



# Banner

a newsletter of the Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress

Winter  
2010

## 2010 Day of Remembrance to Highlight Korematsu Case

By Kay Ochi

“Korematsu v. United States” is the theme of the 2010 Day of Remembrance in Little Tokyo on Saturday, February 20 at the Japanese American National Museum. The annual community program commemorates the signing of EO 9066 and the subsequent incarceration of over 110,000 Japanese Americans during World War II based on the government’s claim of military necessity.

During 1942, Fred Korematsu, a U.S. citizen, disobeyed the government’s order to evacuate. He was arrested and sent to camp. With the help of attorney Wayne Collins and the Northern California American Civil Liberties Union, Korematsu challenged the government’s actions and took his case to the Supreme Court.

In 1944, the Court held that the “evacuation and internment” of Japanese Americans was justified by national security. In the 1980’s Korematsu challenged the court’s earlier decision through a writ of coram nobis. US District Court Judge Marilyn Patel vacated Korematsu’s wartime conviction based on the government’s omission of relevant information during the 1944 case.

Lead counsel for Korematsu’s Coram Nobis legal team, Dale Minami, will be the DOR’s keynote speaker. Minami will speak about the relevance of Korematsu’s case to current civil rights issues and the government’s use of “military necessity” and “national security” in abridging citizen’s rights. The Korematsu case is considered one of the most studied and controversial Supreme Court decisions of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Minami’s San Francisco law firm Minami Tamaki LLP specializes in personal injury law and entertainment law. Much of his work, however, has involved the civil rights of Asian Pacific Americans and other minorities. He is a co-founder of the Asian Law Caucus, the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area.

The DOR program is sponsored by NCRR, the Pacific Southwest District/JACL, and the National Museum. The program begins at 2 PM; a reception follows. Admission is free, however, donations will be accepted. For a retrospective of the past DOR programs in Los Angeles, visit NCRR’s website at [ncrr-la.org](http://ncrr-la.org) and go to “DOR Archives.” For more information call NCRR at (213) 284-0336.



Lead Counsel Dale Minami will be DOR’s keynote speaker. (Photo courtesy of visualizAsian.com)

## CFJ BELIEVES PASSAGE OF REDRESS BILL POSSIBLE IN 2010

By Richard Katsuda

The Japanese Latin American (JLA) Commission bill (H.R. 42/S. 69) made substantial progress in 2009, and Campaign for Justice (CFJ) is feeling very optimistic about its passage in 2010. In February, the bill favorably passed out of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and is waiting for action by the full Senate.



CFJ volunteers, partner organization representatives and congressional aides at JLA Reception after House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration hearing in March 2009.

In March, the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration held a hearing on the treatment of Latin Americans of Japanese and German descent. In July, the bill was favorably passed out of the House Judiciary Subcommittee, followed by its passage



CFJ witnesses testifying in March 2009 at a House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration hearing on the treatment of JLAs during WWII.

out of the full House Judiciary Committee in October. Despite amendments made by the Committee, the purpose of the Commission remains the same: to investigate the JLA wartime experience and to make recommendations as it

deems appropriate.

For more information about how you can help CFJ, contact [info@campaignforjusticejla.org](mailto:info@campaignforjusticejla.org).



Inside This Issue:  
“The Making of Stand Up for Justice!” to be Screened  
NCRR Continues to Bridge Communities...AND MORE!



# NCRR CONTINUES TO BUILD BRIDGES WITH THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY

By Kathy Masaoka

Partnering for a second year with the Japanese American Citizens League Pacific Southwest District (JACL PSWD) and the Council on American Islamic Relations to sponsor the Bridging Communities Project, NCRR invites Japanese American high school youth to apply for this program which brings Japanese American and Muslim American youth together to learn about each other's history, culture, religions and civil rights traditions.

The purpose is to bridge youth of our community with those of another community. This program, intended for 40 high school youth, includes four Saturday workshops beginning with the Day of Remembrance in February 2010 as well as visits to a mosque and a Buddhist temple in Little Tokyo, and the pilgrimage to Manzanar in late April.

Last year, about 25 high school students from the Japanese American and Muslim communities developed a friendship and a network of support for the future by breaking down stereotypes of each other, demystifying Islam and building an appreciation for the struggles of each group's history in the United States. Each session was interactive with a workshop led by Nobuko Miyamoto of Great Leap and animation sessions led by Mar Elepano of USC. The highlight of the program was the pilgrimage to Manzanar, one of the ten concentration camps where Japanese Americans were held during World War II. For most, including the Japanese American youths, this was the first time they had been there.

The program was well received by last year's participants. One Muslim American student said, "I just think it's really cool to be doing this. I got to meet many new people, and learn a lot about cultures and religions.

I can't wait until we meet again!" A Japanese American student said, "I hope to learn even more about the Muslim American community and keep experiencing all these incredible cultures. I met so many interesting people and it was amazing to find we all have so much in common!"

Since 9/11 and the start of the Iraq War, NCRR has been working with the Muslim, Arab, and South Asian American communities, who have experienced heightened hostility, discrimination, and policies based simply on religion or ethnicity. Our hope is that this experience will be a reference point from which these young people will continue to build bridges with other communities and become actively involved in shaping their own community.

Applications and more information can be found at [www.jaclpsw.org](http://www.jaclpsw.org). Applications will be accepted until January 31, but should be turned in as soon as possible. For questions or further information, contact the JACL PSWD office at (213) 626-4471 or email [dsohn@jaclpsw.org](mailto:dsohn@jaclpsw.org). See press release and more details at the NCRR website [www.ncrr-la.org](http://www.ncrr-la.org).



Youths participate in workshops at the Islamic Center of Irvine in March 2009. Nobuko Miyamoto and Dan Kwong led some sessions.



## It's Time to Renew Your NCRR Membership! Not a Member? Join Now!

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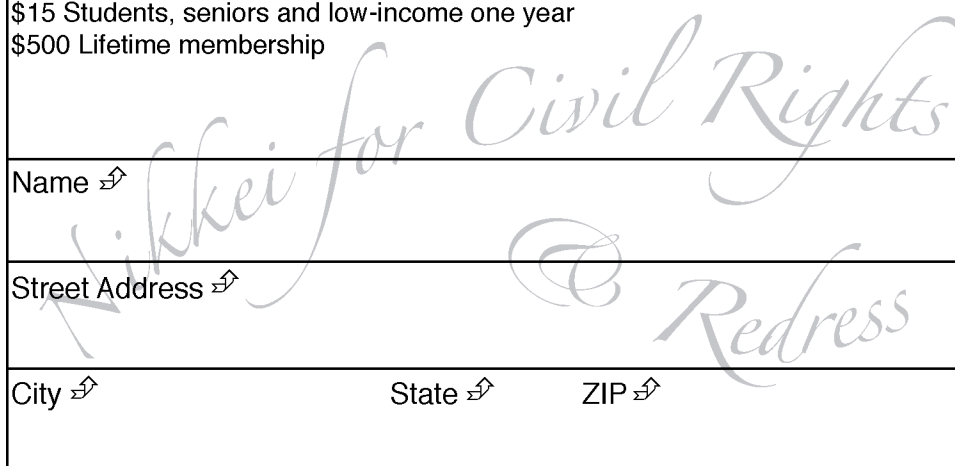
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# Every Picture Tells a Story

NCRR in 2009



In September 2009, Obama's Justice Department stated it would not pursue charges against 1st Lt. Ehren Watada and the Army was forced to finally accept his resignation after holding him in limbo since his 2007 court martial ended in a mistrial. Ehren had refused to deploy to Iraq because he believed that the war was both illegal and wrong.

Watada said there were "many skilled lawyers" who represented him and that he was "thankful to the people from all walks of life that supported me and agreed with my stand."

NCRR congratulates Ehren and his family and hopes to host a program in the future.

(Photo by Ted S. Warren/Associated Press)

NCRR's Education Committee continued to conduct teacher workshops for "Stand Up for Justice!" (see story on back page).

(L-R) Kay Ochi conducts a workshop for teachers and students at the University of California, Irvine.

Teachers examine one of the activity cards from the packet at the UC Irvine workshop. Workshop in Little Tokyo.



Bridging Communities was a very well-received program and is now accepting applications for the second year (see story to left). (L-R) Participants at Manzanar, sharing stories and making friends during the workshops at the Islamic Center of Irvine.

## Congratulations!

(Clockwise from right) Dan Kwong, Nobuko Miyamoto, Kathy Masaoka and Mike Yanagita (not pictured) are honored at the JAACL dinner. Wilbur Sato honored for 50 years of membership in the Gardena Democratic Club. Wilbur Sato speaking at the event in his honor. Kumiko Tsuchida's PhD graduation in Japan (Kumiko wrote her dissertation on NCRR).



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# “THE MAKING OF STAND UP FOR JUSTICE” TO SCREEN ON FEBRUARY 14, 2010

By Janice Yen

**A**t long last the DVD of Stand Up for Justice, the Ralph Lazo Story, is ready for distribution to the public! It will be available for purchase on Sunday, February 14, 2010 at the 2 PM screening of “The Making of Stand Up for Justice,” a behind the scenes look at the production of the film, at the National Center for the Preservation of Democracy, located next to the Japanese American National Museum at 369 East First Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. The director and producers will introduce the new features on the DVD. Cast, crew and the Lazo family have been invited to attend the screening and reception. General admission is \$15, \$10 for members of NCRR and Visual Communications.

The screening is the product of a 13-year collaboration between NCRR and Visual Communications. In 1996 John Esaki (then on the staff of Visual Communications) and the NCRR Education Committee applied for a Civil Liberties Public Education Fund grant. California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP) grants, generous monetary and product donations from the Japanese American and Southern California community, and a cast and crew working at greatly reduced rates made it possible to start filming in November 2002. After more fundraising to cover post-production costs, the premiere of Stand Up for Justice was held at the February 2004 Day of Remembrance commemoration in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo.

In 2007 the NCRR Education Committee started distribution of the curriculum guide for Stand Up for Justice. California secondary teachers received free copies of the guide and DVD at workshops and school presentations thanks to grants from the CCLPEP, the Aratani Foundation, the Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation, and Japanese American Community Services. Over 1300 copies of the curriculum packets are now in use in California secondary schools, and limited distribution has begun outside of California. The Education Committee continues to offer workshops on the use of the film in the classroom.

As the Education Committee conducted workshops, Stand Up for Justice producer Amy E. Kato supervised the production of the “making of” segment as well as having Stand Up for Justice subtitled in Japanese and Spanish and close-captioned in English. With the completion of the extra features the DVD will be available for sale at \$24.95, \$19.95 for NCRR and Visual Communications members. Persons purchasing the DVD at the February 14 screening will pay the member price.

As the Education Committee starts a new year and the 2010 decade, we feel gratified that the Stand Up for Justice project has been so well received by teachers and the public. The Nisei generation has supported us every step of the way in the long 13-year history of Stand Up for Justice. Many have told us that the Ralph Lazo story captures the experiences that they endured during their World War II incarceration. Stand Up for Justice also reminds us that Japanese Americans had friends like Ralph Lazo who, even as a teenager, recognized that his friends’ constitutional rights were violated; he supported them by staying with them at the Manzanar concentration camp.

For more information about purchasing the DVD call Visual Communications at 213-680-4462. For information about the Stand Up for Justice curriculum packet call NCRR at 213-284-0336.

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**Remembering “Korematsu v. United States” for Today**

**DOR 2010: February 20, 2010**

**Details Inside!**

