

A STORY OF INJUSTICE



When Sam Mihara was 9 years old, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and the United States entered World War II. Shortly after, Sam and his family were forced from their San Francisco home by armed military guards and sent to the Heart Mountain prison camp in Wyoming. They would live crowded into a single 20 x 20 square foot room for the next 3 years. Today, Sam speaks throughout the country about this dark time in our history.

The program opens with photographs from renowned photographer Dorothea Lange and the Mihara family collection that vividly highlight the hate Sam's family and other Japanese Americans experienced just before and after the December 7, 1941, attack. Sam explains how the decision was made to remove and imprison only Japanese people from the West Coast, and not Germans or Italians. He describes in detail the conditions in the prison camp—from the flimsy barracks where prisoners lived to the security system designed to assure no prisoners escaped. He goes on to talk about how the prisoners were released just before the end of the war.

The program closes by addressing the question: "What were the lessons learned through this experience and can mass imprisonment happen again in the U.S.?"

If desired, Sam can discuss this question in relation to today's incarceration of Latino immigrants from Central America. He has visited many of today's detention facilities for refugees and interviewed several immigrants. He then compares the findings of today versus his experience at the World War II prisons.

Sam's autobiography about his time as a prisoner of the U.S. government during the war will be available for review, purchase and autographs. The book includes details of unusual events throughout his incarceration.



MEMORIES OF IMPRISONMENT

A presentation by former prisoner Sam Mihara, a Gagnon Prize winner, 2018

Please contact Sam at smihara12345@gmail.com or (714) 813-6291 or through his website at sammihara.com.

REACTION

"Best yet, maybe best ever. Thank you so very much. I was deeply MOVED and greatly INFORMED. It was a special gift and I am most thankful."

--William P. Purcell, Attorney at Law, Frost Brown Todd LLC

"The attendees were OVERWHELMINGLY COMPLIMENTARY of your delivery, slides and information presented."

--Jill Burnham and Dawn Spiak, co-directors, LifeLong Learning Lectures, Pebble Creek, Arizona

"A WONDERFUL presentation! Engaging and heart-wrenching speech."

-- Lisa Wang, Chair, Harvard Law School's Asian Pacific American Law Students Association

"A moving, ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME LEARNING EXPERIENCE."

-- William K. Pao, O'Melveny and Myers LLP

"This program was among the VERY BEST we have ever had here."

-- Charles W. Sydnor, Jr., President and Executive Director, Virginia Holocaust Museum

"So enriching and INSPIRING for my students."

-- Kate Wiley, Chair, History Department, Lick Wilmerding High School, San Francisco

"Deeply informative and EMOTIONALLY POWERFUL."

-- Michael Cohen, Professor of American Studies, University of California at Berkeley

"Thank you again for a provocative and POWERFUL PRESENTATION!"

-- Walter White, President and Chief Executive Officer, Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America



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