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SPRING 2018 VOLUME LVI, NO. 1

# LOYAL AMERICANS

## JAPANESE AMERICAN IMPRISONMENT DURING WORLD WAR II





## FROM THE DIRECTOR

"All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

--Constitution of the United States, Amendment 14, Section 1 (1868).

At a time when our "united" states and nations across the planet debate the civil rights and civil liberties of residents, immigrants, emigres and transients within its borders, I am reminded of a familiar poem by Robert Frost, "Mending Wall." It begins: "Something there is that doesn't love a wall," as one neighbor asks another, the wall-mender, who "only says, 'Good fences make good neighbours.'" Probing further, as if to call his neighbor out, the speaker offers,

"Before I built a wall I'd ask to know / What I was walling in or walling out, / And to whom I was like to give offence."

Frost's is a complex poem. "People are frequently misunderstanding it or misinterpreting it," Frost said. "The secret of what it means I keep," but we can read and assume that the author would not choose to "set the wall between us once again."

Robert Frost read "Mending Wall" on an official visit to Moscow in 1962, a mischievous choice as the Soviet Union portioning Berlin. Whether behind today's border walls at near San Diego's San Ysidro Crossing or the barbed wire fences at Tanforan, Topaz and other places of internment during World War II, our California story is fraught with offences irreparably tied to our American misdeeds. Loyal Americans: Japanese American Imprisonment during World War II is our look back at the liberties, those basic freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights, taken from our fellow citizens of Asian descent through the words and artifacts of Americans who lived through the hardships and broken promises of those years. We are indebted to our good neighbors Robbin Kawabata, Karen and Kix Kato, Tak Kato, Digger and Agnes Sasaki, Dorothy Yanagi, and Agnes Masuda who shared their stories and Eden Township Japanese American Citizens League (JAACL) who offered their support to Curator Diane Curry.

—AT Stephens, *Executive Director*

Cover image:  
need caption



HAYWARD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# Venues

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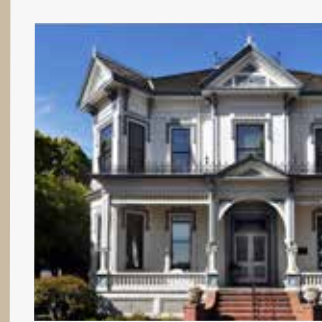
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# Meaning Behind the Models

By John Christian, Associate Archivist

It's not every day that we receive an artifact donation that tells multiple stories, but this past January we hit the jackpot! We were lucky enough to receive replicas of a windmill and tank house as well as a winepress. Both models were handcrafted by lifelong Hayward resident John Neto and based on actual structures that once existed here.

Mr. Neto based the design of the winepress from his memories of his maternal grandfather's press that was kept in a barn on Sunset Boulevard in Cherryland. The winepress—replete with authentic wine stains—is a wonderful homage to what would have been used to make Portuguese style wine. The details include wine

barrels and a look at the stone weighted press that turned grapes into zinfandel.

The tank house and windmill—an impressive 40 inches tall—is a replica of the one that stood on the small farm of Mr. Neto's paternal grandparents on Cherry Way, also in Cherryland. Tank houses and windmills like this one used the power of wind to pump well water into a large wooden water tank. The windmill even features the logo for "Aro Motor" a popular brand of windmill in the early 20th century. Once the water was pumped into the tank house it could be used to water the family's small farm. A tank house like this also made indoor plumbing possible in the family home. What makes this model even more impressive is the fact that it is made from the actual wood from the now razed tank house.

So what's the big deal? Why are we so excited about these pieces? Because as local historians it is not often that we come across artifacts that encompass so much of our community's history. In the 19th century Hayward's population grew exponentially as Portuguese immigrants arrived in the area looking for a place to call home. John Neto's grandparents all came from Madiera, Portugal in search of such opportunity. Their immigration and the establishment of their homes mark an important transition in our area's history.

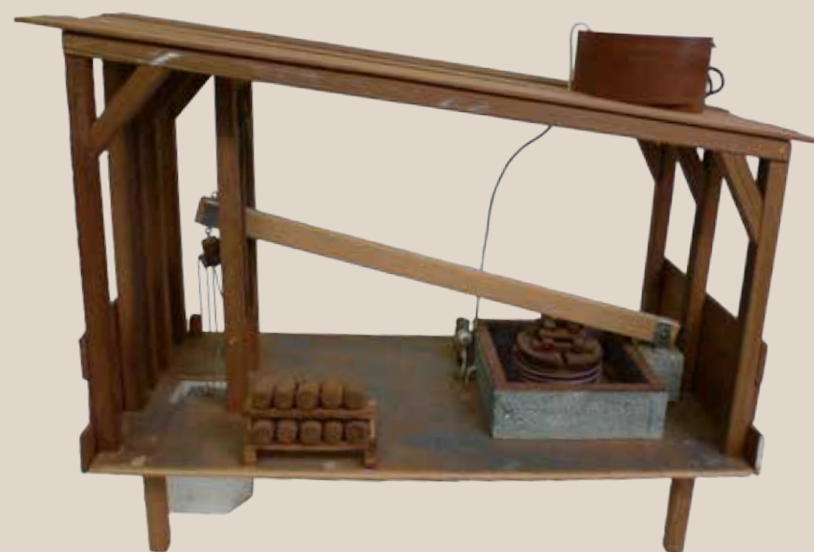
The small farms represented in these models were both on land that was formerly part of the vast Meek Estate. However, once the large estate was subdivided Portuguese immigrants were able to buy their own farmstead instead of being simply laborers on larger estates like the Meek's.

Moreover, the tank house and the wine press recall a time in the area's history when the predominant occupation of most people was farming. This period—between the turn of the 20th Century and World War II—saw the area dotted with small farms instead of the suburban

housing we are familiar with today. These models give us real insight not only into the way John Neto's grandparents lived, but the larger community as a whole.

On a much more intimate level, these artifacts are a very personal tribute and memorial by John Neto to his grandparent's and the lives they lived in the Hayward area—lives that in many ways represent the stories of so many that we do not have the artifacts to represent.

We are grateful to John Neto's widow, Norma Neto, for bringing not only these artifacts to us, but also the stories and history they represent.



*Above: Neto's handcrafted model of a winepress is based on his grandfather's press that was once in Cherryland.*

*Left: Neto's model of his grandparent's tank house and windmill stand at an impressive 40 inches tall. These kinds of models represent the agricultural technology of the time while embodying both personal and community history.*



We want to recognize all our volunteers that generously gave their time working with our archives and collections this past year. With your help we have made substantial progress inventorying, cataloging, and preserving our collections. A big thank you to our HAHSome volunteers! We could not do it without you.

## WHY I VOLUNTEER

# Fran Morse & Celleste Chatman

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*Left: Celleste (left) and Fran are sisters who have been volunteering with HAHS since 2013.*

## Hayward Area Film Festival

The Hayward Area Film Festival is dedicated to exhibiting short films and videos produced by student filmmakers. This event will honor outstanding Animation, Narrative, Documentary, Public Service Announcement (P.S.A.), Experimental, and special Film Challenge projects created by students. It is the goal of the Hayward Area Film Festival to continue to encourage student creativity, give students the opportunity to tell their stories, and further introduce them to the world of filmmaking. A short awards ceremony will follow the film showcase to acknowledge the winners of each category.

Please visit [www.haywardareahistory.org/haywardareafilmfestival](http://www.haywardareahistory.org/haywardareafilmfestival) for more information on the event and how students can submit entries.

*This program is a partnership with the Bay Area Digital Arts (BADA) program at San Lorenzo High School and the Community Multi Media Academy (CMMA) program at Tennyson High School.*



## Family Program: Japanese Arts & Crafts

The Hayward Area Historical Society will be hosting a number of programs in conjunction with the Special Gallery Exhibition *Loyal Americans: Japanese American Imprisonment During World War II*. For the first of these programs we invite the whole family down to the Museum to learn about traditional Japanese forms of art and craft; looking at and experiencing art often provides important insights into past and existing cultures, helping us better to understand how others have lived and what they value. Join us to further explore Japanese culture through Origami and Taiko drumming.

Origami is the Japanese art of folding paper into decorative shapes and figures. Ancient Japanese legend says that anyone who takes the time and completes 1,000 paper origami cranes will be granted a wish from the gods. In commemoration of this tradition, join us between the hours of 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM in making 1,000 cranes to be hung and displayed in the lobby for the remainder of the *Loyal Americans* Exhibition.

In Japanese, the word *taiko* translates to a barrel-shaped drum. In recent decades the art-form of ensemble taiko drumming has become extremely popular with many groups performing at concerts or during festivals. Starting at 11:00 AM the Eden Aoba Taiko group will put on a demonstration of their drumming and show their art.



# Spring EVENTS & PROGRAMS WITH HAHS



22380 FOOTHILL BOULEVARD, HAYWARD

## Toddler Time: Dr. Seuss

Thursday, March 8, 10:30 – 11:30 AM  
\$5 Suggested Donation

Dr. Seuss is one of the most cherished children's books authors and illustrators with works including Green Eggs and Ham, The Cat in the Hat, and many more. Come enjoy some of Seuss' stories, join in on crafts, and have fun in your community. Toddler Time is a family program geared toward children ages 1-5 and their caregivers. Older siblings are always welcome.

## Toddler Time: Building & Architecture

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 10:30 – 11:30 AM  
\$5 Suggested Donation

We see buildings and the architecture that goes into making them every day; just take a look around you! This Toddler time kids will build things with their own hands, feeling the accomplishment of problem-solving and creating something interesting, beautiful, or even weird. Toddler Time is a family program geared toward children ages 1-5 and their caregivers. Older siblings are always welcome.



## Family Program: Japanese Arts & Crafts

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
\$5 Suggested Donation

For more information, see page 7.

## Hayward Area Film Festival Showcase

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 6:00 – 8:00 PM  
\$5 Suggested Donation

For more information, see page 7.

## Toddler Time: Children's Day

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 10:30 – 11:30 AM  
\$5 Suggested Donation

Children's Day, a National Holiday in Japan since 1948, is a day to celebrate the children in our lives and express gratitude towards their mothers. On this day carp-shaped flags, or koinobori, are raised for each member of the family. Join HAHS in celebrating the children in your lives with stories, crafts, and fun. Toddler Time is a family program geared toward children ages 1-5 and their caregivers. Older siblings are always welcome.

## Stories from Camps

SATURDAY, MAY 12, 2:00 – 4:00 PM  
\$5 Suggested Donation

On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed and issued Executive Order 9066. In the following months, approximately 110,000 men, women, and children of Japanese Ancestry were instructed to gather their belongings and report to the Civil Control Station where they were then taken from the West Coast. Join us to hear the Stories from Camps from family members of internees as well as those who experienced the Camps first hand.

## Volunteer Orientation Meeting

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Whether you are interested in Bay Area history, looking for a fun way to give back & make friends, or are interested in developing new professional skills, we have the opportunity for you! Come to the next Volunteer Orientation Meeting to find out more about volunteering with your historical society. Meeting will take place in the Second Floor Lobby of the Museum.



18701 HESPERIAN BLVD, HAYWARD

## Plein Air Painting Day

SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Part of a new Artist in Residence program at McConaghy House! The grounds of McConaghy House will be open for plein air artists to create their masterpieces, which will be on display in the House through August.

## McConaghy House Paranormal Investigation

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 7:00 PM – 3:00 AM  
\$75 per person

During this investigation, experienced investigators will lead attendees through the property and explore the paranormal. Data previously collected includes electronic voice phenomena (EVP), cold spots, touches, apparitions, and much more. Tickets must be purchased in advance at [haywardareahistory.org/explore-the-paranormal](http://haywardareahistory.org/explore-the-paranormal).

## Plein Air Reception at McConaghy House

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 5:30 PM

Join us for the opening reception of new works by local plein air artists. Artwork will be on display in the House through August and is viewable during regular open hours.



HESPERIAN BLVD. & COLLEGE STREET, SAN LORENZO

## Cemetery Clean Up & Open Day

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

HAHS needs your assistance in cleaning up our beloved cemetery! Drop by to help save our local history. Bring gloves and rakes; water will be provided. The cemetery will also be open during this time for the public to visit the grounds.



17365 BOSTON ROAD, HAYWARD



## Meek Open House

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Free

Enjoy a look inside the beautiful Meek Mansion. Free self-guided tours available.

## Meek Paranormal Investigation

SATURDAY, MAY 19, FROM 7:00 PM – 3:00 AM  
\$75 per person

During this investigation, experienced investigators will lead attendees through the property and explore the paranormal. Data previously collected includes electronic voice phenomena (EVP), cold spots, touches, apparitions, and much more. Tickets available at [haywardareahistory.org/explore-the-paranormal](http://haywardareahistory.org/explore-the-paranormal).



# LOYAL AMERICANS

## JAPANESE AMERICAN IMPRISONMENT DURING WORLD WAR II

by Diane Curry, Curator and Archivist

Exhibition on display in the Special Gallery from March 10 through October 28, 2018.

"... we believe the part of wisdom dictates that Japanese, citizens or not, must be, for the most part, evacuated. Harsh. True. But war is a harsh business and we did not ask for it... Safety is important, and it is far better for a few to be hurt than that a few make it possible that many be hurt."

The above quote comes from an editorial in the February 26, 1942 issue of the Hayward Journal newspaper. It was written just days after President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 which granted permission for military commanders on the West Coast to issue orders forcing thousands of Japanese American citizens from their homes for the duration of the war. The editorial disregards the fact that the majority of Japanese Americans they were okay with "evacuating" were, in fact, American citizens entitled to all the rights citizenship entails. This is not the opinion of everyone at the time, but it was the opinion of a vocal portion. It was an easy leap for many people to make following on the heels of the Japanese

bombing of Pearl Harbor combined with long standing feelings of distrust, and even hatred, toward anyone of Asian descent on the West Coast. People argued that Japanese Americans would be spying for Japan and actively work against the US in fighting the war.

With a majority of the population along with the local, state, and federal governments in favor of "relocating" Japanese Americans away from the West Coast, they were forced to comply. They had to register with the War Relocation Authority, the local office was located on C Street, close to Mission Boulevard, and a few weeks later, report for "removal" to the interior of the country.

There were designated evacuation sites along the West Coast, as each area was broken up into zones. The Hayward Plaza was the evacuation site for Japanese Americans in the Hayward area. In the days leading up to the evacuation in late April and May 1942, photographer Dorothea Lange traveled through San Francisco and the East Bay documenting the lives of Japanese Americans as they faced leaving their homes, reported for "evacuation", and first settled in their new temporary quarters.

Lange's photos have since become some of the most iconic images of this event. The photos show the stoicism, confusion, resignation and disappointment in the faces of people who felt loyalty to America and their loyalty was under suspicion. These were people who had jobs and businesses, homes, cars, possessions, and pets. They sent their children to school, paid taxes, played that all American sport of baseball, listened to Bing Crosby and Glenn Miller, and served in the military. But because of their ethnicity, they were deemed "enemy aliens" and not trustworthy.

For most Japanese Americans living in our area, they first went to the Tanforan Assembly Center across the Bay where they spent several months in temporary quarters, under armed guard and unable to leave, while more permanent housing was constructed in locations in the interior of the country. By fall 1942, most families were moved to Topaz Relocation Center in Utah, a desolate place far from the gentle climate and lush landscape of the Hayward area. At both locations, families lived in poor, cramped, uncomfortable conditions.

In the face of extraordinary circumstances, they found ways to live and establish a new normal. Forming schools and playing sports, establishing newspapers and planting crops. Many of their sons went off to fight in the war for their country.

Japanese Americans were not passive. Some fought legal battles in the courts against the injustice of their incarceration. Others risked prison by refusing to be drafted into military service when their civil rights as Americans were being disregarded. Still others refused to proclaim their loyalty to a country that would treat them so poorly. And even as they pushed back against the injustices they faced, they were doing so as loyal Americans with the right to do so.

The "evacuation" order was lifted in early 1945

paving the way for them to return home. But it wasn't that simple. Some people sold their homes and businesses and had nothing to return to. Others arranged for someone to operate their business or lease their homes. Getting control of their property back wasn't always easy. It took years to get resettled and reestablished.

It took far longer to get an apology from the government. Finally, in August 1988 President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which provided a one-time redress payment of \$20,000 and an apology to survivors of the internment camps.

Since those dark days of World War II, there has been a concentrated effort to document the stories of Japanese Americans who lived through the incarceration. As we approach the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Liberties Act and as we face growing racial divisions within the country, it is fitting to once again look at this moment in our nation's history from our local perspective. To study those famous photos and

learn the stories of these loyal Americans directly impacted by racism and wartime hysteria. To remember that we can never go down this path again.

*Above: Need a caption*

*Left: Need a caption*



## Tery Coelho, Invaluable Volunteer



Tery Coelho (center) with Mayor Barbara Halliday and Supervisor Richard Valle.

Tery Coelho has volunteered with the Hayward Area Historical Society for the past 8 years and we couldn't be happier to have her as part of our team!

When Tery first started volunteering, HAHS hosted a Second Saturday Family Program at the McConaghy House, where she would assist families of all ages with that month's crafts. As time went on, Tery became more and more knowledgeable about the history of the McConaghy family, gaining the confidence to lead tours of the house herself. Last year alone, Tery led over 40 tours of school-aged students as well as dozens more tours on the weekend Open Days. We very much appreciate all that Tery does to help out at her "second home."

In addition to being a docent at McConaghy House, Tery supports staff before, during, and after specialty programs and events at all of the properties the Historical Society manages. She has put in countless hours cleaning the houses or raking leaves at the Pioneer Cemetery getting them ready for upcoming events, promoting the history of the Hayward area, answering visitors' questions during tours and programs. Last year, we selected Tery as our Heart of Hayward at the Annual Hayward Volunteer Recognition and Awards dinner. She has contributed more than a thousand hours toward supporting our mission.

Tery is such an invaluable volunteer and the Historical Society is extremely lucky to have her ongoing support and assistance. Thank you HAHSome Volunteer!

## Dynamic Exhibit by Members of the Hayward Arts Council

The 2018 Members Exhibition featuring Hayward Arts Council's members in the Community Gallery of the HAHS Museum of History and Culture features sixty accomplished artists. Highlighted works display a colorful dynamic collection of media including watercolor, collage, photography, pastel, ink, acrylics, mixed media, Chinese brush painting, poetry, digital compositions, metal sculptures, and ceramics. The exhibit will be on view through May 27.

The Hayward Arts Council stimulates community interest in visual and performing arts, promotes opportunities for artists to exhibit, and encourages public participation in free art demonstrations.

For more information about the Hayward Arts Council, visit [www.haywardartscouncil.org](http://www.haywardartscouncil.org).



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"EACH FOR ALL AND ALL FOR EACH"

# The Hill and Valley Club

by John Christian, Associate Archivist

Almost 108 years ago, on March 14, 1910 a group of women gathered at the picturesque home of Edith Park at the corner of B Street and First Street (now Foothill Blvd.) in downtown Hayward. The purpose of the meeting was to form a women's club.

It is difficult to say exactly who attended this first meeting. The gendered naming convention of the time meant married women went by their husband's name. Edith Park for example, was listed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting as "Mrs. John Allen Park". We only can find Edith listed by her own name in a handful of newspaper clippings after her husband's death.

The creation of the new club corresponded with the rise of local women's clubs across the country starting in about the 1890s. These clubs gave women a platform, amplifying their voices and influencing political outcomes before winning the right to vote—California in 1911 and nationally in 1920 with the 19th amendment. Other local women's organizations at the time included

the Dania Ladies Society as well as the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

First things first however, the new club needed a name. A vote was taken on April 18, 1910. Winning by two votes was the name "Hill and Valley" with 15 votes. The runners up were, "Palladium"—13 votes, "Horizon"—4, and the peculiar "Cornelius"—with a scant 2 votes. Mrs. Edith Park was chosen as the club's President by the approximately 50 charter members (listed under their husband's names). Pomp and circumstance aside, that very same meeting also saw the signing of a petition for the regulation of child labor which set the tone for the mission of the club.

The newly christened Hill and Valley Club began formalizing its goals and mission within the Hayward community. The club originally consisted of seven distinct departments and interests; 1) Study, 2) Civic, 3) Philanthropic, 4) Choral, 5) History and Landmarks, 6) Garden, and 7) Social.



The club also officially adopted the "Red Rose" as their symbol and the club motto "each for all and all for each". Early on, the club was not quite as egalitarian as its motto would suggest with the membership being made up of white middle class women. The club became more open and inclusive within a few decades, growing with the population and changing with the times.

Quickly taking center stage was the club's philanthropic efforts. The club began holding fundraising events and its annual "bazaars" to raise money for scholarships in support of women and girls education. From the beginning Hill and Valley advocated for girls education equal to boys.

The civic minded group also was a common fixture at Hayward city council meetings pushing for community improvement. The Hill and Valley Club petitioned Hayward's leaders on a wide variety of issues. As automobiles became more popular in the 1920s, the club asked that "slow down" signs be installed near all schools. In 1932 the group pressed for sidewalks to be installed in front of the Hayward Hospital. That same decade, they petitioned the Alameda County Supervisors to restrict the dumping of garbage into Crow Canyon.

The women of the Hill and Valley Club made sure to inform their membership of not only local, but national issues as well. Club discussions and lectures mirrored the issues of the day. During the 1930s talks were given on poverty, the New Deal, and the crisis facing the country. In 1946 a lecture was given on the power of atomic weapons and the hopes for atomic energy. In the 1960s the group considered the spread of Communism and the policies of containment and the politicians who pushed competing narratives. In doing so, the Hill and Valley Club created a forum for women to discuss the important issues of the day and strove to present its members with timely and relevant discussion. And while the club did not often take official political positions, civic education events like these made their membership better informed citizens.

In more than a century of existence, the Hill and Valley Club is now one of the oldest functioning non-profits in Hayward. The club, started by women for women, continues to carry out the mission charted out by Edith Park and company all those years ago.

**Left:** The members of the Hill and Valley Club share a laugh in a group portrait outside the home of Edith Park in July 1912. The club was just over a year old at the time and still met in Edith's home as well as the I.O.O.F. Hall on B Street in downtown Hayward.

**Above:** Edith Park is seated (center) as Hill and Valley's representative at a meeting of the California Federation of Women's clubs, c. 1950. Edith passed away in 1958 just a few years before the club's 50th anniversary.







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Hayward Arts Council

# Members Show!

February 16 to May 27, 2018

At the Community Gallery of the  
Museum of History & Culture