



—NCCR BANNER—

January 2021



NCCR CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF ACTIVISM!



Graphic by David Monkawa

NCCR'S 40th ANNIVERSARY by Kay Ochi

NCCR celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the organization's 1980 founding with a Zoom gathering on Saturday, December 5. Despite the challenges of this year's COVID pandemic, 87 NCCR members and friends participated in an afternoon of story-telling, reminiscing and raising of glasses for numerous commemorative "Toasts."

The event included an excerpt of Alan Kondo's *Justice Now! Reparations Now!* which shared NCCR's guiding principles and the 1987 lobbying delegation to Washington, D.C., and an *In Memoriam* slide show to honor NCCR friends who have passed away.

The event's organizing committee included representation from the five NCCR Chapters in California that collaborated in the historic campaign for redress and reparations.

The committee included Susan Hayase and Tom Izu from San Jose's Nihonmachi Outreach Committee; Mari Matsumoto, Marlene Tonai, Donna Kotake, Bill Sato and Julie Yumi Hatta from the San Francisco NCCR; and Roy Nakano, representing the Gardena Redress Committee/NCCR.

Also, Jan Tokumaru represented the San Diego Redress Committee, with Richard Katsuda, Kathy Masaoka, Kay Ochi and Janice Yen from NCCR/LA.

The committee also included members of Nikkei Progressives who handled the technical aspects of the Zoom program and are currently assisting NCCR in transferring the recording of the two-hour program into several YouTube videos.

NCCR's gratitude goes out to Mia Barnett, Alex Nauta and Miyako Noguchi!

Information about the YouTube videos of this event is on NCCR's website: www.ncrr-la.org.

NEIGHBORS NOT ENEMIES ACT by Kanji Sahara

In 1798, President John Adams signed the Alien Enemies Act. The Act stated that in the event of war, the President just needs to make a Presidential Proclamation and any enemy alien over the age of 14 could be arrested and detained indefinitely without trial. The Act was used in the War of 1812, WWI, WWII and more recently by President Trump.

On Dec 7, 1941 as the bombs were falling on Pearl Harbor, the FBI began arresting Issei community leaders. On Dec 8, the government began converting the CCC Camp at Tuna Canyon into a detention center. On Dec 16, the

first group of Issei fishermen from San Pedro arrived at Tuna Canyon. On Feb 19, 1942 when President Roosevelt signed EO9066, more than 2,000 Issei were already interned due to the 1798 Alien Enemies Act

One of the first things that Trump did when he became President was to institute the Muslim Ban basing it on the 1798 Alien Enemies Act.

This year, Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) introduced in the House and Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI) introduced in the Senate the Neighbors Not Enemy Act. The Act will repeal the 1798 Alien Enemies Act. Rep Omar was born in Somalia and is one of two Muslim women in Congress.

The Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition knows of the dangerous effect of the 1798 Alien Enemies Act. The TCDSC will work for the Neighbors Not Enemies Act to become the law of the land.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH NIKKEI PROGRESSIVES AND VIGILANT LOVE ON SUPPORTING BLACK LIVES by Kathy Masaoka

NCRR has long supported Black organizations fighting for reparations as early as the first Day of Remembrances when Robert Brock of the Self-Determination Committee marched with us in Little Tokyo demanding redress for Japanese Americans in the early 1980's. Both NCRR and Nikkei Progressives are supporting AB 3121 (California bill) and HR 40 (Federal legislation) which call for a commission to study the basis for reparations, do education on the history and make recommendations for remedies. We feel it is important for our community to support these bills which means we need to understand the long history of injustices suffered by the Black community from slavery to Jim Crow to police brutality and incarceration. So we started with ourselves and decided to do some study together on the issue, on the demands and on the different groups involved. We had three productive sessions organized by a NCRR/NP

joint committee and are preparing to draft a statement that can be used in future workshops.



Photo by Mike Murase taken January 2020

In addition to this partnership with Nikkei Progressives, individual NCRR members have supported Vigilant Love in its workshops on "Unpacking Anti-Blackness" in our communities. Many organizations in the Japanese American community have taken up this issue this past year to better understand and to challenge racism in ourselves. Vigilant Love asked several organizations to partner with them on this workshop and Kathy was able to represent both NP and NCRR in presenting how Asian Americans experience racism and have expressed solidarity with the Black community through individuals, such as Yuri Kochiyama and Grace Lee Boggs, as well as through movements in the 60's and during redress. These workshops were intended to support individuals and groups to further their own practice in fighting anti-Black racism in their own lives and in their organizations.

Resources for more information on reparations for slavery: San Jose Nikkei Resisters statement: (<https://tinyurl.com/SJNR-Statement>); Nikole Hannah-Jones, "What Is Owed" and Movement for Black Lives (M4BL) Reparations Toolkit.

Day of Remembrance 2021 by Richard Katsuda

Day of Remembrance (DOR) 2021, reflecting an enduring fact of life from 2020, will need to be held virtually. The program will take place on Saturday, February 13, at 2 PM. As Japanese Americans look forward to 2021, we will need to renew our hopes for our democracy and to build alliances to protect it. Accordingly, the theme for DOR 2021 is “Uniting with Other Communities to Keep Democracy Alive.”

During the past year, millions of Americans took to the streets seeking justice for Black Americans. They were outraged by the searing scene of the killing of George Floyd and connected that with other injustices African Americans have suffered throughout U.S. history. Those protests built momentum for long-overdue calls for racial reckoning: reparations for slavery, support for Black Lives Matter in their quest to overcome systemic racism in law enforcement, and rectifying monuments to racist historical figures as well as racialized accounts of history. One of the featured DOR speakers will talk about these issues and how the Japanese American community can get involved.

Americans were also enraged and galvanized when they learned about migrant children being separated from their parents at the southern border. This issue was the focus of DOR 2019. Although it is now two years later, conditions at immigrant detention centers continue to create chaos and suffering. Mario Perez, who was incarcerated at the Adelanto Detention Center, will speak on the terrible conditions there. He is now a spokesperson for Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice, which is pushing for the closing of Adelanto and other migrant detention centers.

Kenny and Chizuko Endo, who have stirred so many audiences over the years, will bring their taiko rhythms to the program.

The DOR Planning Committee member organizations are Go for Broke National Education Center, JACL Pacific Southwest

District, Kizuna, Little Tokyo Historical Society, Little Tokyo Service Center, Manzanar Committee, NCRR, Nikkei Progressives, Organization of Chinese Americans-Greater Los Angeles, Progressive Asian Network for Action, and Visual Communications.

The program will be posted on Saturday, February 13, 2021, at 2 PM, at [youtube.com/manzanarcommittee](https://www.youtube.com/manzanarcommittee). You can view it then or anytime after that date.

JAPANESE AMERICAN CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY CENTER :2012 and 2020

By Kathy Masaoka

Many of you may recall the turmoil created by CEO Greg Willis of the JACCC back in 2012. Many were angered by his mistreatment of the staff and the lack of response by the JACCC Board. This anger escalated when it was discovered (and shared with NCRR) that Willis was wanted by INTERPOL for crimes committed in France. NCRR brought this information to the attention of the Board and Willis soon left. Many of us were relieved and optimistic when Leslie Ito took the reins of the JACCC, hired some new staff and initiated programs that were more inclusive of different communities and hoped that the JACCC would replace her with someone as community-minded. However, we are again dismayed that the new CEO has decided to layoff several of their staff who have played a key role in connecting to the community – some, for over 30 years. While we understand that the pandemic and the economic strain has caused many groups to make hard decisions, NCRR believes it could have been done in a different way. Many in the community share this sentiment and have asked for a community meeting to air their ideas and the CEO and Board President have agreed to set one up. We look forward to that community meeting.

The NCCR Book and Our Gratitude to Lane Ryo Hirabayashi by Janice Yen

(partially excerpted from NCCR's Tribute to Lane - August 2020)

NCCR was founded in 1980 as the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations to help win redress for Japanese Americans incarcerated during WWII. Through the years NCCR members felt that their lives had been transformed by the decade-long grassroots campaign for justice and really wanted to share their experiences of working closely with the community; a community which had been silenced yet found its voice to speak out and demand an apology and monetary reparations from the US government, won redress in 1988, and continued to fight for those who had been denied.



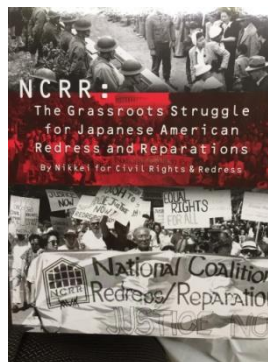
Photo by Gann Matsuda

We felt that the power of these experiences and the lessons learned should be expressed in a book. We thought about who would be able to advise us and help us write the book as well as promote it at colleges and in the community. Lane was the perfect choice. He was the expert of experts regarding the Japanese American incarceration, and he always combined community activism with scholarly pursuits. He had even worked with the NCCR Gardena chapter when he first came to UCLA in the 1980s.

With his enormous generosity of spirit and steady stewardship, we were able to create *NCCR: The Grassroots Struggle for Japanese American Redress and Reparations*. In fact, he even took a quarter off of his UCLA duties to focus on the book.

After Lane was diagnosed with his illness, he continued to do everything he could to get the book into university libraries. He also organized book talks at California State University Los Angeles and UCLA.

Even as his energy was being severely sapped by his condition, Lane made sure he got together with the NCCR book editorial team. It meant so much to us. We were deeply saddened when his wife Marilyn let us know about his passing. We miss him dearly. (Lane died August 2020 at the age of 67)



NCCR: The Grassroots Struggle for Japanese American Redress and Reparations can be purchased at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles (janmstore.com/products/nccr-the-grassroots-struggle), at the UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press (www.aasc.ucla.edu/aascpress/books/nccr.aspx), and through Amazon (www.amazon.com/NCCR-Grassroots-Struggle-Japanese.)

Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress

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Membership: \$30/year, \$15 students and seniors; lifetime membership \$500. Send check to our mailing address:

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