



November 1987

National Council for Japanese American Redress

VOLUME IX, NUMBER 9

NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

In my last letter, I confidently predicted that the Senate's redress bill, S. 1009, "will undoubtedly pass." And then the stock market crashed, the President and leaders of Congress held an economic summit to stem the ever-growing federal debt (near three trillion dollars), and the future of S. 1009, hence redress legislation, is uncertain. As of early November, S. 1009 had not been submitted for a vote. We live in unpredictable times. Perhaps the stock market will recover. Perhaps S. 1009 will be voted upon. Time is running out for 1987. The Congress is scheduled to recess November 21, though this, too, will probably change. (And "probably" has replaced "undoubtedly.")

Meanwhile, we did manage some modest improvements to the legislation. In the House, H.R. 442 was passed with a change in its section on the "Location and Payment of Eligible Individuals." It now reads:

The Attorney General shall, when funds are available for payments to an eligible individual under this section, notify that eligible individual of his or her eligibility for payment under this section.

I have emphasized our changes. This notification begins a six-month "statute of limitations," during which a person may refuse payment for his or her reasons, including a desire to stay with the lawsuit. Failure to refuse payment within six months of notification will extinguish all other claims a person may have against the U.S. Without this modification, (actually a "technical amendment" made after the bill had passed the committee) it would have been possible for a person to be notified without assurance of being paid and then be required to make a decision on whether to stay with legislative redress or the class action lawsuit.

The Senate's version of extinguishment is superior. S. 1009 contains no six-month "statute of limitations" and allows such a decision to be made within a ten-year statute of limitations. Changes were not permitted in S. 1009. But we were able to have the Senate Report on S. 1009, an explanatory piece, include this wording:

Nothing in this section is intended to preclude the pending class action, Hohri v. United States, from proceeding to final judgment. S.1009 would allow the Hohri class members, as well as other eligible individuals, to have the full ten-year period in which to decide whether to accept or reject payment under the provision of Title II.

(Title II of S. 1009 covers restitution. Title I is the apology. Title III covers the Aleuts.)

These are little adjustments, but could become important if this legislation is signed into law. Of course, our lawsuit continues regardless of the aftershocks from the Crash of '87. On September 29, our appeal was docketed (accepted and scheduled) in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. We have an alternation of 60 days for our brief, 40 days for the government's response, and 14 days for our rebuttal. So, by late January 1988, the ball should reach the court's court. Then we wait indeterminate months for oral argument and decision. A guess is a decision by October 1988.

Continued on next page

Continued from page 1 **Dear Friends**

And our fund raising continues. "If you don't take care of the money," someone said, "the money will take care of you." On October 24, NCJAR's Honolulu chapter—NCJAR'S first chapter—raised over \$6,000 at its "Yearning for Freedom" exhibition and program at Honolulu's Richards Street YWCA. The exhibition included photos, scrapbooks, and artifacts from the internment years, while the program included oral histories, readings of poems from Poets Behind Barbed Wire by Jiro Nakano, and performances on the koto by Sandy de Oliveira.



Deborah Gesensway Mindy Roseman

Though outdone and out shone, Chicago NCJAR held a lively book party for Deborah Gesensway and Mindy Roseman and their Beyond Words and raised several hundred dollars.

In the past month, we were honored to receive *ronin* numbers 57, 58, and 59: Michael A. Takehara of Grand Rapids; Jan Linfield of Chicago; and Toshiro and Doris Iwamoto of Honolulu. Each contributed \$1,000 to the Redress Legal Fund. The *ronins* give our movement a sense of heartfelt commitment. Though I have yet to meet all of them, the ones I have met comprise a group of exceptional persons.

Friends of Ralph Lazo will be pleased to know that Ralph is back home and feeling much better. Supporters of NCJAR in Salinas raised the question some months ago, why we mailed first class instead of third class. As a completely voluntary organization, we needed someone to do the task of getting us there. Sally Tashiro did. with help from Yuriiko Hohri and Haru Ozaki, and we thank her and them. We had a chance to view a video tape of the debate on H.R. 442 and think it's worth the four hours.

Brooks and Sumi Iwakiri were in town and took about 40 of us out to the Como Inn for dinner. It was their way of thanking the NCJAR board and friends for all our efforts. Truth is that Brooks and Sumi have done about as much as any of us to promote the redress movement. Still, the fettuccine was great. Undoubtedly.

Peace,

William Hohri

- We both want to thank you for the dinner and the book party Saturday evening. The dinner was delicious and the reception we received was terrific dessert.

We hope to keep involved in the movement and hope you will keep us informed. Best wishes.

Deb Gesensway
Mindy Roseman



Deborah Gesensway

Yaeko Imon

Gifts of the spirit

The following "Gifts of the Spirit" represent generous contributions to NCJAR made in memory of loved ones in whose names we continue the fight for redress.

In memory of:

FRANK F. ARAKAWA
by Eva, Marion and Kayo Arakawa

SHIGERU HORIO
by Nay M. Horio

GEORGE Y. and TAMAE HOSHIDA
by Hideo and June Honma
by Stanford and Sandra Hoshida Takahata
by Richard and Carol Hoshida Kanada
by Scott Honma and Stuart Honma

GEORGE Y. HOSHIDA
by Mrs. Grace A. Hoshida
by Stuart Honma

CHOMATSU and CHIYO IZUMI
by Martha (Izumi) Wataoka

YAYE KANOW KATAYAMA
by Ellen Godbey Carson and Robert Carson Godbey

REV. YOSHIO KITAJIMA
by Stanley and Yayoi Kitajima

RICHARD S. MIRIKITANI, Esq.
PAUL K. MIRIKITANI
by Clifford K. Mirikitani, M.D.

HIAKUTARO and MASA MIRIKITANI
HAZEL ASAKO CHIKAMOTO
by Clifford K. Mirikitani
by Percy K. Mirikitani, Esq.

CARL K. MIRIKITANI
by Dr. and Mrs. Carol M. Mirikitani
by Andrew and Richard Mirikitani

MR. and MRS. EKICHI OCHAI
by James and Shizuko Kato

RUBY YOSHINO SCHAAR
by May M. Horio

HANZO SHIMOKAWA
by June T. Shimokawa

YOSHIO TAKAHATA
by Mrs. Haruko Takahata
by Stanford and Sandra Takahata

MR. and MRS. TAMAKICHI TAKANO
by Toshiro and Doris Iwamoto *

GEORGE KUMEMARO UNO
by Ernest Uno



MAHALO for other generous gifts by:

James Araki, Kumi Boutz, Harry and Bess Chang, Emily Furutani, James and Irene Kanno Harada, Harumi and Yasuko Iwashita, Tsuruyo Kawamoto, Tamotsu and Yoshiko Masai, Hisa Mirikitani, Connie E. Morioka, Toyo Nakamura, Dr. Jiro Nakano, Yasuo and Miyoko Ogata, Wesley and Hannah Ogawa, Michiko Pacheco, John and Ruth Sato, Ronald and Ruth Takahata, Haruyuki and Hatsuyo Takamiya, Ted T. Tsukiyama, Mr. and Mrs. Iwaki Tagami, Charles and Clara Watanabe, Morris and Patsy Yamasaki, Richard and Janet Yoshimura.

C O N T R I B U T O R S

ARIZONA: Roger W. Axford.

CALIFORNIA: Civilian Congress, Kayo Endo, C.S. and Leatrice Miyashiro, Sam and June Naimark, Katsumi Tokunaga.

CHICAGO: Herbert and June Aragaki, Bob and Yaeko Imon,

* Jan Linfield, Mindy Roseman.

ILLINOIS: Mr. and Mrs. Sus Kawamoto, Margaret Wilkins.

MARYLAND: Diane H. Moriguchi.

MASSACHUSETTS: Norio Higano.

MICHIGAN: Ann-Nora Hirami,

* Michael A. Takehara.

MISSOURI: Linda MacLachlan.

NEW YORK: Smile Kamiya, Charles Kikuchi, Walter and Michi Weglyn.

TEXAS: Hideo Asato.

VIRGINIA: Rita Takahashi.

WASHINGTON: Atsushi and Shizuko Fujita, Rae Hayashi, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Ishino, Hana Kato, Peggy M. Mitchell, Takeo and Mary A. Mochizuki, Katsumi Frank Nakamichi, Mr. and Mrs. A. Nakamura, Mrs. M. Shimokon, c/o Mr. and Mrs. T.K. Ohtani, Samuel T. Shoji, Frank S. Yaguchi, Craig Yamamoto, Taka M. Yamamoto.

WISCONSIN: Patricia Akiko Takemoto.

■ If you do not wish to have your name listed, please indicate when you remit.

N O T E

Attended the meeting at YWCA at Richards St. in Honolulu. Much impressed with it. Keep up the good work.

M/M IWAKI TAGAMI
Honolulu, Hawaii

* Ronin

- Along with the program that took place on October 24, the edited story (below) by Beverly Creamer was printed in the Honolulu Advertiser on October 20, 1987.

I remember . . .

"THE MEMORIES ARE like the photographs in an album," says attorney Sandra Takahata, who was interned with her father during World War II in detention camps on the Mainland. "I remember sitting in a train and seeing telephone poles whizzing by. And a dress my mother made me. It was yellow with flowers. I liked it so much, I wore it for a week. And I remember eating castor beans. There was a castor bean tree outside our barracks. My mother said I almost died."

While her own memories of the camps are fleeting images stored long ago in the mind of a five-year-old, her father created an indelible record that still lives. In the four years he and his young family moved from camp to camp, George Hoshida sketched endlessly. Those neat sketchbooks of the rough barracks where the families lived, of friends asleep on their cots, of internees gathering in the mess hall, are now family heirlooms and historic artifacts. [Pages from these treasured mementoes were among the items on display at the "Yearning for Freedom" program held in Honolulu on October 24, 1987.]

Although Hoshida died two years ago, his sketches and the small mementoes he made with his own hands, will be there for all to see. The worn bookstand that's smooth to the touch. "It saw me through law school," says Takahata. Now it sits on her desk in her office. And the shell jewelry and carved wooden birds. They all must have made them, she says with a small laugh. "I hear other internees talking, 'Remember those shell pins and the birds?'"

Takahata flips slowly through one of her late father's sketchbooks. "Talk about irony," she says. One of the drawings happens to be the father of my husband. They were in the camp together. He died in 1960." She turns more pages. "He drew all these men," she says slowly. "I often wonder what happened to them."



The Hoshida's family's experience began two months after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Presumably, because Hoshida was active in the Buddhist church, and was a black belt judo instructor, he was considered dangerous, arrested, then detained at the Kilauea Military Detention Camp. After a hearing, he was shipped off to Lordsburg, New Mexico, leaving behind a pregnant wife and three young children.

It was more than a year before his family was sent to join him; Mrs. Hoshida was forced to leave their eight-year-old daughter behind. The child had been partially paralyzed in an automobile accident and couldn't travel, so was institutionalized in Waimano Home. "She died there," says Takahata, her voice husky. "She was left unattended in a bathtub and drowned. I still have trouble talking about it."

"I think the tragic part is the one who had memories of the suffering are dying off," says Takahata. "It's the younger ones who are more assertive and are pressing for reparations."

NOTE: Of the 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry who were interned, 1,500 to 1,900 were from Hawaii.

- Our first story on George Hoshida written by Susan Yim for the Honolulu Star-Bulletin (September 19, 1983) appeared in our January 1984 newsletter. e.s.

- The letters (below) were received by the Herzigs for their contributions to the Smithsonian's exhibit which opened on October 1, 1987.

Dear Aiko,

PLEASE ACCEPT MY most sincere thanks for all of your assistance in preparing the recent exhibition "A More Perfect Union: Japanese Americans and the United States Constitution."

From the outset all of us realized how difficult this project would be. At the same time, we were certain that the subject offered an ideal means of addressing issues of extraordinary importance to all Americans.

The exhibition is open now, and, judging both from the personal comments which I have received and from newspaper reviews, it seems to be an overwhelming success. Without your devotion and long hours of volunteer labor on our behalf, that would not have been possible. The Institution and the millions of Americans who will benefit from the show stand in your debt.

Sincerely,

Robert McC. Adams
Secretary

NOTE: Mr. Adams heads the Smithsonian and is responsible for all of the many museums and galleries which make up the Institution which includes in addition to the National Museum of American History, the National Museum of Natural History, the Fenwick Gallery of Art, the National Air and Space Museum, the Freer Gallery of Art, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Museum of Arts and Industry, the Hirschorn Sculpture Gallery, the Anacostia Afro-American Museum, the National Gallery of Art, the National Portrait Gallery and two newly opened museums—the Sackler Museum of Oriental Art and the Museum of African Art.



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Washington, D.C. 20560
U.S.A.

Dear Aiko and Jack,

THIS IS AN extraordinarily difficult letter to write. My debt to you for assisting in the development of the script is enormous, and a letter of thanks, no matter how effusive, seems flat and inadequate.

I take full responsibility for any weaknesses in the show. We are hard at work changing the appearance of the barracks room, as I write. The strength of the show, and the fine edge in much of the copy, I owe to you.

I do hope that the show (once the room is changed) will convey the essential message that all of us had in mind. Thanks again for everything.

Sincerely,

Tom D. Crouch
Chairman
Department of Social and Cultural
History

- Rep. Patricia Saiki (R-Hawaii) was the Mistress of Ceremonies for the memorable event held on the U.S. Capitol West Lawn on Thursday, October 1, 1987. Here are excerpts from her speech which was in the Hokubei Mainichi of October 3, 1987.

The courage to persevere

A MORE PERFECT UNION

We have gathered here, next to this mighty symbol of democracy, to mark the opening of the Smithsonian Institution's new exhibit, "A More Perfect Union: Japanese Americans and the United States Constitution." The exhibit is a fitting tribute to the greatness of our nation, and of the Constitution that has been our guide for two centuries.

Forty-five years ago, when the world was gripped by war, our leaders relied on fear and prejudice in determining that American citizens of Japanese ancestry posed a security threat to the country. Despite constitutional guarantees, despite our pride in being a nation of laws, innocent citizens were forced from their homes, placed behind barbed wire and denied their civil rights simply because of their race.

Congressional action will do much to remove the stain of shame that darkens the pages of American history. But our official apology, and restitution for those who were forced into desolate "relocation camps," is not enough. We must educate this generation, and the generation to come, about the internment and its impact on American history. The Smithsonian's exhibit is a major step toward understanding what happened, and why it must not happen again.

As we celebrate the bicentennial of our Constitution, the lesson of the internment is clear: throughout our history, Americans may occasionally fail the Constitution. But if we have the courage to persevere, if we are willing to stand firm for what is right, the Constitution will not fail us. That is the lesson that all Americans can draw strength from, no matter what their ancestry.

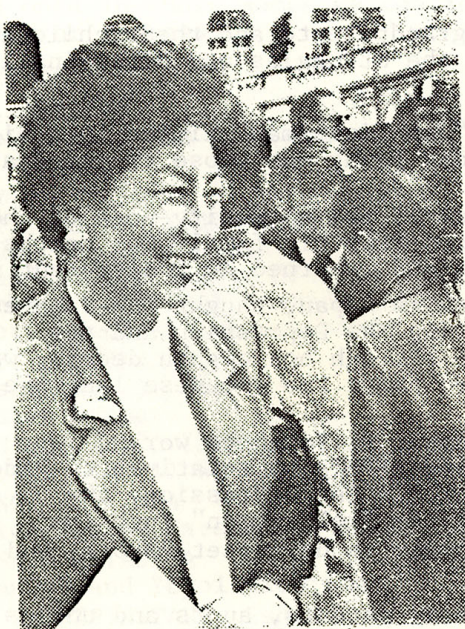
I look out across this crowd and I cannot help but be moved. Many of you have traveled thousands of miles to see this exhibit. I know that there are hundreds of Hawaii residents in Washington this week. And as I look at you, I am reminded that many in this crowd traveled thousands of miles many years ago for a very different purpose. You wore Army-regulation fatigues then. You were young men who swore allegiance to the United States from behind barbed wire and from a territory of the United States that was under martial law. And you made all Americans proud. You were heroes—real heroes—who distinguished yourselves in Europe. I have not forgotten your brothers in arms who served in the Pacific in the Military Intelligence Service. Their exploits are not as well known as those of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the 100th Infantry Battalion, but their contributions to victory were no less heroic.

In faraway places like Cassino, Bevedere and the Po Valley in Italy; in the French village of Belmont, Bruyeres and in the hills of Biffontaine; and in the China-Burma-India theater and on Saipan, Luzon and Guam, you sacrificed your precious blood to wash away the shame of Manzanar and Topaz and Tule Lake. We would not be here today celebrating the opening of this important exhibit if it were not for your sacrifices. Sen. (Daniel) Inouye, Sen (Spark) Matsunaga and every Nisei veteran of World War II—we owe you our thanks and deepest gratitude. Yours is a debt we can never repay.

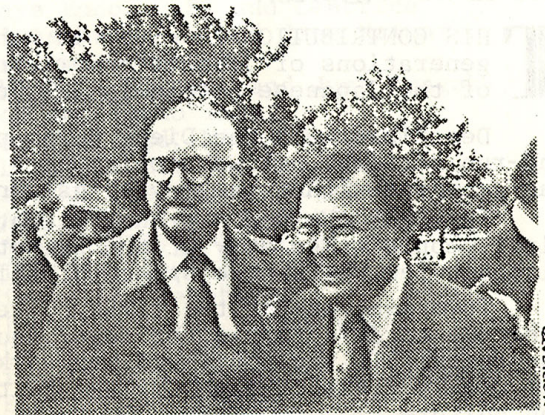
This program is almost at an end. But today's message must never be forgotten—the civil rights of all Americans are threatened if the rights of one are unjustly denied. To our honored guests, to the distinguished members of Congress here today, and to you, our special visitors who made this day possible, *mahalo nui loa*—that's how we say "thank you very much" in Hawaii.

PATRICIA SAIKI

A memorable event



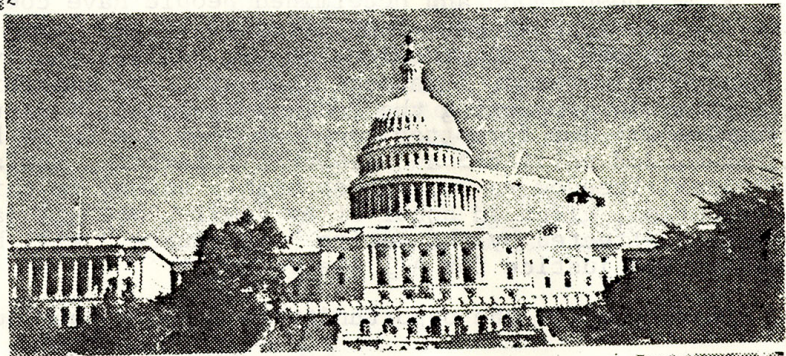
Rep. Patricia F. Saiki



Sen. Daniel K. Inouye

■ Photo credit: George Morisato
Thank you, George!
e.s.

THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 1, 1987
WASHINGTON, D.C.



"It reads in the marble palace of the Supreme Court, 'Equal justice for all.' Equal justice was denied to Americans of Japanese ancestry in 1942 and 1943. We have a saying under the law that 'justice delayed is justice denied.'

"Whatever the price is [It] is picayune compared to the trillion-dollar budget we have enacted.

"I only wish the President was here signing that [redress] bill in my place."

*Former Justice
Arthur J. Goldberg*



Arthur J. Goldberg

■ NCJAR wishes to thank Michael Takehara for allowing us to print his letter in its entirety. He is our 57th ronin.

Not to be forgotten

THIS CONTRIBUTION IS given in honor of my Issei grandparents and their children—generations of Japanese-Americans who exemplify the struggles and determination of the Japanese people in America.

Described in a San Diego newspaper as merely a "Jap fisherman" killed in a hit-and-run accident, Akisaburo Takehara was an adventurous young man whose tragic death was accepted without an investigation.

Seikichi Ase was a proud, educated man and leader of the community—one of the first people taken away at the outset of WWII, isolated from his family for months. Although few words were spoken of this experience, he had returned as a different man.

Toyo Ase, one of the first college-educated women in Japan, taught the Japanese language to children in the rural Southwest, both during the Depression and the incarceration. She continued her work in education up through her eighth decade, with her weekly treks through Chicago to teach her children about the Japanese language and culture.

Suddenly a widow with eight young children to raise, Ei Takehara worked long hours in the canneries (refusing welfare assistance and offers by relatives to "adopt" some of her children), holding her family together through the Depression, the uprooting and confinement in concentration camps, and the "relocation" into the Midwest. She continues to watch over her expanding family in her quiet, proud, and peaceful way.

From these proud and determined people have come my parents, aunts and uncles. Like all Nisei, they have been affected by the "camp experience." Whether their reaction is one of suppression, anger, denial, passivity, just making the "model minority" adjustment, I respect them all, and empathise with their experience and struggles. In supporting the Redress Movement, I want my family to know that their struggles are not forgotten; instead they are to be kept alive as examples of how narrow-minded political and economic interests, racism, and ignorance can suppress individual freedom—a concept so highly valued in this country. I hope that this contribution, given in honor of my family, and all Japanese-American families which have been affected by the entire "experience," will help our cause... of maintaining equality and justice for All Americans!!!

Thank you for the opportunity to support your outstanding work on our behalf.

MICHAEL TAKEHARA
Grand Rapids, Michigan

symbolic

FOR THOSE WISHING to know the meaning of NCJAR's logo (right), according to its designer, Frank Fujii of Seattle, Washington, the logo represents the numbers one, two and three, which were the three generations of Japanese-Americans who were placed behind barbed wire. In the words of the artist:

"The symbol speaks to the present-day freedoms of all Americans. The Japanese-Americans lost their rights without due process. Everyone is a hyphenated American."

The first explanation of the logo was printed in the April 1984 issue of the newsletter.

Frank Fujii was interned in Minidoka, Idaho.

—	ichi	<u>Issei</u>
— —	ni	<u>Nisei</u>
— — —	san	<u>Sansei</u>



NCJAR newsletter
editor: Eddie Sato
Doris Sato

May we suggest a book as a gift for Christmas? Place your order while there's still time.



T'was a busy evening for Bob Imon

- BEYOND WORDS: (Autographed)
Images from America's Concentration Camps
by Deborah Gesensway
Mindy Roseman \$24.95
Postage and handling 2.00
- KEEPER OF CONCENTRATION CAMPS:
Dillon S. Myer and American Racism
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- JAPANESE AMERICANS:
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- A NEW addition!
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Coming of Age of the Nisei \$7.00
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(Internment of Hawaii's Japanese)
by Patsy Sumie Saiki \$7.00
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Kay Nakano \$6.00
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- CAMP NOTES AND OTHER POEMS
by Mitsuye Yamada 4.50
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from *The New Yorker*
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Two-issue set 2.50
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- THE MANZANAR RIOT
by Arthur A. Hansen \$3.00
Postage and handling .50



Please send check (U.S. dollars) made payable to:

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11/87

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