



Monterey Peninsula Japanese American Citizens League  
**Japanese American Heritage Project**

April 28, 2018

Dear Supporter of the JACL Heritage Project,

The Monterey Peninsula Japanese American Citizens League Heritage Project invites you to the first Public Screening of the full-length documentary *Enduring Democracy*. The film will be presented on Saturday, May 19th., from 2:00 – 4:30p.m., at the JACL Hall, 424 Adams Street, Monterey. A panel discussion will follow the film presentation.

*Enduring Democracy* tells the little known story of the recently discovered petition aptly titled: “The Democratic Life for ALL”. The film sheds light on the plight of Japanese-Americans began returning to Monterey in 1945 after being forcibly removed by President Roosevelt’s Executive Order 9066 (EO9066) during WWII.

Many historians view EO9066 authorizing the forced removal of men, women and children of Japanese ancestry from the four West coast states as one of the darkest chapters in US civil rights history. For four years, 120,000 Japanese-Americans, most of whom were American citizens, lived in crude barracks behind barbed wire fences with guard towers in the US interior.

The petition drive was organized in response to a statewide effort by the Council on Japanese Relations to prevent the return of Japanese to the West Coast, specifically to California. This petition welcomed, in sharp contrast, the Japanese back to Monterey.

Among the over 440 signatories were Nobel Prize-winning novelist John Steinbeck, marine biologist Ed Ricketts, poet Robinson Jeffers, and photographer Edward Weston. Other signers reflected a broad spectrum of the community, including: business and religious leaders, attorneys, janitors, fish cannery workers, and wives whose husbands were fighting the war overseas.

Today, few Americans are aware of EO9066, and fewer still have pondered what happened after the war to those displaced families. This documentary film examines Monterey, California’s response as Japanese families prepare to leave the incarceration camps and recognizes California citizens who—seven decades ago—demonstrated courage and compassion.

We look forward to you joining us for the initial public showing.

Sincerely,