



## The Japanese American Story

A deep dive resource list for exploring JA history in the U.S.

Here is a list of resources that I found helpful in writing my book and exploring the history of Mendez vs Westminster and the internment of Japanese Americans. I hope it will inspire you in telling your family story!

Thank you to my “tomodachis” Ron Inatomi, Ann Sakai, and Wayne Osako for their contributions to my resource list!

### Cultivating Kindness,

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### CRIT Films

"In Our Voice: The Chemehuevi, Hopi & Navajo Perspectives" (2018), fifty-five minutes, describes how four tribes came together on the CRIT reservation; and what a Japanese American internment camp has to do with it.

Watch Now



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### Crystal Cove CA State Park - Japanese American Farms Before WWII

There are so many places that have a Japanese American history! These links share the story of the Japanese American farmers that leased land from James Irvine after 1927 through 1942 and their internment in Poston.

**Read** now about the families and farms on the Kindness Is Blog.

[Read Now](#)

**Watch** this event that features Blythe Wilson of CA State Parks speaking about this history as well as Sandra Mendez and I talking about the Mendez, et al. v. Westminster history of Orange County.

[Watch Now](#)

**Learn more** about the historic Japanese American school house/community center building at Crystal Cove.

[Learn More](#)

### Densho

Densho is a nonprofit organization that offers an extensive online resource dedicated to preserving stories of the Japanese-American incarceration during World War II. Densho is a Japanese term meaning “to pass on to the next generation,” in essence to leave a legacy. Click below to gain access to 900 oral histories of Japanese Americans.

[Visit Website](#)

[Hear their stories](#)



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### **Geography of Japanese American Relocation Centers**

This document was created by the Central Washington University Dept. of Geography. It is an extensive work that focuses on the geography of the 8 camps in the western US. Poston is featured in Chapter 9. It also has some helpful appendices - relocation timeline, loyalty questionnaire, etc.

[View Now](#)

### **Go For Broke National Education Center**

The Go for Broke National Education Center and Memorial are located across from the Japanese American National Museum, Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, CA. This center's goal is to educate and inspire character and equality through the virtue and valor of our World War II American veterans of Japanese ancestry.

[Learn More](#)

### **The History Channel**

The History Channel website provides an overview article on the Japanese incarceration. One thing I like about history.com is that they are quite consistent and the information is well categorized for easy searching and learning.

[Visit Website](#)



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### **Japanese American National Museum**

Founded in 1985, JANM exists to preserve the rich heritage and cultural identity of Japanese Americans. It has an extensive ongoing exhibit, Common Ground: The Heart of Community that covers 130 years of Japanese American history including the World War II internment. In addition, now through February 19, 2023, the Sutra & Bible exhibit gives insight into the role of faith in the Japanese American communities, before, during, and after WWII camps.

[Visit Website](#)

### **Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During World War II**

Facing the Capitol building in Washington D.C., it is to the left side at the triangular intersection of D Street NW, New Jersey Avenue NW and Louisiana Avenue NW. It honors Japanese Americans who proved their loyalty to the U.S. by persevering in the internment camps and serving in the U.S. military during World War II.

[Learn More](#)

### **Japanese American So. Calif. Heritage - Fugetsu-Do**

This film, Fugetsu-Do, brings back sweet memories! Fugetsu-Do has been an anchor for the Japanese-American community in Little Tokyo since 1903. In the three generations that the Kito Family has been running Fugetsu-Do, the store has become a memory bank for the community and the stories that line its walls could not be more relevant in today's America.

[Watch Now](#)



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### Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages

JAMP hosts many informative events, webinars, and an annual virtual film festival. I subscribe to their emails and find their films quite interesting and educational. They also host online meet-up groups for Sansei, Yonsei, Gosei which might be a great way to connect with other like-minded Japanese Americans.

[Learn More](#)

### Japanese Heritage - Names & Family Crests

"Discovering Your Japanese American Roots: Family Name & Family Crest" is an informative webinar on Japanese family names, koseki, and crests (kamon). From Tadaima 2020 - Webinar by Chester Hashizume.

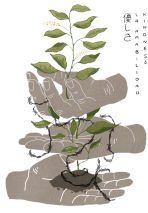
[Watch Now](#)

### The Korematsu Institute

The Korematsu Institute provides an excellent video, "Of Civil Wrongs and Rights", that presents the history of the Korematsu v. United States 1944 case, as well as the plight of the Japanese-Americans during World War II.

[Watch Now](#)

[Visit Website](#)



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### **Lists of Japanese Americans Incarcerated During WWII**

The Irei is the National Monument online for the WWII Japanese Americans incarcerated. This is the first time a comprehensive list of over 125,000 persons of Japanese ancestry who were unjustly imprisoned in the US Army, Department of Justice, and War Relocation Authority (WRA) camps has been documented. The list is organized by the name they registered at the camp with, camp location, and birth year. There is also a sacred book, Ireicho, housed at the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) in Los Angeles. Check out the JANM website, search Ireicho, to find out information to view and stamp your family member's name. You can also watch the "Irei Project & Memory" for a film about the dedication.

[Irei Website](#)

[Watch Now](#)

[JANM's Ireichō](#)

### **Poston Alliance & Poston Preservation**

This site includes information on Poston AZ internment camp. Specifically, this link provides a search for individuals interned at Poston with a brief record of their entrance and exit date and destinations.

[Visit Website](#)

### **Tuna Canyon Detention Center, Tujunga, CA**

A list of individuals imprisoned at the Tuna Canyon Detention Station (Southern California), which was open from December 16, 1941 to October 31, 1943. Most likely incarcerating men from the larger Southern California area.

[View List](#)



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### The National Archives

The National Archives has a lot of information, but it can be quite a maze depending on what you are looking for.

#### Japanese American Internment and Relocation Records

Head over to the National Archives and see different sources of Japanese American internment information. Government websites and links can change frequently, but you can always go to [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov) and search “Japanese American Internment and Relocation Records”.

[Visit Website](#)

#### National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

Visit to view Access to Archival Databases (AAD): Genealogy / Personal History: Civilians; Records About Japanese Americans Relocated During World War II, created, 1988 - 1989, documenting the period 1942 - 1946 - Record Group 210.

[Visit Website](#)

Here’s a note from Wayne Osako about his experience in exploring the National Archives (and the document on the next page on how to navigate it):

“When I learned that I could access my grandfather’s FBI file, I contacted NARA at the email listed. It took a couple weeks for them to reply, but they confirmed that the file was there. They sent a quote to reproduce and send the file, with the option to have paper copies mailed to me, burn a CD/DVD, or send me an electronic transfer via the web. I did the latter, and it cost \$100 for approximately 125 pages.”







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### The National Park Service

The National Park Service oversees three of the former incarceration camps as National Historic Sites: Manzanar, Minidoka, and Tule Lake.

[Visit Website](#)

In addition, search for “Confinement and Ethnicity: an Overview of World War II Japanese American Relocation Sites,” by authors J. Burton, M. Farrell, F. Lord, and R. Lord, on the [nps.gov](#) site, to see more details and pictures of every incarceration camp.

### Oral History & Digital Archives re: Japanese Americans

#### Japanese American Collections - The Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History | CSU Fullerton

Click below to view an alphabetized list of Orange County Nisei oral histories. Contact information is provided to access the audio files.

[Visit Website](#)

#### CSU Dominguez Hills Digital Archive

This link has an assortment of items related to Japanese Americans

[Visit Website](#)

#### Hoji Shinbun Digital Archive, Hoover Institute, Stanford University

The Hoji Shinbun Digital Collection, is currently the world’s largest online archive of open-access, full image Japanese American and other overseas Japanese newspapers in Asia and South America.

[Visit Website](#)



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### The Smithsonian Museum

The Smithsonian Museum in Washington, DC produced an exhibit in 2017 commemorating the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066. Their website has an overview of the exhibit.

[Visit Website](#)

### The Sunday Before

This booklet is also featured in the JANM's Sutra & Bible exhibit (now through February 19, 2023) on the role of faith in the internment camps. It is a collection of seven Sunday sermons from Pacific Coast Japanese American pastors. It is one thing to encourage others going through adversity, but it is another thing to encourage others when you are also going through the same adversity as their pastor. This short read gives an insight into the spiritual emotions felt as unjustly incarcerated people and their faith. A very important document to read on the internal and spiritual struggle of camp.

[Read Now](#)

### Walk the Farm

Walk the Farm is an online resource of Tanaka Farms (Irvine, California), that features a compilation of the stories of Issei and Nisei farmers along the Pacific coast of the United States in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Along with researching farming/agricultural family stories, farming families can also add their stories to this website.

[Read Now](#)



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### **My Publishing Experience**

Here are my recommendations and who I used for The Kindness of Color. Tell them Janice recommended you! One of the benefits of this team is that they have now a grounding in the Japanese American story having worked on The Kindness of Color - they are familiar with the overall incarceration and internment story of Japanese Americans.

#### **AsioCreative**

Story Development, Ghost-Writing, Editing, Publishing, Layout Design, Publishing Partner to get the books for sale online.

[Visit Website](#)

[Contact Drew Tilton](#)

#### **Jessica Snell**

Book Editor

[Visit Website](#)

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#### **Natalie Johnson**

Website & Book Layout Design

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#### **Illustrated by May**

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