

同志社大学アメリカ研究所

第46回連続コロキウム「アメリカ政治を再考する」第5弾

A Community Looks Back: Changing Views of Japanese American History and Culture Over the Last Thirty Years

Naturalization Ceremony for Issei (April 14, 1953, Broadway Performance Hall, Seattle, Washington)



Pacific Citizen, Vol. 44, No. 25 (June 21, 1957)

Floyd Schmoe receiving Hiroshima Peace Prize, 1988, Seattle, Washington
Courtesy of the Yanagihara Family Collection, photo by Akio Yanagihara



All Photos: Densho Encyclopedia



Brian Niiya (Former Content Director for Densho)

Brian Niiya is a public historian specializing in Japanese American history. Recently retired as the content director for Densho and editor of the online Densho Encyclopedia, he has also held various positions with the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, the Japanese American National Museum, and the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i that have involved managing collections, curating exhibitions, and developing public programs, and producing videos, books, and websites.



In recent decades, much has changed in the way we understand Japanese American history. In working on several recent projects—the 30th anniversary commemoration of Densho, a community archive of the Japanese American incarceration; a new core exhibition at the Japanese American National Museum; and a chapter on Japanese Americans for a new Asian Americans Studies textbook—I have been forced to think about the nature of these changes. In this presentation, I will talk not only about how our academic understanding has changed, but also how these changes have manifested in the Japanese American community and in educational and popular media.

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