



Greater Los Angeles Chapter
Japanese American Citizens League
Newsletter 464 September 2024

GLA JACL is cosponsor with Faith UMC's Social Action Committee presents:

“Removed by Force”

Sunday, October 20, at 2 pm

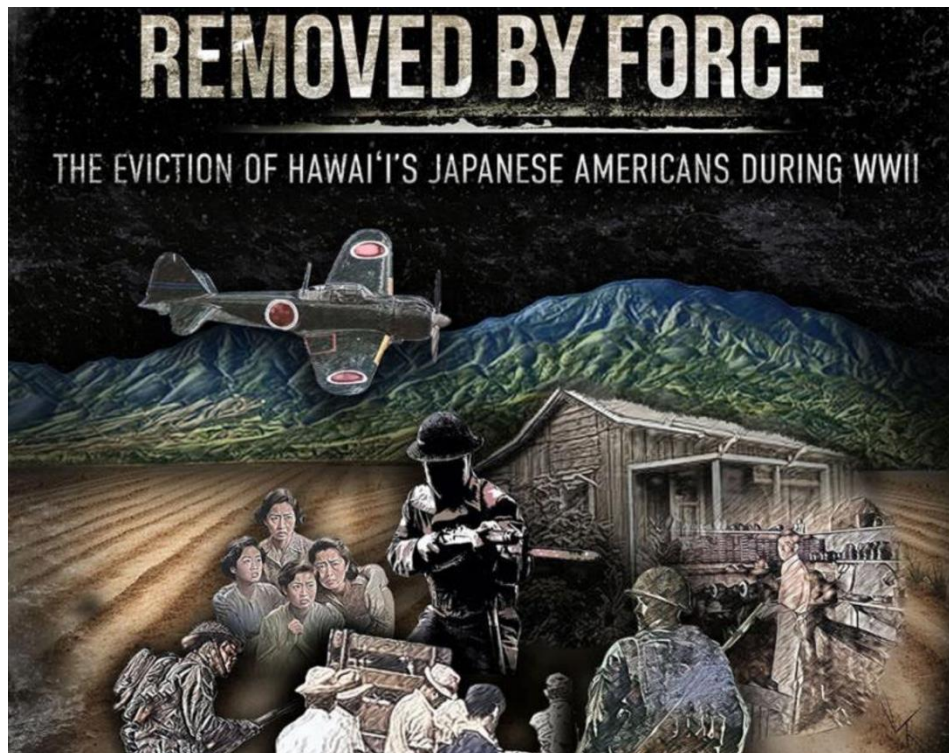
Faith United Methodist Church

2115 W 182nd St, Torrance, CA 90504

Free Admission

Info email: greaterlajacl@gmail.com

Following the screening of the documentary, will be a panel discussion with co-producers of the documentary William Kaneko and Ryan Kawamoto. Ryan Kawamoto is, also, director of the film. Carole Hayashino will also be a panel member. She is a primary figure in the film and was producer of the documentaries “Voices Behind Barbed Wire” (2018) and “The Untold Story: Internment of Japanese Americans in Hawaii” (2012). Immediately following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on December 7, 1941, about 1,500 Americans of Japanese ancestry were evicted from their homes by the U.S. government throughout the Territory of Hawaii. They were not incarcerated or sent to detention facilities. Nearly 40 years later the Japanese American Citizens League helped them seek justice.



Happy 100th to a Remarkable Woman

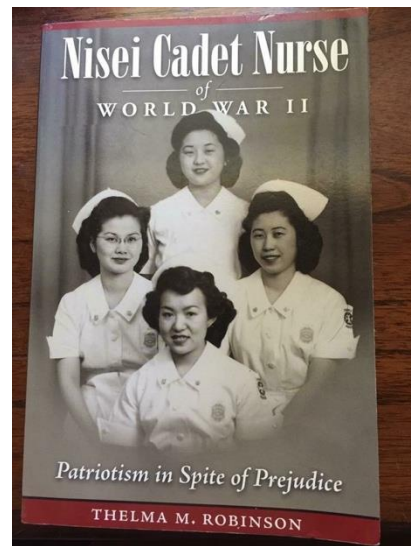
Mary (Izumi) Tamura celebrated her 100th birthday in July. Mary, a teenager in 1942 living on Terminal Island, was a program speaker for Greater Los Angeles chapter in April 2018 and March 2022. Mary told of life on Terminal Island.

Before World War II, there were 3,000 people of Japanese ancestry living on Terminal Island. They formed a unique “Japanese fishing village.” On Dec 7, 1941, the Issei community leaders were arrested. On Feb 2, 1942, the FBI had a gigantic roundup and arrested 400 Issei men. On Feb 25, 1942, the remaining women and children were given 48 hours to leave their homes.



Barbara Tamura and Mary Tamura

In the background to the left is a painting by artist Robert Tamura, Mary’s husband, who passed away in 2014. The painting is of the City of Hawthorne of his youth. In the background to the right is one of 15 panels by Kanji Sahara telling the history of Terminal Island.



Mary Tamura joined the WAVES. She is the one at the top. More than 350 Japanese American women joined the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, the WWII women’s branch of the U.S. Naval Reserve.

Barbara Tamura, Mary’s daughter, accompanied Mary’s presentation with a slide show that she assembled. In the write-up for the March 2022 program, Barbara wrote “I feel blessed to have an amazing Mother willing to share a story of courage, her love of community, and strong motto that matches the tagline “Patriotism in Spite of Prejudice” which is shown on the book cover Mom appears on, entitled “Nisei Cadet Nurse of WWII” by Thelma M. Robinson.

Barbara is a GLA board member.

Best wishes to Mary for continued good health and happiness!

WWII Camp Wall Committee and Kanji Sahara at Nisei Week Parade August 11, 2024

The WWII Camp Wall is the vision of Kanji Sahara. During WWII, his family was incarcerated at the Santa Anita Assembly Center. Kanji's dream is to build a memorial that consists of ten walls, one for each of the War Relocation Authority (WRA) camps during World War II. Each of the camp walls will list the name of each person that was incarcerated at that camp. There will be an eleventh or even a twelfth wall, listing the names of those held at Department of Justice (DOJ) and Army camps. Location of the WWII Camp Wall is Columbia Park in Torrance, CA.



Greater Los Angeles JACL Joined Rally Against 4th & Central Mega-Project on August 16, 2024

After the eviction of the iconic Suehiro restaurant, Little Tokyo continues to battle gentrification, in particular the 4th and Central mega-project. Japanese and Korean seniors, mom-and-pop stores and unhoused residents are among those who make up a coalition opposing the controversial \$2 billion project, which will drastically change the south edge of Little Tokyo forever.

The coalition held an outdoor rally and press conference on August 16, at 11 am., gathering at the northeast corner of Spring and First streets. According to the Little Tokyo Service Center's letter to the city, adopted by Little Tokyo Against Gentrification, there are serious omissions regarding the historical significance of Little Tokyo and its future due to the development. Moreover, residents are worried about protection from a potential seven years of pollution resulting from the construction, and inconsistent transportation requirements that must be addressed.

The developers originally promised an inadequate number of affordable housing units although it met the bare minimum required and no meeting spaces for community groups were announced, according to the coalition. The community will ask City Councilmember Kevin de León to press for the redo of the Environmental Impact Report. LTAG secured assurances from landlord Anthony Sperl that he will not bring in inappropriate businesses to replace Suehiro, and along with the Little Tokyo Community Council gained some concessions from the 4th & Central developer to lower the height and purpose of major buildings.

LTAG is a grassroots volunteer organization composed of Save Our Seniors Network, Greater Los Angeles JACL, and J-Town Action & Solidarity.



David Monkawa SOSN



Zen Sekizawa, JAS



Nancy Uyemura, Little Tokyo resident



Henry Aoki, JAS

GLA PICKLEBALL FREE LESSON

Stevenson Park in Carson, CA

June 22, 2024

Event chair: Mitchell Matsumura

Instructors: David Endo and Mika Matsumura

