



Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress

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NCRR Expresses Gratitude to Lane Ryo Hirabayashi

NCRR, founded in 1980 as National Coalition for Redress/Reparations (now known as Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress), began its grassroots campaign to help win redress for Japanese Americans incarcerated during WWII. NCRR members felt that their lives had been transformed and really wanted to share their experiences of working closely with the community, which had been silenced yet found its voice to speak out and demand an apology and monetary reparations, won redress in 1988, and continued to fight for those who had been denied redress.

We felt that the power of these experiences and the lessons learned should be expressed in a book. We thought about who would be able to advise us and help us write the book as well as promote it in colleges and the community. Lane was the perfect choice. He was the expert of experts regarding the Japanese American incarceration and who always combined community activism with scholarly pursuits. He had even worked with NCRR Gardena when he first came to UCLA in the 1980s.

With his enormous generosity of spirit and steady stewardship, we were able to create *NCRR: The Grassroots Struggle for Japanese American Redress and Reparations*. In fact, he even took a quarter off of his UCLA duties to focus on the book.

After Lane was diagnosed with his illness, he continued to do everything he could to get the book into university libraries. He also organized book talks at California State University Los Angeles and UCLA.

Even as his energy was being severely sapped by his condition, Lane made sure he got together with the NCRR book editorial team. It meant so much to us. We were deeply saddened when his wife let us know about his passing. We miss him dearly.

Kay Ochi, NCRR Co-Chair and member of the NCRR book editorial team

"Lane epitomized the description: 'a gentleman and a scholar.' Many of us were fortunate to get to know the kind, generous and affable guy that he was. It's no wonder that his close friends and family nicknamed him 'Smile.' I cherish our phone conversations, email chats and friendship. Lane's wife, Marilyn Alquizola, shared that Lane was an iconoclast. Instead of having a memorial service, Lane would surely prefer that folks remember him through his writing—to encourage thinking and learning by reading the NCRR book and the book that he and his father Jim edited, *A Principled Stand*."



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