

THE GRAINS OF RICE



Cincinnati Chapter Japanese American Citizens League

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Priscilla Ouchida, Executive Director of JACL, came to Xavier University's campus on March 29, 2014, with the busload of speakers for immigration reform and a path toward citizenship including Eliseo Medina, leader of Fast 4 Families.

CINCINNATI JA CL CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIPS

Purpose: to recognize academic achievement and to encourage involvement with JA CL.

Eligibility:

- High school graduate
- Accepted by or currently enrolled in a college, university, business or trade school
- JA CL member (student, family or individual membership) for at least 12 months prior to the date of application

Application: all applications must include:

- Cover sheet
- Current high school transcript
- Copy of acceptance letter from the educational institution you plan to attend or proof of enrollment
- List of extracurricular and community service activities (including any JA CL-sponsored Activities) with brief explanation as to the nature and time period of such activities
- An essay (one typewritten page; single space, 12 font size; Select one from below
 - a. Reasons for pursuing higher education/training
 - b. My thoughts about my ancestry
 - c. What, if any, challenges have you and/or your family had to overcome while growing up?
 - d. How are the goals of JA CL relevant to my life
- Letter of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, or professor who knows you well

Submit to Shiro Tanaka, Scholarship Chair, 11334 Pemmicanrun, Cincinnati, OH 45249
The deadline for application is **May 15**.

PERSONALS

DONATIONS

Cincinnati Chapter gratefully acknowledges the following donations to **the General Fund**

Betsy and Kazuya Sato, Union, KY

Acknowledgment from the two seventh graders of Our Lady of Visitation for assisting them for their History Day Project about the internment.

In memory of Stogie Toki

Kono Naegele, Cincinnati, OH

Tokie Wade. New Richmond, Ohio

Shiro and Fumiko Tanaka, Cincinnati, OH

Rufus Tojo Scholarship Fund

In memory of Paul Yoshikawa

Kono Naegele, Cincinnati, OH



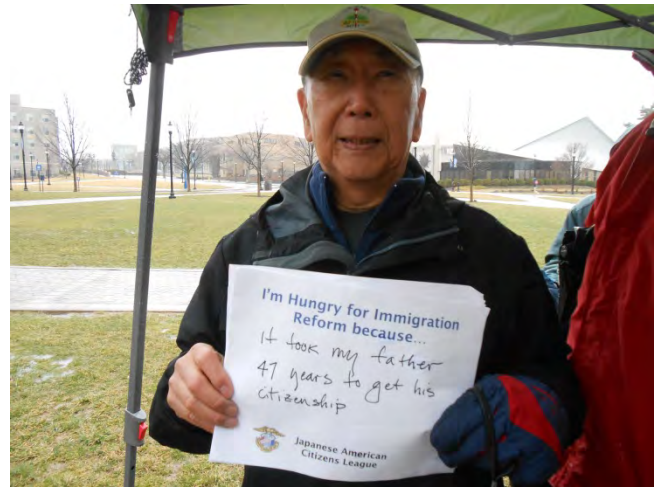
Eliseo Medina, leader of Fast 4 Families speaks not only for immigration reform but for the rights of everyone.



Shiro Tanaka, president of Cincinnati Chapter JACL, was among the crowd that stood in the cold rain with gusts of wind that almost carried away the tents.



A DREAMer speaks, who came to the U.S. as a child and was educated here, but does not have his citizenship.

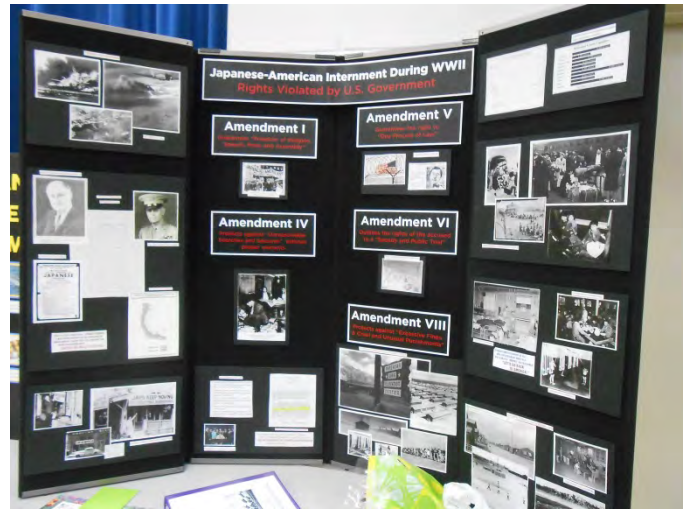


Gordon Yoshikawa joined Shiro Tanaka in the rain and listened to the speakers who articulated the need for immigration reform and a path towards citizenship.





Michael Bittner, Frances Tojo, Eric Beck



Michael & Eric's display



Michael, Eric, Joan Hensler-Bittner and Dave Bittner



Many other displays of historical facts and figures

The seventh grade class of Our Lady of Visitation in Bridgetown, OH, was given the assignment “Rights and Responsibilities in History” for History Day. Michael Bittner and Eric Beck chose the little-known topic of Japanese American internment During World War II, How The U.S. Government Violated Their Rights Under The Constitution. Each entry had to focus on the theme and use the best and most appropriate resources available to research their respective topic (both primary and secondary resources needed to be indicated on their annotated bibliography). The students then had to give a 3-5 minute oral presentation with a project board or prepare a 7-10 minute skit or group performance. On December 21, 2013, students had to submit 2 topic proposals to their history teacher, Mrs. Gruenemeier, for approval and acceptance. By January 10, 2014, the students had to submit a letter to their teacher explaining what each person had done so far to contribute to their project and what they were still planning or accomplishing in the weeks ahead. They could ask any questions or list any problems they were having in that letter to their teacher. By January 21, 2014, the students had to submit a draft of their annotated bibliography in a correct MLA form for citing sources. By February 3, 2014, the students had to submit their first draft of their project. Then starting the week of February 17th and February 24th, the students had to give their class their presentation. Michael and Eric did theirs on February 27, 2014. Then the students had to bring back their project boards on March 13th for students, teachers and parents and visitors to see the 7th grade projects.

Japanese-American Internment During World War II How the U.S. Government Violated Their Rights Under The Constitution

By: Michael Bittner and Eric Beck

As you know, the United States of America was founded on the principles of freedom, liberty and equality, and forefathers wrote about these values in the Declaration of Independence, and then firmly established them in the Constitution of the United States. However, there was a period of time in U.S. history when these rights were completely ignored and violated. This occurred during World War II when the U.S. government incarcerated over 120,000 Japanese Americans in internment camps.

I am sure you are asking yourself, "Why or how did this happen"? Well, there are three main reasons this internment took place and President Clinton stated this in his October 1, 1993, apology letter – the reasons were "racial prejudice, war hysteria and the lack of government leadership."

Anti-Japanese sentiment began in the 1890's when over 100,000 Japanese immigrated to the United States bringing with them an Asian culture and religions that many Americans were unfamiliar with. Then, the Great Depression hit in the 1920 and 1930's and the Caucasian Americans found themselves competing with the Japanese immigrants for work and pay and resentment against them grew even more. The final straw came on December 7, 1941. "A date which will live in infamy," when the Japanese government bombed Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. This event brought about tremendous anger, hatred and fear from almost all American citizens against the Japanese people.

Because the U.S. feared more attacks, especially on the West Coast, the government leaders first established military zones and restricted areas. They designated various locations near airports, power plants, naval bases, or the waterfront as "strategic areas" and barred the Japanese from living there. By mid-February, many military leaders and the media convinced President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to sign Executive Order 9066. This occurred on February 19, 1942.

This order provided the U.S. military with the right and authority to remove "enemy aliens" and anyone else who was suspected of disloyalty from the West Coast to internment camps located in the country's interior. The actual order did not state "Japanese people" in the document but everyone knew this order was for them. Immediately, "Civilian Exclusion Orders" addressed "To all Persons of Japanese Ancestry" were posted in various cities and states.

It should be noted that over 2/3 of the Japanese Americans living in the United States were actual citizens of the U.S. because they were born here and ½ of them were children. They never even had been to Japan. They grew up here and were educated on the American culture. In fact, at no time during the war was there any person of Japanese descent that was convicted of spying or being a traitor to the U.S. but they did convict 10 Caucasian Americans of spying for Japan.

Now, when the American government decide to intern the Japanese Americans in these camps, several constitutional rights were violated. Some of these rights included: Freedom of Religion, speech and press, freedom from unreasonable search and seizures; the right of due process; the right to a fair trial and speedy trial; and the right to not have excessive bail, fines and punishments inflicted upon you.

The freedom of speech, press and religion which are under the Bill of Rights' First Amendment were taken away. The freedom to religion was not totally denied, but the U.S. government did try to restrict the practice of some Eastern religions and push the Christian faith upon them. The freedom to speech was violated when they were not allowed to speak Japanese in public areas. The freedom of press was violated when the newspapers and mail received in the camps were censored because they suspected they might be a military threat.

Another right that was taken away was the freedom from unreasonable searches, seizures and warrants. This is Amendment IV of the Bill of Rights. This right was violated when the government searched the homes and businesses of the Japanese Americans without a warrant, and without probable cause. The only so-called evidence that they had was a racial one – that they were Japanese. The FBI confiscated any items that dealt with technology (such as short wave radios) or books on the Japanese culture.

We also learned that Amendment V of the Bill of Rights which states that “No person ... shall be deprived of life, liberty or property, without due process of law” were repeatedly denied when the Japanese Americans tried to challenge the legality of their imprisonment and petitioned for freedom from the camps. And last, there is Amendment VII of the Bill of Rights that states no person shall receive an excessive bail or a cruel and unusual punishment. By placing the Japanese Americans in these internment camps without a trial of any kind, the U.S. government handed out a very cruel and unusual punishment on them. They did this by taking away their freedom and their property and forcing them to live behind barbed wire fences, surrounded by security guards, in very harsh conditions.

This now brings us to the camp life itself. The Japanese Americans had between 2 days to 2 weeks to pack, and they were only allowed to bring what they could carry. Most of their possessions either had to be sold for a loss or left behind. They either took a bus or a train to one of the 10 internment camps. Most of these camps were set up in isolated desert areas with no running water and were surrounded by barbed wire fences and guard towers. Families were housed in 2 room barrack type buildings and had to share community areas for bathing, laundry and eating. Some of the buildings and bedding were made out of animal stalls and others with tar paper roofs.

The camps lacked many items such as school supplies, heat stoves and especially good food. Many suffered from food poisoning due to the unsanitary conditions. We had the privilege of interviewing Mrs. Frances Tojo, who was interned at Tule Lake. She told us personally how this camp experienced food poisoning, especially one Thanksgiving meal when the turkeys were spoiled. She also mentioned how the barracks were only 20’ by 100’ and there was only one heat stove provided. To many of them, the lack of privacy was one of the hardest things to overcome especially when you had to eat meals at designated times with other families and had to share the shower facilities. The Japanese did try to make things better for themselves by farming the land, going to school, planting gardens near their barracks and playing recreational games.

In January of 1943, the Japanese Americans were allowed to leave the camps. They were given just \$25 and a train ticket to start a new life. For a short time, they were not allowed to go back to the 3 coast states.

As you can clearly see, our government denied the Japanese Americans of equal protection and fair treatment under the law and forced them to be imprisoned without a trial. All of these actions violated their rights as citizens under the U.S. Constitution. The government used the excuse of protecting our country for national security purposes, but clearly it had no evidence other than racial prejudice and fears.

Japanese American Citizens League

Annual Installation Dinner
Cincinnati and Dayton Chapters

Sunday, April 27, 2014

3:00 to 4:00 pm Cash Bar; 4:00 to 6:30 pm Dinner

China Cottage Restaurant

6290 Far Hills Ave., Centerville, OH. 45459

(937) 434-2622

Cost: \$30/person

(Dinner includes 5 unique, specially-selected courses, soup, appetizer, & beverages)

Featured Guest

Michael R. Roediger, Director and CEO

*“The Dayton Art Institute
Asian Collection”*

Featuring 5000 years of art history, the Patterson/Kettering Wing of Asian Art at the Dayton Art Institute includes scroll masterpieces from the Edo period, along with rare Japanese swords and decorative gold pieces (called *menuki*)

***More information:* Call Ron Katsuyama (937) 294-8815**

Directions from the south (I-75):

- (1) Take Exit 43 to I-675, heading northeast (toward Columbus)***
- (2) In 4.7 mi. take Exit 4B to Far Hills Ave./ Turn left onto SR-48, heading north***
- (3) In .9 mi. turn right into parking area of China Cottage Restaurant***