

Reflection of *Tule Lake Stockade Diary* Webinar

by Martha Porter, Manzanar Committee

The *Tule Lake Stockade Diary* webinar presented in March 2022 was an education on democracy, protest and activism. Each presentation spoke to the idea of ‘loyalty’. I was appalled to discover that the questions of ‘loyalty’ were demanded of innocent Japanese American citizens who were incarcerated for their ethnicity. It was unjust.

Jean Paul deGuzman, Ph.D. highlighted the questionnaire and the loyalty questions that were given to Japanese American incarcerated in his presentation about *The Contested Politics of Loyalty in America’s Concentration Camps*. The infamous questions were number #27 and number #28. Are you loyal to America? What is loyalty?

Soji Kashiwagi, son of a Hiroshi Kashiwagi, read his father’s poem “A Meeting at Tule Lake.” I learned that his father was a man who said ‘No’ to both loyalty questions as a protest. It took a tremendous amount of courage to do that.

Overall, these presentations and the *Tule Lake Stockade Diary* exposes the human suffering, persistence, protests and activism displayed by the incarcerated during WWII.

I would like to thank the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Citizens League, Nancy Takayama and Nancy Kyoko Oda for hosting this webinar.