

**Advocacy for Social Justice Talk Story Series**

Explore organized efforts and mechanisms for social change



# DISCOVERING CONFLICT FINDING PEACE IN COMMUNITY STORIES OF WWII

**WITH DR. GAIL OKAWA,  
A. KA`ŌLINOKAIMANA YASUOKA,  
AND MODERATED BY JOSÉ BARZOLA**

**Friday, December 6**

**10 am Hawai'i time**

**via zoom, Register at <https://go.hawaii.edu/b2S>**



83 years have passed since December 7, 1941. How do slogans like “Remember Pearl Harbor” leave out all of the other stories connected to what happened on that date? Even within our own families, unless there was someone who shared the stories about that day, some of the details are being lost; some families are completely unaware that an Issei family member was unjustly incarcerated in US concentration camps. The trauma and shame they experienced led ancestors to take their stories with them.

## ABOUT THE SESSION

83 years have passed since December 7, 1941. How do slogans like “Remember Pearl Harbor” leave out all of the other stories connected to what happened on that date? Even within our own families, unless there was someone who shared the stories about that day, some of the details are being lost; some families are completely unaware that an Issei family member was unjustly incarcerated in US concentration camps. The trauma and shame they experienced led ancestors to take their stories with them.

How do oral histories and storytelling uncover these stories of conflict?

How does sharing our stories with one another bring forth resolution, closure, peace, or inspiration?

Join us as author Gail Okawa shares how a neighbor opened the door to her Issei grandfather’s experience leading to her research decades later. How did Gail’s research lead her to discover/uncover countless other community stories that go beyond “Remember Pearl Harbor”?

How did storytelling help Alison Ka’ōlinokaimana Yasuoka discover her great grandfather’s, grandmother and grandfather’s, mother and aunt’s parts in the story? And how does Alison’s son, a great, great grandchild, become involved in the story? How can these stories help reveal the layered truths of the day and why is this important in helping to tear down the walls of hate, racism, and misunderstanding that may live on to this day?

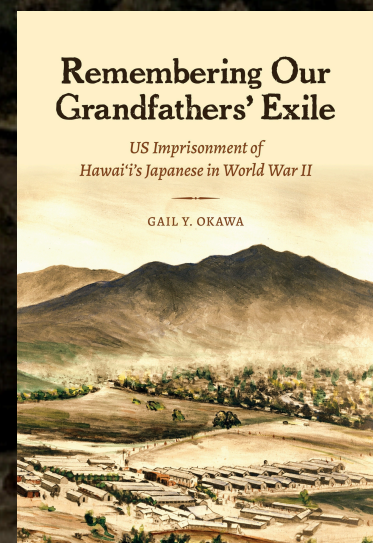
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## DR. GAIL OKAWA

Dr. Gail Y. Okawa, Professor Emerita of English, Youngstown State University-Ohio; visiting scholar, Center for Biographical Research, UHM (2003-2019); scholar-in-residence, Asian Pacific American Program, Smithsonian Institution (2002); author, *Remembering Our Grandfathers' Exile: US Imprisonment of Hawai'i's Japanese in WWII*; coordinator, CONNECTIONS: Santa Fe Internment Camp Descendants Group.

Dr. Okawa's book was inspired by questions raised by the internment of her grandfather, Rev. Tamasaku Watanabe, the minister at Ola'a Japanese Christian Church when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Her grandfather was among those Japanese in Hawai'i who were arrested immediately after the Pearl Harbor attack and unjustly held captive in U.S. Justice and War Department camps scattered in remote locales across the U.S. mainland, including New Mexico.

Based on years of research on the experiences of individuals from Hawai'i, Dr. Okawa's book tells the internees' stories through firsthand accounts, letters, poetry, and other personal and official documents that reveal the oppressive conditions that they experienced during the war - even as their sons fought and died for the United States in Europe and the Pacific -- and how they resisted and persevered.



## A. KA`ŌLINOKAIMANA YASUOKA



A. Ka`ōlinokaimana Yasuoka is a Master's Candidate in UH Mānoa's Curriculum Studies STEMS2 program; working towards earning a graduate certificate in Sustainability & Resilience Education (SRE). She is an educator who believes in educational access to holistic learning opportunities that weave together culture, place, language, science, history, reading, writing, and the arts; empowering student lives, and amplifying student voices. Ka`ōlinokaimana is committed to building relationships with communities that support the health, well being, and sustainability of `āina and humanity.

## JOSÉ BARZOLA

José Barzola has a passion for creating social change through nonviolence, nurturing relationships that transcend cultural barriers, and focusing on issues of diversity, inclusion, and equity. José is a highly organized higher education administrator with over 20 years of experience and success in administration, student development within academic and student affairs. José has also been an affiliate faculty teaching courses on peace and conflict transformation at the Matsunaga Institute for Peace at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. For over 10 years, José has served the University, partner agencies, nonprofits and communities in Hawai'i and abroad as a professional mediator and facilitator. Most recently, José joined the East-West Center's Education Program as an Adjunct Fellow. José is currently the Conflict and Peace Specialist at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, where he provides conflict services and programming to cultivate a culture of healthy positive relationships.

