

**PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT  
For Immediate Release**

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***Train to Crystal City* Book Promotion at the JCCCNC**

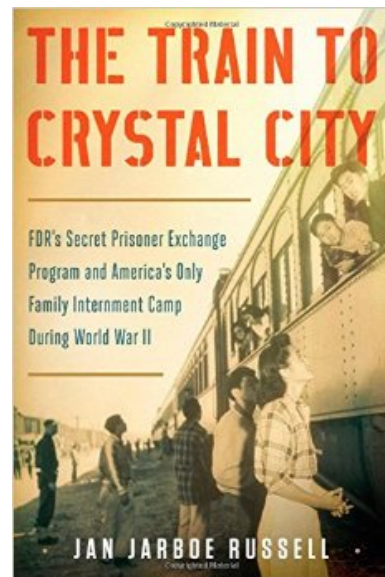
*San Francisco* (February 10, 2015) – **On Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC) will be hosting Jan Russell, author of the highly acclaimed book, *Train to Crystal City* rated #16 on New York Times Best Sellers.**

In her book, Russell tells the dramatic and never-before-told story of a secret FDR-approved prisoner exchange program run during World War II, from Crystal City, Texas, an American interment camp where thousands of Japanese American families—many US citizens—were incarcerated.

From 1942 to 1948, secret government trains delivered thousands of civilians from the United States and Latin America to Crystal City, Texas, a small desert town at the southern tip of Texas. The trains carried Japanese, German, Italian immigrants and their American-born children. The vast majority were deeply loyal to the United States, were never charged with any crime, and did not understand why they had been forced to leave their homes.

The only family internment camp during World War II, Crystal City was the center of a government prisoner exchange program called “quiet passage.” During the course of the war, hundreds of prisoners in Crystal City, including their American-born children, were exchanged for other more important Americans—diplomats, businessmen, soldiers, physicians, and missionaries—behind enemy lines in Japan and Germany.

Haunted by the story for forty years, Jan Jarboe Russell interviewed over fifty living internees from the camp, gained access to private journals, diaries, FBI files, camp administration records, and more. From these previously untouched sources, she had assembled a highly detailed and vivid reconstruction of daily life in the internment camp. Given its political role, Crystal City was a surprisingly hopeful place, run with genuine compassion by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Indeed, the inmates created churches, schools, libraries, and other associations. Yet tensions and struggles did occur, and Russell delivers the full complexity of this pocket civilization.



Focusing her story on two American-born teenage girls who were interned, author Jan Jarboe Russell uncovers the details of their years spent in the camp; the struggles of their fathers; their families' subsequent journeys to war-devastated Germany and Japan; and their years-long attempt to survive and return to the United States, transformed from incarcerated enemies to American loyalists. Their stories of day-to-day life at the camp, from the ten-foot high security fence to the armed guards, daily roll call, and censored mail, have never been told.

Combining big-picture World War II history with a little-known event in American history that has long been kept quiet, *The Train to Crystal City* reveals the war-time hysteria against the Japanese and Germans in America, the secrets of FDR's tactics to rescue high-profile POWs in Germany and Japan, and how the definition of American citizenship changed under the pressure of war.

The book promotion will be held on Sunday, March 8, 2015 in the Issei Memorial Hall (IMH) on the first floor of the JCCCNC at 1840 Sutter Street in San Francisco from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. While the event is free to the public, due to its high demand reservations are requested by Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at [programsevents@jcccnc.org](mailto:programsevents@jcccnc.org) or by calling (415) 567-5505. This event is sponsored by the Japanese American Religious Federation, Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project, JCCCNC, National Japanese American Historical Society, and Tule Lake Committee.

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### **About the JCCCNC**

Envisioned by the Japanese American community, JCCCNC will be an everlasting foundation of our Japanese American ancestry, cultural heritage, histories and traditions. The JCCCNC strives to meet the evolving needs of the Japanese American community through programs, affordable services and facility usage. The JCCCNC is a non-profit community center based in San Francisco.