Free Online Workshop for Middle and Secondary Teachers of History and the Humanities

We Are All Americans

Summer & Fall 2020

6 Workshops
This is a place-based curriculum. Subject matter for each workshop will be customized to address unique teaching opportunities in six regional areas:

Chicago IL
Boise, ID/Tour of Minidoka
Seattle, WA
Minneapolis, MN
Albuquerque, NM
Washington, D.C. Area

Minimum Stipend of $200

Full Resource Packet

How did the experience of being forcibly removed from their homes and incarcerated affect the choices made by people of Japanese ancestry as they responded to the government’s call for loyalty and service?

In the workshop, We Are All Americans, we explore the deep moral dilemma young people of Japanese ancestry faced in the 1940’s—the decision of whether or not to serve in the US military while their families were incarcerated in concentration camps by the U.S. government without due process.

We Are All Americans will focus on four case studies: Gordon Hirabayashi, who registered as a Conscientious Objector while his close cousin fought overseas; Jack Tono, a draft resister with the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee; and Harry Fukuhara and Walter Tsukamoto who served with the Military Intelligence Service (MIS). We will also have a live presentation on John Okada (MIS), by speaker Frank Abe, author of John Okada: The Life & Rediscovered Work of the Author of No-No Boy.

Join your colleagues for open-ended inquiry into what it means to be American – then and now. Why did some individuals believe civil rights should be restored before service, while others were committed to proving themselves to gain back civil rights?

We will meet in a series of 2 hour and 30 minute interactive workshops live online. Learn more at https://www.njahs.org/we-are-all-americans. Applications are being taken at https://www.njahs.org/we-are-all-americans-application.

This workshop is co-sponsored by the National Japanese American Historical Society https://www.njahs.org/, and the National Park Service.

The project was funded in part, by the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant, administered by the National Park Service, JA Community Foundation, and the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program.
DR. GRACE MORIZAWA is the Education Coordinator for the NJAHS. Previously she was an elementary school teacher in Oakland and principal of Lake Elementary School in San Pablo, CA. Morizawa is a Sansei, third generation Japanese American. Her parents were incarcerated in Heart Mountain. Grace is a teacher consultant with the Bay Area Writing Project. She has a BA in English from Pacific University, an MA in Creative Writing from San Francisco State, and a doctorate from the Leadership in Education and Equity Program at University of California, Berkeley.

DR. STAN PESICK taught 11th grade United States history in the Oakland Unified School District for eighteen years. From 2008-2012 he coordinated the Oakland Unified History/Social Studies Department. Stan has worked with the Bay Area Writing Project as a teacher consultant since 1989. He has worked as a curriculum consultant to the NJAHS since 2014. Stan is currently working with National Writing Project, University of California, Berkeley, to develop materials and methods focused on helping students write more effectively for political and civic purposes. Stan has a Ph.D. from Stanford University.

FRANK ABE won an American Book Award for JOHN OKADA: The Life & Rediscovered Work of the Author of No-No Boy (University of Washington Press). He made the award-winning PBS documentary, Conscience and the Constitution, on the largest organized resistance to the incarceration of Japanese Americans, and is collaborating on a new graphic novel on camp resistance, We Hereby Refuse, coming in 2021. Also for 2021, he is co-editing an anthology for Penguin Classics on The Literature of Japanese American Incarceration.

MELISSA AYUMI BAILEY is the Program Development Associate for the National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS) where she has been on staff since 2013. She is primarily responsible for grant writing and project management. Melissa received her BA in History from UC Santa Cruz in 2012, and her experiences there as well as her personal connection to the Japanese American incarceration experience led her to pursue a position at NJAHS. Melissa is a native San Franciscan and still calls “The City” home to this day.

Learn more about the We Are All Americans Workshop
https://www.njahs.org/we-are-all-americans

Apply to be a participant
https://www.njahs.org/we-are-all-americans-application