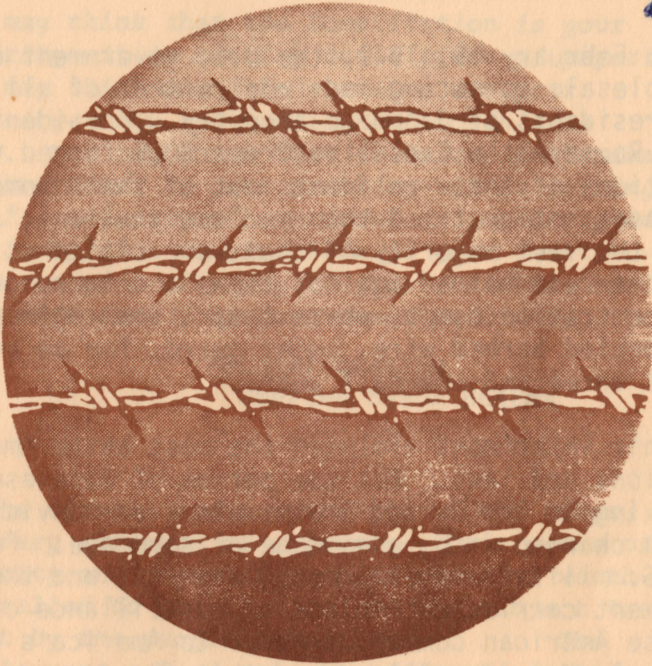


W 304 Sierra Way



# JAPANESE AMERICA: Contemporary Perspectives on the Internment

San Francisco State A. Am. St. Farewell to Wagon

## INTRODUCTION

On February 19, 1942, the U.S. government ordered the wholesale uprooting and imprisonment of all Pacific Coast residents of Japanese ancestry. President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066 forced three generations of these residents out of their homes and businesses; stigmatized them as "enemy aliens," even though the vast majority of them were citizens; legitimized the race hatred against them; and impounded them in concentration camps, where they lived regimented lives behind barbed wire, under guard, for an average term of three and one-half years.

This internment violated the most basic American traditions and laws. Not one person of Japanese ancestry living in the United States was ever convicted of, or even charged with, espionage or sabotage. Further, the U.S. military intelligence, the FBI, and the State Department carried out intensive surveillance of the Japanese American community prior to America's entrance into World War II. All agreed that the Japanese and Japanese American residents were extraordinarily loyal.

How, then, was such a massive violation of civil rights accomplished, and why? How has the internment affected the lives of former internees? Is the government now responsible for redressing the losses suffered during the internment?

JAPANESE AMERICA: CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES ON THE INTERNMENT--a statewide series of photo exhibits, films, and conferences--explores these and other questions. These are the first such conferences ever to examine the internment from social, literary, personal, and legal points of view. Together they will generate a body of knowledge unattainable elsewhere, an understanding of how the expulsion and internment of Japanese Americans continue to live in the psyches of individuals, in our cultural myths, and in our law.

March 1, 1980

*You may think that the Constitution is your security--it is nothing but a piece of paper. You may think that the statutes are your security--they are nothing but words in a book. You may think that elaborate mechanism of government is your security--it is nothing at all, unless you have sound and uncorrupted public opinion to give life to your Constitution, to give vitality to your statutes, to make efficient your government machinery.*

--Chief Justice  
Charles Evans Hughes

*In the turmoil and uncertainty of the camps, the very strength of a people--their sense of identity and community, their sense of worth--was called to question and became subject to doubt by the people themselves. . . . The people were called upon to confront, define, and justify their own existence--to themselves and to their government--and the camps fragmented into factions of "wrong" and "right," with more "ifs" than answers, for no matter what the people did. . . they were still behind barbed wire in the country that used to be home.*

--Lawson Inada,  
Of Place and Displacement

*. . . in the darkness of the alley of the community that was a tiny bit of America, he chased that faint and elusive insinuation of promise as it continued to take shape in mind and in heart.*

--John Okada,  
No-No Boy

\* \* \* \* \* PROGRAM \* \* \* \* \*

- 9:00 AM Registration and coffee
- 9:30 AM Welcome and introduction  
Bob Briley, moderator
- 9:45 AM *Before the War*  
A portrait of Spokane's Japanese American community: its social, business, and family life
- panelists  
Denny Yasuhara  
Harry Yoshida  
Fred Shiozaki  
Ed Yamamoto  
Iku Matsumoto
- 10:30 AM *Nisei: The Pride and Shame*  
(A CBS Twentieth Century film)
- Actual footage of the expulsion from Washington State
- 11:00 AM *Years of Infamy: Expulsion and Internment*  
The legal background to the decision to intern Japanese Americans and first-hand accounts of what camp life was like
- panelists  
Robert Sims  
Wafford Conrad  
Frank Hisayasu  
James Watanabe  
Marcelline Terao
- 11:45 AM *lunch break*
- 1:15 PM *The Shared and Unshared Experience*  
The kinds of experiences that are remembered, the effects these memories have on the community and on those outside that community
- panelist  
Henry-York Steiner

- 1:45 PM *The Japanese American Vision*  
Japanese America as revealed in its literature. The senryu poetry of Tule Lake, camp newspaper editorials, and the works of John Okada, Toshio Mori, and Monica Sone
- panelists  
Lonny Kaneko  
Frank Chin  
Lawson Inada
- 2:45 PM *The Quiet American: Long-Term Psychological Effects of the Internment*  
The internal responses of Japanese Americans to their internment and the effects on Japanese Americans who were not interned
- panelists **UCB**  
Ben Tong  
Teruko Daniel  
Karen Seriguchi
- 3:30 PM *break*
- 3:45 PM *Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens*  
part A: *The Constitution*  
part B: *Voices Long Silent: Redress*
- panelists  
Frank Conklin  
Gordon Hirabayashi  
Louis Kurahara  
Frank Chin  
Sam Nakagawa
- 5:00 PM *end of conference*

NOTE: Discussion periods follow each panel as time permits. The audience is encouraged to comment upon and question any material presented.

## BIOGRAPHIES OF PANELISTS

FRANK CHIN was raised in the motherlode country of California. His play "The Chickencoop Chinaman" was the first Asian American play to be mounted in New York. "The Year of the Dragon," his second play, was presented on the PBS Theater in America series in 1975. Mr. Chin has just been awarded his second playwright's grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and is currently teaching Contemporary Asian American Issues at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

FRANK CONKLIN received his doctorate of law from Yale University. He is professor of constitutional law at Gonzaga University and also handles appellate work for the public defender's office.

WAFFORD CONRAD, born and raised in Spokane, was a reporter for the Spokane Press and Daily Chronicle and for Associated Press before the war. For the two years before it closed, he was information officer at the Central Utah Relocation Project, or Topaz internment camp, and compiled the history of the project.

TERUKO DANIEL, a native of Pasco, Washington, was not interned, but carries strong memories of wartime. She now teaches English at Olympic College.

GORDON HIRABAYASHI, now a professor of sociology at the University of Alberta, refused to report for detention during the war, was imprisoned, and took his case to the U.S. Supreme Court. In Hirabayashi v. U.S., the Court upheld his conviction, "based on the recognition of facts and circumstances which indicate that a group of one national extraction may menace the safety more than others. . . ." Dr. Hirabayashi has noted that, "The Nazi defendants at the Nuremberg Tribunal cited the Hirabayashi and Korematsu decisions as a defense. The Nazi defendants claimed 'military necessity' in the 'evacuation' of the Jews."

FRANK HISAYASU is active on the Hifumi En board, the Spokane JACL, and Highland Park Methodist Church. He is a retired truck farmer who relocated to Spokane during the war, where he later began a business supplying the area's Army bases and local chain stores.

LAWSON FUSAO INADA is the first Japanese American poet to have had a volume of his works published. A native of Fresno, Mr. Inada spent his early years in concentration camps in California, Arkansas, and Colorado. He is professor of English at Southern Oregon State College and recently was named Distinguished Teacher of the Year by the Modern Language Association.

LONNY KANEKO with Amy Sanbo wrote "Lady Is Dying," a play that explores Sansei-Nisei familial relations and which was produced in 1977 in San Francisco. His poetry has been published in numerous little magazines. Mr. Kaneko, who teaches English at Highline Community College, is also chairperson of the literature committee of the King County Arts Commission.

LOUIS KURAHARA, M.D., finished his premedical training--which had been interrupted by the internment--at Kenyon College, Ohio, and earned his M.D. from Washington University in St. Louis. He is now staff surgeon at the VA Medical Center in Spokane.

IKU MATSUMOTO moved from the Tule Lake internment camp to Denver, and attended school there. She and her husband moved to Spokane in 1943. Mrs. Matsumoto teaches at Lewis and Clark High School.

SAM NAKAGAWA was interned at the Pinedale Temporary Detention Center and later at Heart Mountain in Wyoming. A social worker in the VA Mental Hygiene Clinic, Mr. Nakagawa serves on the Washington State Commission for Asian American Affairs.

KAREN SERIGUCHI, conference director, grew up in the Midwest. She now works full-time on educational projects about the internment, including conferences, oral history research, and pilgrimages to former camp sites.

*American Friends Service Committee  
814 NE 40<sup>th</sup> St.  
Seattle, WA. 98105*

FRED SHIOZAKI was born in Spokane and received his degree from Gonzaga University. He is the former director of Air Pollution Control Authority and is now manager of environmental affairs for the Washington Water Power Company. Mr. Shiozaki is a veteran of the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

ROBERT SIMS, a professor of history at Boise State University, has published several articles about Japanese Americans, including "A Fearless, Patriotic, Clean-cut Stand: Idaho's Governor Clark and Japanese American Relocation in World War II" (1979). This past year he has been the director of a National Endowment for the Humanities project to develop a script for a film on the postwar experiences of Japanese Americans.

HENRY-YORK STEINER is professor of literature at Eastern Washington University, where he is investigating the differences between folklore and oral history.

MARCELLINE TERAQ, born in Seattle, was sent to Pine-dale Temporary Detention Center, which she left to work in the sugar beet fields of Idaho before being sent to Minidoka internment camp. She settled in Spokane after the war and is an active member of the Spokane Buddhist Church.

BENJAMIN TONG, a clinical psychologist, is currently on the faculties of the University of California at Santa Cruz, San Francisco State University, and the Wright Institute in Berkeley. He was recently appointed visiting scholar to the Institute for Social Change, University of California at Berkeley.

JAMES WATANABE, M.D., served for six years on the Washington State Commission for Asian American Affairs and has been elected for the past 14 years to the Spokane JACL board. He is assistant director of laboratory at Sacred Heart Medical Center.

ED YAMAMOTO was born in Spokane. After graduating from high school he studied accounting and business management, and was a licensed public accountant until 1979. Having served as the district governor of JACL's Pacific Northwest District in 1976 and 1977, he was selected at the JACL'er of the Biennium in 1978.

DENNIS YASUHARA, a life sciences teacher at Garry Jr. High School, is president of the Spokane Japanese American Citizens League. Mr. Yasuhara spearheaded the drive to establish an Asian American Studies department at Washington State University.

HARRY YOSHIDA was born in Japan and came to Seattle in 1918. After two years, he moved to Spokane, where he worked in a shoe store and attended night school at Lewis and Clark for several years. In 1926 he began working for Alaska Steel and Supply Company, his present employer. He was able to find work there for 20 Japanese Americans from Seattle in 1942.

BOB BRILEY (moderator) is director of public affairs for KHQ-TV and radio.

# So He Says!



## Project Oversight Committee (Seattle)

Frank Abe  
 Jonis Davis  
 Jerry Evergreen  
 Aki Kurose  
 Ruthann Kurose  
 Minoru Masuda  
 Karen Seriguchi,  
 conference director

## Spokane Planning Committee

Mas Akiyama  
 George Cole  
 Louis Kurahara  
 Marie Kurihara, chairperson  
 Louie Ladenburger  
 Margaret Lehan  
 Sam Nakagawa  
 James Watanabe  
 Dennis Yasuhara

*We gratefully acknowledge the help of the following persons and organizations:*

Circle III,  
 Highland Park United Methodist Church  
 Harry Honda  
 Media West  
 Ed Tsutakawa  
 Unitarians for Social Justice,  
 Unitarian Church  
 Steve Yoshihara

This program is supported in part by the Washington Commission for the Humanities, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities. It is sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee (Seattle), Combined Asian American Resources Project, Highland Park United Methodist Church, Spokane Japanese American Citizens League, Spokane Peace and Justice Center, Unitarians for Social Justice, and the YWCA.

The Hardest thing in life is to look at it  
as it really is.

Need a language to understand the camp experience

Possible outcomes from camp experience

self-contempt.  
"having to get along"

transference of hatred to other men  
(because of parent's disgrace).

Those who were not in camp also felt  
fear & anxieties.

Anger at camps -

shifted to others, e.g. parents.  
or self.

Why Nisei haven't spoken up =

①. (to not re-experience the  
anger & trauma again)

It's therapeutic to talk & find a  
language.

②. to spare the kids -  
to be as white as possible

then kids may regard parents  
as embarrassment.

parents may then not like kids  
to be "better" than them.

Redress may be therapeutic.

Model minority - Trying harder to be accepted.

Karen - midwest  
Parent-child relationships  
Re-establishing self.

Redress: to make a wrong a right  
to get reparations  
amend.

Roger Daniels - Decision leading to Relocation