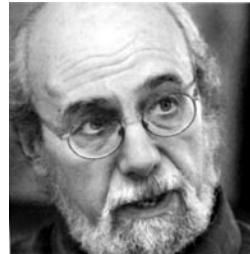
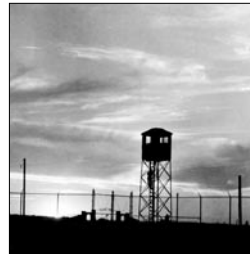
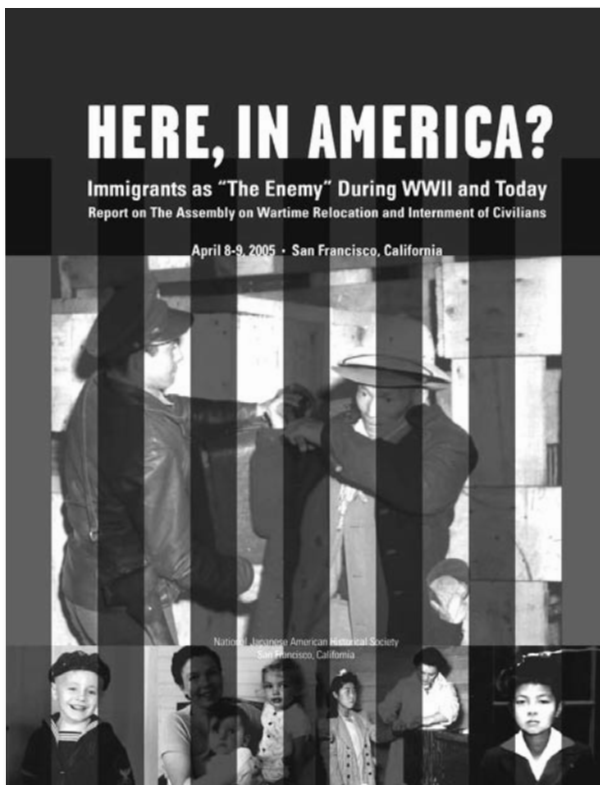




Release Party for AWRIC* Report & DVD

Community Delegation Account of Washington DC Trip

Sunday, July 30th, 2006 • 2:30 – 4 PM
Oakland Museum of California
1000 Oak Street • Oakland 94607



Come and celebrate the AWRIC accomplishments:

- ★ Historic 2-day public testimonial event
- ★ Production of important educational resources
- ★ Successful distribution of AWRIC Report & DVD to members of the US Congress and Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
- ★ Building of AWRIC network of individuals and organizations

Info and RSVP to NJAHS at 415.921.5007 • njahs@njahs.org

*The Assembly on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians

Community Delegation Account of Washington DC Trip

AWRIC Report *and* DVD *now* available!

On July 30, 2006, at the Oakland Museum, delegates from the Assembly on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (AWRIC) will discuss their trip to Washington DC, where they delivered a new report – *HERE IN AMERICA? Immigrants as “The Enemy” During WWII and Today* – to the U.S. Congress. The report and accompanying DVD, now available to the public, document an event held last year and provide little-known information about the WWII Enemy Alien Program and its relevance for all Americans today. The Assembly featured testimonies of Japanese, German, Italian and Latin American families affected by World War II policies and of Arab, Muslim and South Asian Americans caught up in the “war on terror” since 9/11. It was an emotional, powerful two days of stories, some told publicly for the first time. Though separated by sixty years, the stories shared many similar elements: immigrants arrested and detained without charges, trials or access to attorneys, interned for years or deported into war zones.

A delegation of ten AWRIC participants and supporters met with Congress members of both parties to urge them to use this important historical information when considering current and future legislation that would fund fact-finding investigations and public education about the WWII period. Delegates included Grace Shimizu, Director of the Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project; Karen Ebel, founding member of the German American Internee Coalition; filmmaker Judith Ehrlich-Bertoni; former Japanese Peruvian internees Art Shibayama, Libia Yamamoto and Blanca Katsura; report graphic designer Noreen Rei Fukumori; former Japanese American internee Ruth Ichinaga; and Samina Sundas, Executive Director of American Muslim Voice.

The delegates also met with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, a body of the Organization of American States, which is weighing a petition from Japanese Peruvians who were forcibly taken from Peru and interned at Crystal City, Texas.

The Assembly was held April 8-9, 2005, at Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco. For the first time, all of the ethnic groups labeled “enemy aliens” when their countries of origin entered into war with the United States came together to share their experiences and hopes that such human rights abuses not be repeated.

Over a two-day period, eight panels of witnesses presented extraordinary testimony of families kidnapped from their homes in Latin America and used in hostage exchanges for Americans trapped in Germany or Japan; of U.S.-born children interned with their immigrant parents, their assets frozen or seized and never recovered.

“Most Americans still don’t know these things happened,” said Grace Shimizu. “Soon there will be no one left alive who remembers the events first-hand. We wanted to provide a forum to tell and document these stories so they can become part of the mainstream historical narrative.”

The report combines transcribed testimony of AWRIC participants and narrative text from “The Enemy Alien Files: Hidden Stories of WWII,” a traveling exhibit. The handsomely designed 84-page book includes historic photos, a map of the camps and an extensive timeline of events.

For information about the Oakland Museum event or to order the report or DVD, contact the National Japanese American Historical Society at (415) 921-5007 or njahs@njahs.org. For info and updates on the topics discussed at the Assembly, visit www.campaignforjusticejla.org.



1 Senator Daniel Inouye makes special appearance at the AWRIC Reception 2 Grace Shimizu introduces AWRIC delegation
3 Christine Oh of Rep. Xavier Becerra's office (third from the left) with several members of the AWRIC delegation.