korematsu despite the lack of any evidence that he posed a security threat. The amicus brief argued, "it was reasonable for the military commander to meet the danger threatened from the unidentified disloyal members of the group by excluding the group as a whole" because the military lacked "an adequate test of loyalty." We recognize today that this was unequivocally incorrect.

During times when some seek to fan the flames of xenophobia, hate, and intolerance, it is not enough to simply refrain from throwing stones. As Martin Luther King, Jr. once said: "*A time comes when silence is betrayal.*" The modern revival of Alien Land Laws in several states and the resurgence of anti-Asian hate across our country present such a moment. In the past, this Office used legal tools to deprive a generation of Japanese Californians of their liberty and financial security. But, just as Earl Warren came to recognize it was wrong to advocate for Executive Order 9066, the California Attorney General's Office can and must share with the country its regret and error in utilizing the Alien Land Law as an instrument of racial discrimination.

As Attorney General of California, I am committed to defending the civil rights and civil liberties of all citizens and residents of California. This includes confronting past errors at a time when racism, fear, and xenophobia once again threatens to assault the fundamental freedoms and rights we all share. With deep regret for the actions of this Office that contributed to the suffering of Japanese Americans during that era, I offer this sincere apology and re-commit this Office to the equal protection of the life, liberty, and property of all Americans.

Origins of the Pilgrimage

by Bruce Embrey

The roots of the Manzanar Pilgrimage began when our families lived behind barbed wire. Deprived of their constitutional rights and living in deplorable conditions, the inmates of Manzanar had little hope for the future. Nevertheless to make life tolerable the newly incarcerated became cooks, teachers, made camouflage nets and worked in the newly set up hospital. Despite these efforts, inmates had little to work with and many were not paid promptly or received substantially less than was pledged.

Not even a year after Manzanar opened, the tensions between the inmates and the War Relocation Authority (WRA) boiled over after formal complaints about abusive treatment and food theft by WRA personnel went unanswered. The arrest of a popular leader, Harry Ueno, led to a massive confrontation between the WRA and thousands of inmates. Known as the Manzanar Revolt, the protest turned violent and left two young Japanese American men, Jimmy Ito and James Kanagawa, dead after being shot in the back by military police. As the literal smoke cleared, Manzanar was gripped by a general strike by the inmates and martial law was declared.

Efforts by inmates to make life bearable after these traumatic events began, which led to the building of the iconic cemetery monument, the Ireito, meaning soul consoling tower—that endures to this day. Thanks to Rev. Shinjō Nagatomi who was the Shinshu Buddhist priest at Manzanar and the builder Ryozo Kado who was a Catholic stone mason, the monument came to symbolize the coming together and healing of the

camp population. Dedicated in 1943 at an interfaith Obon festival, the power of a united community came into full view.




The first Pilgrimage in 1946, led by the Reverend Shinjō Nagatomi's assistant, Rev. Sentoku Mayeda, was in a sense a continuation of that 1943 Obon interfaith. Rev. Sentoku Mayeda recalled "A year after they closed down the camp and let us go home I came back because it was my duty as a Buddhist minister to perform services for the dead that were left buried here. But when I came back I found the place all locked up and a soldier said 'hey you can't go in there, that's government property...it was funny, just a few months before they had machine guns to keep us in, then they put locks and guards to keep us out.'"

These men, joined later by the Christian minister Rev. Shoichi Wakahiro, journeyed to Manzanar over the years to remember and honor those who never returned home and lay buried in the sands of

Payahuunadū (Owens Valley).

To remember and return to Manzanar was a radical notion. Honoring our families and calling attention to the injustices of forced removal, regardless of the way it was done, was not a common or popular act among Japanese Americans. Our community, by and large, was struggling to resettle and survive the ongoing racist oppression it had to endure. Despite some individual efforts, there was no community wide movement to demand redress.



This all changed with the rise of the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Every community of color, inspired by and taking the lead of the Black led civil rights movement, challenged the system of white supremacy with renewed militancy. Young, mostly Sansei students joined the movement to demand ethnic studies, affirmative action, and an end to the racist Vietnam War. The 1969 Pilgrimage grew out of these tumultuous times. The pilgrimage, however, had a distinct and profoundly relevant goal: to push back against repressive, authoritarian proposals that violate the constitution and civil liberties. This pilgrimage was organized as part of a campaign to repeal what was known as the “Concentration Camp Law”—Title II of the Internal Security Act of 1950.

Title II was written at the height of the McCarthy period by some of the key architects of Executive Order 9066; it gave our federal government the legal authority to detain citizens without due process. The Internal Security Act and Title II specifically codified many authoritarian measures as well as the dangerous concepts of loyalty that were used to divide our families during camp, with the so-called Loyalty Questionnaire. This law identified six detention sites, including Tule Lake, the most oppressive of the WRA camps. These sites could be activated during times of crises.

In response to the Civil Rights, Black liberation, and anti-war movements, many in the existing political establishment dusted off Title II as a legal response to the demands of progressive movements. Media reports and rumors that the government was poised to round up anti-war and Black community activists and detain them in these camps spread nationwide. Alarmed by these rumors, some progressive Nisei, most notably Raymond Okamura and Edison Uno of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) launched a campaign to repeal Title II in 1967.

The first community wide Manzanar Pilgrimage in 1969 was a key part of the campaign to raise awareness of America’s

concentration camps and to stand in solidarity with those threatened with detention. A nationwide lobbying effort began and after days of public testimony by a wide range of former inmates of WRA concentration camps and leaders from other communities of color, legislation was introduced by Rep. Spark Matsunaga and Senator Daniel Inouye to repeal Title II in 1971. This successful legislative campaign is considered by many as a dry run for the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians and struggle for redress.

Today, just as in 1969, the Manzanar Pilgrimage continues to demand our country never fall prey to racist demagoguery, and allow our government to violate our basic democratic rights.



Our community is uniquely positioned to remind America that concentration camps and detention without due process pose an existential threat to our democracy. Furthermore, our story is a cautionary tale, one that demonstrates that racism and anti-immigrant ideology drive authoritarian movements. We remember so America never forgets.



The Treatment of Immigrants Hasn't Changed and They Are Undeterred

by *Louis Watanabe*

Although immigration involves many situations and categories of law, I got involved because I felt that immigrants were being unfairly treated much like my grandparents, parents, aunts, and uncles during WWII. In 2017, I began advocating for sanctuary city policies to local governments and law enforcement. Several months later, I went on an interfaith pilgrimage to Adelanto Detention Center run by the for-profit prison company, The GEO Group, which began in the mid-1990s. These immigrant prisons are typically located in relatively isolated areas like the high desert, which discourages family visits and invites abuse and inhumane conditions. The big issue then was the lack of investigations on reported rapes.

When our group of 75 arrived at Adelanto, we were told that we would not be allowed to visit. When we sent a small delegation of clerics to see if they might be allowed to visit, the prison management initiated a lockdown which also kicked out attorneys and family members who were already there. I believe that this act was ordered by higher authority at ICE (Immigration and Custom Enforcement in Homeland Security) to try making us an example.

The next day, I volunteered to visit people who were involved in a hunger strike, one being Salvadoran journalist Issac Lopez Castillo. Although my high school Spanish wasn't too good, Isaac said that I came when his spirit was low.

Because of death threats, Isaac undertook a journey from El Salvador that would take him through jungle and desert to the U.S. border near Tijuana. He requested asylum and was automatically put in detention where he eventually arrived at Adelanto.

The conditions in Adelanto were difficult. Issac recalled hotcakes so hard that they needed to hit the table to break it. He also remembered a meal of lentils with worms. Besides bad food, they almost never had enough water. They were forced to wear used underwear stained with urine, which led to infection and when they asked for medical attention, they were simply given a pain reliever like Tylenol. Getting appropriate medical care was a problem where guards sometimes ignored or dismissed pleas for help. Isaac remembered a Honduran immigrant who died in the prison yard because his pleas were

ignored. He said prisoners looked out for each other and felt helpless as the Honduran died. Issac himself refused to return to his cell and lay down on the floor until he got medical attention for abdominal pain. When he finally saw a doctor, he was told that he would have died in another 3 hours. People were fearful of a tall, fat guard who let immigrants know that he viewed them as invaders and that he would do what he pleased with them. That guard liked to carry a very large can of pepper spray. At some point Isaac and eight other prisoners decided to write a letter to prison management to declare their grievances and initiate a peaceful, hunger strike. They were given threats but refused to end their hunger strike. In response, they were assembled into a room by guards in front of a woman guard because the tall, fat guard was unavailable. At first they thought they would get better treatment until she proceeded to spray them in the face with pepper spray. As they screamed in pain, she also shot pepper spray into their mouths and their noses. She eventually emptied the can on them. Meanwhile, the guards hit them in the ribs. When they tried to lock arms, the guards tried to separate them by digging in behind their ears and beating them. One prisoner ended up with a broken nose and another lost a tooth. Another was dragged all around the room. Afterwards, they were forced to take hot showers to remove the pepper spray which made the pain five times worse. They were then placed in solitary confinement. They would ultimately repeat four other hunger strikes that were joined by other prisoners.

Isaac was eventually released but he still faced court hearings on his asylum application. Like many in his situation, the bail might be set high at \$35,000, an immense sum for someone in this position. Sometimes interfaith groups can help get the bail reduced. In addition to owing bail, they are also required to wear ankle monitors that cost \$420/mo. They are not allowed to work so others must provide money and sponsors may have to provide a place to stay as a condition of release. Getting court hearings can take months, even years!

I have faith that our country will eventually do the right thing through comprehensive immigration reform and recognize that climate change is a major factor in migration.

From That Blue Trickster Time

by Amy Uyematsu

Amy Uyematsu (1947–2023) was one of the founders of Asian American Studies, an acclaimed poet, and a math teacher. In her sixth and last volume of poetry, *That Blue Trickster Time* (What Books Press, 2022), Amy Uyematsu included a poem

titled “36 Views of Manzanar,” inspired by ukiyo-e artist Hiroshige’s “Thirty-six View of Mount Fuji.” The poem is divided into thirty-six numbered “views,” of which we reprint a few selected ones in her memory.

A few stanzas from the poem titled —

36 Views of Manzanar

by Amy Uyematsu

1

How can a name be
so lovely but cruel:
Manzanar, the Spanish word
for apple orchard

2

Manzanar, the first to open—
March of ’42, Roosevelt
even uses the term
concentration camp, soon
replacing it with
the “more acceptable”
WRA relocation centers

3

Camp equation:

540 acres + 8 guard towers + 36 blocks + 14 barracks
= 10,046 prisoners

4

Summer days over 110, winters below freezing
and that unending wind
drowning prisoners in dust and sand

7

Tar paper-covered barracks
with holes and slits
in the walls and doors—

Aunt Mare remembers
dirt piling up in the windows
and having to go outside
to shake sand out
from the bedding.

15

Within six months of opening, protests
and what authorities claim as a “riot,”
guards shooting into a crowd of 500.

James Ito from Los Angeles, only 17,
the first camp casualty—shot
through the abdomen and heart—his
mother dressed in the vest
James wears when he’s killed,
a vest with a hole in the back.

29

Just six miles north,
the town closest
to Manzanar
is named Independence.

30

24 years later
The first annual
Manzanar Pilgrimage—

nisei survivors
sansei activists
paying homage—

a tradition
carried on
since 1969.

Reprinted with permission.



2023 Pilgrimage to Crystal City WWII Family Internment Camp in Texas

by Hiroshi Shimizu and Karissa Tom

The 2023 Crystal City Pilgrimage took place from October 26-29, 2023, to commemorate 75 years since the closing of the Crystal City Family Internment Camp (CCFIC) in February 1948. This was the second Official Crystal City Pilgrimage, after four years of postponements due to COVID concerns; the first took place in 2019.

We are proud to introduce our Pilgrimage Co-Chairs, Karissa Tom and Hiroshi Shimizu. Karissa is a Gosei Japanese American whose grandfather Edison Uno was interned at Crystal City. Hiroshi Shimizu was born in the WRA Topaz concentration camp, his family was at the Tule Lake segregation concentration camp before their internment at Crystal City.

This year's theme was "Reaching Across Barbed Wire Fences." In addition to learning about the unique history and stories of survivors of the Crystal City Family Internment Camp, the pilgrimage looked at the legacy of solidarity and activism between the former internees and the present-day Crystal City community.

The highlights of the pilgrimage were 1) the renaming of a street in Crystal City in memory of two Japanese Peruvian girls who drowned in the camp's pool, and 2) the unveiling of the Swimming Pool Memorial Monument, created by award-winning art director and designer Kazumu "Kaz" Julio Cesar Naganuma. Mr. Naganuma's works include the San Francisco Japantown History Walk, the Alameda's Tonarigumi Historic Japantown markers, and the Enemy Alien Files traveling exhibit. Mr. Naganuma is a Japanese Peruvian who was kidnapped with his family from Callao, Peru and interned in the Crystal City Family Internment Camp.

The City of Crystal City renamed a street to Calle Aiko y Sachiko, in memory of two Japanese Peruvian girls, Aiko Oyakawa and Sachiko Tanabe. The dear friends tragically drowned in the Crystal City camp pool in 1944. They were both 10 years old.

The Swimming Pool Memorial Monument honors the 33 internees who passed away while interned in CCFIC, which was in operation from December 12, 1942 through February 27, 1948. Note that CCFIC closed nearly three years after the Empire of Japan's surrender on September 9, 1945, making Crystal City America's last WWII concentration camp.



Crystal City Pilgrimage Co-Chairs, Hiroshi Shimizu and Karissa Tom
Photo courtesy of Karissa Tom

We look forward to hosting future pilgrimages to Crystal City and working with the community towards the creation of a museum.

Please keep up with us on our website and Facebook page. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to email us: info@crystalcitypilgrimage.org

In Friendship and Solidarity,
Hiroshi Shimizu and Karissa Tom
Crystal City Pilgrimage Co-Chairs

Website: <https://www.crystalcitypilgrimage.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CrystalCityPilgrimage>

Tule Lake Update

by Barbara Takei

After decades of erasure and historical amnesia born of trauma, Japanese Americans are reclaiming the stories of resistance to the government's racist WWII incarceration and discovering Tule Lake was the epicenter of Japanese American grassroots dissent during WWII.

As the only WRA concentration camp converted to a maximum-security Segregation Center, Tule Lake was used to punish over 12,000 protesters who were deemed "disloyal" and targeted for deportation at war's end. The survivors of this shocking abuse of government power were further harmed by a dominant Japanese American narrative that promoted an image of white-aligned super-patriots, aka the "model minority." Dissidents found themselves shunned and treated as outcasts for most of their lifetimes.

For too long Tule Lake's true history was buried by racist stereotypes and wartime propaganda that stigmatized Tule Lake's survivors and descendants as "troublemakers" and "pro-Japan fanatics." Government propaganda defined complicity and collaboration as loyalty and demonized protest as disloyalty, a framing that the powerless, traumatized Japanese American community accepted and even internalized as true. Tragically, those who resisted state power and protested—acts that required courage and integrity—were silenced and their stories ignored.



This decade has seen growing understanding of Tule Lake's significance as the most brutal example of the WWII incarceration, where dissidents were punished for exercising their Constitutional rights. Consequently, it is deeply troubling that the historic site is under greater threat than ever, because a Federal agency made the inexplicably immoral decision to expand the footprint of the Tulelake airfield located on the concentration camp site.

(Continued on next page)



Japanese Peruvians posing with Calle Aiko y Sachiko sign
Photo courtesy of Hiroko Cray



Japanese Peruvians posing with Swimming Pool Memorial Monument
Photo courtesy of Hiroko Cray



CRYSTAL CITY PILGRIMAGE COMMITTEE

Left to right: Victor Uno, Bekki Shibayama, Rebecca Fong, Grace Morizawa, Hiroshi Shimizu, Arturo Gonzales, Karissa Tom, Gabriela Nakashima, Kazumu Naganuma, Josie Camacho
Not shown: Brandon Quan, Ruben Salazar

Photo courtesy of Hiroko Cray

Tule Lake Update continued



In February 2024 the FAA and Modoc County officials resurrected a 20-year old plan to desecrate the concentration camp site with a 3-mile long, 8 to 10 foot high fence that would permanently close off a place of trauma, memory and healing to Japanese Americans.

FAA and Modoc County suggest that putting up a sign and allowing occasional pre-scheduled group visits are adequate and appropriate measures that would redress the destructive harm of their proposed airfield fence. These so-called mitigation measures communicate an utter lack of sensitivity and a lack of respect to survivors and descendants of those incarcerated at Tule Lake. The FAA's and Modoc County's insistence on actions that vandalize rather than help to preserve an important part of American history are perverse, and will amplify the pain, trauma, anger and sadness our community endures.

The airfield on the Tule Lake concentration camp site is a ghastly, immoral use of a place of racial terrorism and trauma to generations of Japanese Americans. The Federal government must honor the promise of Redress, and help repair the harm of the incarceration by moving the airfield off of the concentration camp site.

We keep saying to the FAA and Modoc County, "Do not build a fence on the site of the Tule Lake concentration camp. An airfield can be moved but it is impossible to move a sacred historic site." If a fence must be built, conduct a feasibility study to identify a less historically important site for a new airfield and move the airfield to undo the harm of flawed decision making done when Jim Crow racism was law of the land.

An airfield in the middle of the Tule Lake concentration camp desecrates hallowed ground where 27,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated and where 331 men, women and children died.

Our plea to the FAA is "MOVE THE AIRFIELD!"

Wakasa Memorial Update

by Nancy Ukai

On April 11, 1943, James Hatsuaki Wakasa was walking his dog after dinner at the Topaz concentration camp in Utah. A watch tower guard shot him through the chest, killing him instantly.

Wakasa's grieving friends defied WRA orders not to build a memorial and erected a five-foot-tall boulder where he died. Their rock of resistance was ordered destroyed but they buried it instead. Nearly 80 years later, Manzanar NPS cultural resources program manager Jeff Burton and archaeologist Mary Farrell drove to Topaz bearing a hand-drawn map of Wakasa's death spot that had been found in the National Archives by the 50 Objects project. The archaeologists weren't expecting to find anything but they rediscovered the top of Wakasa's monument, the most significant archaeological artifact of all the Japanese American camps.

Nine months after the re-discovery, the Topaz Museum Board hired a heavy machine operator to dig out the sacred stone despite the advice of archeologists to not unearth it. A video recording of the removal exists, but the Board has refused to release it for viewing, despite a change.org petition signed by



Removal of Wakasa Monument, 7/27/21, Utah State Division of History.



more than 1,500 Japanese American community members and allies.

Manzanar's iconic Ireito, built during the years of incarceration, serves as a powerful visual symbol and gathering point for pilgrims to honor their ancestors. In contrast, Topaz's stone now sits on a pallet under a metal shed at the Topaz Museum in Delta, Utah. It claims the community artifact as its own.. But who owns history? Who tells our story?

Creating art can bring joy. Working with friends to build an object of memory holds the possibility of healing. In March, Wakasa Memorial Committee members worked in communion and collaboration with artist Yoshi Asai to create a symbolic illuminated paper "akari" (light). "It stands not only for Wakasa's death, but for all those who died in the camps," said Akemi Ina, who was born at Topaz the day after Wakasa's murder.

Topaz descendant Glenn Mitsui created a video to project on the lantern's façade, transforming the stone from being a symbol to becoming a storyteller.

Now the *akari* lantern narrates the story of Mr. Wakasa's lonely death. How will this evolving artwork continue to remember other military murders in the camps? That includes the 1942 Army homicides at Manzanar of James Ito, 17, and Katsuji James Kanegawa, age 22. Topaz survivors and descendants, in creating a light sculpture, are fighting against the burial of history and the erasure of community voices. Their lantern—our justice lamp—brings light to darkness.

wakasamemorial.org

Sign the petition on our website by scanning the QR code below:

<https://tinyurl.com/385phy9f>



Camp descendants build a Wakasa memorial lantern, Berkeley, CA, March 21, 2024.



Night view.



Two stills from Glenn Mitsui's video projected on the Wakasa sculpture.

Snow Country Prison Memorial in Bismarck, North Dakota Brings Native American and Japanese American Communities Together

by Brian Niiya

Work is ongoing on the Snow Country Prison Japanese American Internment Memorial on the campus of United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) in Bismarck, North Dakota. When completed, the memorial will bring much deserved attention to a unique World War II confinement site and a fascinating collaboration between Native American and Japanese American communities.

The Bismarck detention camp was built on the site of Fort Lincoln, a former military post. Run by the Immigration and Naturalization Service as one of dozens used to hold Japanese Americans during World War II, it held two separate sets of Nikkei detainees. In 1942, Bismarck was one of the three main longer-term detention facilities that held Issei community leaders arrested in West Coast states after the attack on Pearl Harbor, with over 1,100 internees arriving there in February 1942. After their hearings, these men were either paroled—in most cases to War Relocation Authority concentration camp—or transferred to other army or Justice Department-run internment camps, with nearly all having been transferred by the fall. According to WRA records, about one hundred of these men were transferred to Manzanar, including many from Terminal Island.

Beginning in early 1945, a second group of Nikkei prisoners were sent there, a group of around 750 dissidents from Tule Lake, about 650 of whom arrived in February, with another 100 arriving in July. Most were young Nisei and Kibei protesting their unconstitutional incarceration who had renounced their US citizenship under duress. Most of these men remained imprisoned at Bismarck through 1945, with most eventually deported to Japan and others transferred to the Santa Fe, New Mexico, or Crystal City, Texas, detention facilities.

In addition to the Japanese American prisoners, Bismarck also held enemy aliens of German descent as well as captured German seamen and POWs. In total, about 3,850 prisoners were held there during World War II. The camp closed on March 6, 1946.

After serving various functions in the postwar years, the former Fort Lincoln site intersected with the advent of the Tribal College Movement in the 1960s, whose efforts focused on building systems of Native leadership and governance over



Indoor image: Internees at Ft. Lincoln, 1945. Junichi Yamamoto (seated at far right) was part of the group of renunciants who came to Fort Lincoln from Tule Lake in January 1945.

Credit: Junichi Yamamoto photo collection/United Tribes Technical College Library-Archive

educational institutions serving Native people and students, addressing reservation economic development through job training, and also passing down Native cultures and skills. In this context, a coalition of North Dakota tribes obtained the Fort Lincoln site to establish the country's second tribal college, dedicated in 1969. The college, which has an enrollment of around five hundred students and offers two and four year degrees, continues to be governed by the five North Dakota tribes: Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, Spirit Lake Nation, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Three Affiliated Tribes (Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation) of the Fort Berthold Reservation, and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. The student body is 95% Native American or Alaska Native, 75% low income, and 65% first generation college students.

The connection between the college and Japanese Americans was first established under the administration of legendary UTTC President David M. Gipp, who helmed the college from 1977 to 2014. While there was general knowledge in the Bismarck community about German internees at Fort Lincoln due to the fact that several settled in Bismarck after the war, there was little knowledge of the Japanese American internees, recalled Dennis Neumann, a longtime staff person at UTTC. Growing up in Bismarck, Neumann recalled his barber, a

well-known figure in the local community, as being one of the German internees. According to Neumann, Japanese American former internees or their descendants began to visit the campus in the early 1980s, and Gipp would end up showing them around. Hearing the stories of the internee families, Gipp soon recognized, as he recalled in a 2003 speech, “the parallels that we have between internment and things like the American Indian boarding schools and the relocation of many of our people that took place.”

The first public acknowledgement of the Japanese American internment connection came with the 2003 exhibition *Snow Country Prison: Interned in North Dakota*, organized by the North Dakota Museum of Art and UTTC. It was also driven by the connection between Gipp, curator and museum director Laurel Reuter, and Satsuki Ina, who had chanced upon the site in 2000 and met Gipp while doing research for a film about her father’s internment at Fort Lincoln. The opening of the exhibition brought many internees and their families back to the site for the first time.



Outdoor image: Long shot of Ft. Lincoln during the internment camp period. Many of these buildings are still standing and in use today.

Credit: Ursula Potter photo collection/United Tribes Technical College Library-Archive

In the aftermath of the exhibition, Gipp recognized the need for “a place to welcome and orient visitors” to the internment camp site, recalled Neumann, who was the college’s public information director at that time. The college considered various possibilities for an interpretive/education center over the next decade or so, aided by a pair of grants from the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program. But momentum for such a project waned with Gipp’s retirement.

The celebration of the college’s 50th anniversary in 2019 rekindled interest in such a project, led by Neumann and College Relations Director Brent Kleinjan with the full support of current College President Leander R. McDonald. UTTC received a 2020 JACS grant for the planning and design of an outdoor site to commemorate the internment camp that has led to plans for a memorial courtyard and wall that will contain the

names of all of the Japanese American internees held at the site.

A Japanese American advisory group for the project includes detention camp descendants Satsuki Ina, David Koda, and Barbara Takei, as well as USC Professor Duncan Ryuken Williams and Densho Content Director Brian Niiya. The group is working with MASS Design Group, a renowned non-profit architectural firm, in a team led by Joseph Kunkel, a Northern Cheyenne Nation member who directs MASS’s Sustainable Native Communities Design Lab and is based in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Jeffrey Mansfield, a Japanese American who leads MASS’s Deaf Space and Disability Justice Lab.

Beyond the confluence of Native American and Japanese American history, the Fort Lincoln site is a special one because it is one of only a handful of such sites where the buildings used to imprison Japanese Americans are still intact and in use. The courtyard where the memorial will be sited sits outside one of the brick barrack buildings where internees were imprisoned. It has been recently remodeled by the college, and includes classrooms, meeting rooms, and the college archive. The only other sites I can think of that have detention buildings intact and in use in their original location—Kilauea Military Camp on the island of Hawai‘i and the Grove Park and Assembly Inns in North Carolina, along with some prisons and jails used to briefly detain Issei community leaders—held far fewer Japanese American prisoners.

Fundraising is continuing for the memorial. To learn more about the memorial and to contribute to its completion, please visit the UTTC website at <https://tinyurl.com/znc7budu> or scan QR code.



Rendering of the Snow Country Prison Japanese American Internment Memorial by the MASS Design Group showing the drum circle and memorial wall.

Getting to Know My Grandfather Ryozo Fuso Kado

by *Louis Watanabe*

As I get older, my understanding of my maternal grandfather Ryozo Fuso Kado continues to grow. Last year I was surprised to learn that he had served on the Manzanar Committee. Maybe that's because what we mostly shared was deep sea fishing. Growing up, Jichan would come to pick me up early in the morning and then we would take the half day or full day party boat out of Paradise Cove, Malibu or Oxnard. His face would light up when we caught fish but the thing I most remembered was his hearty laugh. He liked working with his hands outdoors. I liked math and science and mostly read indoors.

Jichan is most known for the cemetery monument (Ireito) and the two stone sentry posts at the historic entrance to Manzanar, captured in Ansel Adams photographs. My favorite story is about the building of the Ireito. When you start working with cement, you must continue working with it until you are done. The day turned into night and Uncle Louis said: "We ran out of daylight hours, so I held a lamp so my father could finish the cement work. People saw the light moving around the cemetery and thought it was a ghost."

On July 26, 2019, I came to Manzanar with an NHK camera crew and was given a tour of archeological work being supervised by National Park Service Ranger Jeff Burton. What I got to see was Jichan's personal pond that had been by the barracks. I almost had tears looking at the naturalistic cement logs that are signatures of his design style. In 6 years of archeological work, Jichan's hand was also found on the mess hall gardens and the hospital gardens.

I sent Mr. Burton photos of our pond in the backyard of our family home in Santa Monica for comparisons. I remember when Jichan was making our pond and waterfall in the early 1970s. He'd form the cement so that they looked like logs ringing the pond. He'd take a stick to draw tree rings and lines. Then he took powdered mineral and mixed it with water



The Kado Family in New York in 1945:
My grandmother Hama and my grandfather Ryozo, my mother Ida and my uncle Louis, who joined the 100th Infantry.

and paint the cement whatever colors he chose. Initially, it looked quite garish but then as it weathered, the colors looked quite natural. Another design feature was arranging the rocks so that the cement seams wouldn't show.

Even though he was in his early 50s, Jichan kept busy until he, my grandmother Hama, my mother Ida and Uncle Louis left in 1943 to live with the Maryknoll Sisters in Ossining, NY. It would be the beginning of a long friendship and it turned out that Manzanar was only the beginning of a productive career focused by his Catholic faith. In 1945, Jichan built a Lourdes shrine at Maryknoll that according to the *NY Times* was his 39th shrine and 600 people attended the unveiling.

In 1946, Jichan returned to Los Angeles and began to work for the Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles. His biggest and most ambitious work was Holy Cross Cemetery in Culver City. It was featured in the August 5, 1961 issue of the *Saturday Evening Post* "Wizard with Rocks: How an architect of nature uses pebbles and boulders to transform bare ground into magic gardens." I remember playing by one of the ponds when he would take me as a child. Today, when I survey the cemetery, I can see his hand on everything! It seems fitting that he was buried there with Bachan along with the likes of Walter O'Malley, Sharon Tate, John Fante, Bing Crosby, Bela Lugosi and Rita Hayworth!

Among his other works in Los Angeles are: the Lourdes grotto at St. John Seminary in Camarillo, Lourdes of the West at St. Elizabeth in Altadena, the Lourdes grotto at Maryknoll in Monrovia, the Fatima grotto at Loyola Marymount University, a grotto at Immaculate Conception church and a grotto by the rectory at St. Gerard Majella in Los Angeles. When he retired at the age of 88, he was Superintendent of the Grounds for the Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

Sue Kunitomi Embrey Student Awards Program

The Sue Kunitomi Student Awards Program is an annual creative works program in which K-12 students demonstrate their understanding of social justice issues. Below are two of our elementary grade 1st place winners. All winners can be found at the Manzanar Committee website <https://manzanarcommittee.org/> For more information, contact ske-awards@manzanarcommittee.org

True Freedom

By Pascal Babcock

First Place — 3rd grade

True freedom is to be able to live without fear of anything everyday. It is to be able to play without fear, to be able to sleep without fear, not thinking about scary things happening outside, to be able to eat yummy food without worrying everyday, to be able to go anywhere without fear and to have a proper home to live in.

All of these cannot be obtained without peace. Peace can only be obtained by respecting each other, to be kind to each other, and showing love to each other.

There is no peace from brutality, greed, arrogance, violence, and racism. In these there is no freedom.

I wish there are no wars, and I wish for a world where children and adults can live freely without fear, for everyone likes freedom. I believe that freedom is important.

There is a bully in my class and bullies take away peace and freedom from me and others. I hate bullies but I do not like to be mean back. So to solve the problem peacefully I went to the school counselor and tried to ignore them. The problem is not solved yet but I will not be mean to the person, because it will never help me to be a good person. Bullying back will only make the situation like war. I do not like war. I think if people learn how to solve problems peacefully the world would be a free place.

The Manzanar Pilgrimage: Cutting the Barbed Wire of Injustice

By Alekha Goldberg

First Place — 5th grade





Importance of The Katari Program

by Seia Watanabe and Lauren Matsumoto

Katari is a program run by the Manzanar Committee in partnership with the National Park Service (NPS), with the mission of keeping Japanese American incarceration stories alive by equipping college students with the knowledge to teach others about what happened at Manzanar regardless of their background. Since 2018, college students from Southern California Nikkei Student Unions have made the trek to Manzanar for a two day-intensive, place-based learning program, in which participants not only learn but experience history where it took place. The participants interact with a variety of speakers such as the Paiute and Shoshone people who are indigenous to the land, NPS rangers who work onsite, and former incarcerated and their families.

As the Asian American community rises to dismantle the model minority myth it is important to learn about the

historical event that was used to shape it. Katari provides students with the opportunity to learn about the history of Manzanar and the space to connect the dots between past wrongs and ongoing injustices. This includes providing them with the tools and language they will take back with them to apply to the programs they are involved with including but not limited to Manzanar at Dusk. We hope you join our Katari students in the evening to reflect on your time here at the pilgrimage and to share your story.

As former student participants and now organizers of this program, we would also like to share our personal experiences. We continue to participate in this program because this opportunity has left a lasting impression on us and we want to be able to continue to provide this opportunity to other students.

"Katari fundamentally changed my understanding of civil rights in the United States and helped me to contextualize my identity as a Japanese-American. The holistic way that the program approaches learning also helped me to connect the dots between the struggles of the Japanese American community with other communities in this country. As a Shin-Nikkei, the Katari program was vital to furthering my knowledge about what happened during WWII to Japanese Americans and gave me the tools to approach community work with intention. As a former participant, having the opportunity to help organize Katari for the past three years has been an incredible honor."

Seia Watanabe

"From a young age, I was taught about Japanese American history through family and personal research, however I wished to have learned about my history in the classroom and alongside the community. It was through Katari I was given this opportunity to learn about Manzanar through the lens of our community which created an emotional experience for me. I am honored to have been part of the inaugural program for Katari and I am so appreciative to continue to be a part of this amazing program as an organizer. I hope Katari continues to inspire our next generation like it did for me. Through Katari, it has further solidified my passion to continue to tell our story, an American story."

Lauren Matsumoto



~ Banner Carriers 2024 ~

AMACHE, COLORADO — Melany Lucia

I proudly carry this banner in memory of many Japanese Americans. I feel the pain and the pride of my ancestors. We stand tall and proud. I am Japanese American.

CRYSTAL CITY, TEXAS — Brian Niya

I carry this banner in memory of my mother and her family, and all of the other families detained at Crystal City, the INS's World War II "family internment camp," and in recognition of families interned in similar camps today.

GILA RIVER, ARIZONA — Carrie Morita

The Gila River War Relocation Center opened July 20, 1942 on Native American land and held 13,348 people. I carry this banner to honor my family and all who suffered through this terrible time.

HEART MOUNTAIN, WYOMING — David Fujioka

I carry the banner to honor my Uncle Ted Fujioka. He paid the ultimate sacrifice so that his family and future generations could live in a "better America."

JEROME, ARKANSAS — Jan Tokumaru

Jerome Arkansas was the smallest and last to open of the ten WWII U.S. concentration camps. More than 8,000 Japanese Americans from California and Hawai'i were placed in overcrowded housing in Denson, in the Mississippi River delta region, 120 miles Southeast of Little Rock in heavily wooded swampland, 27 miles South of Rohwer. My grandmother was incarcerated in Jerome with five of her six children after my grandfather had just passed away. My eldest uncle was in the 442nd. I carry this Jerome banner in honor of my Sakamoto grandmother.

MANZANAR, CALIFORNIA — Pat Sakamoto

I carry this banner to honor my mother Koo Sakamoto who gave birth to me in Camp and raised me and my sister as a single mom.

MINIDOKA, IDAHO — Linden Takuma Nishinaga

Born there in 1944, I, Linden Takuma Nishinaga, proudly carry the banner for Camp Minidoka, Idaho—now called the Minidoka National Historic Site. I do this to honor the 13,000 people unjustly incarcerated there, most for whom were from the U.S. Pacific Northwest. They included my late father, the Buddhist Reverend Gikan Nishinaga; my late mother, Masa Nishinaga; my late brother, Ronald; the late Hiroshi and Katsumi Fujita; and so many other Japanese Americans. Their legacies of faith, love, compassion, struggle, and perseverance—ala *Gassho* and *Irei*—shall live forever!

POSTON, ARIZONA — Michael Okamura

A tribute to Masako (Watanabe) Okamura 34020J incarcerated at Poston 1 at 43-8A. Nine months you've been gone from your loving family. I am present in tribute to you, your father, mother and two sisters (the Yaoji Watanabe family) and everyone imprisoned at Poston 1, Poston 2, Poston 3. Years later you married Paul Okamura (Manzanar 23-13-5) and raised three sons. I am here to honor the Watanabe, Okamura and my Matsumoto great grandparents (Manzanar 12-2-4 and 5).

ROHWER, ARKANSAS — Justin Fujii

The Rohwer War Relocation Center was in operation from Sept. 18, 1942–Nov. 30, 1944 and held up to 8,475 incarcerated. I am representing this camp as well as all the others who unjustly held people of Japanese ancestry during WW II.

TOPAZ, UTAH — June Hibino

The Topaz "Relocation Center" was opened Sept 11, 1942 with a peak population 8,130, most of whom came from the Bay Area. It was the fifth largest city in Utah. Temperatures ranged from 100 degrees in the summer to below zero in the winter. My father's family from Berkeley—which included his brother, parents and grandparents—were incarcerated at Topaz.

TULE LAKE, CALIFORNIA — Jason Fujii

My Grandmother was at Tule Lake and two of her siblings renounced their citizenship. The reason why I want to be a banner carrier is the same reason I joined the Manzanar Committee. I want to represent my family along with all of the people that were incarcerated at the camps. I want to be able to carry on the history and their stories so that the future generations can learn and remember what happened to the Japanese Americans during World War II.

TUNA CANYON, CALIFORNIA — Kay Oda

We thank the Manzanar Committee for the opportunity to represent one of the 75 sites of incarceration closest to Los Angeles.. We educate widely with our traveling exhibit, and website's Legacy Project interviews that are funded by the NPS Japanese American Confinement Sites grants. Tuna Canyon is a story about the Japanese, German, and Italian aliens arrested and held just hours after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

442 RCT, 100th BN, MIS — Keith Kawamoto

I am honored to be asked to represent the 442nd RCT. Although originally denied the right to serve because they were considered "enemy aliens" they distinguished themselves by becoming the most decorated unit in the history of the United States military, for their size & length of service. They fought, died & killed while their families languished in concentration camps, incarcerated by their own country!

2024 Obits/Tributes

Since our last pilgrimage, we have lost three people who have played key roles in the community who have a connection to Manzanar and the Manzanar Committee/Pilgrimage:

Alan Nishio (1945–2023)

Born in Manzanar on August 9, 1945—the day of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki—Alan Nishio devoted his life to insuring that the lessons of Manzanar would not be forgotten. Nishio grew up in the Venice/Mar Vista area and attended UC Berkeley, getting caught up in the Free Speech Movement and the social movements of the time. After securing his B.A. from Berkeley and an M.A. from USC in public administration in 1968, he became one of the founders and early staff members of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. After a stint with the JACL, he moved to Cal State Long Beach in 1972, where he remained for the rest of his career, retiring as associate vice president of student services in 2006.



A key figure in the Redress Movement, Nishio was one of the founders of the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations in 1980 and its co-chair, leading the organization that challenged the more mainstream approach of the JACL and that fought to secure redress for as many people as possible after the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. He also spoke frequently at Days of Remembrances and was a regular at Manzanar Pilgrimages.

He was also active in Little Tokyo as a member of the Little Tokyo People's Right Organization in the 1970s and was one of the founders of the Little Tokyo Service Center, serving as its board president for over a decade. Among his many honors are the Manzanar Committee's Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award in 2017 and the JACL President's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2023. He was also a beloved friend and mentor to many.

Diagnosed with a rare form of cancer in his 60s, he battled the disease for some seventeen years, remaining active throughout. "The Manzanar Pilgrimage provides us with an opportunity to reflect and consider what can happen when we remain silent when the rights of others are taken away," he said in his keynote address at the 2020 Manzanar Pilgrimage. "In this environment, the lessons of Manzanar are more important than ever. We need

to reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that others are not scapegoated and treated like Japanese-Americans were during World War II. From our experience, we know better. We must commit ourselves to not remain silent in the face of injustice."

Wilbur Sato (1929–2023)

Wilbur Sato was an early Nisei activist, labor leader, and lawyer who was active with the Manzanar Committee and a regular at pilgrimages.



Born on April 26, 1929 to an Issei father and Nisei mother and raised largely on Terminal Island, Wilbur Sato was just shy of thirteen when he and his family were forcibly removed to Manzanar in early April 1942. Like other teenagers, he attended school and went to movies and dances. With his parents, he left Manzanar for Des Moines, Iowa, in July of 1944, living in the Friends Hostel that was funded by the American Friends Service Committee, and going to 10th grade. The family returned to Los Angeles a year later, and he graduated from Dorsey High School.

He attended UCLA starting in the fall of 1947 and became politically active, both on campus, with the Nisei Bruin Club and California Intercollegiate Nisei Organization, and off, with Nisei for Wallace/Nisei Progressives. Upon graduating in 1951, wanted "to go into the working class" and got a job as welder, eventually becoming a union organizer and shop steward, which led to his being fired. He subsequently decided to go to law school and graduated from the University of Denver Law School in 1959. He subsequently practiced law back in Los Angeles until his retirement in 1982.

He remained active in the community, holding leadership positions with the Japanese American Citizens League and Los Angeles Southwest Japanese Credit Union, and politically, including serving on the California Democratic Council and later, as part of the Manzanar Committee and National Coalition for Redress/Reparations and was a regular at Manzanar Pilgrimages. He was honored in 2009 as a fifty-year member of the Gardena Valley Democratic Club and by the Manzanar Committee as recipient of the 2018 Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award.

In Memory of Fred Bradford

Fred Bradford (1944–2023)

Fred Bradford, a treasured member of the Manzanar Committee, passed away November 15, 2023. Fred worked closely with Tak Yamamoto, longtime leader of the Manzanar Committee, and began volunteering at the Pilgrimage in 1982. Fred was also an activist in the LGBTQ community and was a fierce advocate for civil rights for all people. Fred supported reparations for Black Americans, land rights for indigenous people and in defense of all immigrants and refugees. Fred is survived by his siblings, nieces and nephews, and his long time partner An.



Fred was one of the kindest, caring and positive person I've ever known. I met Fred in the 1980s when we both were members of Asian Pacific Lesbians and Gays. Fred and I carpooled to the Manzanar Pilgrimage for many years. After the pilgrimage Fred would drive all over California and NV to donate old computers he had refurbished. He donated computers to schools in Lancaster and to schools on Native American reservations.

Fred would always arrive at least a day before the pilgrimage so he could help set up. He helped Sue (Kunitomi Embrey) and Tak (Yamamoto) set up chairs, fold programs and help sell t-shirts, books and note cards. He loved everyone and was excited when MAD began.

— Jonathan Lee

Fred was enamored with service. His work carried over to his volunteering at Langley Senior Center, at the ONE archives at USC and as long time treasurer of the Manzanar committee. Fred was known for having served the community at large. He was beloved by many and shared his interests in architecture, gay and lesbian culture, space exploration, wildlife and of course computers.

— David Vuong



Getting Emotional: Manzanar At Dusk 2009

Recollections by Fred Bradford

<https://tinyurl.com/3at9wzhv>





Manzanar Site Updates

by *Manzanar Rangers*

The National Park Service (NPS) congratulates the Manzanar Committee on the 55th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage!

Manzanar National Historic Site was established by Congress on March 3, 1992, after decades of grassroots efforts led by Sue Kunitomi Embrey and the Manzanar Committee. The NPS preserves 814 of the original 5,415 acres that comprised the historic Manzanar War Relocation Center. Today's site boundaries include the footprint where 36 blocks were hastily constructed within one-square mile of barbed wire. Also within the barbed wire fence was the Children's Village orphanage and hospital site, as well as the administrative area where War Relocation Authority (WRA) staff lived and worked. Outside the fence but, preserved by the NPS today, are the cemetery to the west, a military police compound and chicken ranch to the south. Three original buildings and many landscape features remain, including the iconic cemetery obelisk, historic orchards, and several Japanese gardens and ponds that have been carefully excavated. Other artifacts either still buried or long gone come to life through historic photos, artwork, archives, and hundreds of oral history interviews.

Here are a few updates from the past year:

Administration

This past year will be remembered as a transition year for Manzanar National Historic Site. Superintendent Brenda Ling accepted a new position with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management in November. Lead Interpreter Alisa Lynch retired in October after 22 years at the park. This was followed soon after by the retirement of Park Ranger Patricia Biggs, and Rose Masters moving to the County of Santa Fe, New Mexico as a park ranger.

At the same time, the park has welcomed many new and familiar faces. Maintenance employee Gil Larimore moved into a permanent position at the end of July. In August we welcomed Naomi Thompson as our new administrative assistant, who had worked in ESIA's Manzanar Bookstore since 2022. Jon Harris, who was on a temporary assignment back in 2022, joined our staff as the permanent facility manager in December. And most recently, Emily Teraoka transferred from Minidoka National Historic Site as our newest park ranger. In addition, we have had an incredible amount of support from short term assignments—Sierra Wiloughby from Mojave National Preserve, Jackson Lam from Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Dave Hursey, from Mojave National Preserve, and David Huntley from Oregon Caves National Monument have helped fill the gaps on the interpretation

While Manzanar is most known for its World War II history, layers of the past echo larger themes of American history including unjust displacement of Native peoples, settlement by ranchers and farmers, and water wars. Highlighting these connections is an art exhibit in the visitor center titled *Portraits of the People of Payahuunadü*. Sixteen larger-than-life portraits honor Indigenous people—ranging in age from mid-20s to mid-90s—whose ties to this valley stretch back to time immemorial.

team. Nichole Andler from Death Valley National Park, our own Issac Vaughan, and most recently Gavin Gardner from Salem Maritime and Saugus Iron Works National Historic Sites have filled in as our acting superintendents.


Cultural Resources

The Cultural Resources team spent the past year working with service groups and over 150 volunteers on the restoration of Merritt Park, the major league baseball field, the Wilder apple orchard, and the cemetery. In August Tropical Storm Hilary delivered a flood of unexpected work but participants in Manzanar's award-winning Community Archeology Program were able to come to the rescue.

At Merritt Park an irrigation system was installed, vegetation was planted, and the ponds were lined with clay. The laborious installation of grass sod and over 100 rose bushes has transformed the park from a bare archeological site to the oasis it was during the WWII incarceration. Next to the paved tour road adjacent to Merritt Park, 50 heirloom apple trees were planted in the Wilder orchard. At the baseball field, archeological work located the posts from the backstop to allow an accurate reconstruction in the future. Artifacts recovered at the baseball field included small toys, perhaps showing how children too young to follow the game amused themselves. At the cemetery, an irrigation system was installed, and trees were planted where they had been in the 1940s. Replica boundary signs with their menacing warnings to the incarcerated were posted in several visible locations.

In August, during the heavy rains of Tropical Storm Hilary, a LADWP gaging station on Shepherd Creek clogged with debris. The backup eventually sent the entire creek into and through Manzanar for two days, causing massive erosion. Several flood control berms were destroyed, some archeological sites were washed away, others were buried, and many major interpretative features were damaged. At the Wilder Orchard, flooding washed away some of the newly planted trees and eroded an arroyo through the orchard up to 3 feet deep. At the baseball field, flooding caused both erosion and sediment deposition, and spurred the growth of weeds. The Block 34 mess hall garden, the Block 33 Ari Pond, and Merritt Park were heavily damaged and buried.

Staff and volunteers worked throughout the fall and winter to repair the damage. Flood deposits were removed from



Merritt Park, the Block 34 mess hall garden, and the Arai Pond. Mountains of Russian Thistle, aka tumbleweed, were cleared from Children’s Village, the baseball field, and the hospital. Orchards, irrigation lines, and roads were repaired. Much work remains to be done, and flood repairs and weed abatement continues.

Facility Management

New Facility Manager Jon Harris has arrived and is looking into future potential projects, is excited to be at Manzanar, and is eager to create future projects.

Facilities staff maintain Manzanar’s modern infrastructure, including water, sewer, roads, buildings, and electrical systems; ensuring a safe visit for all. In addition to ongoing maintenance, this past year they installed a series of new wayside exhibits located at the mess hall and in front of the visitor center.

One of their next big projects is to lower the relocated WRA staff apartment building on to its permanent pier block foundation. They also plan to restore the exterior of the building to its World War II appearance. A grant from the Fund for People in the Parks will restore Manzanar’s “professional” baseball field, located north of the visitor center along the auto tour road. Many of our staff, including Jeff, Sarah, and Jon have been working with Dan Kwong on the baseball field project.

Interpretation & Visitor Services

The Interpretation & Visitor Services (I&VS) Team continues their work on projects that enhance the visitor experience in-person and virtually.

With the departure of most of the I&VS staff, visitor hours were adjusted to reflect staffing levels. Our hope is to continue providing high quality service that’s sustainable for the staff.

Emily Teraoka joins Sarah Bone on the I&VS team. Emily comes with a lot of experience as a park ranger at Minidoka National Historic Site. More staff are arriving soon, including the permanent supervisor for I&VS.

In 2023, I&VS rangers were able to conduct 20 more interviews to add to the more than 700 narrated since 1999. A complete list of interviews is available on the NPS Manzanar website.

The team began re-envisioning an update to the Manzanar Junior Ranger booklet in collaboration with illustrations by professional artist Harvey Shirai. As a child, Harvey was incarcerated in Manzanar at the Children’s Village, and because he is half Native Alaskan, he was later sent to an Indian Boarding School. His contributions are held in utmost gratitude.

There is a funded project to update the visitor center theaters, as some parts of the AV systems have not changed since the visitor center opened in 2004.

In addition to exhibits and updates, the interpretation team

conducts on-site programs, presents virtual programs, and continues to respond to scores of research requests. They also held several events in partnership with valued Japanese American community members. In January 2024, rangers and the Manzanar Committee hosted a weekend Katari site visit for the college students who host the Manzanar at Dusk portion of the pilgrimage.

Partnerships

Manzanar NHS thanks the following philanthropic partners for their continued support:

- Since October 2018, the *Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association* has managed and staffed the non-profit Manzanar bookstore, keeping shelves stocked with educational materials and commemorative gifts. ESIA also played a major role in returning the WRA staff building to the site.
- The *Fund for People in Parks* is actively supporting Manzanar through a grant to fund the restoration of the beloved baseball field.
- *Friends of Manzanar* donated \$15,150 toward baseball field restoration project.

Manzanar on Social Media

- Website: www.nps.gov/manz
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/ManzanarNationalHistoricSite
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/manzanarnps
- YouTube: ManzanarNPS – YouTube

Other NPS Japanese American Confinement Sites:

- Amache National Historic Site, Colorado:
www.nps.gov/amch
- Honouliuli National Historic Site, Hawaii:
www.nps.gov/hono
- Minidoka National Historic Site, Idaho:
www.nps.gov/miin
- Tule Lake National Monument, California:
www.nps.gov/tule

Manzanar by the Numbers

Annual Visitation:	116,843 visitors in 2023
Budget:	\$1.5 million FY24
Size:	814 acres
Staffing:	15 staff
Volunteers:	281 people donated over 5300 hours in FY23

Manzanar Committee Endorses CA Task Force

Following the murder of George Floyd on May 25, 2020 triggering the largest protests in U.S. history calling for a racial reckoning, the California Legislature passed AB 3121 creating the Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans, with a Special Consideration for African Americans Who are Descendants of Persons Enslaved in the United States.

The Manzanar Committee endorses the work of the CA Task Force.



Manzanar Committee

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March 25, 2023

To Whom it May Concern,

The Manzanar Committee, one of the oldest Japanese American community organizations founded by and led by survivors of America's concentration camps, enthusiastically supports the mission and work of the California Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans as well as the broad outlines of the "Interim Report."

In our 54 year history, the Manzanar Committee has sought to educate our nation about the injustices of Executive Order 9066 and the forced removal of our families. We have organized the annual Pilgrimage to the former site of the War Relocation Authority Manzanar Relocation Center, where the Manzanar National Historic Site now sits, since 1969.

The forced removal of our families was demanded by and carried out by all branches of and all levels of our government and the sole and appropriate remedy was for our government to redress the wrongs committed against our community. Redressing the wrongs inflicted on our community was only possible with a full reckoning of the social, psychological and economic impacts EO 9066 and with reparations i.e. monetary compensation.

It is our belief that the Task Force and its mission is necessary to begin the process of redressing slavery and its lingering effects that have been central to the founding of our Republic. The role of our government at the Federal, state and local levels in maintaining and perpetuating systemic racism should be fully recognized. In the wake of the current attacks on African American Studies (Florida) that diminishes the African American experience, we see the Task Force and its work as urgent and necessary to redress and repair state-sanctioned racialized harm.

In particular, we agree that the report's assessment that the "system of white supremacy is a persistent badge of slavery that continues to be embedded today in numerous American and California legal, economic, and social and political systems. Throughout American history and across the entire country, laws and policies, violence and terror have upheld white supremacy." And like the report argues, we see that "government actions and derelictions of duty have caused compounding physical and psychological injury for generations."

This is precisely why the Manzanar Committee wholeheartedly supports the Task Force and the broad outlines of the Interim Report.

Acknowledgments

Manzanar Committee

Bruce Embrey, <i>Co-chair</i>	Gann Matsuda
Jenny Chomori, <i>Co-chair</i>	Colleen Miyano
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Special Thanks to:

David Fujioka, *Program Design*

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Jesse Valdez,
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Gina Bollini, *Gardener*
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Emily Teraoka, *Park Ranger*
Sarah Bone, *Park Guide*

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Facility Manager
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Tel. 760-878-2194

Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association

Jeff Gabriel,
Executive Director
Karen Riggs,
Bookstore Manager
Leah Kirk, *Sales Associate*

The Manzanar Committee, which has sponsored the Pilgrimage for 55 years, is an all-volunteer organization, incorporated under the laws of the State of California as a 501(c)3 non-profit educational organization. Your generous gift will help us continue to work toward public education awareness.

If you'd like to help continue the legacy, please visit our website at: www.manzanarcommittee.org and donate to the Manzanar Committee.

Thank you.

THE MANZANAR COMMITTEE

MISSION STATEMENT: *The Manzanar Committee is dedicated to educating and raising public awareness about the incarceration and violation of civil rights of persons of Japanese ancestry during WWII, and to the continuing struggle of all peoples when Constitutional rights are in danger.*

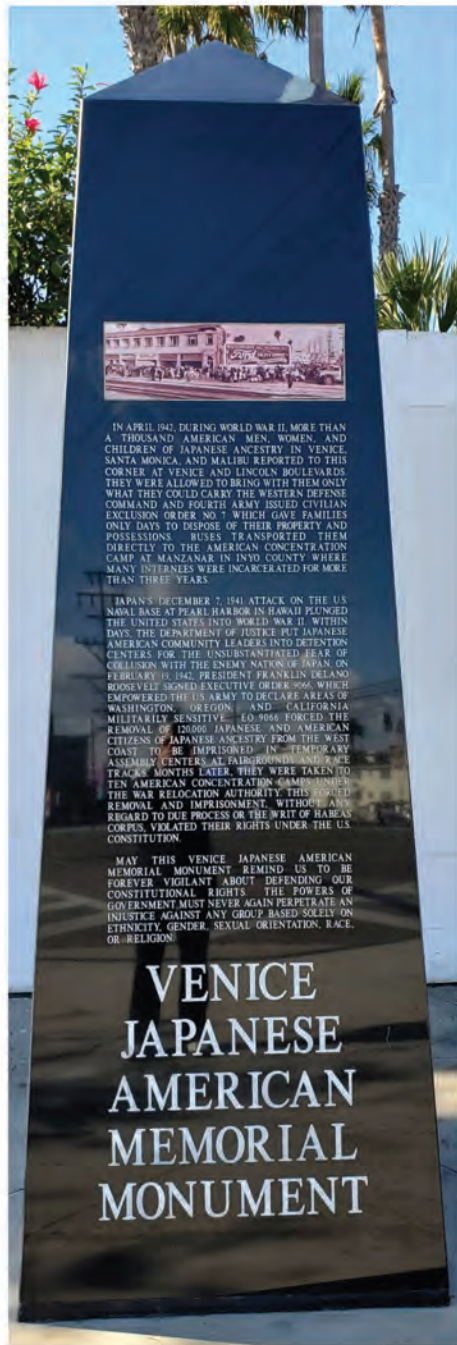
The Manzanar Committee, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, can be reached at:

Tel: (323) 662-5102 • **Web site:** www.manzanarcommittee.org • **Blog:** blog.manzanarcommittee.org • **Instagram:** @manzanarcommittee

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ManzanarCommittee • **YouTube:** www.youtube.com/manzanarcommittee



The Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument Congratulates the Manzanar Committee on its 55TH ANNUAL MANZANAR PILGRIMAGE



The VJAMM Committee is pleased to donate \$1000 to the Manzanar Baseball Project in honor and memory of VJAMM Charter member Yosh Tomita



For info about the 2025 Arnold Maeda Manzanar Pilgrimage Grant, visit www.venicejamm.org

Thank you to our generous donors.

Pillar of Democracy

In memory of Fred Bradford
Misako Fujisaki Trust
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Ann Kaneko
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Alan Nishio
Joyce Okazaki
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An Tieu

In Memory of Fred Bradford



Archdiocese of
LOS ANGELES

CONGRATULATIONS



*"HEAR, O CHILDREN, A FATHER'S INSTRUCTION, BE ATTENTIVE, THAT YOU MAY GAIN UNDERSTANDING!
YES, EXCELLENT ADVICE I GIVE YOU; MY TEACHING DO NOT FORSAKE." - PROVERBS 4:1-2*

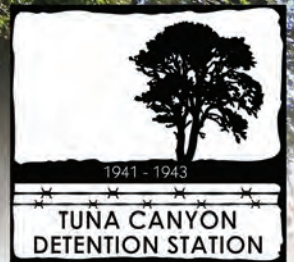
CONGRATULATIONS TO **THE MANZANAR COMMITTEE** FOR 55 YEARS OF PRESERVING HISTORY.
MAY STORYTELLING HEAL OUR PAST AND SHAPE WHO WE WILL BE IN THE FUTURE AS A SOCIETY.

OFFICE OF RACIAL RELATIONS

Only the Oaks Remain

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Congratulations and Thank You Manzanar Committee!



2023 Culture Exchange with Native Americans, Muslims, and Japanese Americans (photo by Josh Kaizuka)

Florin Mananar Pilgrimage (Sacramento) and Culture Exchange

Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) – Sacramento Valley www.facebook.com/cairsacramento

AkaMya Culture Group (Big Pine) www.facebook.com/AkaMyaCulturalDanceGroup

Florin JACL - Sacramento Valley www.facebook.com/florinjacl **AkaMya website:** <http://www.akamya.com>

2024 Leadership Team: Omar Altamimi (CAIR-SV/CC), Fumie Shimada, Stan/Christine Umeda, Josh Kaizuka, Koji Lo, Marielle Tsukamoto, Titus Toyama, Donna Komure, Brandon Miyasaki, Judy Fukuman, Krista Keplinger, Michelle Huey, Paul Hironaka, Gregory Wada, Jennifer Kubo, Robin Dewis, Grace Matayoshi, Lisa Shigenaga, Rumi and Mana Nozue, Twila Tomita, Andy Noguchi.

Mom & Dad

Remembering your Anniversary

April 27, 1942

With the infamous Executive Order 9066, it was evident that they would be leaving their home soon. But the young couple did not want to be separated and decided to marry. Just a couple weeks later, they went to Manzanar with the Kunitomi family and spent their “honeymoon” in a barrack shared with another family.

In the fall of 1942, they joined the Fujioka family at Heart Mountain and then welcomed their first born son in August, 1943. Dad was drafted in 1944 and served in the Military Intelligence Service. After the war, they returned to Hollywood and started all over again.

We are indebted to our parents for their suffering, their struggles, and their determination in raising our family of five. We honor them and will never forget their sacrifice.

— Kerry Cababa, Colleen Miyano, Dale Kunitomi,
Darrell Kunitomi, Don Kunitomi



Jack and Masa Kunitomi
Newlyweds in '42



A Great Leap Production coming this September



MANZANAR BASEBALL PROJECT

* SPORTS * CULTURE * ART * SOCIAL JUSTICE *

*A doubleheader on
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being restored ~*

*The first games to be
played at Manzanar
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North vs. South All-Star Game - featuring California's top JA players, in custom 1940s-style uniforms and playing with vintage equipment. **PLUS: performance art, poetry, music, dance!** More info: www.mzbbp.org



Nikkei Progressives is an intergenerational grassroots community group based in Little Tokyo that strives for justice, freedom, & solidarity w/ all marginalized people.

The NP/NCRR Reparations Committee benefits from the history of NCRR's grassroots work on Japanese American redress to advocate for contemporary Black reparations.

Want to get involved or learn more? Scan the QR code on this page or head to nikkeiprogressives.org



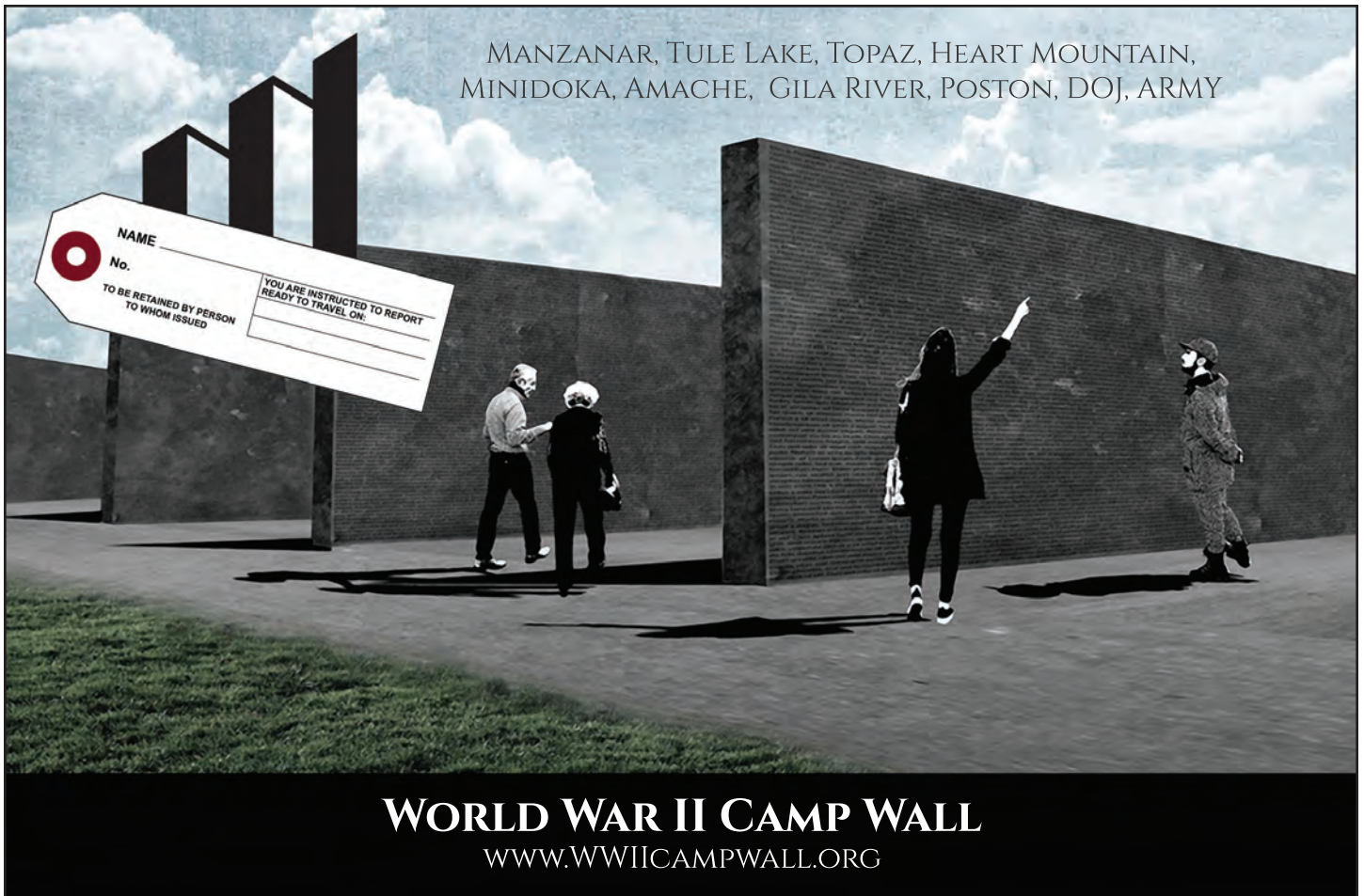
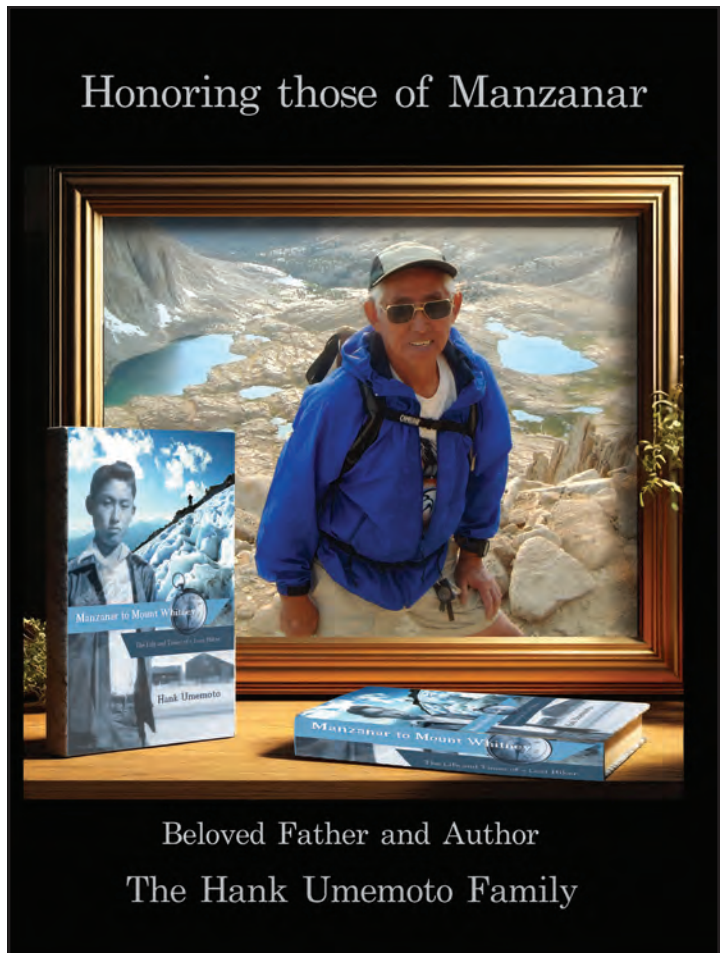
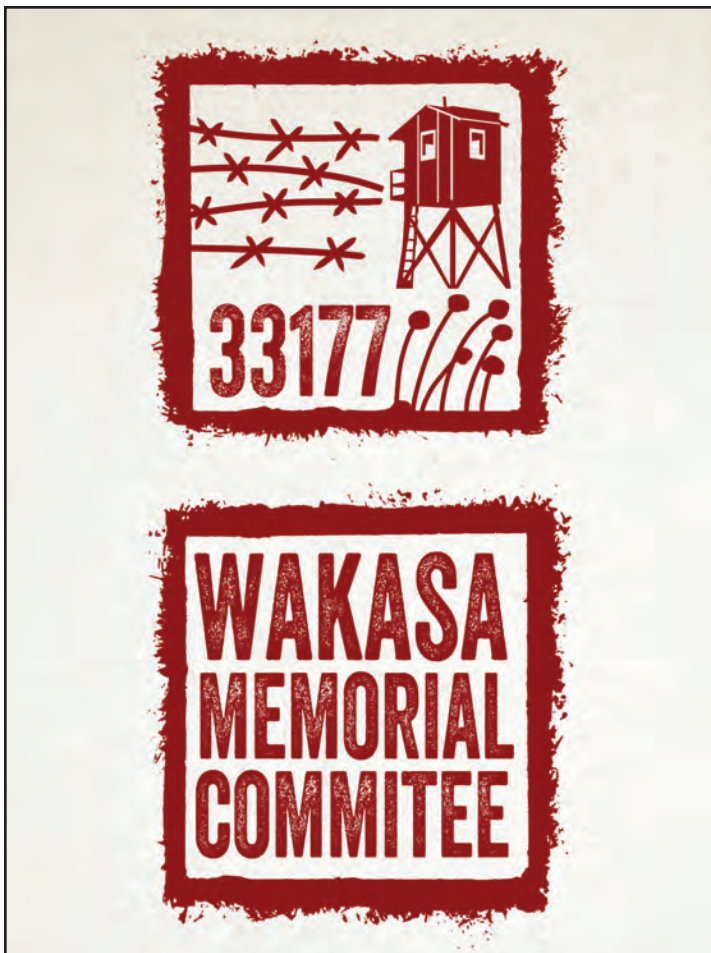
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Tule Lake Pilgrimage 2024 Reframing the Narrative



July 5 - 8, 2024



Congratulations & Honoring 55 Years of the Manzanar Pilgrimage

Crystal City  Pilgrimage



Unveiling of
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**Congratulations Manzanar
Committee on your 55th Annual
Manzanar Pilgrimage!**

The Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute joins you in honoring the many lives impacted by the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII.

Thank you for all of the important work you do in keeping this story alive.

Please visit our website for GVJCI's
Day of Remembrance programs at
jci-gardena.org/day-of-remembrance



The Grateful Crane Ensemble
Thanks the Manzanar Committee
for Keeping this Story Alive.

In memory of our friend, Kurt Kuniyoshi.



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Thanks the Manzanar Committee



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**Proud Sentinel Ralph Lazo
snuck into the Manzanar Camp
to join his Nisei schoolmates
in 1942.**

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Salutes

**The Manzanar Committee's
55th Annual
Manzanar Pilgrimage**



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Asian American Community Media Project

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Manzanar Pilgrimage

April 27, 2024

Manzanar National Historic Site



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japanese american
COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

After being released from camp in 1945, an initial group of 11 people who were temporarily housed at the Centenary Methodist Church banded together and started a tanomoshi club. The group quickly grew and eventually incorporated into what would become JACom Credit Union.

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