



John Tateishi



## Justice: Denied & Remembered

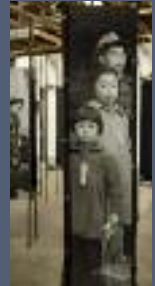
BY TIM EIGO



### Redress Anniversary Events

**John Tateishi**, who spearheaded the Japanese American redress effort  
 Tuesday, Oct. 7, 7:00 p.m.  
 Xavier College Prep  
 7th Street and Highland, Phoenix  
 More: [apas.clas.asu.edu](http://apas.clas.asu.edu)

**Art Installation**  
 By **Mona Higuchi**  
 Opens Tuesday,  
 Oct. 7, 5:00 p.m.  
 Xavier College Prep,  
 Stark Gallery  
 More:  
[www.monahiguchi.com](http://www.monahiguchi.com)  
[www.xcp.org](http://www.xcp.org)



**Passing Poston:**  
**An American Story**  
 Saturday, Oct. 18, 4:00 p.m.  
 UA College of Medicine—  
 Phoenix Campus  
 550 E. Van Buren St.  
 More: [naaapphoenix.org](http://naaapphoenix.org)  
[www.passingposton.com](http://www.passingposton.com)



It was 20 years ago that the U.S. government looked hard at a past deed and decided to make amends. In 1988, Congress passed and President Ronald Reagan signed legislation that addressed the internment of Japanese American citizens during World War II. The legislation stated that government actions had been based on “race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership.” Surviving internees and their heirs eventually would receive approximately \$1.6 billion in reparations—and an apology from the president and Congress.

Of course, that historic law came about not through quiet reflection by government officials, but through hard work and advocacy by dedicated people. This October, one of those people—**John Tateishi**—will be the featured speaker at an Arizona State University event commemorating the law’s passage.

Tateishi, with his family, was imprisoned in the Manzanar camp, one of 10 such prisons erected around the country. His family represented just a few of the more than 120,000 Japanese Americans forced to live and work behind barbed wire. When he grew up, Tateishi became a college English professor, but a nation’s history became his mission; he eventually led the redress committee of the Japanese American Citizens League. His leadership and the work of many culminated in the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

On **October 7**, Tateishi will speak at a public event sponsored by ASU’s Asian Pacific American Studies program (see sidebar for all event details).

The law’s anniversary also will be marked by the screening of a film with Arizona ties. *Passing Poston: An American Story* examines life

inside the prison through the eyes of four people. Poston, three sites incarcerating more than 17,000 detained Americans, was built by Del Webb on the Colorado River Indian Reservation in Yuma County (now La Paz County). (Looking to their own history, the tribal council objected to the forced relocation of a people based on their race; the council was overruled by the agency that later became the Bureau of Indian Affairs.)

Finally, **Xavier College Preparatory** in Phoenix will be the site of an installation by artist **Mona Higuchi**. To be shown in the Stark Gallery, her work explores what it meant to live in a “military exclusion zone” established by Executive Order 9066, signed by President Franklin Roosevelt.

In 1945, a Navy psychiatrist wrote *The Governing of Men*, drawn from his 15 months studying Poston—and the people and laws who devised it. In a contemporary book review, *Time* magazine noted that the author “concluded that many an American simply fails to remember that U.S. Japanese are human beings.” This month’s events illustrate the consequences that flow from that failure. **AF**

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