

Executive Order 9066: Fifty Years On  
Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2 p.m.  
Harriet S. Jorgensen Theater

On Feb. 19, 1942, two months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, signed Executive Order 9066 calling for all Japanese Americans to be removed from "strategic areas," including California, Oregon, and Washington. 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry were affected. No trials or charges were filed. The majority of those interned were U.S. citizens.

Four decades later, in 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed legislation offering an official apology and \$20,000 redress to each of the 60,000 survivors of the war camps still alive.

On this panel, Japanese Americans who spent time in internment camps as a result of the Executive Order will discuss their experiences.

Moderator:

- Yuri Kochiyama -- lifelong community and civil rights activist and former internee. Born and raised in San Pedro, California, Kochiyama and her family were interned in a camp in Jerome, Arkansas. After more than two years in the camp, Kochiyama went to work for a United Service Organization for Japanese Americans in Mississippi. There she met her future husband, Bill Kochiyama, a veteran of the all-Japanese American 442nd combat team that had fought in Europe. In early 1946, they married in New York City, where they lived first in the Amsterdam Projects and later in Harlem. From the 1950s, she worked with victims of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombs who came to New York for plastic surgery or to speak out against nuclear proliferation. A civil rights activist since the early 1960s, Kochiyama joined the Asian American movement in 1969. She campaigned against the Vietnam War and has supported a variety of liberation movements. In the late 1970s, she advocated reparation for Japanese Americans. She has also campaigned for the rights of political prisoners and continues to volunteer at soup kitchens and shelters in New York.

Panelists:

Shiro Aisawa, civil engineer, now retired, and UConn alum, class of 47. Aisawa was a student at Brawley Junior College in California at the time of Executive Order 9066. He was interned, with his mother, his brother, and his sisters, in a camp in Poston, Arizona, while his father was interned in a separate camp. In 1943 Aisawa was allowed to leave the camp to pursue his education and became one of the first group of 10 Japanese American students who matriculated at UConn that year. He was drafted in 1944 and spent two years in the U.S. Army before returning to complete his degree at UConn. After graduate work at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Stanford University, Aisawa worked as an engineer for Westinghouse Corporation in Sunnyvale, California.

- George Fukui, research scientist, now retired, and UConn <sup>graduate</sup> alum, class of 45. Fukui was in his junior year at the University of California when Executive Order 9066 was issued and he was asked to withdraw. He was interned at Topaz, Utah, where his family spent the duration of the war. In 1944, he became one of 18 Japanese American

*Did he know  
Michi Wagon*

*ask if he  
knows Paul*

students at UConn during the War. He was graduated from the University in June 1945 with a degree in bacteriology. In September that year, he was drafted and served two years in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. He returned to UConn to study for a master's degree and then moved to Cornell University for his doctorate. He spent his career as a researcher in the fields of microbiology, virology, and immunology.

- <sup>NOBU HABINO</sup> ~~Nobu A. Habino~~, founder member of the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund <sup>in 1979</sup> to help <sup>S.E. Asian refugees</sup> Japanese American students in New England. ~~in 1979~~

<sup>HABINO</sup> ~~Habino~~ was a senior at the University of California at Berkeley when she was required to leave and was interned in the camp at Topaz, Utah. After one and a half years in the camp, she resumed her studies in psychology at Boston University. Although she completed her coursework at Boston University, she formally holds a degree from Berkeley. After graduating, she worked for the Social Service Index of the City of Boston for one year before relocating to Connecticut, where she raised her family. <sup>in 1982</sup> In 1979, she started a group called the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund to help Japanese American students. She has also given presentations about Japanese internment to colleges and schools near her home in Portland, Conn.

- Jack Koichi Hasegawa, educational consultant, CT State Department of Education. Hasegawa is a third generation Japanese American. He was raised in California after his parents returned from the camp at Poston, Arizona, where they were interned during the War. He was educated in California public schools, the University of the Pacific, Harvard Divinity School, and <sup>Kansai</sup> ~~Kwansei~~ Gakuin University in Nishinomiya, Japan. Hasegawa has been a civil rights worker in Atlanta, Georgia, a social worker in Roxbury, Mass., and a community organizer and college teacher and administrator in both Japan and the U.S. He has designed and presented hundreds of diversity training programs for corporations and schools. He is currently on the staff of the Connecticut State Commissioner of Education's Educational Equity and Excellence Unit.

- Bob Maeda, professor of art history, Brandeis University. Maeda was nine years old when he and his family were uprooted from their home in California and interned in a camp at Poston, Arizona. They spent <sup>year & a half</sup> four years in the camps. In the 1980s, Maeda was involved in the New England chapter of the Japanese American Citizens' League, formed to attain redress for those who were interned during World War II. Maeda is an art historian, who has focused on Chinese and Japanese art. He plans to undertake research on Japanese American artists in the internment camps. ~~His work specializes in Asian art history.~~



International  
1200 Asian students  
94 nations in  
1000 Asian

1984 - Roger Buckley came in