

April 28, 2008

**High School Essay Contest
Commemorating Redress and the 20th Anniversary of
The Civil Liberties Act**

Sponsored by San Jose JACL

To Essay Contestants:

On August 10th, 1988, The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 was enacted, a milestone in Japanese-American history. Almost 20 years of struggle on the part of the entire community created a movement to win redress for the internment of 120,000 people of Japanese descent. The Japanese-American community demonstrated that America's concentration camps were a product of racial discrimination, wartime hysteria and the failure of political leadership. The process to unite the community and win the support of all peoples provides valuable lessons today.

In honor of the 20th Anniversary of its passage, the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), San Jose Chapter is sponsoring an essay contest for high school and college students to reflect on its importance and the state of civil liberties today. The contest is open to all who would like to reflect on the Civil Liberties Act or the current state of civil liberties in the United States.

The winner will be asked to read their essay at a community commemoration program in San Jose on August 9th, 2008 and JACL's annual dinner in November. One of the dominant hopes of redress was that this should never happen again. Through these essays, the spirit of this victory can be carried forward and we can be reminded of the importance of civil liberties, especially in a time of war.

Japanese American Citizens League, San Jose Chapter
www.sanjosejacl.org

Themes

Participants may choose to write about one of two central themes:

Theme I: In 1988, the Civil Liberties Act was passed authorizing redress to Japanese-Americans, what is the significance of this Act today?

Theme II: There is much discussion about the state of civil liberties in America on topics such as wiretapping, torture, imprisonment of citizens and immigrants without due process, etc. What do you think is the most pressing issue concerning our civil liberties today and why?

Eligibility

All students enrolled in grades 9-12 in public, private and home schools. Students must submit original work

Format

The essay should be no more than 1000 words.

Entries may be typed or handwritten but must be double-spaced.

Submission instructions

Send all entries to:

San Jose JACL

C/O Redress Essay Committee OR e-mail to sanjosejacl@sbcglobal.net

565 North Fifth St.

San Jose, CA 95112

Awards

1st place - The winning essayist will receive a \$100 cash prize, 2 tickets to the annual SJ JACL Recognition dinner (November 1, 2008), and the opportunity to read their essay at the SJ JACL-sponsored Redress Forum (August 9, 2008) and at the SJ JACL Recognition dinner (November 1, 2008)

2nd and 3rd place – The second and third place essayists will receive 2 complimentary tickets to the SJ JACL Recognition dinner (November 1, 2008)

Entry Deadline:

All entries should be postmarked by **July 4, 2008**

Contacts:

For additional information, please contact Kenzo Kimura at kenzo.kimura@yahoo.com or by phone (in the evenings) at 408-476-2166
