Finding aid to the Joseph R. Goodman papers on Japanese American internment, 1941-1945, MS 840

Finding aid prepared by Marie Silva.
California Historical Society
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2011
Title: Joseph R. Goodman papers on Japanese American internment
Date: 1941-1945
Collection Identifier: MS 840
Creator: Goodman, Joseph R.
Extent: 3 boxes, 1 half box, and 1 oversize box (3 linear ft.)
Contributing Institution: California Historical Society
678 Mission Street
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URL: http://californiahistoricalsociety.org/
Location of Materials: Collection is stored onsite.
Language of Materials: Collection materials are in English, with some materials in English and Japanese.
Abstract: Personal correspondence, organizational records, government documents, publications, and other papers created or collected by Joseph R. Goodman documenting the relocation and internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, as well as organized resistance to the internment. Included in the collection are records of the Japanese Young Men's Christian Association and the Japanese American Citizens League in San Francisco, including papers of the Japanese YMCA's executive secretary Lincoln Kanai; Sakai family papers; Goodman's correspondence to and from Japanese American internees, anti-internment organizations, the War Relocation Authority, and others; publications, photographs, and ephemera from the Topaz Relocation Center, where Goodman taught high school; War Relocation Authority records and publications; and newspaper clippings, pamphlets, and reports about the internment created by various government, religious, and civic organizations, in California and nationwide.
Access
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Joseph R. Goodman papers on Japanese American internment, MS 840, California Historical Society.
Acquisition Information
Donated to the California Historical Society by Dr. Joseph R. Goodman in 1972. Three volumes (Ramblings, hardcover, 1943, 1944, and 1945) were returned to Dr. Goodman in 1974.
Processing Information
The collection was processed by California Historical Society staff in 1972. Materials were rehoused in 2011.
Biographical Information
Joseph R. Goodman was a strong advocate for the Japanese American community in San Francisco and nationwide during World War II, providing assistance and support to friends and internees at the camps; aiding Japanese American students and activists; participating in the anti-internment movement; and, between 1942 and 1944, teaching high school math and science at the Topaz Relocation Center in Utah.
Born in Tacoma, Washington, in 1911, Goodman moved to San Francisco in the early 1940s, where he met his wife Elizabeth Baker and worked as assistant superintendent of the Steinhart Aquarium. Active members of the American Friends Service Committee, the Goodmans began to assist and advocate for Japanese Americans evacuated from their homes in San Francisco, beginning in 1942. Among their friends were Lincoln Kanai, executive secretary of the San Francisco chapter of the Japanese Young Men's Christian Association and civil rights advocate; and the Sakai family, whose San Francisco home the Goodmans rented. (It later became the "Sakai House" cooperative.) Between 1942 and 1944, Goodman taught math and science at Topaz High School. Elizabeth Goodman also worked at the camp.
After World War II, Goodman served as a professor at the Veterans Administration Hospital and in the pediatrics department at the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF). He died in 2004.

Scope and Contents
The collection consists of personal correspondence, organizational records, government documents, publications, and other papers created or collected by Joseph R. Goodman documenting the relocation and internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, as well as organized resistance to the internment. Included in the collection are records of the Japanese Young Men's Christian Association and the Japanese American Citizens League in San Francisco, including papers of the Japanese YMCA's executive secretary and civil rights advocate, Lincoln Kanai; Sakai family papers, including Ayako Sakai's letters from the Tanforan Assembly Center; Goodman's correspondence to and from Japanese American internees, anti-internment organizations, the War Relocation Authority, and others; publications, photographs, and ephemera from the Topaz Relocation Center, where Goodman taught high school; War Relocation Authority records and publications; and newspaper clippings, pamphlets, and reports about the internment created by various government, religious, and civic organizations, in California and nationwide.

Comprising correspondence, reports, recommendations, notes, addresses, and other documents, Lincoln Kanai and the Japanese Young Men's Christian Association papers (1942) document conditions at the camps, as well as Kanai's involvement in the anti-internment movement. Included in these files are reports from the Puyallup, Tanforan, Pinedale, and Santa Anita Assembly Centers; written protests; and copies of letters from Robert Sproul and to Dorothea Lange. The records of the Japanese American Citizen League of San Francisco, also dated from 1942, include minutes, newsletters, bulletins, and correspondence documenting that organization's advocacy work on behalf of Japanese Americans during World War II. Ayako Sakai papers (1942-1943) comprise letters, poetry, and other documents, many of which were sent to Sakai by family members and friends while she was interned at the Tanforan Assembly Center in San Bruno.

Joseph R. Goodman correspondence and other papers (1942-1943) include letters written to and from Goodman documenting his advocacy efforts on behalf of the Sakai family, Japanese American students, and the Japanese American community in San Francisco and nationwide. Correspondents include Goodman's friends Ayako Sakai, George Sakai, and Lincoln Kanai; the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council; the Fellowship of Reconciliation; the American Friends Service Committee, Northern California Section; the Northern California Committee on Fair Play for Citizens and Aliens of Japanese Ancestry; the Sakai House, a San Francisco cooperative; and the War Relocation Authority. Goodman's papers also include letters written to and by Lincoln Kanai, which Kanai copied for Goodman's files.

In addition to these papers, the collection includes publications, photographs, and ephemera created at the Topaz Relocation Center (1942-1944), where Goodman taught high school science and math. Among these are the journals Volunteers for Victory, Topaz Times, All Aboard, and Trek; the Topaz High School newspaper Topazette; photographs of the Topaz High School football team; and a 1943 copy of Ramblings, the Topaz High School yearbook, owned by Lincoln Kanai. The collection also contains a wide variety of published material collected by Goodman documenting the Japanese American internment and anti-Japanese racism during World War II (1941-1945), including newspapers, especially the Nichi Bei; newspaper clippings; magazine articles; pamphlets; reports; and a scrapbook of newspaper clippings.

Bibliography
Sources consulted for the biographical note:

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Central Utah Relocation Center.
Goodman, Joseph R.--Archives.
Japanese Young Men's Christian Association (San Francisco, Calif.).
Kanai, Lincoln.
Sakai family.
United States. War Relocation Authority.
Japanese Americans--California.
World War, 1939-1945--Evacuation of civilians.

Box 1, Folders 1-2 Lincoln Kanai and Japanese Young Men's Christian Association papers 1942
Box 1, Folders 3-4 Japanese American Citizens League of San Francisco records and publications 1942
Box 1, Folders 5-7  
Ayako Sakai papers 1942-1943
Joseph R. Goodman correspondence and other papers 1942-1943

Box 1,  
Folders 8-13,  
Box 2, Folder 1
Joseph R. Goodman teaching papers circa 1942-1945

Box 2, Folder 2  
War Relocation Authority records 1942-1943

Box 2, Folder 7  
Tanforan Assembly Center bulletins and other records 1942

Box 2, Folder 8  
Vignette: A pictorial record of life in the Fresno Assembly Center 1942

Box 2, Folder 9  
Volunteers for Victory, published by the Resident Council for Japanese American Civil Rights, Topaz 1943

Box 2, Folder 10  
Portfolio of 50 scenes of the relocation centers, by Henry Fukuhara 1944

Box 2, Folder 11  
Topazette (Topaz High School newspaper) 1943

Box 2, Folder 12  
Topaz Times 1942 September 17-1943 December 4

Box 2, Folder 13  
All Aboard (Journal, Topaz) 1944 Spring

Box 2, Folder 14,  
Box 3, Folder 1
Trek (Journal, Topaz) 1942 December, 1943 February, and 1943 June

Box 3, Folder 2  
Ramblings (Topaz High School yearbook, signed and owned by Lincoln Kanai) 1943

Box 3, Folder 3  
Topaz Junior High School and Topaz High School graduation papers 1943
Separated Materials
Removed from 1943 yearbook (vol. 1), which was probably returned to donor in 1974.

Box 3, Folder 4  
Photographs of the Topaz High School football team and Bill Oshima 1943
Separated Materials
Removed from 1943 yearbook (vol. 1), which was probably returned to donor in 1974.

Box 3, Folders 5-6  
Newspaper articles (mostly from the Nichi Bei) circa 1942

Box 3,  
Folders 7-10
Newspaper and magazine articles 1941-1945

Box 3,  
Folders 11-12,  
Box 4, Folders 1-3
Publications 1942-1944

Oversize Box 1,  
Folders 1-3
Scrapbook of newspaper clippings 1942-1945

Oversize Box 1,  
Folders 4-5
Nichi Bei, San Francisco 1942 February 21-1942 May 6

Oversize Box 1,  
Folder 6
Pacific Citizen, Salt Lake City 1942 March 7, 1943 February 4, and 1943 February 11

Oversize Box 1,  
Folder 7
San Francisco Call-Bulletin 1942 March 12 and 1942 April 7