

200 pilgrims from across the United States, Peru, and Japan gathered in San Antonio and Crystal City, TX for the second official Crystal City Pilgrimage.

This year's pilgrimage commemorated 75 years since Crystal City Family Internment Camp's (CCFIC) closure in February 1948. The theme, "**Reaching Across Barbed Wire Fences**" focused on making connections between the past and present, as well as the legacy of solidarity and activism between the internees and the present-day Crystal City community.

## EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

The Pilgrimage educational sessions and workshops covered multiple overlapping topics, including:

- Understanding WWII Imprisonment and Crystal City Internment Camp
- Hostages in a Foreign Land: the WWII Latin American Experience
- Irei Project: Recalling the Names of Those Incarcerated at Crystal City
- The Japanese Latin American Pursuit for Historical Truth, Reparations and Solidarity
- La Raza Unida
- Beyond Barbed Wire: Life Before, During, and After Crystal City Family Internment Camp

[photos from Google photos album, speakers, Peru-Kai dinner group picture]

## UNVEILING NEW MONUMENTS IN CRYSTAL CITY

[photos from memorial monument & Kaz/Perukai with the Callao Aiko y Sachiko sign]

This year's pilgrimage saw the unveiling of a new memorial monument and a new street sign, both done in collaboration with the CCPC and our partners in Crystal City.

The town of Crystal City renamed a street to Calle Aiko y Sachiko (in English: Aiko and Sachiko Street), in memory of the two Japanese Peruvian girls, Aiko Oyakama and Sachiko Tanabe, who tragically drowned in the Crystal City Camp Pool in 1944. Both girls were 10 years old. Calle Aiko y Sachiko splits off from Javelina Drive, and leads to the site of the former Crystal City Camp Pool and the new Swimming Pool Memorial Monument.

The newly unveiled Swimming Pool Memorial Monument, which is located on the former CCFIC camp site, honors the 33 internees who passed away while interned in CCFIC, which was in operation from December 12, 1942 through February 27, 1948.

Click [HERE](#) to download the full 2024 Pilgrimage booklet for information about the educational sessions, pilgrimage speakers, and the memorial monuments.

## PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

Google photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/fmsBUyfaPcDrGxMBA>

Videos:

- [Enemy Alien Files at the 2023 Crystal City Pilgrimage](#)
- 2023 Crystal City Pilgrimage 1 Arrival 10/26/2023: <https://vimeo.com/886039872/a48d39cc77?share=copy>

- 2023 Crystal City Pilgrimage 2 Welcome:  
<https://vimeo.com/886041210/5e89b68ed1?share=copy>
- 2023 Crystal City Pilgrimage 3 Understanding WWII Imprisonment:  
<https://vimeo.com/886050398/a6d2dc0080?share=copy>
- 2023 Crystal City Pilgrimage 4 Interview with Karissa Tom:  
<https://vimeo.com/886061277/c8ac573de8?share=copy>
- 2023 Crystal City Pilgrimage 5 Hostages in a Foreign Land:  
<https://vimeo.com/886061927/42187f40e3?share=copy>
- 2023 Crystal City Pilgrimage 6 JACL:  
<https://vimeo.com/886069776/05247eed74?share=copy>
- 2023 Crystal City Pilgrimage 7 JLA Historical Truth:  
<https://vimeo.com/886070670/9c9931c433?share=copy>
- 2023 Crystal City Pilgrimage 8 Irei Project:  
<https://vimeo.com/886077191/a760708ac3?share=copy>
- 2023 Crystal City 9 La Raza Unida:  
<https://vimeo.com/886079607/c0104cdc13?share=copy>
- 2023 Crystal City 10 Peru-Kai: <https://vimeo.com/886087595/d735acb257?share=copy>
- 2023 Crystal City Pilgrimage 11 Day Three:  
<https://vimeo.com/886096648/0cb0b9bcd2?share=copy>