

Collection of Research on Japanese War Brides Now at Japanese American National Museum

October 23, 2023 – LOS ANGELES – The [Japanese American National Museum](#) (JANM) has received a donation from [Dr. Regina Lark](#) of her collection of interviews from her University of Southern California dissertation. Her dissertation focused on the relationships between Japanese women and American soldiers who met and married during the US Occupation of Japan.

The audio cassette tapes are filled with the voices and stories of Japanese women in their 70s and 80s, living in the US since the 1950s. The tapes also included interviews with their American-born husbands, and a group interview with the adult children who accompanied their mothers to Japan for the Nikkei International Marriage Society Convention, Aizu-Wakamatsu, Japan. JANM cataloged the collection along with listed names of women and families that were labeled on the cassette tapes and is making the interviews available to the community.

Dr. Regina Lark Ph.D. earned a Ph.D. in U.S. History. Her 450-page dissertation manuscript titled, *They Challenged Two Nations: Marriages Between Japanese Woman and American GIs, 1945-to-the-Present*, was completed following seven years of research. Her work on “the brides” is now an essay, “Interracial Marriage in Occupied Japan,” in a 2021 anthology, *Women’s Experiences of the Second World War: Occupation, Exile, and Everyday Life*.

Dr. Lark shares, “In my first year as a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Southern California, a very astute graduate professor hinted to me that the topic of Japanese war brides was an idea worth pursuing. Although I eventually transitioned from academic life to the life of an entrepreneur, I decided to donate my trove of interviews on the brave women and men who transgressed many boundaries to become the largest group of interracial married people in the US at that time so they would be available to the community.”

Dr. Lark is also the author of *Emotional Labor: Why A Woman’s Work is Never Done and What To Do About It*. She gave her first [TED talk on the subject this year at TEDxFolsom](#).

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About the Japanese American National Museum (JANM)

Established in 1985, **JANM** promotes understanding and appreciation of America’s ethnic and cultural diversity by sharing the Japanese American experience. Located in the historic Little Tokyo district of downtown Los Angeles, **JANM** is a center for civil rights, ensuring that the hard-fought lessons of the World War II incarceration are not forgotten. A Smithsonian Affiliate and one of America’s Cultural Treasures, **JANM** is a hybrid institution that straddles traditional museum categories. **JANM** is a center for the arts as well as history. It provides a voice for

Japanese Americans and a forum that enables all people to explore their own heritage and culture. Since opening to the public in 1992, **JANM** has presented over 100 exhibitions onsite while traveling 40 exhibits to venues such as the Smithsonian Institution and the Ellis Island Museum in the United States, and to several leading cultural museums in Japan and South America. **JANM** is open on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday–Sunday from 11 a.m.–5 p.m. and on Thursday from 12 p.m.–8 p.m. **JANM** is free every third Thursday of the month. On all other Thursdays, **JANM** is free from 5 p.m.–8 p.m. For more information, visit janm.org or follow us on social media @jamuseum.