

# FAREWELL TO manzanar

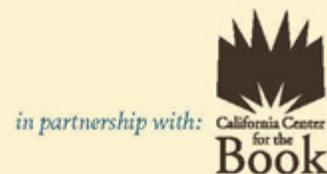
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# GLENDORA

## Searching for Democracy

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City of Glendora Community Services Dept., Glendora Historical Society, Foothill Christian Schools,  
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In September, October, and November of 2012, people in and around Glendora, California, gathered together. They joined the Glendora Public Library in film showings, lectures and discussion groups, inspired by the Cal Humanities initiative “Searching for Democracy” and by *Farewell to Manzanar*, a tale of Japanese-American internment camp life during World War II.

In addition to the standard surveys, the Library asked the participants two questions (which evolved a bit as we learned, ourselves).

What would you tell future generations about what you’re learning?

What should all of us remember about the Japanese-American experience?

As we read through and worked with the responses, it was clear that different people were touched by different things: facts, ethics, memories, fortitude, awareness, accountability, and much more.

Together, their observations formed a narrative of the community’s experience.

We’ve selected representative comments and – since these surveys were often filled out hurriedly on laps and knees – we’ve lent a hand with details like spelling. Other than that, these are Glendora’s own words on *Farewell to Manzanar* and the search for democracy.

This is entirely the participants’ story.

*There are two sides as to how and why things happened in WWII.*

*The US government had to make an immediate decision regarding the Japanese in America.*

*We should know that they were put in these internment camps because they were afraid of another "Pearl Harbor" attack on American soil.*

*Their reasons for this internment can be viewed as justifiable based on the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese.*

*My older brother served 4 yrs. as a pilot. Pearl Harbor was caused by Greed, the Internment by Fear.*

*Being American citizens, they should not have been imprisoned.*

*The internment of Japanese-Americans was an unjust act by the US government.*

*IN 1942, I was 10 yrs. old & many of my Japanese friends were gone from my life overnight.*

*I lost my friends but they lost everything, their homes & land.*

*Land was paid for but not at its real value.*

*It wasn't fair to take away everything they worked for.*

*I thought that the Government acted correctly because they did not know when the next attack would come.*

*It was the right thing to do at the right time.*

1941 As a 10-year-old from the Midwest I was totally unaware  
what was happening on the west coast.

1948 At Antioch College I was shocked and ashamed to learn  
what my country did.

The Japanese-Americans suffered on behalf of the American effort  
during WW2.

Japanese Americans during WWII should not have been treated like animals  
or common criminals!

This was sad and against our constitution,  
unless someone was convicted of being a spy!

The group was very brave, ethical, and forgiving.

The Japanese Americans did not complain that much about the internment camps because  
it was not a part of their culture.

It's important to remember that they suffered in silence.

The scars of not fitting in can last a very long time.

The hardship and the separation of the family have life-long results.

So often we associate WWII w/ the faulty actions of other countries.  
Manzanar shows the faulty actions of America in the war.

We should all remember that this event happened in America.

We should remember that this is part of our history and affected many lives.

I wonder if Americans of Middle Eastern descent feel a concern that something similar might occur –  
not a camp, but lots of discrimination.

Something like this could happen to anyone.

***Don't do it again!***

***Not again!***

***It should never happen again.***

***Especially since this was a national issue, we must take accountability as a country.***

***We should never identify and intern citizens of our country regardless of their origin, beliefs, ethnicity or any other discriminatory criteria.***

***We should give a voice to those who don't have one.***

***I would tell this and future generations not to judge people solely by their ethnic background, i.e. – “all Japanese are the enemy” or “all middle east peoples are members of the Taliban.”***

***Discrimination is wrong.***

***It is never right to think you are superior to any other race.***

***Bigotry in any form treats people as commodities rather than as resources – a waste!***

***It's valuable to consider other people's experiences, especially those who have been persecuted, because through education one may learn how to prevent such occurrences from happening again.***

***Don't lose your head and behave unkindly or cruelly to anyone, because you don't know what the future holds.***

***Forgive and move forward.***

***With Time and Experience with other cultures attitudes will change.***

*I would tell the future generations to always study history so that you don't repeat the mistakes that have been made.*

*I would tell them that it is important that we know about our country's history, whether good or bad.*

*If we are unaware of History something similar or worse could happen again!  
Remember and be aware and informed always!*

*There was too much discrimination by people who also immigrated.*

*How Quickly they forgot!!!*

*It is also important that we learn about it from a personal and emotional perspective, such as the one given in Farewell to Manzanar.*

*I will explain, through the use of the book, what it meant to people actually living at the time of the Japanese-American internment camps.*

*Their trials should never be forgotten and books like Farewell to Manzanar have taught me so much about internment camps, their suffering, and how Americans can remember this.*

*We have a great country and all varieties of people have made contributions.*

*Find out as much as you can about other cultures.*

*All cultures have much to offer.*

*We should celebrate all of our cultural differences.*

*Remembering the great contributors to the American story is a valuable way to put priorities in life in perspective.*

*With all its faults U.S.A. is a great place to live!*

*Democracy offers freedom and responsibility.*

Telling the story (transcribed as honorably as we can):

- *A senior that has also experienced not fitting in with society*
    - *Alice Torres Glendora Resident*
    - *An American of Chinese ancestry*
      - *Anonymous, Junior in college*
        - *Barry Wetherby*
      - *Caira Winn, Junior / College*
      - *Caitlyn Tyler, College, senior*
    - *Cassandra, Sophomore in college*
      - *Derek, Junior APU*
        - *Dick*
      - *Elizabeth Vasquez*
    - *Hansen, K, sophomore in college*
    - *Harry W. Ragland // Age 81*
      - *Hubble*
    - *Jerrica, College sophomore*
    - *Joe Nunn, Sophomore in college*
      - *Junior APU*
      - *Kaity, Junior in College*
    - *Katelyn Montalvo, junior at APU*
      - *Librarian*
    - *Margaret V., Sophomore in college*
  - *Please keep having these great programs Thanks*
    - *R.A. Mayrose*
    - *Retired teacher*
  - *Retired Teacher Friend of many Japanese*
    - *Ruth L.*
    - *ULS -Zesati*
    - *WWII vet*
- ... and many anonymous contributors

Thank you to all who came together  
“to talk about things that matter to us all.”  
-- Cal Humanities