

## September 26, 2009 Saturday

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Special Event Hall

Welcome and Introduction to the day – Lorene Oikawa

9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Special Event Hall

Workshop with Satsuki Ina, PhD, on Intergenerational Story Telling.



Dr. Ina is a licensed Marriage and Family therapist specializing in Community Trauma. She is a former internee of the Tule Lake Segregation Center in Northern California. She has conducted groups and work-

shops for Japanese Americans who were held in the WW II internment camps. This work culminated in her documentary film, *Children of the Camps*, which has been broadcast nationally on PBS. She is Professor Emeritus, School of Education, California State University, Sacramento, and currently in private practice in Sacramento, California.

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Morning Break and move into groups.

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Groups

We will do our best to provide a comfortable atmosphere for sharing your experiences. In each group there will be a maximum of ten story tellers who have experienced the internment. You will know which group to attend by the color on your name tag. Groups will be organized into colour-coded

locations within the Nikkei Centre. To locate your group, a large and visible colour-coded room chart will be set up, and volunteers will also be on hand to assist you.

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. - Special Event Hall

Lunch

Keynote speaker: TBA

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Groups continue.

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Afternoon break.

3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Groups continue.

4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Gather in Special Event Hall to check in – Lorene Oikawa

Review activity for Sunday, September 27.

5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Break

5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Special Event Hall

- Dinner
- Tribute to All Those Who Came Before Us
- Entertainment: Harry Aoki

## September 27, 2009 Sunday

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Special Event Hall – Lorene Oikawa

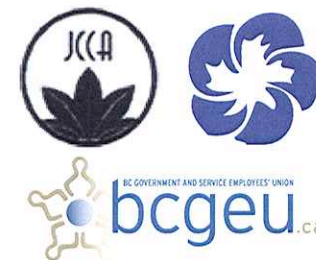
Dialogue between listeners and storytellers

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Morning break.

10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Feedback on follow up to this event.

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 pm. Wrap up.

## HONOURING OUR PEOPLE: STORIES OF THE INTERNMENT



# Information Brochure

SEP 25 – SEP 27, 2009

NATIONAL NIKKEI HERITAGE CENTER  
6688 SOUTHOAKS CRESCENT  
BURNABY BC V5E 4M7

“Honouring Our People: Stories of the Internment” is sponsored by the National Association of Japanese Canadians and the Greater Vancouver Japanese Canadian Citizens Association.

This conference will pay tribute to those generations of Japanese Canadians who, despite experiencing racism, restrictions, uprooting and loss during and after WWII, demonstrated resilience and the capacity to survive and overcome.

The purpose of this conference is to provide a venue for survivors to share their stories and learn methods of preserving them for future generations.

Although the focus of this conference is on surviving elders who have strong memories from their internment years, we strongly encourage younger generations of Japanese Canadians to participate. Both community members who were not interned and non-Japanese Canadians are also welcome to attend.

## Program

***“Our collective family stories form our community’s history.”***

The conference program is structured so that survivors of internment may tell their stories in small groups. We will encourage participants to choose a group they will feel comfortable being in. We will

also try to accommodate requests from participants who prefer to share their stories on a one-to-one basis.

Each group will have a facilitator to guide discussion. Following the sharing of stories, storytellers who are comfortable with engaging in discussion may dialogue with listeners. The story-sharing time will occur on Saturday, September 26.

We believe documentation is valuable, because sharing our family stories will benefit not only the descendents of survivors but, also, other community members, such as postwar immigrants. In addition, these stories will benefit all Canadians, regardless of ethnic background.

Documentation may include the recording of stories via audiotape or, if the storyteller is comfortable with it, videotape. Each storyteller will be asked for consent before having his or her story recorded.

We are sensitive to the needs of our elders. Although we may not be able to accommodate all requests, we will do what we can to meet their needs.

## Program Schedule

The following is a detailed description of the program schedule:

### **September 25, 2009 Friday**

5:00 p.m. Registration in the Special Event Hall

There will be various displays in the Nikkei Centre depicting some of the internment areas in B.C. We encourage participants to bring their photos so they may be copied and displayed. Photos will be copied on site and returned to you. We invite you to visit, enjoy the displays and reconnect with people you may have lost touch with before, during, or after the war. 6:00 p.m. Refreshments in Lobby

7:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. Play “Rick and Ned” by Liz Nunoda.

“Rick & Ned” is a staged reading about a conservative sansei man who is reunited with his anarchist nisei uncle.



Liz Nunoda is a writer. Her nisei father told her stories about his experiences in road camp and Bayfarm, and she believes it is important to preserve and retell these stories.

8:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m. Check-in and wrap-up for the day—Lorene Oikawa



Lorene Oikawa is a vice president of the BCGEU (BC Government and Service Employees’ Union) and a yonsei (fourth generation British Columbian) whose family migrated from Japan in the 1800’s and 1906. She is the first AsianCanadian to be elected to an executive position in her union.