

Dear Maya,

I got your email. If you'd like, Ben and you could have lunch with me in Chappaqua, which is about 30 miles north of NYC, saving you 60 miles round trip.

. No, the story of how redress got done was not at all Rashomon. In fact, straight, fact-based journalism is enough to tell the whole story. The confusion comes from after the fact credit-taking by various people and groups -- you know, success has a hundred fathers while failure is an orphan.

Adopting an incorrect reading of Rashomon, Tom Ikeda – a good person, but trained neither as a journalist nor as an historian -- says all redress stories are “true,” even while he favors Janet Tanaka’s reading of events. Hers is one that asserts that there was no 442 impact on HR 442. Absurd, and her video, hated by the vets, was quickly dumped by the CEO of Nitto, a huge admirer of the 442, on to JAMN, which hasn’t done much to promote it.

Tom told me that an algorithm will eventually determine the *truth* of what happened. C’mon, Tom.

If anything is sacred in our history and if anything drove the success of HR 442, it is the dead of the 442 still buried in Italy.

If you watch the **last** episode of Rashomon, there is no attempt to justify the contradictory “truths” told by the storytellers’ various self-serving accounts, only the **simple** truth. So in the telling of the redress story, there will be in the end no radical epistemological doubt and fashionable confusion. After all, what we were doing was hardly novel and understood by

a student in a sixth grade civics class: Get a bill passed by the House and the Senate and signed by the President. Something done thousands of times in our history.

One of the fashionable truths enjoying credence among JAs in the LA Basin has been put out by NCCR: We did street rallies, got on local tv, wrote letters, and we won. This shows you how naive JAs are politically after more than a century in the US -- and who also show voter registration rates often not much above those of recent immigrants from Latin America.

See my 2018 JACL Convention speech, soon to appear in the *Pacific Citizen's* Holiday Edition, that goes after the Rashomon silliness of NCCR's credit-taking.

JACL 2018 CONVENTION SPEECH

One thing I will say on my own behalf, and something your husband Ben might understand, was the place of *The Almanac of American Politics* in Washington during the 1980s when we did redress. It gave me access everywhere in town, even while Norm asked, "Who would buy a book like that?" But Sparky and Dan were similarly puzzled. Bob got it, as did Mike Masaoka and JACL's Denny Yasuhara and Cherry Kinoshita. Min Yasui and Grayce Uyehara, both of whom I loved, didn't get it. Nobody I know in NCCR ever heard of the book, including many academics in the group.

All the naivete comes I think from the Japanese version of Chinese Confucianism, which has instilled in us over many centuries to leave politics and power to the wisdom of our betters.

Let's have lunch, Maya. Grant

PS. As for Aiko. Nobody in the White House or Congress except for maybe Norm ever heard of her “smoking gun.” Everybody knew for years that the justification for the camps was totally phony baloney. Angus Macbeth, who married the sister of my best friend, emailed me that Aiko knew where a lot of research material could be found, but contributed nothing to the style or substance of *Personal Justice Denied*.

Jack and Aiko were Marxist, which I am not, and so a couple much celebrated by the JA left.

For Angus's email to me, see the link “Angus on Aiko” on my redress website: grantujifusa.org