



# Banner

a newsletter of the Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress

Winter  
2012

## 2012 Day of Remembrance to Mark 70 Years After E.O. 9066

By Kay Ochi

The 2012 Los Angeles Day of Remembrance (DOR) program is set for Saturday, February 18 from 2 to 4 PM at the Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo.

This year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of President Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066, an action that dramatically impacted the lives of 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry and subsequent generations of Japanese Americans.

E.O. 9066 gave the military the authority to exclude any or all persons from selected military areas. The order led to the forced removal of Japanese Americans from the entire West Coast and their incarceration for the duration of World War II. The DOR will, once again, pay tribute to the Issei and Nisei for their courage in response to this grave injustice and in rebuilding their lives after the war.



Robin Toma, Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations, will keynote.

This year's DOR theme, "70 Years After E.O. 9066: Defending Our Civil Liberties", will be addressed by Robin Toma, Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations.

Toma was the pro bono lead counsel for Carmen Mochizuki, et al. V. United States of America, the case that challenged the denial of reparations for 2,264 Japanese Latin Americans. Toma has a long record of legal advocacy for human rights, against race and language discrimination, and protection of immigrant rights, homeless rights and freedom of speech issues.

The theme will also be addressed with a multi-media performance piece directed by traci kato- kiriyama. The performance will explore the issues of injustices to ethnic and racial minorities and the importance of speaking out against the violations of our rights.

In support of the DOR and the community, Shakeel Syed, Executive Director of the Islamic Shura Council, will be one of the event's emcees. Syed, a recipient of a Community Leadership Award from the Orange County Human Relations Commission, stated, "As a Muslim-American I am proud to call Japanese-Americans my brothers/sisters. Their deep fortitude inspires me to work together in our common struggle to reclaim and restore the spirit of America."

The program will be followed by a reception catered by Carrie's Community Catering.

Organizers of the DOR are the Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress, the Pacific Southwest District/JACL, and the Japanese American National Museum.

## NCR and Muslim American Relations in 2011

By Kathy Masaoka

Over the past year we have seen an increase in "hate talk" against American Muslims and the practice of their religion, including opposition to mosques and desecration of the Quran. We believe that there is a great deal of ignorance about Islam and a need for more education. This past year, NCR was able to join with others, including the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) and the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) in support actions, statements and programs to promote better understanding of Islam and of American Muslims.

### Yorba Linda

On March 15, 2011, NCR members were present with 30 other supporters at the Yorba Linda City Council meeting and spoke out against the Islamophobia in Yorba Linda. NCR

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# NCCR and Muslim American Relations in 2011

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and JACL called on community members to attend the meeting after learning about a rally in Orange County where people not only expressed anti-Islamic views but also shouted hateful comments at American Muslim families attending an event. We urged council members to take the lead in educating their community about the true meaning



At forefront left to right, NCCR members Kimi Maru, Seiji Monkawa, David Monkawa and Janice Yen at the Yorba Linda City Council meeting. (Photo by Kathy Masaoka)

of Islam and the right of all people to freely practice their religion.

## UC Irvine 11

In September, NCCR members Suzy Katsuda, Haru Kuromiya, Kathy Masaoka, Carrie Morita and Patty Nagano attended the trial of the UC Irvine 11, who were charged with disrupting a public event. The students and the Muslim Student Association (MSA), who wanted to speak out against the killings in Gaza, organized a protest at an event where the Israeli Ambassador, Michael Oren, was scheduled to attend. Each person stood up and read a couple of sentences from a card while the Ambassador spoke, then left the hall without comment or resistance when ordered by the campus police.



Some of the UC Irvine 11 students and the Orange County Islamic Center Town Hall meeting. (Photo by Kathy Masaoka)

Unfortunately, the Orange County DA decided to take it further and try the students in civil court even though the university believed that they had handled the situation and that the consequence was sufficient. We believe that the students were simply exercising their right

to express their beliefs and did not prevent Amb. Oren from completing his speech.

Ten students were found guilty on two misdemeanor counts:

conspiracy to disrupt a meeting and disruption of a meeting. The eleventh student, who was arrested as he was leaving the lecture hall with dozens of other protestors, had his charges dismissed earlier upon completion of community service hours. The students were sentenced to fines, 56 hours of community service, and three years of informal probation, reduced to one year if completed by January 2012. "These students protested for no more than a few minutes in a manner consistent with the norms of student protest at universities. They did not engage in violent conduct or express hate speech. Their prosecution was selective and discriminatory and we are hopeful that the court will overturn their convictions on appeal," stated defense attorney Dan Stormer.

A Town Hall meeting was held a few days after the trial where community supporters including NCCR, the lawyers and the students all spoke to a packed gathering at the Islamic Center of Orange County. The students were extremely eloquent and upbeat as they thanked their families and supporters. You can view the entire Town Hall meeting at: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVM\\_qr9dmWw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVM_qr9dmWw)

## CAIR Workshops at Mosques

In October 2011, Ameena Qazi of CAIR asked NCCR to join them in a series of civil rights workshops called "STEPping Up: Empowering Your Community." According to Ameena, "The point of the workshop is to establish a culture of engagement and standing up for what's right." CAIR felt that their community needed to understand that standing up for one's rights is part of this



NCCR's Kathy Masaoka (second from right) and community leaders at the press conference for the UC Irvine 11. (Photo by Janice Yen)

country's history and now is the time for American Muslims to contribute to the legacy of protecting civil rights and civil liberties for everyone. Jim Matsuoka and Kathy Masaoka spoke to a group in Montclair and provided an example as Japanese Americans who faced discrimination and spoke out for redress.

The group was very welcoming and included children who expressed pride in being American Muslim. The group asked for NCRR's support in their struggle to overcome many hurdles in the completion of their plans for building a mosque on their property. They finally did get approval to move forward in November.

**CAIR Dinner**

In November, NCRR members Jim Matsuoka, Mike Yanagita and Kathy Masaoka were invited to attend the CAIR dinner. Jim spoke in the program which featured slides of different civil rights heroes including Martin Luther King, Cesar Chavez and Fred Korematsu, along with speakers from each of those communities. Jim shared his experience as a child at Manzanar and how he felt leaving the camps and being told to "go back to where he came from." He urged the crowd of over 2000 to remember that this is their country and that it belongs to them. Jim also reminded them that Japanese

Americans will always be there to support them. His presentation was received with a great deal of enthusiasm and was really a high point. You can view the presentation at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/cairsocal#p/u/4/YPXIf9cgM48>

**Bridging Communities 2012**

This year Bridging Communities is jointly sponsored by CAIR, JACL, Kizuna and NCRR and will involve some of the previous participants to help develop their leadership and activism. Over ten sessions, the youth will work with college-aged mentors to develop projects in the Japanese American and American Muslim communities, including a service project at Manzanar. Since the program did not receive any funds this year from the National Park Service, all the organizations are fundraising to pay for the program costs. Marissa Kitazawa and Alexandra Margolin filmed the program, which was held not only in Los Angeles but also in Seattle and San Francisco, and they created a DVD called "Passing the Legacy." The video will be given to those who donate \$25 or more to the Bridging Communities program in Los Angeles. Please see the insert and support Bridging Communities.



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

NCRR 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.

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| <p>NCRR Membership Levels (tax deductible)</p> <p>\$30 One year</p> <p>\$15 Students, seniors and low-income one year</p> <p>\$500 Lifetime membership</p> | <p>Please make checks payable to NCRR.</p> <p>Send check and form to:</p> <p>NCRR</p> <p>231 E. Third Street, G104</p> <p>Los Angeles, CA 90013</p> |
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# Japan Relief

Since March 11, 2011, Hiroko Tina Tajima, Professor at Shirayuri University Japan and longtime friend and supporter of NCRRL, has worked to get donations, supplies and help to the Tohoku area. She continues to assist using the donations to support volunteers, purchasing materials such as heaters, blankets and clothes where needed. Through Tina, Steve and Patty Nagano were able to volunteer at the still-devastated areas of Minamisanriku and Higashi Matsushima (photos courtesy of Steve Nagano). If you wish to donate to her relief efforts please make checks to Japan Relief Fund and send to Patty Nagano, 267 S. San Pedro St. #609, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

# NCRRL 2011 in Review



Clockwise from top left, Jim Matsuoka spoke at a program marking 10 years after 9/11, Kathy Masaoka was on a panel at the Human Rights Conference, Wilbur Sato spoke at the JA Activists Conference, and Rev. Paul and Mrs. Florence Nagano, nominated by Carrie Morita and NCRRL, were recognized as Nisei Pioneers in the Nisei Week Parade.



..... NCRRL has continued its history of advocacy and education to promote civil rights and justice. NCRRL needs YOU to help us continue this work. Please renew your membership today (see form on previous page). Because we don't put on fundraising events for NCRRL work, we need your membership support now. Please renew! Thank you!!

## Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress

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**DOR 2012: February 18, 2012**  
*"70 Years After E.O. 9066: Defending Our Civil Liberties"*  
**Details Inside!**

## NCRRL with SAT 2011 Participants



January 2012

Dear NCRR Supporter,

NCRR rarely asks for donations but we are making an appeal for funds for a very important program. In 2009, NCRR and JACL received a California Civil Liberties Public Education Program grant and partnered with the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) and the Shura Council to bring Japanese American and American Muslim high school youth together in a program called Bridging Communities. In 2010 the program continued with funds from JACS and organizational subsidies. In 2011, the National Park Service provided a larger grant to the JACL which expanded the program to Seattle and San Francisco; however, we must raise the funds to continue the program this year in Los Angeles. It is the equal participation and commitment of the organizations that has ensured the success of the program in Los Angeles. Since the outset, an Advisory Committee set goals, developed the curriculum, hired the coordinator and oversaw the budget with full participation from all organizations in the outreach, fundraising and facilitation of the workshops. This year Kizuna will be participating in Bridging Communities and is on the Advisory Committee.



Alex Hasegawa and Rabee Ali holding a camp banner at the 2011 Manzanar Pilgrimage Interfaith ceremony. Below, Japanese American, Latino and American Muslim Bridging Communities participants at the Pilgrimage. (Photos by Kathy Masaoka)

Bridging Communities in Los Angeles was an outgrowth of the relationship between the Japanese American and American Muslim communities that began in September 2001. NCRR played a key role in initiating a candlelight vigil in Little Tokyo after 9/11 and deepened the connections by taking the words of Maher Hathout, Senior Advisor for the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC), for people to get to know each other. Beginning in 2001, NCRR organized Break the Fast programs, educational workshops and exchanges with the American Muslim community. In 2007, CAIR staff went on the Manzanar Pilgrimage and realized the value of bringing their community to the camp. To prepare their community to attend the Pilgrimage in 2008, CAIR organized workshops using the film “Pilgrimage” at five different mosques and asked NCRR to coordinate speakers from the Japanese American community. The Bridging Communities idea actually came out of the pilgrimage where the Executive Director of the Shura Council, Shakeel Syed, expressed the wish that the youth could continue the experiences and interactions beyond the one day at the Manzanar.

It was also a proactive response to a number of incidents of hate and intolerance after 9/11 and an attempt to build solidarity and partnerships between our two communities. The program consists of a series of interactive sessions on topics such as identity, culture, religion, civil rights, community history and activism. The program begins with the Day of Remembrance and ends with the Manzanar Pilgrimage. The young people in Bridging Communities have continued to be active in their respective communities and have built friendships that can be the basis of mutual support in the future.

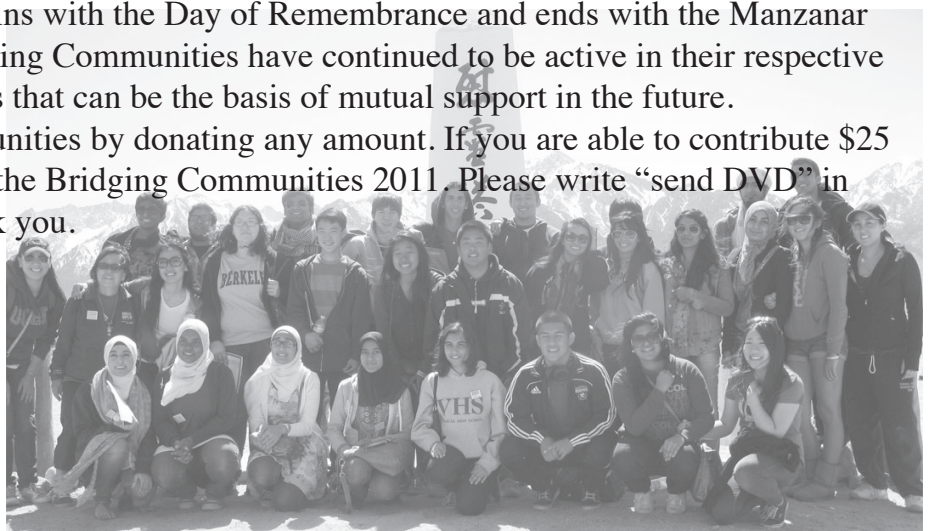
Please support Bridging Communities by donating any amount. If you are able to contribute \$25 or more, we can send you the DVD of the Bridging Communities 2011. Please write “send DVD” in the memo section of your check. Thank you.

Send your donations to:

NCRR

231 E. Third Street, Suite G-#104

Los Angeles, CA 90013





# NCCR Education Committee and “Stand Up for Justice!” Out and About in 2011

By Janice Yen

2011 proved to be another hectic year for the NCCR Education Committee. Members promoted the sale of “Stand Up for Justice, the Ralph Lazo Story” at several screenings, continued teacher training workshops with the educational curriculum packet, and reviewed “Speak Out for Justice” in preparation for possible online postings of selected testimonies from the 1981 Los Angeles Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians hearings.

The year started out with a great noon turnout at Wintersburg Presbyterian Church in Santa Ana. The largely senior citizen crowd enjoyed the film, asked questions about Ralph Lazo and gave NCCR a warm reception. Later in the year NCCR attended a Venice community screening with John Esaki and Amy E. Kato. The diverse local community turned out to raise money for a marker to be placed at the corner of Lincoln and Venice Boulevard (the site where Japanese Americans were ordered onto buses in April 1942 for transport to Manzanar).

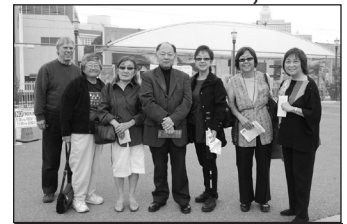
Thanks to Amy and Satomi Honjiyo the film was shown at the Little Tokyo and East Los Angeles County libraries. Teachers brought students to the ELA Library screening and a great number of parents and visitors also attended. Students at California State University at Northridge (CSUN) crowded the auditorium for the Chicano Studies fundraiser spearheaded by Professor Rudy Acuna. “Stand Up for Justice” and Maceo Hernandez’s taiko group headlined the CSUN fundraiser. In keeping with the committee’s goal of showing the film in the

Latino community, an outdoor screening was arranged, with the help of Ruben Guevara, at Self Help Graphics in Boyle Heights. In November, Patty and Steve Nagano were invited to show “Stand Up for Justice” while they were in Japan! Because the film is subtitled in Japanese, the Japanese gained a better understanding of what Japanese Americans had to endure during World War II.

Teacher training workshops took place at UCLA, at a UTLA-sponsored workshop for teachers going to the Manzanar Pilgrimage, at the Japanese American National Museum, as well as at several area schools. The importance of protecting the rights of all, including Muslim and Arab Americans, was emphasized. The Education Committee was honored to receive a Daniel Inouye Cherry Blossom Leadership Award at the 2011 festival in Little Tokyo.

In 2012 NCCR members are looking forward to screening “Stand Up for Justice” at Phoenix College in Arizona. The event is sponsored by several organizations including the Phoenix chapter of JACL, the Raul Castro Institute of Phoenix College, the Asian Pacific Islander Clubs, the Asian Chamber of Commerce, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance and the Victoria Foundation.

“Stand Up for Justice, the Ralph Lazo Story” can be ordered through Visual Communications at [www.vconline.org](http://www.vconline.org) for \$24.99 (\$19.99 for NCCR and Visual Communications members). The curriculum guide for teachers can be downloaded at [www.ncrr-la.org](http://www.ncrr-la.org). Organizations wanting to screen the film can contact NCCR at [ncrrla@yahoo.com](mailto:ncrrla@yahoo.com) or through the Visual Communications website.



NCCR Education Committee members with Glenn Omatsu and Iku Kiriyaama, also honored at the Cherry Blossom Festival. (Photo by Susie Ling)



Patty Nagano and Janice Yen with Dorothy Shundo and screening organizer at the Orange County Wintersburg Church. (Photo courtesy of Patty Nagano)

turnout at Wintersburg Presbyterian Church in Santa Ana. The largely senior citizen crowd enjoyed the film, asked questions about Ralph Lazo and gave NCCR a warm reception. Later in the year NCCR attended a Venice community screening with John Esaki and Amy E. Kato. The diverse local community turned out to raise money for a marker to be placed at the corner of Lincoln and Venice Boulevard (the site where Japanese Americans were ordered onto buses in April 1942 for transport to Manzanar).

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Maceo Hernandez and East LA Taiko perform at the CSUN screening. (Photo by Kathy Masaoka)

showing the film in the



The large and diverse crowd of students, parents and visitors at the East LA County Library screening. (Photo by Janice Yen)