

City of San Leandro

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SAN LEANDRO NEWS

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Legacy of the Nisei Veterans Program Airing on Comcast Channel 15 and DVDs Available to Borrow at San Leandro Libraries

The Legacy of the Nisei Veterans is a production of the San Leandro Public Library as part of a grant sponsored by the California Civic Libraries Public Education Program (CCLPEP). The program is airing on Comcast Channel 15 Monday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m., and copies of the DVD are available for borrowing at all San Leandro Libraries.

City Library staff brought together Bay Area members of the Japanese-American 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service who served during World War II to collect their stories as a permanent record of the events surrounding the exclusion, forced removal and internment of civilians and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry so that the causes and circumstances of these and similar events would be remembered and understood.

The 100th/442nd Team was the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in U.S. Army history. The documentary film is a composite of the experiences of ten Nisei men who served their country, despite having parents who were incarcerated at internment camps. The Military Intelligence Service members who served in the South Pacific were key to the campaign against Japan by translating documents, interrogating prisoners, monitoring radio transmissions and collecting battlefield information.

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“This is a chapter of our nation’s history that must not be forgotten,” said Mayor Stephen Cassidy. “Japanese-Americans who served in World War II and who were placed in internment camps during the war deserve to be honored and remembered. I congratulate the Library staff responsible for obtaining the grant and completing this excellent project.”

San Leandro Library staff secured the \$23,000 grant from the CCLPEP, then elicited, recorded, filmed, and edited true personal stories from Bay Area veterans who ranged in age from 88 to 95. The stories tell of hardships endured, freedoms taken away, families separated, the brave sacrifices, the call to duty, the fears and suspicions, and the fighting battles, and they speak for those who were not comfortable in coming forward with their own stories. “The need and benefit of this film is for people of all ages to understand this period of U.S. history, and hear the remarkable stories of bravery, resilience, and the ability to move on,” said Library Services Director David Bohne. “We are very proud of the work our Library staff has done to bring these stories together, and very honored by and thankful for the stories of those who were willing to participate in the project.”

For more information about the Nisei Veterans Video Project, contact Library Service Manager Nancy Fong at (510) 577-3947 or nfong@sanleandro.org.

About San Leandro

Among the best cities in the Bay Area to live, raise a family, and operate a business, San Leandro is a city of nearly 85,000 residents centrally and strategically located in one of the most dynamic regions in the world. The city maintains a safe, small town feel where neighbors care for each other, while offering a wide range of shopping, dining, recreation, family activities, miles of shoreline, and easy access to nearby regional parks and nature areas. Over the past decade the community has invested more than \$250 million in renovating and modernizing its public schools and building state-of-the-art facilities for students, including a performing arts theater and 9th grade campus. San Leandro’s entrepreneurial spirit and large commercial, technological, manufacturing, and clean business base, along with its close proximity to the

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Oakland International Airport and the Port of Oakland and service by two BART stations, rail and two major highways, make the city a prime location for businesses seeking to expand or establish their operations.

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