

Japanese American Resource Consultant

AMY UNO ISHII

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THE JAPANESE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

This is to introduce Amy Uno Ishii, an American of Japanese ancestry, with a presentation of the Japanese American Experience. This includes a 15 minute slide presentation of America's Concentration Camps set to appropriate music and is available to clubs, organizations, church groups, secondary school teachers and colleges as a supplement to their regular course materials.

The slides, set to contemporary music, give a graphic account of the aftermath of the attack on Pearl Harbor and the anti-oriental feelings advocating the removal of all Japanese from the West Coast. Scenes of the Japanese Americans and their immigrant parents being rounded up and transported to the Concentration Camps come as a shock to many who are viewing this for the first time. The day to day activities of the evacuees are vividly shown through the paintings, sketches and photographs produced within the Camps.

In addition to the slides, a personal account of Camp life is narrated by Mrs. Ishii who was interned in three of the ten Camps. The intent of the personal account is to give additional insight into the feelings and thoughts that the evacuees struggled with during their internment.

In order for people to receive the maximum benefit from this presentation, as much time as possible is allotted for questions and answers. At this time, the "how" and "why" questions of the mass evacuation can be fully explored. Printed material will also be available for those who wish.

Mrs. Ishii has spent the past twenty years in researching the evacuation material and has been doing these educational presentations as a "prof/expert" in her field for teachers students and many individual groups of interested and concerned people. A nominal fee is charged for the presentation to help cover the costs of equipment, printed materials, transportation and time. Thank you for your consideration.

For further information contact:

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A brief biography of: AMY UNO ISHII

- Birth:** December 11, 1920 in Salt Lake City, Utah, number 5 of ten children of Mr. and Mrs. George K. Uno.
- Education:** All of my education was in Los Angeles, California as our family moved to Los Angeles from Salt Lake City in 1925. I went from grade school through the twelfth grade and two years of Los Angeles City College.
- Internment:** Sent to the Santa Anita Race Tracks (Assembly Center) with my mother, sisters and brothers in April of 1942. Our father was interned in a separate Camp for the "potentially dangerous enemy Alien". I was married while in Santa Anita in August of 1942 to Alfred T. Tanaka of Honolulu, Hawaii.
- Was sent to Heart Mountain, Wyoming (Relocation Camp) where our daughter, Arlene Reiko, was born on June 6, 1943.
- Relocated to Chicago, Ill. in March of 1944 where our son, Arthur Takashi, was born in July of 1944.
- Returned to Camp, this time to Amache, Colorado (Relocation Camp) in February of 1945 and stayed till February of 1946.
- Relocation:** Returned to Chicago in February of 1946 and came back to Los Angeles, California in July of 1946.
- Went to Hawaii to live in October of 1946 only to find that I could not take the weather there so I returned to Los Angeles in July of 1947. My permanent place of residence.
- Widowed in July of 1949.
- Remarried in April of 1952 to Jack T. Ishii. Jack Ishii adopts Arlene Reiko and Arthur Takashi so the Tanaka name is dropped.
- We have two additional children, Ken, born in March of 1953 and Robert, born in December of 1955.
- Work:** I have been a long time volunteer in the community with very little actual work experience. There was a very short time that I worked for the Pacific Citizen until I became disabled.
- I have been disabled since 1968 and have chosen to make education my priority in life. I developed my slide presentation on the Japanese American Experience in 1972 and recently did a new one on Redress/Reparations for former Internees of the Evacuation.
- Aside from my husband and four children, I also have four very dear grandchildren with whom I share my life.
- My presentations take up a good part of my time but I do grant interviews to students and to the Media. I am also trying to get a book written on my own family and our experiences of the evacuation and relocation.