

Giri Oral History Committee Speakers Bureau  
515 Petaluma Ave.  
Sebastopol, CA 95472

RE: *Speakers for your classroom*

Dear educators:

Please allow us to introduce you to an educational resource established by the Oral History Committee of the Sonoma County Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL).

***What is the JACL?***

The JACL is one of the oldest and largest Asian Pacific American civil rights organizations with more than 110 chapters throughout the United States. It was established in 1929.

***Speakers are available free of charge:***

The Oral History Committee of the local chapter has established a Speakers Bureau to serve as an educational resource for English and Social Studies teachers in the Sonoma County area. This Speakers Bureau, offered as a free service to your teachers, is geared for middle and senior high school students (7th through 12th grades). It was established to educate students about the Japanese American experience, particularly the mass evacuation and incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans in concentration camps during World War II. This event was a violation of the constitutional rights of American citizens and legal resident aliens who were incarcerated on the basis of racial prejudice by the U. S. government.

***Who are the speakers?***

They are primarily members of the Japanese American community in Sonoma County. Some of the speakers either had family members or were themselves in these concentration camps.

***Speech topics:***

They speak on a range of topics about that experience: the living conditions in camp, the effect on family life, those who served in the U.S. military during World War II, the No-No Boys, the postwar experience, and the local story of acts of kindness bestowed by residents of Sonoma County. The speaker can also address topics regarding human rights and civil liberties, Constitutional rights violated by the internment, and Supreme Court cases.

***Free curriculum guide:***

We have put together a *Curriculum and Resource Guide*, which includes background materials, historical photos, suggested lesson plans for elementary through high school students, and a list of further resources and web links. The guide is available for downloading at our chapter's website: [www.sonomacojacl.org](http://www.sonomacojacl.org).

***The procedure for requesting speakers:***

Teachers can request speakers for their classes in one of these ways:

- Go to the JACL website [www.sonomacojacl.org](http://www.sonomacojacl.org) and complete the online request form.
- Or download a PDF of the request form and mail to: JACL Speakers Bureau,  
c/o 2015 Caulfield Ln. Petaluma, CA 94954

If you have any questions, please:

- Email: [speaker@sonomacojacl.org](mailto:speaker@sonomacojacl.org) . Please put “speakers bureau request” in the subject

***Please note:***

We recommend that requests for speakers be made ***one month*** in advance of the desired date of the speaking engagement. A speaker from the Speakers Bureau will then contact the teacher to confirm the speaking engagement and send a confirmation letter. The Speakers Bureau requires that the teacher (not a substitute) be present for the duration of the presentation. It should be noted that in some cases two speakers might be assigned as a team. If you would like speakers for more than one class, a team is recommended.

We have a cadre of enthusiastic, trained volunteer speakers, and we hope you will disseminate the information about our Speakers Bureau as widely as possible.

Thank you in advance for your interest. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Henry Kaku, coordinator

Jodi Hottel, chair

(rev. 10/13)