

SUGGESTED FILMS AND DVD RESOURCES FOR HIGH SCHOOL+ STUDENTS

JAPANESE AMERICAN WWII HISTORY: CAMPS, SOLDIERS, CIVIL LIBERTIES

See suggested distributors at end

INCARCERATION CAMPS

A FLICKER IN ETERNITY: STANLEY HAYAMI. 26 min. (2013) Ann Kaneko, Joanne Oppenheimer and Sharon Yamato. Based on World War II diaries/letters written by a Japanese American teenager about his life in an incarceration camp and as a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team on the European front. Hayami's witty observations and artistic talents provide a firsthand look at the indignity of incarceration and the tragedy of war.

<http://flickerineternity.com/clips.php> (institutional version available)

DAYS OF WAITING. 28 min. (1990) Steven Okazaki.

Academy Award-winning short documentary about a Caucasian artist who accompanied her Japanese American husband into a US government incarceration center during WWII.

STAND UP FOR JUSTICE. 33 min. (2000) John Esaki.

Based on the true story about Ralph Lazo, a young Latino American teenager from Los Angeles who voluntarily went to the Manzanar Relocation Center during WWII to join his Nisei friends. Addresses the violations of civil liberties that Japanese Americans faced during the war and reveals how one person's actions earned the undying gratitude of a community.

LEGACY OF HEART MOUNTAIN: 56 min. (2013) <http://www.heartmountainfilm.com/>

Award-winning documentary of an incarceration camp near Cody, Wyoming, at which about 10,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry were held during WWII just because of their heritage.

CHILDREN OF THE CAMPS, THE DOCUMENTARY. 60 min. (1999). Satsuki Ina.

University professor and therapist conducts a three-day workshop with six Japanese Americans who, like herself, were forced to live as children in the incarceration camps of WWII. Reveals impact of racism upon their lives as they grew up. Curriculum guide: www.children-of-the-camps.org

THE MANZANAR FISHING CLUB: 74 min. (2012). Cory Shiozaki.

Documentary chronicling the personal stories of WWII Japanese American fishermen who defied the armed guards, barbed wire and searchlights to fish for trout in the Eastern Sierra waters near the Manzanar Relocation Center, where they and their families were incarcerated during WWII. Interviews with noted experts provide insights into the sociopolitical backdrop of the incarceration.

TOYO'S CAMERA: 98 min. (2009). Junichi Suzuki.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, successful Los Angeles photographer Toyo Miyatake smuggled parts of a camera into one of the Incarceration camps where he and his family were forced to live during the war. Unlike the staged scenes taken by the US government, Miyatake's photos captured actual life and conditions behind the barbed wire.

PRISONERS AND PATRIOTS: THE UNTOLD STORY. 91 min.(2011). Neil H. Simon.

Documentary of Sante Fe Camp, one of the WWII Department of Justice detention camps, includes interviews with survivors and their families. The 4,555 prisoners were all men, some Japanese nationals and some US citizens, primarily leaders of the Japanese American community before the war.

FAREWELL TO MANZANAR: 107 min. (1976) John Korty.

Emmy-nominated, fact-based drama about Manzanar, one of the incarceration camps that held more than 10,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry during WWII whose only crime were being of Japanese descent.

THE ART OF GAMAN: 40 min. (2010). Delphine Hirasuna.

The DVD contains two features:

- ***The Story Behind the Objects*** By Rick Quan - Stories about the incarcerated who created the objects in an exhibition and interview with book author/curator of the show, Delphine Hirasuna.
- ***Voices Long Silent*** By Bob Matsumoto – Dramatic readings by actors of the East West Players share the hopes/dreams of first-generation Japanese immigrants and their ordeal in the WWII incarceration camps, especially those who died before the redress movement came to fruition.

JAPANESE AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN WORLD WAR II

JAPANESE AMERICANS IN WWII GOING FOR BROKE. 25 min. (2006). (YouTube.com or www.ndmquestar.com. Teacher Guide included). Story of the Japanese American soldiers from Hawaii and the mainland who volunteered to fight in several segregated units to prove their loyalty to the US while many of their families were forced into incarceration camps around the country. Hosted by the late former Senator Daniel K. Inouye; narrated by George Takei. Includes rare archival footage and interviews.

A FLICKER IN ETERNITY: STANLEY HAYAMI. 26 min. (2012). Kaneko, Oppenheimer, and Sharon Yamato.

Based on the World War II diaries/letters written by a Japanese American teenager about his life behind barbed wire in an incarceration camp and as a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team on the European front. Hayami's witty observations and artistic talents provide insight into the indignity of this period. <http://flickerineternity.com/clips.php> (institutional edition also available)

CITIZEN TANOUYE : 3 versions: 47 min classroom (w/curriculum gde); 38 min version Tanouye biography; full length 58 min version). Order: CitizenTanouye@gmail.com. www.citizenanouye.com (2005). Robert Horsting. Award-winning documentary of eight diverse high school students researching their school's alumnus and Medal of Honor recipient T/Sgt. Ted Tanouye of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, whose family was held in an incarceration camp during WWII, and the civil rights abuses of that period. Their investigation through primary/secondary sources and interviews leads them to reflect upon their own lives.

UNKNOWN WARRIORS (FORMERLY WITNESS: AMERICAN HEROES). 24 min. (2011). Robert Horsting, Jeff McIntyre, David Ono. (www.goforbroke.org)

Documentary narrated by newscaster David Ono about the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team, comprised of Japanese American soldiers. Highlights how their bravery and dignity changed the world and earned them the Congressional Gold Medal for being one of the greatest units in US military history.

VARSITY VICTORY VOLUNTEERS: IN THEIR OWN WORDS. 27 min. (2011).

Interviews with former University of Hawaii ROTC cadets of Japanese ancestry whose expulsion from the Hawaii Territorial Guard at the start of WWII led to their initiation of a civilian labor battalion called the Varsity Victory Volunteers. Many of them eventually became members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. (www.goforbroke.org)

HONOR & SACRIFICE: THE ROY MATSUMOTO STORY. 28 min. (2013). Karen Matsumoto. The World War II story of Japanese American Roy Matsumoto follows Matsumoto from America's incarceration camps to the China-Burma-India Theater, where he served as a member of the US Military Intelligence Service in Merrill's Marauders. Matsumoto is revealed as a man of extraordinary strength, stamina, wit, and courage, but also a typical member of the Japanese American community, embodying qualities of determination, loyalty, and acceptance of sacrifice.

HONOR BOUND: A PERSONAL JOURNEY. 58 min. (1995). Wendy Hanamura. The story told by Sgt. Howard Hanamura to his daughter about his service in the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team, a Japanese American combat unit which fought in Europe during WWII. The ultimate mission of these soldiers was upholding the honor of their people. Contains interviews and news highlights.

TRADITION OF HONOR. 2002 Robert Horsting. 82 min (www.goforbroke.org) Documentary of the 100th Infantry Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team, most decorated military unit of WWII for its size and length of service, and the Military Intelligence Service (MIS). Most of the members were Americans of Japanese descent, and many served the US while their families were held in incarceration camps.

OKAGESAME DE: I AM WHAT I AM BECAUSE OF YOU. 90 min. (2008). Alton Takiyama-Chung. Storyteller shares five stories exploring different aspects of the WWII Japanese American experience, including being in the incarceration camps, going to war, or serving in the Military Intelligence Service as a translator.

VALOR WITH HONOR: 90 min. (2010). Documentary film based on over 35 interviews of Japanese American veterans who served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team during WWII. This unit is the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in US military history.

442, LIVE WITH HONOR; DIE WITH DIGNITY: 97 min. (2010). Junichi Suzuki. History of 442nd Regimental Combat Team, one of the most decorated units for its size and length of service in the history of the US military. Comprised of mostly Americans of Japanese ancestry, the 442nd fought for the US to prove their patriotism despite their families' forced removal to incarceration camps after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Interviews with actor George Takei and the late Senator Daniel Inouye. (www.goforbroke.org)

MIS MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE: HUMAN SECRET WEAPON. 100 min. (2102). Junichi Suzuki. Documentary of Japanese American men in a secret unit of the US Army during WWII, many who proved their patriotism to the country that had forced their families into incarceration camps. Despite their achievements during the war, information regarding the MIS remained top secret until 1972, when materials were declassified. (www.goforbroke.org)

JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORY

I TOLD YOU SO. 18 min. (1974). B/W. Alan Kondo. Documentary of Japanese American poet Lawson Inada and his works, reflecting his life growing up in a multicultural Fresno community and the impact of the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans.

JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORY: UNKNOWN. 40 min. (2013). Junichi Suzuki. Free online. Portrays the history of Japanese Americans during WWII with their reclassification as enemy aliens and forced removal to incarceration camps, exploring the issues of human and civil rights through the racial discrimination and prejudice that they faced.

DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH: THE LEGACY OF JAPANESE-AMERICAN BASEBALL: 35 min. (2004). Nisei Baseball Research Project (NBRP) & Chip Taylor. (Note: Curriculum guide available). Chronicles the story of Kenichi Zenimura, dubbed the father of Japanese American baseball, at a time when Japanese immigrants brought their love of baseball to the US and continued playing inside the barbed wire of the incarceration camps during WWII. (JANM.org).

FURUSATO: THE LOST VILLAGE OF TERMINAL ISLAND: 42 min. (2007). Metzlaar and Nakamoto. Located near San Pedro and the Port of Los Angeles, Terminal Island was formerly home to more than 3,000 Japanese immigrants and their families until 1941, when they were forcibly removed to incarceration camps. Surviving American-born Nisei tell of their childhoods in what was once a tight-knit community.

ISSEI: FIRST GENERATION. 54 min. (1984). Documentary about Japanese men and women who immigrated to the West Coast of the US in the early 1900s. Highlights their struggles and triumphs in a new land.

THE CATS OF MIRIKITANI. 74 min. (2006). Linda Hattendorf (Institutional version available) Award-winning documentary of 80 year-old Jimmy Mirikitani (1920-2012) who survived the trauma of a WWII incarceration camp, Hiroshima, and homelessness by creating art. When 9/11 threatened his life on New York City streets, a filmmaker helped him confront his painful past. Explores the wounds of war and healing powers of friendship and art.

CIVIL RIGHTS/CIVIL LIBERTIES

SOMETHING STRONG WITHIN Plus 9066 TO 9/11: America's Concentration Camps, Then...and Now? 20 min. (1995). Karen Ishizuka.

Multiple award-winning documentary is a primer on the Japanese incarceration camp experience and its relevance today. Reveals striking similarities between the post-September 11 treatment of Arab and Muslim Americans in this country with treatment of Japanese Americans after the start of WWII.

A PERSONAL MATTER: GORDON HIRABAYASHI VS THE UNITED STATES. 30 min. (1992). Study guide available. (Caamedia.org). John de Graaf, the Constitution Project.

During WWII, Japanese American Gordon Hirabayashi refused to comply with the order of forced removal to US incarceration camps on the grounds that Executive Order 9066 violated his constitutional rights. This documentary examines the basic protections of the Constitution, such as due process of law and individual rights.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS. 58 min. (1986). Steven Okazaki.

Academy Award-nominated documentary focuses on the appeal of the wrongful convictions of three Japanese Americans during WWII-- Gordon Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu and Minoru Yasui. All were convicted of violating government restrictions against Japanese Americans during the war, and all lost their appeals to the Supreme Court. Captures Hirabayashi, Korematsu and Yasui with their lawyers as the appeals process moves forward.

CONSCIENCE AND THE CONSTITUTION: (2-disc) 56 min + 134 min bonus. (2000). Frank Abe. Award-winning documentary about the Fair Play Committee, the largest organized resistance movement to the forced removal of American citizens of Japanese descent. Set at the Heart Mountain incarceration camp during WWII. Viewer's guide and primary sources available at companion site, www.pbs.org/conscience.

RESETTLEMENT TO REDRESS: REBIRTH OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY.

54 min. (2005). Don Young.

Explores post-WWII resettlement of Japanese Americans into mainstream America after their release from America's incarceration camps. Highlights changes in American society with the civil rights movement; the events that led to the 1988 HR442 bill signed by President Ronald Reagan; and the government's apology and the reparations that followed.

OF CIVIL WRONGS AND RIGHTS: THE FRED KOREMATSU STORY. 60 min. (2000). Eric Paul Fournier. Award-winning documentary about a 23-year old Japanese American shipyard welder in 1942 who refused to be forcibly removed to an incarceration camp during WWII and challenged the Supreme Court. He lost his case but eventually received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1998.

SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTORS:

See film website, if available

JANM.org (Japanese American National Museum)

Amazon.com

Caamedia.org (Center of Asian American Media)

Go For Broke National Education Center, www.goforbroke.org or 310-222-5709 or peggy@goforbroke.org