

# Campaign For Justice



Redress Now For Japanese Latin Americans!

Spring/Summer  
Newsletter 2009

## JLAs Move One Step Closer to Congressional Investigation

On March 19, 2009, former Japanese Latin American (JLA) internees, advanced one step closer to a congressional investigation of their wartime treatment by the U.S. government by testifying before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law. The hearing, chaired by Subcommittee Chairwoman Zoe Lofgren (CA-16) and Ranking Member Steven King (IA-5), focused on the treatment of Latin Americans of Japanese and German descent, European Americans, and Jewish refugees during World War II and provided a platform for JLAs to lay an historical foundation for the need for commission investigation into government wartime violations. The next step is moving H.R. 42, the JLA Commission bill, into markup by the House Judiciary Committee - a step that will take the concerted efforts of all supporters nationwide.

Witnesses who testified at the hearing included Libia Yamamoto (former Japanese Peruvian internee), Grace Shimizu (daughter of a former Japanese Peruvian internee and Director of Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project), and Daniel

Masterson (Professor of History at the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland).

The community delegation was comprised of supporters from California and the Washington D.C. area, including Christine Oh (Legislative Campaign Manager of Campaign For Justice), Cathleen Kozen (CFJ volunteer), Floyd Mori (JACL National Director), Roger Minami, Brian Wang, and Crystal Xu.

The hearing consisted of three panels with JLAs on the first panel, German and Italian Americans and Latin Americans on the second, and Jewish refugees on the third. The JLA Commission bill (H.R. 42) has been introduced by Rep. Xavier Becerra (CA-31) in the House of Representatives, and the Wartime Treatment Study Act (H.R. 1425), (which would establish commission to investigate the WWII experiences of certain European Americans and Latin Americans and Jewish refugees), has been introduced by Rep. Robert Wexler (FL-19).

The testimony by the JLA panel was factual and yet moving. Professor Masterson provided an historical account of the treatment of JLAs,

emphasizing that there was not a single proven case of espionage or sabotage by the Japanese in these countries. Grace Shimizu shared her father's experiences in a U.S. military camp in Panama



and Department of Justice camp in Crystal City, Texas, and an overview of "new" information, which has come to light in the last two decades. Speaking last, Libia Yamamoto, offered a deeply personal and heartfelt oral statement in which she discussed the traumatic experiences she endured during WWII, from the abduction of her father from their home in Peru to her

own internment in the U.S. as a child. Unfortunately former Peruvian internee Art Shibayama could not testify at the hearing due to health reasons, but his sister Rose Akiko Shibayama Nishimura submitted written testimony detailing their family's experiences of being transported by ship from Peru to the U.S. and interned also in Crystal City.

We are now expediting the JLA Commission bill into markup by the House Judiciary Committee. The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has already passed the companion bill. We believe that passage of H.R. 42 this year and establishment of the commission are crucial because soon there will be no survivors able to give testimony.

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## Coalition Reception in Washington, D.C.

By **Brian Wang**

On March 19, supporters gathered at the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) Headquarters in Washington, DC for a community reception after the House Judiciary Immigration Subcommittee hearing.

OCA Executive Director George Wu was a gracious and warm host for the evening. Christine Oh, CFJ's Legislative Campaign Manager, emceed the reception and shared the JLA's legislative strategy. JACL National Executive Director Floyd Mori commented on how far the movement has progressed, ever since the Japanese Americans first fought for redress in the 1980s. CFJ Coordinator Grace Shimizu summarized highlights from the JLA panel and recognized two other witnesses who testified by her side at the hearing: Professor Dan Masterson and former Japanese Peruvian internee Libia Maoki Yamamoto. Karen Ebel of the German American Internee Coalition (GAIC) also commented on

responses to the testimony given on the second panel and acknowledged fellow witnesses: author John Christgau and former German Costa Rican internee Heidi Gurcke Donald.

Supporters at the reception included Congressional staffers Henry Truong (Rep. Xavier Becerra, CA), Van Luong (Sen. Daniel Inouye, HI) and Melvin Tabilas (Rep. Abercrombie, HI); Aleli Samson of National Asian Pacific American Bar Association; Ben de Guzman of National Alliance for Filipino Veterans Equity; Noriko Sanefuji and Franklin Odo of the Smithsonian Institute.

And special thanks to Crystal Xu, Mineta Fellow of the JACL, for helping to organize the reception and providing logistical and outreach support for the CFJ delegation at the hearing and behind the scenes.

*[Also much appreciation to Brian Wang, a long time supporter of the JLA redress movement, who helped organize the reception.]*



## Next Steps for the JLA Commission Bill

This bill cannot move forward without your help. Please take action now.

1) Contact your Representative and urge support for passage of H.R. 42 this year,

2) Ask friends, family, and colleagues living in the states listed below to contact those key members of the House Judiciary Committee to support passage of HR 42 as soon as possible, and

3) Sign the petition and urge your family and friends to sign the petition: <http://citizenspeak.org/node/1505>

Key members of the House Judiciary Committee:

### Arizona

*Trent Franks (R-AZ-2)*

### California

*Elton Gallegly (R-CA-24)*

*Howard Berman (D-CA-28)*

*Brad Sherman (D-CA-27)*

*Adam Schiff (D-CA-29)*

*Linda Sanchez (D-CA-39)*

### Florida

*Robert Wexler (D-FL-19)*

*Tom Rooney (R-FL-16)*

*Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (D-FL-20)*

### Georgia

*Hank Johnson (D-GA-4)*

### Illinois

*Luis Gutierrez (D-IL-4)*

### Iowa

*Steven King (R-IA-5)*

### Massachusetts

*Bill Delahunt (D-MA-10)*

### Michigan

*John Conyers Jr. (D-MI-14)*

### Mississippi

*Gregg Harper (R-MS-3)*

### New York

*Jerrold Nadler (D-NY-8)*

*Anthony Weiner (D-NY-9)*

*Dan Maffei (D-NY-25)*

### North Carolina

*Tom Coble (R-NC-6)*

*Mel Watt (D-NC-12)*

### Ohio

*Jim Jordan (R-OH-4)*

### Puerto Rico

*Pedro Pierluisi (D-PR)*

### Tennessee

*Steve Cohen (D-TN-9)*

### Texas:

*Lamar Smith (R-TX-21)*

*Louie Gohmert (R-TX-1)*

*Ted Poe (R-TX-2)*

*Gonzalez (D-TX-20)*

### Utah

*Jason Chaffetz (R-UT-3)*

### Virginia

*Bob Goodlatte (R-VA-6)*

*Rick Boucher (D-VA-9)*

*Bobby Scott (D-VA-3)*

*Randy Forbes (R-VA-4)*

### Wisconsin

*James Sensenbrenner (R-WI-5)*

*Baldwin (D-WI-2)*

## A Former Internee's Story: Rose Akiko Shibayama Nishimura

By Cathleen Kozen

Rose is a former Japanese Peruvian internee who was born in the capital of Lima where her parents, immigrants from Fukuoka, Japan, ran a successful business importing textiles and manufacturing dress shirts. She was only nine years old when she and her family were forcibly brought to the United States on a U.S. military transport and placed in a Department of Justice Camp in Crystal City, Texas. Her grandparents, also Japanese immigrants who

owned a department store in Callao, Peru, were among the first Japanese Peruvians to be taken hostage when the war broke out. They were used in one of the exchanges for US civilians trapped in Asia and sent to Japanese-controlled territories. She never saw them again.

In 1996, Rose submitted her testimony as one of the plaintiffs in the *Mochizuki v. United States* court case. Today, she continues to take part in the effort toward securing proper

governmental redress for former JLA internees and their families. At the recent Judiciary subcommittee hearing in Washington, DC, she submitted a written testimony - this time, before Congress.

In it, she recounts her family's arrival to the U.S., their subsequent internment and the aftermath that followed. She recalls: "When we arrived in New Orleans, the women and children were led off the ship first and marched to a warehouse. We were ordered to strip and stand in line naked. We were then sprayed in mass with insecticide. I was humiliated,

having to strip my clothes off in front of boys my age. I also realize how awful this must have been for my mother, whose modesty was violated by her having to be naked in front of strangers, including boys. The men and older boys also went through the same procedure.

While Rose still finds it very difficult to talk about her experience, she understands the importance of doing so and finds hope in the continued efforts and significant steps taken by CFJ volunteers and supporters to finally securing equitable redress for JLAs.

## Volunteer Profile: Dana Nakano

Dana Nakano joined the Campaign For Justice team in fall 2007 following a stint as the Mike Masaoka Congressional Fellow in the DC office of Congressman Mike Honda (CA-15)

through the Japanese American Citizens League. Leveraging his legislative experience, Dana is currently the co-chair of the legislative



committee for CFJ alongside Christine Oh.

Dana holds a Masters in Asian American studies from San Francisco State University and is currently

a doctoral student in sociology at the University of California, Irvine. As a yonsei, he is deeply committed to the community issues and research relevant to the diverse Japanese American population.

## JLA Resources

### Enemy Alien Files

### Exhibit & Website

"The Enemy Alien Files: Hidden Stories of World War II" is a groundbreaking traveling exhibit which premiered 10 days after the 9/11 tragedies. The exhibit presents in dramatic format a photo-narrative history of the WWII Alien Enemy Program, highlighting the German, Italian and Japanese immigrant wartime exclusion and internment experience in the US and from Latin America. This unique comparative and multicultural

presentation makes accessible to the public an important aspect of WWII that has direct relevance to current national and world events.

EAF Website serves as a portal to unique educational resources that shed light upon the US Alien Enemy Program and explore challenges to civil liberties and human rights during WWII and post-9/11, including teaching tools for the classroom, personal stories, publications and DVDs.

These educational projects are produced by "The Enemy Alien Files"

Consortium, a unique collaboration among the American Italian Historical Association-Western Regional Chapter, German American Internee Coalition, Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project, and the National Japanese American Historical Society. Partner organizations have joined the Consortium to examine the current relevance of this work and contribute to a broader goal of strengthening our democratic processes and institutions, including American Muslim Voice, Arab Resource & Organizing

Center, Campaign For Justice: Redress Now for Japanese Latin Americans!, Council on American-Islamic Relations-No. Cal., National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. For more information, go to [www.enemyalienfiles.org](http://www.enemyalienfiles.org) or contact NJAHS at 415-921-5007 or [njahs@njahs.org](mailto:njahs@njahs.org).



## JLA History In A Box

### Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians

In 1980, Congress established the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) to review the facts and circumstances surrounding EO 9066 and its impact on US citizens and permanent resident aliens and to recommend appropriate remedies. Between July and December 1981, CWRIC held 20 days of hearings in cities across the nation, taking testimony from more than 750 witnesses, including seven former Japanese Peruvian internees and one historian with expertise in the Japanese Peruvian wartime experience.

In 1981, the CWRIC Report, "Personal Justice Denied," was published, providing a record of serious violations of rights and refuting the official government contention that the exclusion, forced removal and detention of Japanese Americans and legal residents were justified by military necessity. Based on the CWRIC recommendations, historic redress legislation--the Civil Liberties Act of 1988--was passed and signed into law.

Information about the US government policies and actions targeting Japanese Latin Americans was found

significant enough to be included in the Appendix of the CWRIC Report and warrants deeper investigation. Now pending in Congress, HR42 and S69--the JLA Commission bill--would extend the initial 1981 study, especially to include review and analysis of research and personal remembrances uncovered in the last two decades.

## Thank You to Our Generous Donors!

### Guardian of Liberty

Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga

### Defender of Rights

Haru Kuromiya

### Protector of Freedom

Don Matsuda

### General Donors

Joane Doi

Daro Inouye

K. Kinoshita and

Shirley Kinoshita

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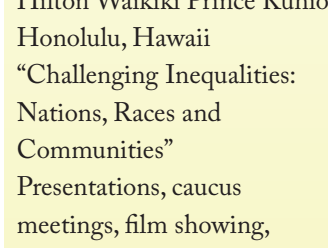
Jane Yamashiro

## CFJ In the Community

Enjoy these photos taken at San Francisco Day of Remembrance, Sacramento Day of Remembrance, and Monday Mingler in Los Angeles.



## Pictures from the Hearing & Reception



**Get CFJ Buttons Now!**

APA Heritage Month is coming up in May. In coordination with this important month, we want to make sure that the JLA issue is visible in the greater community. We ask for

your donation to show your support for the cause. To make a donation, please contact: [info@campaignforjusticejla.org](mailto:info@campaignforjusticejla.org)

Thank you!

### 40th Manzanar Pilgrimage

Sat. April 25, 2009  
 Noon: Pilgrimage activities include interfaith memorial service and cultural performances.  
 at Manzanar Historical Site (US Hwy 395 between the towns of Lone Pine and Independence)  
 5:00pm: "Manzanar At Dusk" event  
 at Lone Pine High School Gym, (538 South Main St, Lone Pine, US Hwy 395)  
 For program & travel info, call (323) 662-5102; e-mail [40thbuses@manzanarcommittee.org](mailto:40thbuses@manzanarcommittee.org); check <http://www.manzanarcommittee.org> and <http://blog.manzanarcommittee.org>.

### Special 2009 Tule Lake Pilgrimage

July 2-5, 2009  
 Oregon Institute of Technology, Klamath Falls, Oregon  
 Pilgrimage activities include a camp tour, memorial service, intergenerational discussion groups, and cultural program.  
 For registration, program and travel info, check [www.tulelake.org](http://www.tulelake.org); email [hshimizu@pacbell.net](mailto:hshimizu@pacbell.net); call (415) 566-2279

### Upcoming Events:

**Find us here!**

### 2009 Asian American Studies Assn.

**Conference**  
 April 22-25, 2009  
 Hilton Waikiki Prince Kuhio; Honolulu, Hawaii  
 "Challenging Inequalities: Nations, Races and Communities"  
 Presentations, caucus meetings, film showing, exhibits, receptions  
 For info, check [www.aaastudies.org/2009/](http://www.aaastudies.org/2009/)



## Thank You to Our Partner Organizations!

Over 80 organizations have partnered with Campaign For Justice, and we are grateful for their continued support. Asian American community and advocacy organizations have played a critical role in our campaign. For their support during our recent trip to Washington DC, we give special thanks to the Japanese American Citizens League and Organization of Chinese Americans. Their wonderful staff helped to organize and host the community reception which followed the hearing at the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration.

If your civic organization, campus group, religious institution or community group would like to partner with CFJ, please contact Christine Oh at [info@campaignforjusticejla.org](mailto:info@campaignforjusticejla.org).

Check out our growing list of partner organizations, as well as their support letters, on the CFJ website- [www.campaignforjusticejla.org](http://www.campaignforjusticejla.org)

Thank you to our partners-especially to the educational, service and advocacy organizations-who contribute so much to our Asian American communities, including:

**Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO**  
**Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus**

**Japanese American Citizens League - Berkeley Chapter**  
**Japanese American Citizens League - Honolulu Chapter**  
**Japanese American Citizens League - National**  
**Japanese American Citizens League - Pacific Southwest District**  
**Japanese American Citizens League - Sacramento Chapter**  
**Japanese American Citizens League - San Diego Chapter**  
**Japanese American Citizens League - San Francisco Chapter**  
**Japanese American Citizens League - San Jose Chapter**  
**Japanese American Citizens League - Seattle Chapter**  
**Japanese American Citizens League - SELANOCO Chapter**  
**Japanese American Citizens League - Ventura County Chapter**  
**Japanese American Living Legacy**  
**Japanese American National Museum**  
**Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project**  
**Korean American Coalition - DC Chapter**  
**Korean American Resource & Cultural Center**  
**Korean Resource Center**  
**Manzanar Committee**  
**National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum**  
**National Association of**

## About CFJ

Campaign For Justice was founded in 1996 as a collaborative effort by individuals and organizations including the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress, and the Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project.

Campaign For Justice has two primary goals. First, it continues to help former Japanese Latin American internees secure proper redress. Second, it works to educate the public about the wartime and redress experiences of the Japanese Latin Americans.

**Japanese Canadians National Coalition for Redress/Reparations**  
**National Japanese American Historical Society**  
**National Korean American Service & Education Consortium**  
**Nihonmachi Outreach Committee**  
**Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress**  
**Organization of Chinese Americans**  
**South Asian Americans Leading Together**  
**Young Korean American Service and Education Center**  
**Yu-Ai-Kai**  
**Asian Pacific Islander Justice Coalition (The following organizations make up the Coalition)**  
**Asian American Recovery Services**  
**Asian American Women's Alliance**  
**Asian Law Alliance**  
**Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute**  
**Asian Pacific Bar Association**  
**Cambodian American Resource Agency**  
**Contemporary Asian Theatre Scene**

**Filipino National History Society, Santa Clara Chapter**  
**Filipino Youth Coalition**  
**Filipino Community Support, Silicon Valley (FOCUS)**  
**Japanese American Citizens League of San Jose**  
**Japantown Community Congress of San Jose**  
**Korean American Bar Association of Northern Cal.**  
**Korean American Community Services, Inc.**  
**Maitri MALAYA**  
**Nihonmachi Outreach Committee**  
**Organization of Chinese Americans, Silicon Valley**  
**South Bay First Thursdays Southeast Asia Community Center**  
**Vision New America**  
**Vietnamese Voluntary Foundation (VIVO)**  
**Yu-Ai-Kai**  
**International Children Assistance Network**  
**Akbayan (SJSU)**  
**Vietnamese American Bar Association of Northern California**