

And then they stood up for them

By TOMO HIRAI
Nichi Bei Weekly

Japanese Americans held a candlelight vigil in San Francisco's Japantown in November 2016, following the election of President Donald Trump. Abby Ginzberg's "And Then They Came For Us" opens with this scene as Asian Americans and the Muslim community expressed solidarity following a presidential campaign fraught with xenophobia, homophobia and Islamophobia. The year-long campaign by Trump called for the ban of Muslims from entering the country, which served as the link Ginzberg needed to tie the Japanese American experience to what is happening today.

Initially approached by Richard Cahan and Michael Williams, authors of "Un-American: the Incarceration of Japanese Americans in World War II: Images by Dorothea Lange, Ansel Adams, and Other Government Photographers," Ginzberg was asked to create a companion film to their photobook on the wartime incarceration. Having directed and produced three other documentaries on social justice, Ginzberg said it was unusual for her to take on a commissioned work, but said she did so after being promised full artistic and creative control of the project. She also noted that the film was funded and interview subjects had already been identified prior to making the film.

"I've always been an enormous fan of Dorothea Lange," Ginzberg told the *Nichi Bei Weekly* in a phone interview. "The idea I

would be able to work with her photos and be able to learn a little bit more about her and her role in photographing ... the incarceration was very interesting to me."

Ginzberg felt that the focus of the film was solidified after proponents of the Trump campaign and administration began using the wartime incarceration of Japanese Americans as a precedent to the Muslim registry and travel ban.

"The minute that piece fell into place ... I knew what I could bring to this film," she said. "It really comes out of the sense that people in the United States, many of them don't know about the incarceration and have the feeling that 'oh, no one would do that here,' and I'm like, 'oh yes we would.'"

Satsuki Ina, who spoke at the vigil, bookends the film, said she has accompanied Ginzberg to various screenings. She continues to be surprised that many non-Nikkei audiences do not know about the wartime incarceration. "Most are shocked and outraged to learn the details of our incarceration experience. But for all audiences, this film is a call to action. The reality that the government is capable of turning a cruel and blind eye to the rights of a 'disposable' community of people, demands that each and every one of us, especially those of us who have been victims, is being called to stand up and speak out on behalf of those who are being targeted today," Ina wrote in an e-mail to the *Nichi Bei Weekly*.

The film focuses on photos tak-

en during the wartime incarceration, notably by photographers who documented the experience for the U.S. government.

"(Lange) knew from the beginning that this was not something we should be doing. It was unconstitutional," Ginzberg said. "She had friends who were Japanese Americans, but when the government came to her and said, 'you did a good job (during the Great Depression), how about this?' she said okay because I think she felt that somebody had to bear witness."

Ginzberg added that Lange felt physically sick after photographing the forced removal of Japanese Americans in Woodland, Calif.

Other photographers in the film approached their work differently. She noted that Ansel Adams had photographed the Manzanar, Calif. camp as a friend of the head administrator. "There was some expectation that he wasn't supposed to show the worst of the worst, and he didn't," Ginzberg said. "He said it was one of the most important projects he had ever done ... but Ansel, many people were upset by his photographs because they show the happy campers."

Despite the rosy depiction of camp life, Ginzberg said Adams' work did help by providing a look inside the lives of those locked up at the camp. In the same breath, she noted other photographers such as Toyo Miyatake depicted the hardship of

(continued on page 14)

Photo contest winner



NIKKEI
VIEWFINDER
PHOTO CONTEST

Assignment:
A Time to Remember

Contemporary images of wartime incarceration

WINNER: Brett Ryoji Kodama
AGE: 26 **RESIDENCE:** New York

ABOUT THE PHOTO:

"My grandmother was only a child while she was held in Manzanar, but her memories of watching the mountains as she was driven away remain very vividly in her mind. Even though she is usually an upbeat and spirited person, she was uncharacteristically solemn when we were driving back home after a visit to the site, once again watching mountains."

JUDGE'S COMMENT:

"You really get a nice feeling about this image. You get a nice sense of the mood of this woman going in a vehicle with the background. I could almost feel the bus ride this woman probably endured back in 1942."

NEXT CONTEST:

See back page or www.nichibei.org/nikkei-viewfinder-contest/

Northern California Time of Remembrance

Florin, Lodi, Placer County & Sacramento JACL Chapters present

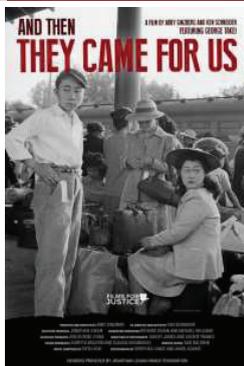
"AND THEN THEY CAME FOR US"

Saturday, February 10, 2018

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

California Museum

1020 O Street, Sacramento



"And Then They Came for Us" brings history into the present, retelling the difficult story of the forced incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II, and follows Japanese American activists as they speak out against the Muslim registry and travel ban. Knowing our history is the first step to ensuring we do not repeat it. "And Then They Came for Us" is a cautionary & inspiring tale for these challenging times when basic rights are being threatened.

Abby Ginzberg

Filmmaker, producer and director of award-winning documentary films for nearly three decades. Her thought-provoking films seek to inspire audiences to follow in the footsteps of those who have committed themselves to transforming the societies in which they live.

Donation:

\$20.00 general
\$15.00 college students 18-25.
Free for students under 18.
Includes admission, reception and "Uprooted", the Unity Center, and other current exhibits in the CA Museum.

All tickets will be at WILL CALL.

For more information or questions on this event, please visit NCTOR.org or contact: Nancy Whiteside at 916-508-6587 or nwhites@hotmail.com or 916-427-2841.

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Sunday, February 18, 2018 • 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

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Photo courtesy of Andy Frazer

Event is free and open to the public

For more information: www.sjnoc.org • (408) 505-1186

For information on placing an obituary, e-mail sales@nichibeiveekly.org, call (415) 673-1009 or visit www.nichibei.org/nichibeiveekly/obituary

Milestones

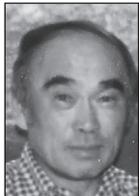
OBITUARIES

KAMIYA, MAKOTO MARK, 95, passed away Nov. 12, 2017. He was born on Mar. 18, 1922, in Livingston, California to Mibuji and Shizuko Kamiya. Mark was a devoted son, studious and idealistic. He attended Ballico Elementary School, graduated from Livingston High School and entered Cal Poly at San Luis Obispo in 1941. His college education was interrupted after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941 because he and 110,000 other Japanese Americans were sent to prison camps. He was sent to the Merced County Fairground Assembly Center and later transferred to Amache Internment Camp near Granada, Colorado. While in Amache, he was drafted and was assigned to the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Service at Monterey, California. After the war, he studied philosophy and graduated from UC Berkeley. He returned to Ballico and married Mary Noda in 1949. Mark was a respected and creative farmer for over 60 years, and cultivated 220 acres of almonds, peaches and grapes.

Mark was committed to social justice and community involvement.

He served on the boards of Ballico School, the Cortez Growers Association, and the Cortez Japanese American Citizens League. In 1964, Mark went to Delano, CA at the request of Cesar Chavez to help organize Pilipino farm workers on behalf of the United Farm Workers Union. He was active in the anti-Vietnam War movement, traveled to Nicaragua several times to build furniture for disabled children and helped Hmong refugee farmers in Livingston grow vegetables. He also participated in the Day of Respect at Modesto High School where he and Mary shared their experiences of being imprisoned during World War II.

Mark is survived by his wife Mary of 68 years; younger brother Joe; four children Marcia, Marla, Maureen and Matthew; and grandchildren Nathaniel and Mariko. He was predeceased by his elder siblings, Mineko and Smile. The family held a memorial of his life in Oakland in January.



KURIHARA, VELMA NATSUKO, 92, passed away peacefully on Dec. 22, 2017 at The Sequoias San Francisco. She was born JUNE 25, 1925 in Tulare, CA.

Velma is survived by her sisters Marie Kurihara and Betty Ozawa (Koji) and many nieces and nephews and grand nieces and nephews.

She attended Orosi High School. During WWII Velma was sent to Poston (Camp III) Arizona (Executive Order 9066 – authorized by the president) where persons of Japanese ancestry were forcibly removed from the West Coast to 10 American Concentration camps. She was permitted to leave for Chicago. In 1945 she returned to California to

attend Meritt Business School in Oakland. She lived in San Francisco & became an Executive Secretary for Pacific Far East Lines & Matson. She was a valuable stenographer until her retirement in 1993.

She was an active member of Pine United Methodist Church and its choir. She enjoyed classical and choral music. Her grand nieces and nephews gave her much joy from their violin and cello performances. Her interests were knitting, quilting, cooking and gardening. She was an avid S.F. Giants & Warriors fan. She volunteered and served at Kimochi Nutrition. Her love, concern and generosity to family was endless. She will be dearly missed. A private service was held.

ODA, NANCIE HARUKO, 89, passed away on January 16, 2018 in Oakland, California. She is survived by her husband of 56 years, John S. Oda. She is also survived by her brother, Tak Yasuda; children, Joyce Uyeno, of Sacramento, CA, and Todd (Kathy) Uyeno of Piedmont, CA, Shawn Oda of El Cerrito, CA; and six grandchildren, Dan Uyeno, Jeff Uyeno, Alex Uyeno, Greg Uyeno, Franny Beck and Jordan Beck.

Nancie, known affectionately by her family as 'Nana', over many years honed her homemaking skills

and provided loving care to her family.

She was a long-time resident of Berkeley, CA when she and John retired to South Lake Tahoe for 15 years from 1997 until 2012. Most recently she resided at Sunrise of Oakland Hills.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 3rd, 11 am at Sunset View Mortuary in El Cerrito, CA.



YAMABE, FLORENCE YOSHIKO, 77, of San Francisco, CA, was called to heaven suddenly on January 4, 2018. Born on August 9, 1940 in San Francisco, CA. She is survived by her loving husband Robert Yamabe, daughter Karen Kwong (Dave) and grandsons Jared and Ryan of Millbrae, CA; son Brian Yamabe (Erin) and granddaughters Emi and Mari of Campbell, CA; son Kevin Yamabe (Jen) and granddaughters Peyton and Paige of Huntington Beach, CA. Flo is also survived by her sister Lillian Tanaka.

Flo was so proud of her grandchildren. She just loved being with them, whether it was going on vacation with them, watching them play a sport or just being at the house playing games with them. She also loved being around all of their friends and their friend's parents, just "hanging out" and laughing. We will miss her dearly!!

Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2018 at 1:00pm at Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC), 1840 Sutter St, San Francisco, CA 94115.

In lieu of flowers, please send any donations made in her name to JCCCNC, 1840 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115.

MUTO, YOSHIKO, 93, passed away January 11, 2018.

Yoshiko Inouye was born April 22, 1924 in Los Angeles and grew up in Oxnard, CA. She met her husband, Kazuo Muto, at the Gila River Internment Camp during WWII. After they married, she lived in Suisun-Fairfield area, CA where she and Kaz raised three children. Condolences may be sent to Wayne Muto, 2890 Sunburst Dr., Fairfield, CA 94533.

"And Then They Came for Us" will screen Saturday, Feb. 10 at the California Museum, 1020 O St., Sacramento, Calif. as part of the Northern California Time of Remembrance program from 1 to 4 p.m. Tickets are a suggested donation of \$20 for general admission or \$15 for students 18 to 25 years old and free for children. Ticket price includes admission to the museum and a reception. For more information, visit <http://NCTOR.org> or contact Nancy Whiteside (916) 508-6587, nwhiteside@hotmail.com or (916) 427-2841.

The film will also lead off the Nichi Bei Foundation's seventh annual Films of Remembrance Saturday, Feb. 24 in San Francisco Japantown's New People Cinema, 1746 Post St. at 10 a.m. For more information or tickets, visit www.nichibei.org/films-of-remembrance, e-mail programs@nichibei.org or call (415) 294-4655.

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camp life where the government photographers had not. Above all, she said the photographs were proof that the United States had incarcerated the Japanese Americans during the war.

Ina, whose mother was photographed by Lange, is an interview subject in the film. She said the documentary validates Japanese Americans' feeling that "what happened to us, is chillingly resonant today."

"Many Japanese Americans have stepped forward to stand with and speak out against threats to Muslim, immigrant, DACA, LGBTQ individuals and communities," Ina said. "I see these actions as a healing force for our own community. There were few voices protesting our mass

incarceration. We were a powerless community of people with few allies. But today we are an empowered people, informed by our history, with empathy and compassion, and the unexpressed outrage about our own victimization has found a voice in standing up for others."

Ginzberg said that Ina invited her to record the vigil in Japantown. She also later attended the protest at San Francisco International Airport when the first iteration of the travel ban was instated in January 2017, attempting to bar entry to the United States those coming from certain majority Muslim nations. Ginzberg, a former civil rights lawyer, also said she wanted to include Fred Korematsu's 1983 *coram nobis* case since she had access to his family, the legal team and Judge Marilyn Hall Patel as a former civil rights attorney.

Ginzberg said she was thankful that the film has since taken on a life of its own, having been shown widely around California and at schools. "All I want is for people to use the stuff that I do. That's my goal," she said. "It's been very rewarding to have the film used by others who either want to teach the same story, or a related story, or work in conjunction with another group."

APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE TJPA CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

APPLICATIONS DUE FEBRUARY 20, 2018

The Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) is soliciting applications from Bay Area residents interested in serving on the TJPA Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).

The TJPA seeks to appoint Committee members that represent the diversity of the Bay Area. There are eight (8) full term seats available representing the following constituencies: Daily Caltrain Rider into San Francisco, Bicycle Advocate, Daily MUNI Rider on a line that serves the Transit Center, Real Estate Development or Finance Expertise, Member of Citywide (San Francisco) business community, Local Business from District 6 (zip code 94105 or 94107), Regional Transit Advocate, and Member of a planning or good-government non-profit organization.

CAC terms are for a period of two years and each member is eligible to serve a maximum of three consecutive terms. The TJPA CAC meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm in the TJPA office at 201 Mission Street, Suite 2100, San Francisco, CA. Meetings are from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Consistent attendance is required.

If you are interested in being considered, please submit an application to the Transbay Joint Powers Authority via e-mail cac@tjpa.org or by mail 201 Mission Street, Suite 2100, San Francisco, CA 94105. Applications are available on the TJPA website at <http://www.tjpa.org/tjpa/cac/about-the-cac>

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