



2011 Day of Remembrance to Commemorate Ten-Year Anniversary of 9-11

By Kay Ochi

Former Congressman and Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta will be the keynote speaker at the 2011 Day of Remembrance on Saturday, February 19 at the Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo. Mineta will address this year's DOR theme, "September 11: Ten Years After".



Norman Y. Mineta

Having served twenty years in the U.S. Congress, Mineta was appointed to the post of Secretary of Transportation by then-President George W. Bush. After the terrorist acts of September 11, 2001, Mineta guided the creation of the Transportation Security Administration. He is applauded for his early and strong position against the racial profiling of Muslims, Arabs and South Asians. Currently, Mineta is the Global Vice Chairman of Hill & Knowlton based in its Washington, DC office.



Hamza Perez and his brother Suliman in a scene from "New Muslim Cool". Photo credit: Jennifer Maytorena Taylor

The DOR program will also feature Hamza Perez, community activist and spoken word artist. In 2009 PBS released an award winning film "New Muslim Cool" about his life, work and community. Perez was named one of the top 500 most influential Muslims in the world by the Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Centre for his work with youth.

The annual program begins at 2:00 pm and is open to the public. The DOR is presented by NCR, JACL/PSW and the JANM.

DREAM Deferred

By Jan Tokumaru

Approximately 65,000 undocumented students graduate from U.S. high schools each year. About 40% of those students are from California. Given their immigration status, the majority of these students will face strong hardships to get their college degrees. There is no currently existing legalization process that acknowledges undocumented college students.

The DREAM Act (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act) is a piece of proposed federal legislation in the United States that would provide a pathway to citizenship for undocumented students who came to the U.S. as children with their parents. Over the past ten years, the DREAM Act marked a historic first as an immigration reform campaign organized by youth across the country. Beyond expectations of many, the campaign secured support of the majority of legislators, though it fell just short of the super-majority threshold in the U.S. Senate on December 18, 2010. DREAM activist organizers remain committed to the fight, with unwavering resolve, to win equal rights under the constitution - to realize their dream of citizenship and equal opportunity.

NCCR Mourns Passing of Frank Emi

By Jim Matsuoka



The Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress mourns the passing of a great American hero, Frank Emi. We know through his courageous actions and those of his fellow resisters at Heart Mountain what the meaning of the words "believers in the Constitution" really meant.

Frank Emi was first and foremost a patriot and he made better Americans out of all who knew him. Thanks to Frank, many of us who are Japanese Americans are proud to claim our heritage. In an era of rejection and hostility, he was fearless and courageous and undeterred in standing up to do what he felt was right. Unafraid of the consequences, he risked prison and ostracism for his passionate beliefs in the Constitutional rights of each citizen as fundamental tenets that could not and should not be abrogated. Frank lived to see the day that those who scorned him came to realize the heroic nature of this man and his true stature as an American.

Frank Emi was a longtime and leading member of the Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress and was dedicated to the campaign for redress. He joined the lobbying delegation

to Washington, DC in 1987 and emceed many redress programs. Frank remained a strong advocate for civil rights throughout his life and to a person we will say that we were privileged to know him. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends, the Nikkei community and all who take pride in valuing our freedoms as American citizens.



**Are You a Member? NCCR Needs You to Renew!
Not a Member? Join Now!**

NCCR is a not-for-profit organization that operates solely on grants and contributions from individuals like you. In order to keep up the fight for civil rights and justice, we need you to join or renew your membership today.

NCCR Membership Levels (tax deductible)
\$30 One year
\$15 Students, seniors and low-income one year
\$500 Lifetime membership

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Nikkei for Civil Rights
Redress

Little Tokyo Candlelight Vigil Brings Communities Together

By Kathy Masaoka

In response to attacks on mosques and the rise in Islamophobia, NCCR initiated a candlelight vigil to express support for the Muslim American community which has worked very hard to build understanding about their beliefs as moderate Muslims. Since 2001, NCCR has been working with both the Council on American Islamic Relations and the Muslim Public Affairs Council on programs on civil liberties and projects with youth to build a relationship of understanding and support.

The vigil was held on September 9, 2010 on First Street and Central Avenue where over 100 people gathered to hear speakers from the religious community, Reverends Mark Nakagawa and Nori Ito, from the political community, Assemblyman Warren Furutani and from the community, Dana Heatherton of J-Town Voice, Chris Komai of JANM, Jan Tokumaru of NCCR, and Aiko Herzig, former incarcerated. The crowd was especially moved by the words from speakers Ilham Elkoustaf of the Council on Islamic Relations and Aziza Hasan of the Muslim Public Affairs Council, who expressed thanks to the Japanese American community. The vigil concluded with the formation of a human peace symbol, again expressing our desire to promote understanding and to prevent more hate crimes.

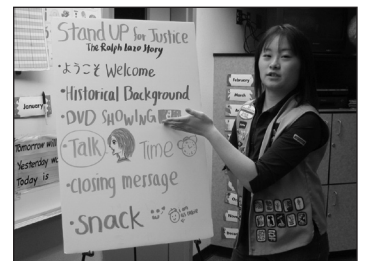


Photo Credit: Jeff Liu

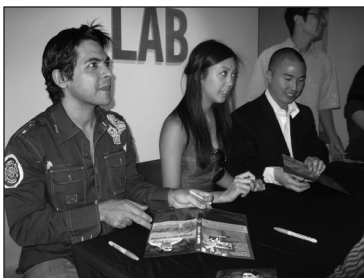
NCCR & VC Launch "Stand Up for Justice" DVD for Home Sale

Education Committee continues film screenings and workshops

To the delight of attendees, three actors, Alexis Cruz, Chad Sakamoto, and Brittany Ishibashi autographed copies of "Stand Up for Justice" at the February launch of the "commercial" version of "Stand Up for Justice." The story of Ralph Lazo's journey to the Manzanar concentration camp with his high school friends was finally available for public sale.



Satomi Honjio presents "Stand Up for Justice" to Girl Scouts. Photo courtesy of Honjio family.



Alexis, Chad and Brittany greet the community. Photo credit: Janice Yen

The new DVD has the 33-minute docudrama (which premiered in 2004) and also includes interviews with the filmmakers and with Lazo's family and friends. The film is subtitled in Spanish and Japanese. Stand Up for Justice can be ordered for \$24.95 (\$19.95 for NCCR and VC members) at www.vconline.org.

Community screenings have begun at the Gardena Valley Democratic Club, the Riverside JACL and at local churches. Screening will take place in early 2011 at Wintersburg Church in Santa Ana, and at the Little Tokyo Library. The film will also be shown in northern California. Organizations that wish to sponsor a screening can contact NCCR at ncrrla@yahoo.com.

Teacher workshops continued in 2010 including two at the Orange County "Walk in My Shoes" conferences and two very successful teacher-training sessions took place in Little Tokyo. Education Committee teachers went out to individual high schools and middle schools in San Diego, Orange, and Los Angeles Counties to show the film and to talk to students about Japanese American history and lessons for today. New relationships have been established with teachers in Fresno and in the Bay Area. Closer to home, Satomi Honjio presented Stand Up for Justice to her Girl Scout troop, and she and her mom Amy have facilitated other community screenings in the Los Angeles area.

Now that Stand Up for Justice can be purchased online through Visual Communications, NCCR will put the film's curriculum guide on the NCCR website. Teachers everywhere will soon be able to download the curriculum guide at www.ncrr-la.org.

NCCR Receives Grant for Summer Activist Training Program

By Janice Yen

NCCR gratefully acknowledges receipt of a \$3,000 grant from the Los Angeles Asian American & Pacific Islander Giving Circle. The funds will be used to provide 2011 Summer Activity Training (SAT) participants much needed logistical support. Since its inception in 1993, the SAT program has been entirely funded by its sponsoring organizations and by donations from participants and supporters.

The current sponsors are: Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance, Thai Community Development Corp, Pilipino Workers Center, Chinese Progress Association of San Gabriel, the Southeast Asian Community Alliance, and the South Asian Network.

The grant will enable SAT to rent a large van to transport youth to action sites, provide a living and meeting space for the four-day program, give a modest stipend to the trainers, and update the SAT database.

The LA AA/PI Giving Circle's grantmaking goal is to "invest in community-based organizations engaged in social change work that serves AA/PI communities in Los Angeles County." The Circle was founded in 2007 by individuals to help small organizations that don't have access to funding from mainstream foundations. NCCR is extremely pleased to be a 2010 grant recipient!



Kathy Masaoka (back to camera) orients SAT participants in Little Tokyo. Photo credit: Janice Yen

Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress

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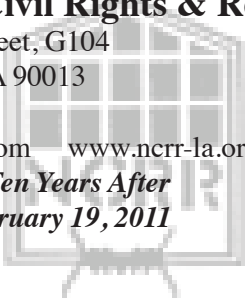
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September 11: Ten Years After

DOR 2011: February 19, 2011

Details Inside!



“Bridging Communities” Brings Japanese American and Muslim American Youth Together for Third Year

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), in collaboration with the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR), Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress (NCRR), and the National Park Service (NPS), are happy to announce the third annual Bridging Communities program! The Bridging Communities program was established as a proactive response from JACL, NCRR and CAIR to a number of incidents of hate and intolerance incurred by the Muslim American community in the long aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. Recognizing the similarities that Japanese Americans faced in the aftermath of Pearl Harbor ultimately resulting in Japanese American incarceration, Bridging Communities was meant to build solidarity and partnership between these two communities.

Our program brings together 40 American Muslim and Japanese American high school students through interactive sessions. Students will learn about ethnic identity, culture/religion, civil rights, and activism. We will also visit various sites such as the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, an Islamic mosque, and the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR-CA) office to enhance their learning experience. Newly added to our program, we will also be doing a service learning component with the National Park Service, on our one-night, two-day trip to Manzanar. Below are tentative dates for each session:

Session 1: Saturday, February 19

Session 2: Saturday, March 5

Session 3: Saturday, April 9

Session 4: Saturday-Sunday, April 30-May 1 (Manzanar Trip!)

Session 5: Saturday, May 21

(Each session is approximately 9:00am-5:00pm)

For the past two years, Bridging Communities has connected Japanese American and American Muslim youth by celebrating the strengths and differences that bind us as a community. Become a part of it this year! We hope that you will be able to join us for the Bridging Communities 2011 program! For more information and to apply, please contact Yuka Ogino at yogino@jacplsw.org. For application see www.jacplsw.org



Muslim and Japanese American youth at the JACCC sharing history of their communities on a timeline. Photo credit: Kathy Masaoka

Ehren Watada's Parents Thank Community at "Lt. Watada" Screening

By Kathy Masaoka

The parents of Ehren Watada were able to meet and thank supporters at the screening of Freida Mock's "Lt. Watada" on June 19, 2010 at the David Henry Hwang Theatre. This special screening and reception was sponsored by the Asian American Vietnam Veterans Organization and the Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress which had organized a speaking tour for Ehren's father and stepmother, Bob Watada and Rosa Sakanishi in 2006. Bob and Rosa, along with Ehren's mother, Carolyn Ho, expressed their appreciation to the community for supporting their son who had refused to deploy to Iraq based on his belief that the war was both immoral and unconstitutional.

Carolyn spoke about how difficult it was for Ehren to be confined to office work as he awaited the Army's decision on whether to retry him after the first trial had ended in a mistrial and how he maintained his sanity by volunteering with an Asian American theatre group. Academy Award-winning filmmaker, Freida Mock was also on hand to explain why she made the film and her impressions of Ehren. He was unable to make the screening since he has been working with his brother to open a restaurant in Las Vegas. The Army, after three years, finally accepted his resignation when the Department of Justice rejected its appeal for a retrial. The money that was raised at the screening was sent to Ehren who has donated it back to NCRR with his appreciation and wishes that we put it to good use in the community.

