National Council for Japanese American Redress

925 West Diversey Parkway
Chicago IL 60614
April 1988

Volume X, Number 4

Dear Friends,

In March we welcomed *ronin* 62 and 63, Flora and Bill Hidaka from Las Vegas, Nevada, recently moved from Chicago, and Dick Obayashi from Inglewood, California. *Ronin,* in case you've forgotten, are contributors of $1,000 or more. Our 63 *ronin* give special meaning to our movement with their "serious money." We owe them a special debt of gratitude.

On June 1, 1987, the Supreme Court remanded our class action lawsuit back to square two, to our appeal of the 1984 dismissal in the U.S. District Court. On March 8, this appeal was heard in oral argument before a three-judge panel in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Aiko and Jack Herzig and I sat with NCJAR's attorneys Benjamin Zelenko and Martin Shulman through an argument immediately preceding ours. I was impressed by the judges' expertise as they discussed clock pulses and relays of a patent issue, but I wondered what experience they would bring to bear on a major constitutional controversy. (The Federal Circuit was created in 1982 from judges in the U.S. Court of Claims and the U.S. Court of Customs and Patent Appeals.) I was not impressed. There are no clock pulses or relays in our complaint. As the government and NCJAR presented their cases, for 15 minutes each, the best construction I could put on this inadequate opportunity to argue an extremely complicated case was pro forma. We were going through the motions of an appeal to satisfy a technical requirement imposed on our case by the Supreme Court. After waiting a few months for the Federal Circuit's decision, our case will most probably return to the Supreme Court.

One of the benefits of travel—there aren't many—is book reading. I read Muriel Kitagawa's *This Is My Own: Letters to Wes & Other Writings on Japanese Canadians, 1941-1948,* edited by Roy Miki. The letters from Muriel in Vancouver to her brother Wes in Toronto were written shortly after Pearl Harbor until May 29, 1942, when she and her family were able to escape the horror of detention by being permitted to move to Toronto. Muriel was born in 1912. As a 12-year-old, she was captivated by a line from Sir Walter Scott's poetry, "This is my owm, my native land!" from which the title of the book is taken. She became an excellent writer. In January 1942, she gave birth to twins. Her letters provide a "live" sense of her agony in observing the chaos and heartbreak of the expulsion of Canadians of Japanese ancestry from Canada's West Coast. She repeatedly attempts to probe an uncertain future. She resists mightily the impending loss

Continued on page 2

An Issue for All Americans

of freedom, unleashes her anger at government officials, and expresses her anxiety, approaching panic, in planning for a long trip with two infants (e.g. writing appeals to her brother for disposable diapers). She must weigh the cost of this trip within a stretched budget against the prospect of a harsh life of exile in a ghost town. She and her family were one of few persons able to escape to Toronto. Most Japanese Canadians wound up in work camps, deserted ghost towns, or detention camps.

Kitagawa makes an insightful distinction between loyalty to one's country as "a passionate, unquestioning, unqualified affinity with the land" and to "the pettiness of a man-made... government." Kitagawa helps me to understand the continuing problem of the wartime loyalty oath--unqualified loyalty to the *government* of the United States of America--and renunciation--divorcing oneself from one's native land. Japanese-Americans can learn a lot from this cousin from north of the border. I warmly recommend her book. [To order, see page 11.]

On March 13-15, I traveled to Denver to participate in the First Amendment Congress. What a lively affair that was. We were a collection of Americans from various walks of life who gathered to discuss the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution as though it were ours to rewrite and reinterpret for our times. Surprisingly, no one wanted to rewrite. But there was much reinterpretation of the amendment's clauses on issues such as national security, pornography and obscenity, freedom of the press in high schools, commercial speech (advertisement), access to media by minorities, and the right to petition for the sovereign immunity. I co-moderated the workshop on the right to petition for the redress of grievances. I sensed that the issue of Japanese-American redress has entered the consciousness of the public and affected the gathering's strong statement that sovereign immunity must yield to the right to petition. Even a bit of hyperbole, introduced by a justice of the North Dakota supreme court, characterizing sovereign immunity as "a hallmark of totalitarian government," was sustained.

Then on March 25-27 I traveled to Pullman, Washington to participate in the Fifth National Conference of the Association for Asian American Studies. The early Friday morning flight from Chicago to Minneapolis was delayed by 90 minutes, resulting in a missed connection to Spokane, requiring a flight to Seattle, then to Spokane, resulting in a missed bus connection in Spokane, requiring a rental car drive to Pullman down a two-lane highway in an underpowered Ford Escort that couldn't pass anything, causing me to be late for a presentation I was to make for Michi Weglyn, causing the presentation to be postponed a day. Despite the 10 hours required to make a half-day trip, the conference was rewarding. I met Gail and Steve Sumida, Gary Okihiro, Tomo Shoji, Shawn Wong, Susan Hirabayashi, and the editor-in-chief of Washington State University Press, Fred Bohm, among others and renewed acquaintances with Frank Chin, Mitsuye Yamada, Frank Abe, Lawson Inada, Frank Emi, James Omura, Peggy Nagae Lum, Phil Nash, Franklin Odo, Violet de Cristoforo, Gordon Hirabayashi, and Massie Tomita.

On Saturday, after a speech by Norman Mineta, Steve Sumida dedicated an Isamu Noguchi lamp as *Hikari,* a symbol of light for outstanding achievement by Asian Americans. I made my presentation speech honoring Michi Weglyn and her book, *Years of Infamy* as the first recipient of *Hikari*. At the closing banquet, I enjoyed listening to Frank Chin do a reading of a section of his *Chickencoop Chinaman*. He does--and has written--the Lone Ranger and Tonto so well. It is much funnier hearing him perform it than reading it.

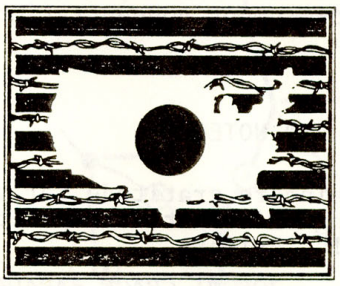
Continued on page 3

Continued Dear Friends

April ought to be easier. On April 6, I have a trip to Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts for an evening program with Peter Irons. By the end of April, if all goes as predicted, *Repairing America* in paperback should come rolling off the presses—or is it bounding from the bindery? The hardbound edition will follow by two weeks. But I won't believe it until I hold them in the sweaty palms of my hands. I truly appreciate your pre-publication orders. If you haven't ordered, the pre-publication discount of 20% will remain in effect until May 31. It's $20 for the hardbound and $12 for the paperback. Please add $2 for postage and handling. If you tell me to whom you wish the book autographed, I'll be happy to oblige.

Peace,
William Hohri

REPAIRING AMERICA



AN ACCOUNT OF THE MOVEMENT FOR JAPANESE-AMERICAN REDRESS

[To order, see page 10.]

Welles came to speak

Orson Welles' death reminded me of a little-noted speech he gave at the Central YMCA on LaSalle Street in downtown Chicago during 1943-44 school year. The war was in progress, and the carnage at Pearl Harbor was fresh in the public mind. Into this mileu came thousands of Japanese-Americans who were released from the internment camps created by Roosevelt's infamous executive order.

Many of the Central YMCA students were Japanese-Americans who had been relocated in Chicago. I believe their enrollment had been encouraged by the inspired leadership of Edward Sparling, president of the college. To this setting—a liberal college administration and a multiracial student body—Welles came to speak.

Welles spoke fervently of the injustice done to the Japanese-Americans by their internment. He charged that California farm interests, anxious to be rid of their highly efficient Japanese-American competitors, had created more pressure for internment than national security interest.

That one speech delineated the man's dimensions far beyond those of the generally acknowledged consumate actor and creative genious.

CARL J. CHERRY
Fostoria, Ohio

NOTE:
Born on May 6, 1915 in Kenosha, Wisconsin,
George Orson Welles died on October 10, 1985.

■ The letter to the editor (above) titled "A Tribute to Orson Welles" appeared in the October 25, 1985 Chicago Tribune. Our thanks to Takeshi Kondo for providing the article. e.s.

A TRAGIC LOSS

A ronin and supporter of NCJAR, Mieko Udaka of Gadsden, Alabama, was killed in December in a fatal auto accident. She is survived by her husband John, who was injured.

During World War II, Mieko was in Jerome and Rohwer, Arkansas—both government concentration camps.

LETTER AND NOTES

Our sincere gratitude for your untiring and beautiful spirit of "fight!" Arigato.

JOE N' GRACE HARADA
Carson CA

Keep up the good work. Hope you make it.

E.K. NATTORI
Bainbridge Island WA

The enclosed is in memory of my sister Hana Shepard with whom I'd always shared my birthday in February.

ERNEST UNO
Aiea HI

We send this contribution in the memory of two gallant and beautiful beings, Hana Uno Shepard and Yaso Ueno.

They are greatly missed.

MICHI N' WALTER WEGLYN
New York NY

We are making this contribution in honor of my late father, F. Palmer Weber, who had been a staff researcher for the Tolan Committee, and in honor of my mother Lillian Dropkin Weber, from whom I first learned of the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II.

(My mother had the full transcripts in numerous bound volumes at the top of the bookcase when I was little. Unfortunately, the relevant volumes were lost in shipment to Chicago some years back.)

Separately, they each provided a model for me of indignation at and devoted work against all injustice.

JOHN N' ELSA WEBER
Chicago IL

Keep up your "Strive n' Strife" for all of us. Enclosed is my check in memory of my brother, John Kozan Matsuno.

Thanks Again.

MARY MATSUNO-MIYA
Los Angeles CA

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

CALIFORNIA: Civilian Congress, Dianna Kaoru Eaton, Joe and Grace Harada, Nobue Hatchimonji, H. Kimura, Glen Kitayama, Masaru Kunimura, Ryo Kunisawa, Don Kuwabara, Mary Matsuno-Miya, Mrs. and Mrs. Henry Mayeda.
Dick Obayashi [In memory of Daisaku and Fui Murata], J.M. Okada, Kaz Shimizu, Harry Ueno, Masayuki Cy Wakita, Dinah Watanabe, Bessie Yokota, Fumi Yokota.
CHICAGO: Anna Alexa, Kerry Berland, Yutaka Itano, Roy Morita, S.H. Ogawa, John and Elsa Weber.
COLORADO: Harry and June Iwakiri, Sam K. Shinto.
CONNECTICUT: Rev. Thomas N. Nissley.
FLORIDA: Lillian McCoy.
HAWAII: Fumiko Fukuda, Yukiko Fukuda, A. Nakamura, Patsy Saiki, Ernest Uno.
ILLINOIS: Rose and Kane Senda.
INDIANA: Mr. and Mrs. Theodore S. Chihara.
KANSAS: Burritt S. Lacy, Jr.
MICHIGAN: Alison Rosen.
OREGON: Tase Kingi Louie, Henry Sakai, C. Aimee Yogi.
NEVADA: Bill and Flora Hidaka.
NEW JERSEY: Franklin and Jean Woo.
NEW YORK: Min Hara, Akira Hirami, Charles Kikuchi, Michi and Walter Weglyn.
UTAH: Yuriko Lillie Kojima.
WASHINGTON: James M. Itami, Harry and Arlene Kadoshima, Mrs. S. Kono, Ted Nakamura, Mr. and Mrs. E.K. Nattori, Frank S. Tanaka, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Yabu, Mrs. May Yoshinaka.
WASHINGTON, DC: Judith A. Dollenmayer.

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

To express visually

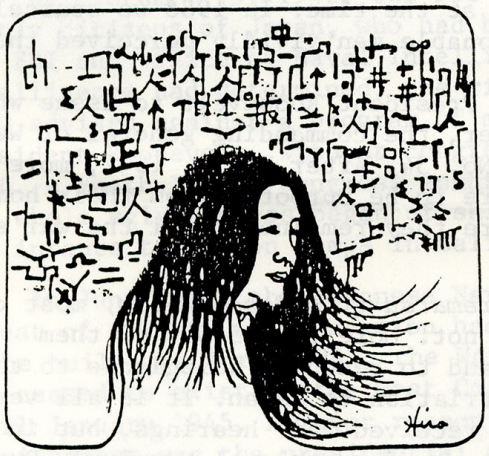
Recently, two major paintings by *Hiro* titled: "Justice For All" and "Sada Memories—Thoughts on Justice" were accepted by the Smithsonian Museum of American History. As of March 9, 1988, the paintings were included in their exhibition, "A More Perfect Union: Japanese Americans and the United States Constitution.

Hiro's feelings about her paintings are expressed in these words:

JUSTICE FOR ALL *(Acrylic on silk, triptych: 28"x 54" horizontal 1978)*

In my heart, I have always felt the anguish and the sorrow arising from the incarceration of the Japanese Americans into internment camps during World War II. I, too, am an American of Japanese descent.

Being an artist, I wanted to express visually this experience in terms of the emotions of the peoples interned as reflected back over this 45-year period. The method of expression was studied and selected with great care—using the techniques of the bold stroke to vent the feelings of helplessness, fear, and to depict the harsh realities of life in prison—the stark colors of grey and black to show the devastation of oppression—with touches of green to symbolize rejuvenation, and flashes of white to assert the strength of renewed human rights and freedoms.



The painting, "Justice For All" communicates to those who cherish freedom and equal rights for all people.

SADA MEMORIES—THOUGHTS ON JUSTICE
(Acrylic on silk, 59"x 29" vertical 1987)

Sada is thinking about "camp" days, forty-five years ago, when she was forcibly removed to an internment camp in the middle of a desert of America's southwest. She was incarcerated by United States government decree, Executive Order 9066, without writ of habeas corpus, without due process of law, without being accused of anything. She lived behind barbed-wire for three years, an experience shared with 120,000 other Japanese Americans because she was a Japanese American. Sada was my mother.

All of us Americans have a responsibility to know what happened to the lost rights and freedoms of the Japanese Americans in 1942, to help us prevent future discrimination and deprivation of our constitutional rights. We hope that equal rights, freedom, and injustice will prevail.

This painting, "Sada Memories—Thoughts on Justice," is a tribute to Japanese Americans.

Hiro

■ A cross-cultural artist, writer, teacher and lecturer, *Hiro* resides in Crystal City, Washington, D.C. She was interned in Gila, Arizona.

The past is past. Let it stay that way.

▪ The following column titled, "$1.2 Billion Worth of Hindsight" by James J. Kilpartick was printed in the March 5, 1988 edition of The Washington Post.

Now pending on the Senate's calendar, subject to floor debate at any time, is a bad bill that comes to us laden with good intentions. At a cost of $1.2 billion, the bill would pay $20,000 each to those surviving Americans of Japanese ancestry who were interned on the West Coast in World War II. The measure ought to be quietly retired.

It is not easy—it is probably futile—to oppose the Senate bill. It heads for the floor bearing the names of 75 sponsors. A companion measure passed the House last September by a vote of 243-141. Only a heart of stone, it is said, could fail to be moved by the injustice visited upon loyal American citizens 46 years ago. It is time to apologize, we are told; it is time to make amends.

The trouble with that compassionate plea is that it comes to us through a rear-view mirror. It embodies the hindsight wisdom of the Monday morning quarterback. The bill carries a finding that "there was no military or security reason for the internment," but that is the conclusion now. It assuredly was not the conclusion then.

Two generations have grown up since the Japanese launched their attack on Pearl Harbor. Today we count the Japanese as friends and allies. In the winter of 1941-42 they were enemies. Today it seems absurd to imagine that the Japanese might have invaded California. This seemed not at all absurd at the time. In 1988 we scarcely can imagine risks of sabotage and espionage. Reasonable men vividly perceived them then.

Acting upon these fears, Congress authorized President Roosevelt to issue what became Executive Order 9066. Pursuant to that order, the commanding general of West Coast forces proclaimed Civilian Exclusion Order No. 34. After May 9, 1942, more than 110,000 U.S. citizens of Japanese descent were to be uprooted from their homes. They were taken by train to internment camps. There they remained until the war's end in 1945. An estimated 60,000 survive.

As the Supreme Court noted in the case of *Korematsu v. United States,* most of the internees were loyal Americans. But some were not. More than 5,000 of them refused to swear allegiance to the United States and to renounce allegiance to the emperor. Several thousand evacuees requested repatriation to Japan. It is all very well to say today that these citizens should have received fair hearings, but in the spring of 1942 we were involved in a desperate war for national survival. Due process had to yield to the exigencies of the day.

The exclusion order came before the high court in 1944. By a vote of 6-3 the court upheld the order. Justice Hugo Black, one of the great civil libertarians of all time, wrote the opinion. Felix Frankfurter and William O. Douglas agreed. Listen to what Black said:

"We are not unmindful of the hardships imposed by the exclusion order upon a large group of American citizens. But hardships are part of war, and war is an aggregation of hardships. All citizens alike, both in and out of uniform, feel the impact of war in greater or lesser measure . . . Compulsory exclusion of large groups of citizens from their homes, except under circumstances of direst emergency, is inconsistent with our basic governmental institutions. But when under conditions of modern warfare our shores are threatened by hostile forces, the power to protect must be commensurate with the threatened danger."

In looking back on those days, we ought to take guidance from Lord Macaulay. This was the precept of that great historian: "As we would have our descendants judge us, so we ought to judge our fathers. In order to form a correct estimate of

Continued on page 7

Continued The past is past. Let it stay that way.

their merits, we ought to place ourselves in their situation, to put out of our minds, for a time, all that knowledge which they could not have and we could not help having.... It is too much that the benefactors of mankind, after having been reviled by the dunces of their generation for going too far, should be reviled by the dunces of the next generation for not going far enough."

Rep. Bill Frenzel of Minnesota made the same point in House debate: "What a funny way to ask us to rub ashes on our heads! The bill asks us to purge ourselves of someone else's guilt with another generation's money." No penance, no payments and no apology are required. The past is past. Let it stay that way.

James J. Kilpatrick

■ NOTE: The rebuttal (below) was sent to the editor of the Washington Post.

What way was that?

"The past is past," writes James J. Kilpatrick (3-5-88), "Let it stay that way." And what way was that? Certainly not as Kilpatrick describes it. He assures us that "reasonable men vividly perceived" the risks of sabotage and espionage.

By February 15, 1942, the FBI had rounded up over 3,000 Japanese-Americans, mostly citizens of Japan, who had been identified as potential security risks by the FBI and Office of Naval Intelligence. As far as the best domestic and military intelligence had determined, the risk of internal subversion had been contained. They advised against a program of mass exclusion and detention. Yet within a week, President Roosevelt, without congressional authorization, issued Executive Order 9066. A month later, Congress enacted sanctions for violations of this order, and the whole ugly process began of shipping men, women, children, the elderly, infirm, and infants to prison camps in California and six interior states.

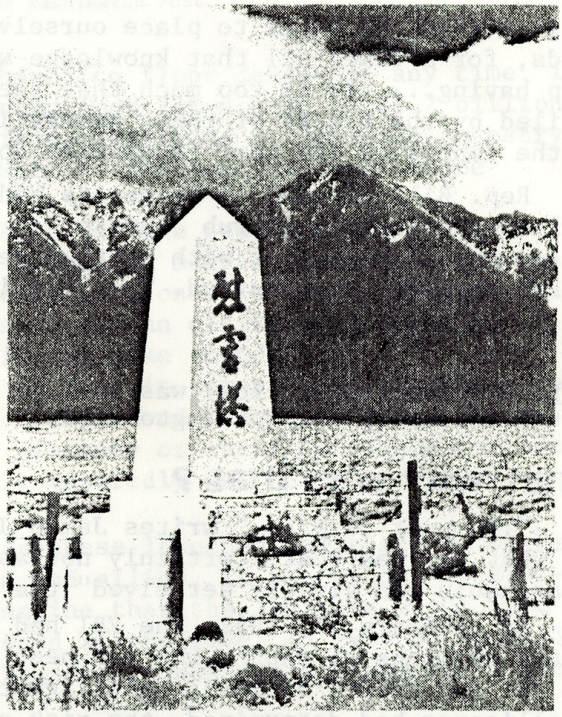
In June 1942, the Japanese Navy suffered a decisive defeat at Midway. The threat of a West Coast invasion had all but disappeared. Six of ten camps had yet to be built. By April 1943, the War Department had determined that military necessity had ceased to exist on the West Coast. Mass exclusion, however, was not rescinded until January 1945. A major reason for this unconscionable extension of imprisonment was the presidential campaign of 1944.

All this is to say nothing of the virulent racial hatred heaped on us "Japs" by newspapers, comic strips, comedians, movie stars, radio and print commentators, distinguished members of Congress, and respected leaders of government. For us, it was a terror-filled time. Like a wife-beater, Kilpatrick accuses us of disloyalty for wanting to leave. He misses a simple truth: a Government that abuses and imprisons people without charge, evidence, or minimal due process does not deserve a pledge of unqualified allegiance from such victims or any other believer in democracy.

One of the great strengths of democracies is their resiliency under stress. The First Amendment under which Kilpatrick is free to attempt his lame attempt at ideological revision of history also guarantees the right to petition for the redress of grievances. The three branches of government are now being confronted with an opportunity to redress this grievous injury. I pray they will act with more attention to history and less hardness of heart than Kilpatrick displays.

William Hohri

The following
(below)
was presented
to Sue Kunitomi Embrey
for the 19th annual
Manzanar Pilgrimage.



Passing through

Passing through, passing through,
Sometimes happy, sometimes blue,
Glad that I ran into Sue,
She's a leader with a vision bold and true.

I saw Sue in sixty-eight.
She said, "Man, it's getting late.
We must demand redress and reparations too,
We must consecrate the sites
Where we suffered, lost our rights.
We must fight for the justice that is due."

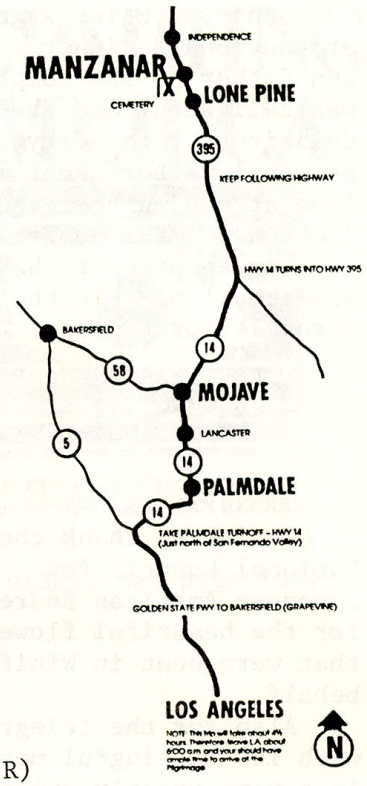
Passing through, passing through,
Sometimes happy, sometimes blue,
Glad that I ran into you,
Tell the people that you saw me passing through."

By Dick Blakeslee
made popular by Woody Guthrie.

Additional words
in part by Wilbur Sato.

19th Annual Pilgrimage

Saturday, April 30, 1988 is the date set for the 19th annual Pilgrimage to Manzanar. The location of the former World War II concentration camp is 212 miles north of Los Angeles. *(See directions, right.)*



The program will open with a special work project for early arrivals. A potluck lunch and religious services will follow. The work project will be the removal of the old fence posts and barbed wire surrounding the cemetery area. A new fence has been built by the Los Angeles City Department of Water and Power staff which provides a larger cemetery area, with an entrance and exit gate.

Manzanar was a former internment camp for persons of Japanese ancestry, who were excluded from the West Coast after the outbreak of World War II. It became a State Historic Landmark in 1972 and was designated a National Historic Site by the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior in April of 1985.

Earlier in February, representatives of the National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS) and the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations (NCR/R) met with the Manzanar Committee to lend support to the National Park Service Alternatives Plans to make Manzanar a part of the National Park System.

From the three meetings that were held, Alternative Plan 3 had the most support. Emphasis under this plan is the preservation of existing historic remains and the use of the camp auditorium for a Visitor's Center with interpretive displays. The plan also includes an interpretation of the history of the native Americans, and the early 20th Century agricultural community of Manzanar, and permits the continuation of existing grazing and the Department of Water and Power management activities.

The National Park Service projects an annual influx of 50,000 to 100,000 visitors to Owens Valley, making a wide circle from Death Valley National Monument to the Eastern California Museum and the Manzanar Historic Park, bringing economic benefits to Inyo County, and national recognition of Manzanar through the National Park System.

Said Sue Embrey, spokesperson for the Manzanar Committee: "We hope the entire community will support the implementation of the National Park Service plan to help keep alive the memory of Manzanar for future generations of Americans."

- Buses will depart for Manzanar from downtown Los Angeles, the San Fernando Valley, and Gardena/West Los Angeles.

  There is a prepaid non-refundable fee of $5.00.

For information,
call (213) 662-5102,
or write Manzanar Committee,
1566 Curran Street,
Los Angeles, CA 90026.

THANK YOU!

I enjoyed being a guest at your board dinner at Ann Sather's. The company was delightful and the meal delicious. I am sorry that personal matters kept me from attending the evening's [February 19th] program.

I am so proud to have some small part in the struggle for Redress.

REV. MARTHA COURSEY
Chicago IL

I wish to thank the National Council for Japanese American Redress for the beautiful flowers that were sent in Winifred's behalf.

Also for the telegram with its meaningful message. They were greatly appreciated by the family of Winifred McGill.

MRS. W.L. McGILL
Port Edwards WI

IN MEMORIUM

As a final tribute to Winifred McGill, a memorial service was held on Sunday afternoon, March 13, 1988 at the Granville Avenue United Methodist Church, Chicago.

Personal tributes and reminisces were presented by many of Winifred's friends.

NCJAR newsletter
editor: Eddie Sato
Doris Sato

LITERATURE available through NCJAR

Quantity — Price

___BEYOND WORDS:
Images from America's Concentration Camps
by Deborah Gesensway and Mindy Roseman
Hardbound: $29.95 plus $2.00 (postage) $_____

___KEEPER OF CONCENTRATION CAMPS:
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ATTENTION!

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An Account of the Movement
for Japanese-American Redress
by William Minoru Hohri
(Foreword by John Toland)

WSU PRESS
Washington State University Press
Pullman, Washington

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Hardbound: $20.00 plus $2.00 (postage) _____
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The New Yorker
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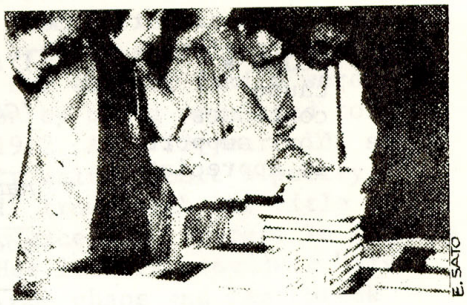
___THE MANZANAR RIOT
by Arthur A. Hansen $3.00 _____
Postage/handling .50 _____

TOTAL $_____



Please send to:

Name_____

Street_____

City, state, zip_____

- Send check *(U.S. dollars)* made payable to: NCJAR
925 West Diversey Parkway
Chicago IL 60614

4/88

NCJAR
925 WEST DIVERSEY PARKWAY
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60614

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988 D
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545 West 126th Street, #3-B
New York NY 10027

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please send with (above) address to

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NCJAR
925 West Diversey Parkway
Chicago IL 60614

NCJAR's cause continues. Your support is appreciated.

I am sending $_____

(Contributors will receive NCJAR newsletter)

_____
name

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address

_____
city *state/province* *zip*

Please make your tax-deductble check payable to: Redress Legal Fund
925 West Diversey Parkway
Chicago IL 60614

(Not to NCJAR)
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