



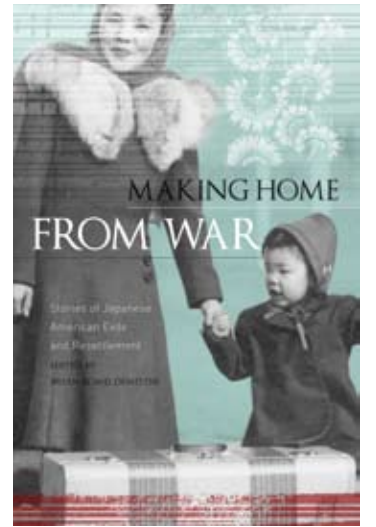
“The Nisei memoirists emerge from the creative process voicing this collective yet richly variegated conclusion: ‘while resettlement will never be a truly definitive entity, we are nonetheless finding our way back home in the discovery and telling of our stories.’”—Arthur A. Hansen, Professor Emeritus of History and Asian American Studies at California State University, Fullerton

“These stories tiptoe gently into the heart, wipe clear the windows of our memories, and release the frozen tears of our outrage and triumphs. A deeply moving accounting of life after imprisonment, its lingering stigma, and the true meaning of freedom.”—Dr. Satsuki Ina, producer of *Children of the Camps*



We are no longer prisoners, but are we really free?

Read an excerpt on page 54.



Many books have chronicled the experience of Japanese Americans in the early days of World War II, when over 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, two-thirds of whom were American citizens, were taken from their homes along the West Coast and imprisoned in concentration camps. When they were finally allowed to leave, a new challenge faced them—how do you resume a life so interrupted?

For most, going home meant learning to live in a hostile, racist environment. Some returned to find they had lost their homes and had little choice but to bide their time in transitional housing, including community halls, churches, housing projects, and tent camps. Their employment options were also limited; they often worked as domestics, dishwashers, and field laborers to help support their families. The effects of these experiences reverberate to this day, and *Making Home from War* reaches into the past, melds together what was once hidden, and tells the often neglected or hushed story of what happened after the war.

With honesty and an eye for detail, *Making Home from War* is the long-awaited sequel to the award-winning *From Our Side of the Fence*. Written by thirteen Japanese American elders who gathered regularly at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California, *Making Home from War* is a collection of stories about their exodus from concentration camps into a world that in a few short years had drastically changed. In order to survive, they found the resilience they needed in the form of community, and gathered reserves of strength from family and friends. Through a spectrum of conflicting and rich emotions, *Making Home from War* demonstrates the depth of human resolve and faith during a time of devastating upheaval.

MAKING HOME FROM WAR
STORIES OF JAPANESE AMERICAN EXILE
AND RESETTLEMENT
Edited by Brian Komei Dempster

November 2010
Trade Paper, 978-1-59714-142-0, \$18.95
224 pages (6 x 9)
40 b&w photos
Asian American

See <http://www.heydaybooks.com/digitalcontent.html> for:
Q&A with Brian Komei Dempster
Excerpt from *Making Home from War*
Sample writing assignment

Brian Komei Dempster is a Sansei (third-generation Japanese American). He received B.A.s in American ethnic studies and English at the University of Washington and an M.F.A. in creative writing from the University of Michigan. His poems have been published in various journals and anthologies. Dempster is the editor of *From Our Side of the Fence: Growing Up in America's Concentration Camps*, which received a 2007 Nisei Voices Award from the National Japanese American Historical Society. He is currently an associate professor of rhetoric and composition and a faculty member in Asian American studies at the University of San Francisco.