

SUMMER IS... bang up 4th of July, barbeque, beer (coke ?), splashing in aqua, fun, food and festivity, at all the Otera (temple) OBON...ondo...taiko...etc AND OUR CC PICNIC!!!

so... it's just around the corner now ...the Sanseis are the greatest...they have been getting together for meetings at their homes, at Sei Dyo's club house, Tomo's etc...for their committees...they have great enthusiastic, and energetic ideas, etc...we Niseis are all so grateful...guess we're all pooped out now...so COME Y'ALL...they have put together a fantastic picnic for all of us...

Meanwhile, the many Obon festivals have started...I'm sorry to say that I'm too late to talk about Koyasan's because they always have theirs first and as Massie Kanogawa sez, "our Sabazushi is the best"...and it is, but I was not able to have some this year.

July 11, 12	Zenshuji Temple
" "	Hongwanji "
18	Oxnard "
18, 19	Venice "
25, 26	WLA "
" "	Orange C. "
Aug. 1, 2	Gardena "

Let's wear our Happis (w/Crystal City on it) and join in on the ondos ...have great food, fun and enjoyment!

Hoping to meet many of you there...I will be at Zenshuji, Oxnard, Venice, WLA, and Gardena...next year, will get the schedule out to you sooner!!!

\* \* \* \* \*

PICNIC....PICNIC....PICNIC....PICNIC

The C.C.A. committee and the picnic committee met at Sei Dyo's clubhouse...as always, Toni Tomita had everything well organized, with copies of the Agenda and picnic chairpersons all printed out and handed out to all who attended...Yone Takeuchi attended, recuperating from her bout with Pneumonia and complications...Ty Nakamura after his by-pass operation...several members were not able to attend but all in all, there were about 35 + people there...it's so good to see the Sansei group there with their ideas and reporting on their progress...and do they have NEW and wonderful ideas...and above all ENERGY...

Toni worked out four pages to be put into this Chatter so we could send it out ASAP to you! She goes to Sav-On Drugstore to send the FAX to me...Thanks a lot Toni...am putting this together "Pronto" so I could get Staples to make copies tomorrow am early...then getting a mailing crew together so it could reach all of you fast, FAST, FAST!!!

REMEMBER...AUGUST 16th...SUNDAY...from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m...our usual private park in Long Beach...BUT...parking will be through a gated entrance on Spring Street...MAP WILL BE SENT SPECIAL PICNIC ISSUE..INSTRUCTION WILL BE SENT WITH THE DIRECTION...STAY TUNED TO THE CHATTER!

CONGRATULATIONS!!!  
TO OUR CC PERUVIAN FRIENDS...

I know that this is not the TOTAL VICTORY that we all had hoped for, but inspite of the bittersweetness, y'all finally will get apologies from this government. The amount of the reparations is "wazuka no" \$5,000 (just a small amount of)...that's the bitter part of the whole deal...it's rather an insult to their forced removal from their home and country, along with the imprisonment during the war, then denied return to their country, their home.

It was a difficult thing for Carmen Mochizuki and Alice Nishimoto to take on the U.S. Government, but THEY DID IT! It's a case of David versus Goliath and somehow managed to win! "Yō yatta...kanshin, kanshin" (You did well, commendable, commendable). I know that you had almost "no life" for two years fighting this but perhaps now you can start living again...I know that you still have to get the word out to the many Peru people out there to file in their request NOW!!!

CONTACT either Carmen Mochizuki

or Alice Nishimoto

If any of you know Latin American friends, especially from Peru...(most of those in CC were from Peru) I hope that you will tell them about the deadline that is real close...August 10th...to file by...newspaper clipping about the Reparation is on pages 5 and 6 of this Chatter. The following is the speech Carmen gave at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Lil Tokyo:

"I am proud to stand here today. The efforts of everyone involved in this cause have made me feel proud that I could be a part of it. I would like to thank the attorneys, directors of the campaign, and many Japanese-American community organizations, without whom, we would not be here. It is because of your determination and guidance hat we had the opportunity to tell the world

(Cont'd on page 2)

(Carmen Mochizuki's speech, Contd fm pg 1)

of the disruption and tragedy the internment caused in our lives. You gave us unity and a voice, and we will be forever grateful.

It has been very difficult for all of us to re-live the horrible memories that we have been trying to forget, but I feel that for this cause, re-living the pain was worth it. I feel a sense of closure and peace that came from the process.

I am disappointed that we did not receive the same amount of redress that was given to the Japanese Americans, but I feel that we are victorious today for making the United States government finally accept responsibility for its actions against us.

I will never forget the pain of the past, but I will also never forget the beautiful feeling of humanity, caring, and unity that was evident as we struggled together for the past two years. I stand here proud to say that this is the most precious thing that I receive and give here today."

\* \* \* \* \*

LETTERS FROM CARMEN MOCHIZUKI AND ALICE NISHIMOTO:

Dear Sumi-san...Enclosed, please find Rafu Shimpo, copy of the apology letter from the president, and my statement to the press of my feeling about this matter (see above)

Thank you so much for all the support from Crystal City organization that made it possible for us to receive the pardon and redress

Love, Carmen

Dear Sumi: Thank you so much for the nice card and your kind words which really touched my heart. I am very grateful for all of my friends who worked so hard and contributed so much to our Campaign for Justice.

Unfortunately it wasn't equal justice, however, I feel that in a sense it was a victory because the U.S. Government finally acknowledged their wrong doing and apologized to us. For me, it was very important to regain the dignity for my parents. Nothing is enough to replace what we lost and what we went through.

My only regret is that my parents and my sister did not survive long enough to witness this sense of honor.

The Campaign's biggest task now is to locate all eligible Japanese Latin Americans, many of whom are thought to be living in Japan and Peru. The Campaign is also seeking to provide legal support for those who need to be informed of their rights and option of this settlement.

Your help would be very valuable in spreading the word and getting friends, family and colleagues at work to support the Campaign. For our fundraising project, we have tickets to sell for a special benefit to be performed by the East-West Players. If you and friends are interested in making a contribution, please call me [redacted]

Thank you again for your kind support and concern. I am very grateful for everything you have done for our cause.

Love, Alice

Dear Carmen and Alice:

Hats off to your courage and tenacity to fight for you and your Peruvian friends' rights! It was hard...it was long...and I know that for two years you spent time, effort and \$\$\$ to carry this through...at home, at different places, talking, getting supports and \$\$\$, and to Washington D.C...two quiet, young ladies taking on THE U.S. Government...and you did it...it took you and Campaign for Justice group, Peru-Kai, many, many people who heard, listened and supported your cause...WE SALUTE YOU!!!

NOW, THE WORK IS STILL UNFINISHED...to search, locate many of the Peruvian, Latin Americans who should file ASAP...

Carmen, thank you for you many letters, telephone calls, donation to the Chatter and the special gift to me...I really appreciate your kindness and your thoughtfulness...hoping that you'll soon have a life of your own...and take a vacation (?)

Alice...thank you for your kind letters...please let us know when EAST-WEST players are performing...what they are performing and where...take care and "hasta la vista"... sumi

# 1998 CRYSTAL CITY ASSOCIATION PICNIC

GEMMRIG PARK (LONG BEACH POLICE PARK)

7390 E. CARSON

LONG BEACH, CA 90810

Sunday, August 16, 1998

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

## REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete one form per couple or per person. Make additional copies if necessary. PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(LAST NAME) (FIRST NAME)  Issei

\_\_\_\_\_  
(SPOUSE - FIRST NAME) MAIDEN NAME OF SPOUSE IF FORMER CRYSTAL CITY INTERNEE

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

\*NO. OF ADULTS AGES 18 - 64 ATTENDING PICNIC: \_\_\_\_\_

\*NO. OF ADULTS AGE 65 AND OLDER ATTENDING PICNIC: \_\_\_\_\_

\*NO. OF CHILDREN ATTENDING PICNIC: \_\_\_\_\_ BOYS:    /    /    GIRLS:    /    /     
(Ages) (Ages)

\*Need above information to plan for games and activities

NO. OF CARS THAT WILL NEED A PARKING PASS (TO BE PICKED UP AT ENTRANCE GATE ): \_\_\_\_\_

SEND PICNIC REGISTRATION FORM AND DONATIONS TO:

CRYSTAL CITY ASSOCIATION  
Sid Okazaki  
\_\_\_\_\_  
San Gabriel, CA 91776

PLEASE RESPOND NO LATER THAN AUGUST 3,1998

**HOW MUCH SHOULD I DONATE TO THE PICNIC ????????**

Some of you have been very prompt in sending in your registration forms --but left the donations open and others wanted to know how much to send per person.

We want the picnic to be affordable for everyone -- especially our many children, grandchildren, etc. and to put a price seemed expensive for those who may not be able to afford for their children SO we are listing our expenses for the picnic, and have you donate enough to cover the cost of this "family" event that so many of you look forward to.

**PICNIC EXPENSES**

\$600.00 for the use of the park  
 \$400.00 for liability insurance (new this year)  
 \$50.00 for use of park P.A. system  
 \$350.00 for entertainment (Yokotake band)  
 \$12.00 per person for catered lunch \*  
 ?????? for raffles (we welcome donated prizes)  
 ?????? for game prizes  
 ?????? for drinks

\* No charge for lunch ages 12 and under

We hope that this will help you in making out the check to be sent to Sid Okazaki. PLEASE RESPOND BY AUGUST 3RD. We will have a final picnic committee meeting on August 8th. You can see that there is very little time to purchase additional prizes appropriate for the different age groups. PLEASE -- PLEASE --- ONEGAI DESU -- PLEASE RESPOND ASAP

**\*SOS --- SOS --- SOS --- SOS --- SOS --- SOS --- SOS ---**  
**SUPPORT OUR SANSEIS --- SUPPORT OUR SANSEIS --- SUPPORT**

You can tell by our listing of committee chairs and members that there are still committees that can use more help, especially the **Games and Food committees**. Previously, our chef, Goichi-san, was able to start cooking at the park in the wee hours of the morning. However, this year no one can enter our reserved park area until 7 AM. He will be doing the major part of food prep at his restaurant BUT we still need more workers, especially, MEN folks to help with the grilling of the chicken and the beef. Also more workers mean that we can work in shifts instead of "all the day long". And the clean-up of the pots and pans requires a lot of "elbow grease".

We need banner bearers, whistle blowers, linesmen, prize givers, kid gatherers, et al **WHERE? At the Games areas !!**

**SO ALL YOU ABLE - BODIED SANSEIS. don't "enryo" (hold back) !**

**When you get to the park, VOLUNTEER your services whether as a barbecue chef, chief pot washer, gameskeeper, raffle ticket seller, etc. The success of this picnic and the continuation of future picnics is in your hands !!!!!**

# Bittersweet Victory

Nikkei Latin Americans are disappointed \$5,000 settlement is one-quarter amount given to JA internees.

By TAKESHI NAKAYAMA  
RAFU ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Japanese Latin American former World War II hostages of the United States who settled a lawsuit Thursday against the government commented Friday morning that the compromise was a "bittersweet victory."

The plaintiffs, who filed the lawsuit, *Mochizuki v. United States* in 1996, sought reparations and a formal apology from the U.S. government for being removed from their homelands and imprisoned in the U.S. during the war.

After nearly four months of negotiations with the U.S. government, the plaintiffs in the class action lawsuit reached a settlement agreement to which Chief Judge Loren Smith of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims has given preliminary approval.

Attorneys and representatives from the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, the Japanese American Citizens League, the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations and the U.S. Department of Justice announced at a press conference Friday morning at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Little Tokyo that the settlement provides a presidential apology and \$5,000 reparation payment to survivors of the ordeal or their heirs.

Bill Lann Lee, acting assistant attorney general for the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, stated, "Today, I am glad to join in announcing this settlement that will bring an end to this inglorious chapter in our nation's history."

He noted that the story of what happened to Japanese Latin Americans is not well known. "In fact, when I started as head of the Civil Rights Division, even I was not familiar with all the details. When I heard the story, it was hard to believe ... Many of us can't believe this could happen in America, yet it did."

Lee commented that by settling this case, the United States govern-



Carmen Mochizuki, left, and Alicia Nishimoto are pleased with apology from Clinton but disappointed reparations is one-quarter of amount given to JAs.

ment is "doing the right thing, acknowledging a wrong and bringing closure to the uncertainties of litigation."

He explained that because of significant legal issues in the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which did not cover Japanese Latin Americans, the parties involved in the lawsuit decided to compromise. "I believe it's a fair settlement," he said.

While acknowledging the significance of the formal apology, former internees and their supporters were disappointed that the settlement does not guarantee redress payment, which is one-quarter of the amount given to Japanese Americans who were interned at the same time. In addition, Nikkei Latin American former internees must apply for redress by

**"Now I can go to my parents' grave and tell them we did it for them and they can now sleep in peace."**

—Carmen Mochizuki, former Japanese Latin American internee

Aug. 10.

Carmen Mochizuki, the named plaintiff, commented, "I'm happy that it's over, but on the other hand I'm disappointed we didn't receive the same amount of redress as the Japanese Americans (who each received \$20,000 in redress payments)."

She said it was "very difficult to relive the horrible memories we were trying to forget," but felt "victorious" because the United States government admitted responsibility for its actions. Mochizuki was one of 2,264 Nikkei Latin American citizens and legal residents taken from their homelands and shipped to the U.S. to be used in prisoner exchanges with Japan. ~~more than 800 were exchanged~~ for U.S. citizens during the war.

"From the start (of the redress campaign), my wish was to get redress for the people now living in Japan and the people now living in Peru. I was so happy to find out about that, but not the amount. You cannot

do anything about that. I think the letter of apology was more important," commented Mochizuki, who was 11 at the time she was deported from Peru.

"Now I can go to my parents' grave and tell them we did it for them and they can now sleep in peace," she said tearfully.

Alicia Nishimoto said of the settlement, "We are making history today. But I would be lying if I said I'm very happy. I have mixed feelings. I wanted justice equal to the Japanese Americans. I wanted dignity for my parents."

"We were kidnapped from another country and brought here against our will and put in camps. Our Peruvian citizenship was stripped from us and we were labeled illegal aliens. Even today, I can't believe this happened to us," said Nishimoto, a Gardena resident who was 9 years old when her family was rounded up and shipped to the U.S.

The lawsuit challenged the Office of Redress Administration's denial

Please See Bittersweet, Page 6

## RAFU SHIMPO

### Bittersweet

From Page 5

of reparations to Japanese Latin Americans under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which provides for a presidential apology and compensation to Nikkei who were deprived of freedom of movement by the U.S. government during World War II.

Robin Toma, lead counsel for the plaintiffs, called this settlement "a bittersweet victory. Bitter because the payment for redress is \$5,000, much less than the \$20,000 that was given to the Japanese Americans."

Japanese Latin Americans were denied redress because they weren't U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents at the time they were forcibly brought over, they were classified as illegal aliens, Toma noted.

"I don't understand what the justification is for denying Japanese Latin Americans redress based on the fact they weren't from this country when the reason they weren't from this country is because of U.S. government's own actions," Toma added.

"I think many people feel it is a bitter pill to swallow to take so much less than the Japanese Americans received," he said.

"We are accepting settlement for less because we recognize that getting an apology from the president of the United States to every single member of this group is very significant. It is the acknowledgment that the United States did wrong and is willing to admit it," he explained.

The legal team also recognized that time was running out—the redress law was set to sunset in Aug. 10 and most of the people who are alive are now in their 70s or older. "We did not want to prolong it any longer than necessary," Toma said.

Those who truly feel this is not an acceptable settlement have the option of excluding themselves from this settlement and pursuing their own lawsuit, he explained.

Sharon Tanihara, representing NCRR, which played a major role in the struggle to win redress for more than 120,000 Nikkei interned in America's concentration camps during World War II, said, "Today there is much bitter with the sweet. As Japanese Americans, we are painfully aware of the disparity in the measure of justice offered to Japanese Latin Americans. At the same time, NCRR is proud to have been part of the Campaign for Justice. We applaud the tremendous efforts of the plaintiffs and attorneys in the Mochizuki case. Without their courage and tenacity, this redress settlement would not have been won."

"This acknowledgement is long overdue and very hard-won, and could not have been achieved without the significant contributions of American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, the Japanese American Citizens League, the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations, the Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project, supporters and especially the former internees and their families, who have worked very hard to tell their stories to the world and to fight for the apology they deserve," stated Julie Small, co-chair of the Campaign for Justice.

"The National Japanese American

Citizens League applauds our U.S. government and the U.S. Department of Justice for recognizing a wrong from 58 years ago," stated Helen Kawagoe, national president of the JACL, which, she added, "is fully committed to (the Campaign for Justice)."

This settlement "teaches our government and all the people of the U.S. that this injustice happened. People need to be aware of that," she added.

Internees who have not yet applied for redress under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 must do so by Aug. 10, 1998. Claims must be postmarked by that date and received by the ORA no later than Sept. 4. The Department of Justice will contact Nikkei Latin American former internees who have already applied for reparations.

Activists said the difficulty lies in locating an estimated 400 survivors or their heirs in time for the Aug. 10 deadline. Survivors are believed to be concentrated in Japan and Latin America, but could be living anywhere in the world. The government has agreed to publish the settlement agreement in two major newspapers, one in Japan and one in Peru, within 25 days. Campaign for Justice, the coalition supporting Japanese Latin American former internees, will continue efforts to locate former internees.

After satisfying the remaining eligible claims from Japanese Americans, the Office of Redress Administration, which processes claims under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, expects the funds to drop from \$11.4 million to \$4.4 million, enough money for 880 payments of \$5,000 each.

Advocates for the Nikkei Latin Americans say the funds will not cover the 1,200 Japanese Latin American former internees who may apply. The Clinton administration has promised to support legislative efforts to ensure the payment to all Japanese Latin Americans who apply and to extend the life of the Civil Liberties Act until December 1998, should the money run out.

For information on claims, call  
Ayako Hagiwara at (310) 344-1893  
(Japanese language), or Robin  
Toma at (213) 974-7640 (Spanish  
or English).

#### President's Letter of Apology

More than 50 years ago, the United States government unjustly interned, evacuated, relocated, or otherwise deprived you of liberty. Today, on behalf of all Americans, I offer a sincere apology for the actions that unfairly denied you fundamental liberties during World War II.

"We recognize the wrongs of the past and offer our profound regret to those who endured such grave injustice. We understand that our nation's actions were rooted in racial prejudice and wartime hysteria, and we must learn from the past and dedicate ourselves as a nation to renewing and strengthening equality, justice and freedom."

President Bill Clinton

**CRYSTAL CITY ASSOCIATION  
BIANNUAL PICNIC  
1998 COMMITTEES AND CHAIRPERSONS**

**COMMITTEE****CHAIRPERSONS (MEMBERS)**

Park Reservation  
Registration at park  
Registration forms/donations

Tomo Mizukami  
Shimatsu family  
Sid and Julie Okazaki

Set-up (signs, directions, etc.)

Sho Kurakane and Sei Dyo (Gardena Group))

Signs

Yosh Yasuda, Ted Mizukami

Roving Photographer  
P. A. System

Kazie Okamura  
Tomo Mizukami, Stogie Kanogawa

Raffle Prizes and Sales

Pauline Carrillo, Ty Nakamura and Yone Takeuchi (Ron Carrillo, Sam and Dottie Hatanaka)

Food

Tomo Mizukami, Diane Takahashi and Joyce Hirota (Kim Takahashi, Yukie and Julie Okazaki, Yae Aihara, Ken Takahashi, Jackie Imai, Joan Takeuchi, Dottie Hatanaka, Chiyo and Jodi Masumoto, Fumi Nakamura, Akemi Yasuda)

Desserts

Sanseis and Niseis

Soft Drinks and Beer  
Permit for Alcoholic Beverages

Sam and Dottie Hatanaka  
Sam Hatanaka

Ice and Tubs  
Entertainment

Aki and Mas Kaneko  
Sumi Shimatsu

Games and Game Prizes

Tish Kato and Jane Komure  
(Derick Shimatsu, Dennis Kato, Gary Dyo, Curtis Oda, Gary Komure, Danny and Sharon Kato)

"Over 65" Games and Prizes

Dana Ichikawa and Dave Hirota  
(Russell Ichikawa, Nicole Higashi, H.O.Okamura, Tak Takeuchi, Miyo Eshita)

(Cont'd on Page 8)

(CCA Biannual Picnic Committees, Cont'd)

Line Dancing

Sachi Maehara, May Hamada, and Paula Shimatsu

Ondo Dancing

Yuki Nonoguchi, Reiko Ikemiya, and Joan Takeuchi

Clean-up

Everyone at park

**PARKING PASSES NEEDED FOR PICNIC THIS YEAR**

A new gigantic shopping mall is going up near our usual entryway to Gemmrig Park. Thanks to Kim Takahashi who has been in touch with the construction company, we have had periodic reports as to its progress. Due to El Nino, the work is not completed which necessitates plan 2 for **HOW DO WE GET TO THE USUAL PARKING AREA?** The next Chatter will include a map to the park. **At the entrance gate, CC people, meaning Boner Kurakane, Sei Dyo and assistants will be distributing parking passes from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM ONLY.** Anyone coming in after 1 PM will have to pay a \$5.00 per car fee.

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HOPIN' TO SEE Y'ALL...NEXT MONTH ON THE 16th!!

\* \* \* \* \*

"Humor can be an incredible, lacerating and effective weapon."

Carl Hiaasen  
Paula D'Arcy

"Truth has to fall on fertile soil."

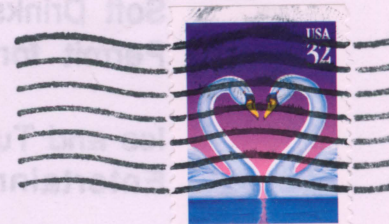
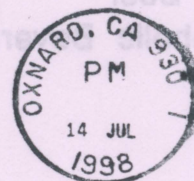
"He who knows does not say;  
He who says does not know."

Lao Tsu

\* \* \* \* \*

CRYSTAL CITY CHATTER

Camarillo CA 93010



TAD & SATOMI ISHIDA  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94116