Thursday, February 21 at 6:30 pm, in the 3rd floor auditorium of the Central Library, located at 820 E Street, San Diego. (Film screening)

Of Civil Wrongs and Rights: The Fred Korematsu Story

A free film screening and discussion with Peter Irons, Ph.D., JD, UCSD professor and plaintiff’s counsel in the reversal of criminal convictions against Japanese-Americans, including Korematsu, who challenged the curfew and relocation orders imposed during World War II. Although Mr. Korematsu lost his original Supreme Court case, he never lost his indignation and resolve. Of Civil Wrongs and Rights is the history of the 40 year old battle for Korematsu’s vindication.

Sunday, March 3, 2002 at 2:00 pm, in the 3rd floor auditorium of the Central Library. (Film screening)

Conscience and the Constitution

In WWII, a handful of young Americans refused to be drafted from the American concentration camp at Heart Mountain, Wyoming. Organized under the banner of the Fair Play Committee, they were ready to fight for their country, but not before the government restored their rights as U.S. citizens and released their families from camp. It was a classic example of civil disobedience — but the government prosecuted them as criminals and Japanese American leaders and veterans ostracized them as traitors. Conscience and the Constitution reveals the untold story of the largest organized resistance to the wartime incarceration of Japanese-Americans, and the suppression of that resistance by Japanese-American leaders. It delves into the heart of the Japanese-American conscience and a controversy that continues today.

Frank Abe, producer, director and writer of Conscience and the Constitution, will facilitate a discussion after the screening.
Thursday, March 21, 2002 at 6:30 pm in the 3rd floor auditorium of the Central Library. (Lecture)
Sharing a Desert Home
Ruth Y. Okimoto, Ph.D. will talk about creating a publication and outreach program that explored the relationship between the 20,000 Japanese Americans, including her and her family, who were incarcerated at Poston, and the Native Americans upon whose Arizona reservation the camp was situated. Our history indicates that, in a very similar fashion, the United States government rounded-up and restricted Native Americans to desolate and seemingly unproductive parcels of land during the 19th and 20th centuries citing the need to protect white settlers.

Thursday, March 28, 2002 at 6:30 pm in the 3rd floor auditorium of the Central Library. (Lecture)
Farewell to Manzanar
Farewell to Manzanar has become a standard and classic that is found on school curriculums and college campuses across the country. In 2001, the San Francisco Chronicle named it one of the twentieth century’s 100 best non-fiction books from west of the Rockies. It’s author, Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, will speak about her internment experience and how the lessons learned from America’s past resonate today, especially after the terrorist attacks experienced on September 11, 2001.

Thursday, April 4, 2002 at 6:30 pm in the 3rd floor auditorium of the Central Library. (Lecture)
Golden State Meets Gem State: Californians at Idaho’s Kooskia Internment Camp, 1943-1945
The Kooskia (KOOS-key) Internment Camp is an obscure and virtually forgotten World War II detention facility that the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) operated for the Justice Department between May 1943 and May 1945. Located in a remote area of north-central Idaho, it was unrelated to the Minidoka Concentration Camp in southern Idaho, and the others, which were run by the War Relocation Authority (WRA). The Kooskia Internment Camp held a total of some 265 so-called “enemy aliens” of Japanese ancestry, 31 percent of whom were from, or returned to, California. The remainder came from numerous other states; from the then-territories of Alaska and Hawaii; and even from Peru, Mexico, and Panama.

Priscilla Wegars, who has a B.A. and an M.L.S. from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Ph.D. in History from the University of Idaho, Moscow, will present her findings.

All of these events are free and open to the public.

This program is supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.