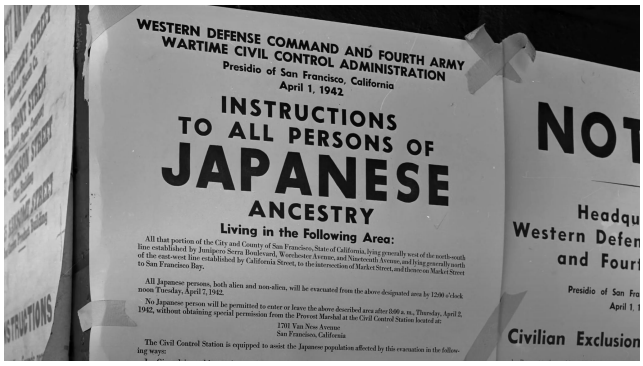
NCWNP DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

CIVIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE Vol. 1, Issue 2 FEBRUARY 2023

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR

HONORING OUR DAY OF REMEMBRANCE– FEBRUARY 19, 1942

February 19th is a significant date for the Japanese American community. On this day in 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 (EO 9066), giving the U.S. Army authority to remove civilians from military zones established in Washington, Oregon, and California during World War II (WWII). This led to the forced removal and incarceration of 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry living on the West Coast, who had to abandon their jobs, their homes, and their lives to be sent to one of ten concentration camps spread across the country. It has been confirmed no Japanese Americans were ever charged, much less convicted, of espionage or sabotage against the United States. Unfortunately, they were targeted, rounded up, and imprisoned for years, simply for having the "face of enemy." Thus, we honor and memorialize our Isseis and Niseis who faced this prejudice firsthand.



Densho: It only took a few months for government authorities to forcibly remove Japanese American communities in West Coast "military zones", despite no explicit mention of Japanese Americans in EO 9066.

Tremendously, every February, the Japanese American community commemorates EO 9066 as an important reminder of the impact the incarceration experience has had on our families, our friends, our community, and our country. It is a momentous opportunity to educate others on the fragility of civil liberties in times of crisis, and the importance of remaining vigilant in protecting the rights and freedoms of all.

There are multiple Day of Remembrance events occurring from February 2023 to March 2023, some of which are listed below. We hope our CRC Newsletter will engage many of you to join, learn, and celebrate the amazing Day of Remember events and significantly related issues.

Miko Sawamura

For continued reading: https://jacl.org/day-of-remembrance

HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The NCWNP District CRC would like to acknowledge and celebrate Black History Month being held in February 2023 with our Day of Remembrance. We stand in solidarity with our Black allies and community members and hope to amplify their voices in support for lasting change.

Miko Sawamura

For continued reading:
https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/initiatives/black-history-month-2023
https://www.visitoakland.com/black-history-month/

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

SMITHSONIAN EXHIBIT ON JA INCARCERATION IN SACRAMENTO AREA

RANCHO CORDOVA, Calif. - The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibit is showing "Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II" at the Mills Station Arts & Culture Center from February to March 23, 2023. The exhibit crafts a story about civil rights and prejudice with personal stories and special guest talks in March to contribute to the narrative surrounding the incarceration experience.

For continued reading:
https://www.rcmacc.org/exhibits/righting-a-wrong#!calendar

NCTOR INCARCERATION EXHIBIT AT THE CALIFORNIA MUSEUM IN MARCH

The North California Time of Remembrance (NCTOR), consisting of the Florin, Lodi, Placer County, and Sacramento chapters, is having the

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redesigned “Uprooted! An American Story” exhibit at the California Museum on March 11, 2023. The in-person exhibit will demonstrate the power of education and preservation through the story of Japanese American incarceration and the fight for reparations, and bring the civil rights movement to the present and future.

For continued reading: https://www.nctor.org/event-information/

CIVIL RIGHTS

NORMAN Y. MINETA ACT PASSES

On January 9, 2023, President Biden signed Congresswoman Doris Matsui’s bill, “Norman Y. Mineta Japanese American Confinement Education Act,” to law. This act is supported by JACL National. The law extends the 2006 Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) program to preserve these historic sites and create a new education program to raise awareness about the history of these sites.

For continued reading:
https://matsui.house.gov/media/press-releases/president-biden-signs-matsuis-norman-y-mineta-japanese-american-confinement

ANTI-ASIAN HATE IN SISKIYOU COUNTY

YREKA, Calif. - Sweeping allegations of racial bias and intimidation targeting Asian-American community members were at the center of a class action lawsuit against Siskiyou County and its sheriff’s office.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Sacramento on August 3, 2022, alleged that for years, the county and its sheriff, Jeremiah LaRue, "threatened, targeted, and intimidated Hmong American and other Asian American community members in an effort to isolate them and drive them out of the region."

For continued reading:
https://www.ktvu.com/news/asian-american-residents-sue-northern-california-county-alleging-racism-and-sweeping-harassment
https://www.advancingjustice-alc.org/media/Class-Action-Complaint_080322.pdf

NUMBER OF AMERICANS HARBORING ANTI-SEMITIC PREJUDICE DOUBLES

ADL’s *Antisemitic Attitudes in America* survey found that 20 percent of Americans believe six or more anti-Jewish tropes, nearly doubling the antisemitic prejudice found in 2019 and the highest level in three decades.

For continued reading:
https://www.adl.org/resources/report/antisemitic-attitudes-america-topline-findings

WHIAANHPI EQUITY & JUSTICE REPORT

WASHINGTON D.C. – *The White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (WHIAANHPI) recently released its report to promote equity, justice and opportunity for the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities.*

This report maps out WHIAANHPI’s strategic plan to effectuate President Biden’s approach to ensuring that all communities are able to pursue the benefits and opportunities available from the federal government.

APIAVOTE
ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICAN VOTE

For continued reading:
https://apiavote.org/apiavotes-statement-on-the-release-of-the-whiaanhpi-report-to-promote-equity-justice-and-opportunity-for-aanhpi-communities/

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Miko Sawamura (Chair), Gail Yamamoto Seymour, Halle Sousa, Emily Yoshii, Carol Kawase

If interested in joining the CRC, please contact Miko at mikoks@aol.com.

If you would like to feature a chapter event or a civil rights issue, please contact the editor at yoshii.emily@gmail.com