



November 28, 2018
WEDNESDAY, 6:30pm – 8:00pm

JOHN OKADA: *The Life & Rediscovered Work of the Author of No-No Boy*

Featured Speaker: Frank Abe, Co-Editor

John Okada was born and raised in Seattle, but he was living in the Midwest when he wrote his landmark novel revealing the emotional truth beneath the postwar resettlement of Japanese Americans. Published in 1957, *No-No Boy* centers on a Nisei resister who refuses to fight for the country that incarcerated him and his people in World War II and who, upon his release from federal prison, is cast out by his divided community upon his return to Seattle.

Okada's novel faced a similar rejection until it was rediscovered and reissued in 1976 to be celebrated as a classic of American literature. Okada died at age 47, and his life and other works remained obscure after his widow, in grief, burned his manuscripts and letters.

Journalist and filmmaker Frank Abe has now written the first complete biography of Okada, and we are pleased to welcome him and *JOHN OKADA: The Life & Rediscovered Work of the Author of No-No Boy* to Chicago. Abe wrote and produced the PBS documentary on the largest organized resistance to incarceration, *Conscience and the Constitution*. His own father was imprisoned at Heart Mountain, and Abe was born in Cleveland as a result of postwar resettlement.

Abe will trace Okada's development as an artist, with a gallery of images drawn from the author's life. The new book – co-edited by Abe, Greg Robinson, and Floyd Cheung – presents meticulously researched biographical details, insight from friends and relatives, and a trove of intimate photographs that illuminate Okada's early life in Seattle, military service, and careers as a public librarian in Detroit, a technical writer in the aerospace industry, and ad man. This volume is an essential companion to *No-No Boy*.

Books will be available for purchase and signing.

*The JASC Legacy
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*A "Memories of Now"
(MON) Seminar
Series Presentation*

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and Family!*

Free!



Presentation Location:
**Japanese American
Service Committee (JASC)**
4427 N. Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60640



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Japanese American Citizens League
CHICAGO CHAPTER

**Co-sponsored by the
Chicago Japanese American
Historical Society (CJAHS) and
the Japanese American
Citizens League - Chicago
Chapter (JACL-Chicago)**

Event and Parking are Free.
RSVP to Ryan Yokota
By calling or emailing at:
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