



# Farewell to MANZANAR

The powerful true story of life  
inside a Japanese American  
internment camp.



by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston & James D. Houston

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MAY 12-JUNE 16

For free public book discussion groups and other events, check the  
Santa Monica Reads website at [smpl.org/SMReads.aspx](http://smpl.org/SMReads.aspx) or call 310.458.8600.

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## welcome to santa monica reads

2018 marks the sixteenth year of this community reading event, one of the longest-running programs of its kind in the United States. SANTA MONICA READS provides an opportunity for people to engage, read and discuss the same title in guided conversation, discussion groups and other special programs held throughout the city.

It is very fitting that this year's featured selection is *Farewell to Manzanar* by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston. In the wake of World War II, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, incarcerating tens of thousands of Japanese American citizens and Japanese natives. As a seven-year-old girl, Jeanne's world is turned upside down when the Wakatsuki family is forced to leave their home in Ocean Park and their fishing business in Long Beach and live in the high desert internment camp of Manzanar. The narrative is told from Jeanne's perspective, as she recounts the struggles and resilience of her family and the camp community.

Please join us for this series of events and discussions about topics that resonate today: family, community, race, class, prejudice, human rights, honor, adversity, and determination. Free public programs for all ages will be held throughout Santa Monica from May 12 through June 16, intersecting with the Library's annual summer reading program. We are fortunate that Ms. Houston will be able to join us during this very special SANTA MONICA READS.

*Farewell to Manzanar* is available from the Santa Monica Public Library or your local bookstore. Thank you for your participation in building a stronger community through literature.

*Patty M. Wong*

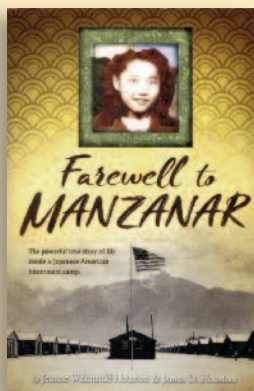
Patty Wong  
Director of Library Services  
Santa Monica Public Library

Photographs by Dorothea Lange

Cover: July 3, 1942. Courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration, Records of War Relocation Authority. (Control Number: NDWNS-210-GC-840).

Line up: April 24, 1942. Courtesy of Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley. ([calisphere.org/item/ark:/13030/ft3w1004xk](https://calisphere.org/item/ark:/13030/ft3w1004xk)).

Grandfather and grandchildren: May 8, 1942. Courtesy of Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley. ([calisphere.org/item/ark:/13030/ft3w1004xk](https://calisphere.org/item/ark:/13030/ft3w1004xk)).



## about the book

Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston's poignant memoir tells the story of her family's experience during World War II and its aftermath. The book opens on December 7, 1941, when news of the bombing of Pearl Harbor sets into motion a series of events that would forever change the lives of the Wakatsukis and other American families of Japanese descent. After the FBI takes her father away, seven-year-old Jeanne and her family are forced to leave their Ocean Park home, first moving to Terminal Island, then Boyle Heights, and ultimately the Manzanar Relocation Center, where they were incarcerated until the war ended in 1945. *Farewell to Manzanar* traces her family's experience, from being uprooted and losing most of their belongings, to the years following the internment, as they struggle to reintegrate into American society.

Jeanne and her co-author, husband James D. Houston, published the book in 1973, decades after her family left the camp. The Houstons also co-wrote the critically acclaimed television film adaptation, released in 1976, which was nominated for an Emmy and won the Humanitas Prize and Christopher Award. In 2001, copies of the film were distributed to every California public school and library as part of a curriculum focusing on history and civil rights. In 2006, the book was adapted for the stage by the Cornerstone Theatre Company. A modern classic, *Farewell to Manzanar* has earned its place on many secondary school and college reading lists, as it raises issues of racial prejudice, the search for identity and what it means to be American – themes that continue to resonate 45 years after the book's publication.



## recommended reads for kids & teens

***Baseball Saved Us* by Ken Mochizuki, illustrated by Dom Lee**

This children's book tells the story of a Japanese American boy who learns to play baseball while he and his family are interned during World War II. Once he returns home, baseball helps him cope with the racism he experiences.

***Denied, Detained, Deported: Stories from the Dark Side of American Immigration* by Ann Bausum**

A history of immigration in America, Bausum's book uses her unique narrative style and illustrations to convey stories of hope while revealing the troubling aspects of U.S. immigration policy.

***Uprooted: The Japanese American Experience During World War II* by Albert Marrin**

Albert Marrin's sobering exploration of the Japanese internment examines in detail the lives of those affected by this shameful period in American history through interviews, speeches, articles, and correspondence.

***"I was suddenly aware of what being of Japanese ancestry was going to be like. I would be seen as someone foreign, or as someone other than American, or perhaps not be seen at all."***



– Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston,  
*Farewell to Manzanar*

Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston was born in 1934 in Inglewood, California. When she was two years old, her father became a commercial fisherman and moved the family to the Ocean Park neighborhood of Santa Monica. Jeanne was only seven years old when her family of first- and second-generation Japanese Americans was imprisoned in the Manzanar internment camp near the Sierra

Nevada mountains in 1942. The Wakatsukis were one of the first families interned there and one of the last to be released. In 1945, at the close of World War II, her family returned to Southern California where they lived until they moved to San Jose in 1952. Houston was the first in her family to earn a college degree. She met James D. Houston while attending San Jose State University; they married in 1957, and have three children.

First published in 1973, *Farewell to Manzanar* has sold more than one million copies. The book remains an invaluable contribution to the annals of American history. Houston has since gone on to publish several more books, among them *Beyond Manzanar*, and *Other Views of Asian-American Womanhood* and *The Legend of Fire Horse Woman*. Jeanne has earned numerous honors, including a United States-Japan Cultural Exchange Fellowship; a Rockefeller Foundation residence at Bellagio, Italy; and a 1984 Wonder Woman Award, given to women over 40 who have made outstanding achievements in pursuit of truth and positive social change. In 2006, Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston received the Award of Excellence for her contributions to society from the Japanese American National Museum.

## Densho

Densho is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve the testimonies of Japanese Americans who were unjustly incarcerated during World War II. Densho – whose name comes from a Japanese term meaning “to pass on to the next generation” – works to deepen the understanding of American history and promote equity through the preservation, education, and sharing of stories about the incarceration of Japanese Americans. [densho.org](http://densho.org)

## Japanese American National Museum

Located in downtown Los Angeles, the Japanese American National Museum is the largest museum in the United States dedicated to sharing the experience of Americans of Japanese ancestry. In addition to its collection of 60,000 unique artifacts, the museum hosts historical and art exhibits, has an extensive online collection, and houses the Hirasaki National Resource Center. [janm.org](http://janm.org)

## National Park Service: Manzanar National Historic Site



Located at the foot of the Sierra Nevada mountains in California's Owens Valley, Manzanar was deemed a California Historical Landmark in 1972. Their website provides historical and cultural information, a virtual museum with a photo gallery and over 500 oral history interview videos. [nps.gov/manz](http://nps.gov/manz)

## recommended reads for adults

### ***Citizen 13660* by Miné Okubo**

Originally published in 1946, this graphic memoir of the author's time in internment camps in California and Utah is told through candid text and poignant illustrations.

### ***Impounded: Dorothea Lange and the Censored Images of Japanese American Internment* edited by Linda Gordon and Gary Y. Okihiro**

In photographs originally censored by the U.S. Army, this book provides an extraordinary visual record of the Japanese American internment experience. One of the twentieth century's greatest photographers, Dorothea Lange captures the horror of a community uprooted and the stark reality of the internment camps.

### ***No-No Boy* by John Okada**

First published in 1956, this complex novel tells the story of Ichiro Yamada, who answered “no” twice on a government questionnaire as to whether he would serve in the armed forces and swear loyalty to the United States. Virtually ignored upon its release, the book has since been recognized as a powerful testament to the Japanese American experience.

### ***When the Emperor Was Divine* by Julie Otsuka**

This debut novel uses a family's different points of view to paint a portrait of Japanese internment that is both intimate and intense. Otsuka's writing is understated, personal, and distinctly resonant today.



### **An Afternoon with Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston**

Sat, May 12 at 2:00pm | Main Library, MLK Jr. Auditorium

Author Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston opens the 16th year of Santa Monica Reads with a discussion of *Farewell to Manzanar* and her connections to Santa Monica, and shares her thoughts on how the book and her family's story resonate in today's world. A book signing follows.

### **Family Origami Workshop with Peggy Hasegawa**

Thu, May 17 at 6:00pm | Montana Avenue Branch

Papermaker, bookmaker, and origami artist Peggy Hasegawa teaches simple origami techniques to fold and create amazing paper objects. For ages 6 and up. All supplies provided.

### **Barbed Wire to Boogie Woogie: Swing in the Japanese American Internment Camps**

Sat, May 19 at 2:00pm

Main Library, MLK Jr. Auditorium and North Courtyard

Dance preservationist Rusty Frank discusses the history of swing dance and how it provided temporary respite from life in the camps. Takayo Tsubouchi Fischer and June Aochi Berg, who met while incarcerated at the Rohwer Relocation Center, share photos, dance cards and other memorabilia. A dance lesson on the swing Shim Sham follows (no partner needed).

### **Japanese & English Story Time**

Tue, May 22 at 11:00am | Pico Branch Library

This special Japanese and English story time includes a craft activity. For ages 5-7.

### **Life After Manzanar**

Tue, May 22 at 7:00pm | Main Library, MLK Jr. Auditorium

Authors Naomi Hirahara and Heather C. Lindquist weave together oral histories of the "Resettlement," the period following their unjust imprisonment, when Japanese Americans were thrust back into society with little more than twenty-five dollars and a one-way bus ticket. A book sale and signing follows.

### **The Story of the 442nd Regiment in WWII**

Sat, June 2 at 2:00pm | Main Library, MLK Jr. Auditorium

Rob Sato, Phinneas Kiyomura and Koji Steven Sakai, creators of the digital graphic novel *442*, present an illustrated talk about the 442nd Regiment, the U.S. Army's Japanese American combat unit of WWII. Presenters share the history of this most highly decorated unit of the war through family stories and a visual presentation.

### **The Manzanar Photography of Dorothea Lange**

Wed, June 6 at 7:00pm | Fairview Branch Library

Renowned photographer Dorothea Lange was hired by the U.S. War Relocation Authority to document the evacuation and relocation of Japanese Americans to Manzanar and other camps. Through slides and discussion, this program highlights the photographic history she produced.

### **We Said No! No! A Story of Civil Disobedience**

Sat, June 9 at 2:00pm | Main Library, MLK Jr. Auditorium

Filmmaker Brian T. Maeda, who was born at Manzanar, screens and discusses his recent film on the "No-No Boys," Japanese American men who refused to say "yes" to the U.S. government's infamous Loyalty Questionnaire, and were subsequently sent to the most brutal of all the internment camps, Tule Lake.

### **The Japanese Flower Market: Presentation & Workshop**

Sun, June 10 at 2:00pm | Main Library, Multipurpose Room

Naomi Hirahara, author of *A Scent of Flowers: The History of the Southern California Flower Market 1912-2004*, discusses the contributions of Japanese Americans and other ethnic Americans to the local floriculture industry. A book sale and signing follows, along with a mini flower arranging workshop (supplies limited).

### **Movie: *Farewell to Manzanar* (1976)**

Tue, June 12 at 6:30pm | Ocean Park Branch

Nominated for two Emmy Awards, the adaptation of Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and James D. Houston's book stars the best-known Japanese and Japanese American actors of the time, including Pat Morita and Nobu McCarthy. Many Americans first learned of the internment camps through this televised drama. (107 min.)

### **Santa Monica Reads Grand Finale:**

#### **An LA Opera Concert**

Sat, June 16 at 2:00pm | Main Library, MLK Jr. Auditorium

The Library presents a live concert featuring LA Opera artists performing some of opera's greatest hits, including highlights from *Madame Butterfly*. Free tickets available one hour prior to program.

## **book discussions**

*Santa Monica Reads book discussions are hosted by trained discussion facilitators. Participants are encouraged to share their thoughts about this year's book selection and its themes, or are welcome to simply listen and learn more about the book.*

**Wednesday, May 16 at 7:00pm** Montana Branch Library

• Julie Otsuka's *When the Emperor Was Divine* will also be discussed

**Thursday, May 17 at 6:30pm** Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club

**Wednesday, May 23 at 7:00pm** Ocean Park Branch Library

**Saturday, May 26 at 1:30pm** Pico Branch Library

**Saturday, June 2 at 11:00am** Ocean Park Branch Library

• Group is discussing *No-No Boy* by John Okada

**Tuesday, June 12 at 7:00pm** Main Library, Multipurpose Rm

**Saturday, June 16 at 11:00am** Fairview Branch Library

## **program locations**

#### **Main Library\***

601 Santa Monica Boulevard

#### **Fairview Branch Library\***

2101 Ocean Park Boulevard

#### **Montana Avenue Branch Library\***

1704 Montana Avenue

#### **Ocean Park Branch Library\***

2601 Main Street

#### **Pico Branch Library\***

2201 Pico Boulevard

#### **Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club**

1210 Fourth Street

THANKS TO:



Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING BOOK DISCUSSIONS AND PROGRAMS, AND THANKS TO THE FRIENDS OF THE SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR THEIR ONGOING SUPPORT FOR SANTA MONICA READS.

\*City of Santa Monica facilities are wheelchair accessible. To request a disability-related accommodation, call Library Administration 310-458-8606 (TDD 395-8499) at least one week prior to event.