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For Immediate Release

KCTS 9 Presents *Borders & Heritage: The Long Journey Toward Healing*

Seventy-five years after being forcefully removed from their homes and unjustly incarcerated during World War II, local Japanese Americans share their stories of perseverance through a difficult time in America's past.

Airs Saturdays, 9/2 and 9/23, at 5:30 p.m. on KCTS 9 and streams at KCTS9.org/borders.

Seattle, WA — KCTS 9 announces a special broadcast edition of its digital series *Borders & Heritage*. More than 120,000 Japanese Americans living along the West Coast were incarcerated without due process during World War II. Seventy-five years later, ripples of that history are still felt. *The Long Journey Toward Healing* presents firsthand accounts of Japanese Americans from Washington State whose families endured incarceration.

"In these uncertain times of increased racial tensions in America, it is imperative that we remember and learn from our history—so the mistakes of the past are not repeated," said Senior Producer Laila Kazmi. "It is with this hope that the Japanese-American community members featured in our program have shared their families' stories."

The program features Kay Sakai Nakao, born and raised on Bainbridge Island. Along with the other Japanese Americans living on the island at the time, her family was among the first to be incarcerated. Across the Puget Sound, Shokichi Tokita was growing up in the then-vibrant Nihonmachi (Japantown) neighborhood of Seattle when his family was forced to give up their home and business. Also featured is Seattle's oldest Japanese restaurant, Maneki, whose owners started over from nothing after the war to keep their restaurant going. Finally, the program includes the story of Mary Matsuda Gruenewald, who was a junior at Vashon High School when her family was forced to leave their home; at age 92, she returned to Vashon Island for a graduation ceremony, to experience a small part of what war and incarceration took from her.

Watch the broadcast and visit KCTS9.org/borders for these stories and more, including "The Uwajimaya Story," about the internment experience of the family behind Seattle's iconic Asian retail giant; "Nihonjin Face," about a play created to educate youth about the incarceration history; and an interactive timeline of significant events in Japanese-American history.

Launched two years ago, *Borders & Heritage* features local stories of immigrants and the diverse heritage of people in the Pacific Northwest. For most, the immigrant experience is the American experience, but we are connected to it in different ways. *Borders & Heritage* tells the stories of recent immigrants, as well as those whose families arrived here decades or centuries ago, celebrating immigrants whose traditions and customs have helped shape the unique culture of our region.

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About KCTS 9

KCTS 9 brings quality public media programming to the public when and where they need it—on the air, online, and in our communities—serving more than 2.2 million viewers each week in Western and Central Washington State, British Columbia and across Canada. To learn more about our programs and initiatives, visit KCTS9.org.

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