Inventory of the George and Mitzi Naohara Papers SPC.2017.011

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Inventory of the George and Mitzi Naohara Papers SPC.2017.011

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Contributing Institution: California State University Dominguez Hills, Gerth Archives and Special Collections

Title: George and Mitzi Naohara Papers

Creator: Naohara, George, 1919-2014

Creator: Naohara, Mitzi, 1923-

Creator: Yoshimura, Eileen

Identifier/Call Number: SPC.2017.011

Physical Description: 8 boxes(4 flat binder boxes, 2 short top boxes, 1 carton, and 1 document box, including DVDs)

Physical Description: 5.20 Linear Feet(8 boxes)

Date (inclusive): 1902-2000; undated

Date (bulk): 1942-1945

Date (bulk): 1950-1959

Abstract: This collection contains photo albums and scrapbooks compiled by George Naohara and Mitzi (Masukawa) Naohara as well as other materials depicting their experiences during World War II and the Korean War. There are also materials regarding the Gardena Buddhist Church activities in which George Naohara engaged after the war. Most of the items in this collection have been digitized and available online.

Material Specific Details: English translations, synopses, and brief descriptions for Japanese language materials are available at the CSU Japanese American Digitization Project site.


Conditions Governing Access

There are no access restrictions on this collection.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

In 2015, Mitzi Naohara donated to the Gerth Archives and Special Collections, “Butsudan,” a Buddhist altar made by hand by her brother-in-law in the Jerome camp in Arkansas during the war; two photo albums and scrapbooks in 2018; books, DVDs, film wheels, and a happi coat and belt in 2019.

In 2019, Eileen Yoshimura, a daughter of George and Mitzi Naohara, agreed to donate to the Gerth Archives and Special Collections, the documents which consist of her family papers and term papers along with audio cassette tapes prepared for a history class in 1974 when she was a student at CSU Dominguez Hills. She conducted interviews with her parents, uncle, and aunt and collected and analyzed their incarceration experiences during the war.

Availability of Digital Reproductions

Most of the items in this collection has been digitized and the digital reproductions are available at the CSU Japanese American Digitization Project site: George and Mitzi Naohara Papers Digital Collection.

Arrangement

Arranged in four series:

1. Series I: Albums and scrapbooks
2. Series II: Immigration and wartime materials; Oral history interviews
3. Series III: Postwar Gardena Buddhist Church and Shinto activities
4. Series IV: Publications

Biographical / Historical

George Nobuo Naohara (1919 August 17–2014 June 30) was Kibei Nisei, who was born in the United States, educated in Japan, and returned to Los Angeles, California prior to World War II. He left Japan, following in his uncle's footsteps but struck out on his own. He met the Masukawa family in Los Angeles and learned that Mrs. Koyuta Masukawa was a relative of his acquaintance and originally immigrated from Hiroshima, Japan, from which he also had come. He became a close friend to the family and married Mitzi Masukawa (1923 March 16-), one of the family's daughters, later.

He was one of the earlier group of incarcerees who were sent to the Manzanar incarceration camp in California during the war, and met other Kibei Nisei men in the camp. He and his Kibei Nisei friends were granted the permit to leave for work and worked in labor farms in Idaho and Utah. During his labor contract, he met one of the Masukawa family members who had been incarcerated in the Jerome incarceration camp in Arkansas, and decided to "reinduction" to the Jerome camp, instead returning to the Manzanar camp. He requested for reinduction, claiming that he became unable to work due to disability. He was incarcerated in the Jerome camp as he wished but applied for repatriation/expatriation to Japan, and was transferred to the Tule Lake Segregation Center in California. After the war ended, he did not return to Japan but settled in...
Chicago, Illinois. During the Allied Occupation of Japan, he learned that no one but a military personal was allowed to contact his/her family members in Japan. Since his mother was ill and had remained in Japan, he decided to join the U.S. Army, hoping to see her, and attended the language training school in California. He was stationed in Japan after the training, served for the Korean War as a MIS interpreter, and was discharged due to his illness at the end. Later, he operated a barbershop with his wife in Gardena, California, and also was devoted to Buddhist Church activities for his whole life.

Tomosuke Masukawa was an Issei immigrant and arrived at Tacoma, Washington in 1898. He was a railroad worker for the Santa Fe Railroad, a coalminer in Montana, and a farm labor in Fresno, California. Later, he moved to Los Angeles and farmed in Southern California. Koyuta Masukawa was a picture bride and sent to him in 1909, and their eight children were born in California. The Masukawa family resided in Long Beach, California prior to the war and left for Reedley, California, fleeing from the exclusion. However, the family received the order and was imprisoned in the Poston camp in Arizona, later. During her incarceration, Mitzi (Masukawa) Naohara was a preschool teacher and joined activities of a young Nisei women’s club, “Sigma Debs,” which mainly consisted of female basketball players at Reedley High School.

Preferred Citation
[Title of item], George and Mitzi Naohara Papers, Courtesy of the Department of Archives and Special Collections. University Library. California State University, Dominguez Hills

Processing Information
Some of the film reels were digitized by the donor and the transferred digitized moving images were normalized to the MXF format for preservation. The access derivatives were produced in the MP4 format.

The collection was processed and English translations, synopses and brief descriptions for Japanese language materials were prepared by Yoko Okunishi.

Digital Reproductions
The Gerth Archives and Special Collections created born-digital objects (digitized materials) from original items for long-term preservation and electronic access, adhering to best practice and standards to ensure the authenticity, integrity, and security of material. Some access files have been redacted to protect personal identifiable information and others have been compressed for greater efficiency online. For more information on digitization process, please see CSU Japanese American Digitization Project technical reference guide.

The most of the items in this collection have been digitized. The set of digital reproduction preservation files along with normalized moving image files is stored on the Gerth Archives and Special Collections' department drive for both preservation purposes and duplication requests.

The set of digital reproduction access files (access derivatives) created for the digital management system is stored on the Gerth Archives and Special Collections' department external drive for staff use.

One of the audio materials in the collection has been digitized by the California Audiovisual Preservation Project (CAVPP) and available at Internet Archive.

CSU Japanese American Digitization Project
This collection is part of the California State University Japanese American Digitization Project. Other collections about the history of Japanese Americans are found in the digital repository: CSU Japanese American Digitization Project.

Related Materials
Atsushi Art Ishida Collection: The donor is Kibei Nisei and a close friend of George Naohara. They both were incarcerated in the same camps during the war and participated in Korean War. The two collections are intermingled because of their shared experiences.

Scope and Contents
The George and Mitzi Naohara Papers consists of photo albums and scrapbooks compiled by George and Mitzi Naohara, and other materials pertaining to the Naohara and Masukawa family. Included are photographs, correspondence, and documents depicting their experiences during World War II, photographs taken during the U.S. Army language school training and the Korean War, and books, moving images (film reels and DVDs), and artifacts presenting George Naohara’s participation in the Gardena Buddhist Church activities after the war.

George Naohara is Kibei Nisei, and his wartime experiences include his farm labor in Idaho and Utah, incarceration in the Manzanar, Jerome, and Tule Lake camps. Mitzi Naohara was a preschool teacher at the Poston camp in Arizona, and also joined activates of a young Nisei women’s club, "Sigma Debs." Her memorabilia depicts her life as a teacher and social events in the Poston camp during the war.

Conditions Governing Use
All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Director of the Gerth Archives and Special Collections. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Gerth Archives and Special Collections as the owner of the physical materials and not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
- Manzanar War Relocation Center
- Tule Lake Segregation Center
- Jerome Relocation Center (Ark.)
- Poston Relocation Center (Ariz.)
- Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1944-1945 -- Archives
- Japanese Americans -- History -- 20th century
- Military Intelligence Service Language School (U.S.)

### Albums and scrapbooks 1942-1956

**Physical Description:** 4 boxes  
**Language of Material:** English.

**Scope and Contents**
This series consists of two albums and two scrapbooks compiled by George and Mitzi Naohara. Included are photographs, clippings, narratives, correspondence, memorabilia, and documents depicting their experiences during World War II, the U.S. Army language school training, and the Korean War.

- **box 1**  
  **George Naohara photo album 1942-1956**  
  **Physical Description:** 1 box  
  **Language of Material:** English.

- **box 4**  
  **George Naohara scrapbook: Korean War and before leaving Japan 1947-1951**  
  **Physical Description:** 1 box  
  **Language of Material:** English.

- **box 2**  
  **Mitzi Naohara photo album 1942-1945**  
  **Physical Description:** 1 box  
  **Language of Material:** English.

- **box 3**  
  **Mitzi Naohara scrapbook 1942-1945**  
  **Physical Description:** 1 box  
  **Language of Material:** English.
Immigration and wartime materials; Oral history interviews 1902 February 20-1945; 1974 December 12 1902 February 20-1945

Physical Description: 2 boxes
Language of Material: English.
Scope and Contents
This series contains materials pertaining to Tomosuke and Koyuta Masukawa’s immigration and incarceration as well as materials regarding George Naohara’s incarceration during the war. Included are certificates, a passport, receipts, WRA forms, alien registration receipt card, ID cards, correspondence, permits, and a Buddhist altar made by hand in the Jerome camp in Arkansas.

There are also term papers along with audio cassette tapes created by Eileen Naohara, who is a daughter of George and Mitzi Naohara. She submitted them to Prof. Donald T. Hata when she was a student at CSU Dominguez Hills in 1974. She conducted interviews with her parents, uncle, and aunt, and collected and analyzed their stories about their incarceration experiences during World War II.

box 5, folder 1-6, 12

Tomasuke and Koyuta Masukawa immigration records, a family photo, and others 1900-1938 November 12; 1965 September 20

Physical Description: 7 folders
Language of Material: English.
Scope and Contents
Contain materials regarding Tomosuke and Koyuta Masukawa’s immigration. Included are an inspection card, certificate of registration, certificate of inoculation, Imperial Japanese Government passport, alien tax receipt, and a paper framed family photograph probably taken in Japan in 1915. There are also Tomosuke Masukawa’s receipts for U.S. Postal money order, Moneta Commercial Bank book, and his death certificate.

box 5, folder 7-11, 16

Masukawa family’s wartime documents 1942-1945 September 24

Physical Description: 6 folders
Language of Material: English.
Scope and Contents
Contain documents issued for Tomosuke and Koyuta Masukawa during World War II. Included are an alien registration receipt card (Form AR-3) and certificate of identification (Form AR-AE-23), certificate change of residence notice (Form PM-2), registration certificate (D.S.S. Form 2), government property release for evacuees (WRA-Colo.River-86), civilian message form (Form 1616) by American Red Cross, and alien’s travel permits (WRA-394). Also included is a class note complied by Mitzi Masukawa.

box 5, folder 13-15

George Naohara’s wartime documents 1942-1945

Physical Description: 3 folders
Language of Material: English.
Scope and Contents
Contain ID cards, certificates, notices, letters, permits, and other documents regarding George Nobuo Naohara’s work and leave clearance during the war. Materials were issued by California Department of Employment, War Relocation Authority, United States Employment Service, and Farm Security Administration. There are documents regarding his transfer to the Tule Lake Segregation Center, including a copy of his letter addressing Spanish Embassy to apply for expatriation to Japan from the Tule Lake camp. There are also documents issued by the Selective Service System Local Board No. 277 with blank forms of the “loyalty questionnaire” responding to his answers to the questionnaire.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box, Folder/Reel</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| box 5, folder 17-18 | **Other wartime documents 1942 January 2; 1942-1945**  
Creator: Thomas, Norman, 1884-1968  
Creator: Post War World Council  
Physical Description: 2 items (1 blank card and 1 pamphlet)  
Language of Material: English.  
Scope and Contents  
Contained are a booklet, "Democracy and Japanese Americans," written by Norman Thomas, describing the forced evacuation and incarceration of people of Japanese ancestry during World War II; and a blank form of "Change of residence" report card whose return address is: Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director, War Relocation Authority, Barr Building, Washington 25, D.C. Form WAR-148C. rev. |
| box 8 | **Buddhist altar 1942-1945**  
Physical Description: 1 box  
Scope and Contents  
Contained is a Buddhist altar which was made by hand by Mitzi Naohara's brother-in-law while he was incarcerated in the Jerome camp in Arkansas. |
| box 5, folder 19-20 | **Term papers and interviews by Eileen Yoshimura 1974 March 21; 1974 December 12;**  
Physical Description: 2 folders (2 documents and 2 audio cassettes)  
Language of Material: English.  
Scope and Contents  
Two term papers, "A Kibei's view of life in relocation camps during WWII" and "Life in camp: three different views," along with audio cassette tapes prepared by Eileen Naohara Yoshimura, who is a daughter of George and Mitzi Naohara. She submitted them to Prof. Donald T. Hata when she was a student at CSU Dominguez Hills. She conducted interviews with her parents, uncle, and aunt, and collected and analyzed their stories about their incarceration experiences during World War II. |
| Postwar Gardena Buddhist Church and Shinto activities 1963-1982; undated | This series contains the moving images (ten film reels and five DVDs) capturing the Gardena Buddhist Church activities in which George Naohara was involved after the war. Included are Bon dance, Hanamatsuri (festivals), and a visit of Keiro (a residential care home for the elderly), as well as a Shinto conference and others. The Gardena Buddhist Church was torched in 1980s and the damage and reconstruction were captured. Some of them were filmed by George Naohara. DVDs are digital reproductions of some of the films reels (reels 1-5). There is also a happi coat with a belt which he wore for the activities. |
| box 6, reel 1-5, box 6, case 1-5 | **Gardena Buddhist Church activities 1963-1982**  
Physical Description: 5 Reels  
Physical Description: 5 items (5 DVDs)  
Language of Material: English. |
| box 6, reel 6 | **Keirokai 1971 March 7**  
Physical Description: 1 Reels  
Language of Material: English. |
| box 6, reel 7 | **2nd language school picnic undated**  
Physical Description: 1 Reels  
Language of Material: English. |
Box 6, Reel 8

**Obon dance; Hanamatsuri undated**
- Physical Description: 1 Reels
- Language of Material: English.

Box 6, Reel 9

**Hanamatsuri; Spring plant; Ma_n land; Eileen speech contest; Fire and felled ladder undated**
- Physical Description: 1 Reels
- Language of Material: English.

Box 6, Reel 10

**S. D. Shinto Conference 1975**
- Physical Description: 1 Reels
- Language of Material: English.

Box 7

**George Naohara's happi coat and belt**
- Physical Description: 1 box
- Language of Material: English.

**Publications 1973; 1976; 1997**
- Physical Description: 3 Volumes
- Language of Material: English.

**Scope and Contents**
This series contains published items by Gardena Buddhist Church and Japanese American Korean War Veterans.

Box 5, Folder 21

**Gardena Buddhist Church and affiliated organizations directory: 20th anniversary edition dedicated to our Buddhist Sunday School children 1973**
- Physical Description: 1 volume
- Language of Material: English.

Box 5, Folder 22

**50th anniversary, 1926-1976 Gardena Buddhist Church 1976**
- Physical Description: 1 volume
- Language of Material: English.

Box 5, Folder 23

- Physical Description: 1 volume
- Language of Material: English.