UPROOTED
Japanese American Farm Labor Camps
During World War II

Japanese American farm worker resting near Nyssa, Oregon.
Nyssa, Oregon. Farm Security Administration mobile camp. Japanese American farm worker. Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, FSA-OWI Collection, LC-USF34-073699-E. Sponsored by the Orr family in honor of Morgen Young

Make your plans now to see Uprooted

Coming to Philadelphia February 18, 2017 – March 9, 2017 will be the first East Coast showing of Uprooted: Japanese American Farm Labor Camps During World War II. The exhibition visually documents the first of those camps with photos taken in July 1942
in Oregon and Idaho. Rarely told, this presents the story of 33,000 Japanese Americans who volunteered out of the high security WWII assembly centers and concentration camps to harvest sugar beets for the war effort. Employed by the Farm Security Administration, master photographer Russell Lee, captured the hardships, dignity and spirit of these individuals, more than half of them U.S. citizens. They were removed from their homes, farms, businesses and communities because of war hysteria, race prejudice, and failure of political leadership.

This timely exhibition commemorates the 75th anniversary of the Day of Remembrance. On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, authorizing military commanders to designate military areas from which any person could be excluded. General John L. DeWitt, Western Defense Command, issued more than 100 military orders applying only to civilians of Japanese ancestry living in the West Coast states. Congress authorized a prison term and fine for any civilian convicted of violating those orders. Come witness history — it happened then — it threatens to happen again.

Uprooted will be exhibited at Friends Center, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102. Dates: February 18 – March 9, 2017. Hours: 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Admission is free.

The Day of Remembrance opening reception is February 18, 2017 at Friends Center, 2:00 to 5:00 pm. Please RSVP by Feb 13, 2017 at jalaborcamps@gmail.com or call 215 248 5544. Reception fee: $5.00.

Find information about directions and public transportation to Friends Center and discounted parking at: www.friendscentercorp.org — 215 241 7000.

Uprooted is a production of the Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission.

This exhibition was supported in part by a Legacy Grant from the Japanese American Citizens League as well as the Philadelphia JACL and the Eastern District Council of the JACL.
Trucks arriving at the Garrison’s Corner camp near Nyssa, Oregon to pick up laborers. Nyssa, Oregon. Farm Security Administration mobile camp. Japanese American farm workers ready to leave for the fields. The farmers send trucks to the camp to pick them up. Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, FSA-OWI Collection, LC-USF33-013305-M1.