

Fall 2016

KOKORO KARA

HEART MOUNTAIN WYOMING FOUNDATION

*"from our heart"*



- **"A Song of America:" 2016 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage**
- ***Exhibit Preview:* Ansel Adams Meets Yoshio Okumoto**
- **The Walk Family: Generous Heart Mountain Champions**

# Compassionate Witnesses: Chair Shirley Ann Higuchi

"It was a miserably cold day and the people looked terribly cold. They got on the train and went away. My sister and I discovered we were crying. It wasn't the wind that was making us cry. It was such a sad sight," recalls 81-year-old LaDonna Zall, one of our treasured board members who saw the last train of incarcerated leave Heart Mountain in 1945. A pipeliner's daughter and our honorary Nisei, she remembers the camp's eight-foot fence and guard towers and continues to advocate for this historic site's preservation. "It was a pretty miserable thing to do to people. I want people to know about it so that it never happens again."

A compassionate witness like LaDonna helps many Japanese Americans — who emerged from their unjust imprisonment during World War II feeling ashamed—talk about their experiences in a supportive environment.

That support was everywhere during this past summer's Pilgrimage, which celebrated the fifth anniversary of the Interpretive Center's grand opening. During our first Multigenerational Forum held at the Northwest College Cody Center, more than 75 participants shared their experiences of the incarceration. Many thanks to our fellow co-chairs, Advisory Council Member Dr. Amy Iwasaki Mass and Secretary Aura Matsumura Newlin. In addition, a shout out goes to our newest board member, Hanako Wakatsuki, who helped guide us through this memorable experience.

We've been lucky to have many compassionate witnesses guide us through the establishment and growth of this Foundation. They include Alan Simpson and his brother and HMWF Board Member Pete, Vice-Chair Doug Nelson, and, most recently, Pilgrimage keynote speaker and "Valley of the Heart" playwright Luis Valdez. Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Jeff MacIntyre, who

documented the Heart Mountain journey, and our longtime supporter Margot Walk, also provided tremendous emotional support and compassion.

Executive Director Brian Liesinger, who came to us with lasting ties to Heart Mountain, has also become one of those individuals we esteem as a compassionate witness. When his World War II veteran grandparents acquired rights to collect materials from the camp, they crafted their homestead from one of the hospital buildings. They also rescued the Heart Mountain school bell, which was donated to our Foundation years later and foreshadowed Brian's arrival. His dedicated service to the Foundation since early 2013 made us stronger in every way, so it's with sadness that I report that Brian will be stepping down from his role effective November 15 to relocate to Wisconsin with his wife, Emelee



Shirley Ann Higuchi

Volden, who has recently accepted a leadership position with the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

We have celebrated many milestones with Brian and Emelee, including their marriage and the birth of their first child, Vivian, in May 2014. From crawling to taking her first steps, we've seen her grow up within our Heart Mountain family and will always remember her laughing and running on the pathway outside our world-class Interpretive Center.

The magic of telecommuting means Brian will be able to serve as an active operations consultant until his successor is named. The Board will rely on Brian's expertise as it launches a national search for a new executive. We're also lucky to have a strong staff who carry with the daily activities of the Interpretive Center and ensure the Foundation's initiatives continue to progress.

Brian's tenure is stuffed with accomplishment, including the return of a Heart Mountain barrack to its original site, an achievement that earned the

HMWF a Leadership in History Award from the American Association for State and Local History. He also brought in more than \$500,000 in grants to facilitate new programs, preserve buildings and create special exhibitions. He has fostered partnerships with the National Park Service, the Japanese American National Museum, the Wyoming Humanities Council and the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office. Thank you, Brian, for all you have done to advance our mission and your continued commitment to help us in the future. Best wishes to you, Emelee and Vivian.

For those who have questions about the transition or about the national search for Brian's replacement, please contact Helen Yoshida at [heleny@heartmountain.org](mailto:heleny@heartmountain.org).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shirley Ann Higuchi".

## HEART MOUNTAIN WYOMING FOUNDATION

### Honorary Advisors

Norman Y. Mineta  
*Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation*  
Alan K. Simpson  
*U.S. Senator (ret.)*

### Board of Directors

Shirley Ann Higuchi, *Chair*  
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Darrell Kunitomi	Shigeru Yabu
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Allyson Nakamoto	Kathleen Saito Yuille
R. Dana Ono	LaDonna Zall

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Brian Liesinger, *Executive Director*  
Darlene Bos, *Marketing & Development Manager*  
Claire Cella, *Programming & Communications Coordinator*  
Danielle Constein, *Operations Manager*  
Dakota Russell, *Museum Manager*  
Helen Yoshida, *Executive Assistant to the Chair*  
Rod Liesinger, *Facilities Manager*  
Sharyl McDowell, *Guest Services*  
Anna Clifton, *Guest Services*



# *Daiji ni Shinasai:* Executive Director Brian A. Liesinger

It is with bittersweetness that I write this departure column for the *Kokoro Kara* newsletter. Life has an odd way of presenting opportunities. Finding my way back to Wyoming in 2013, I discovered an incredibly rare one to serve Heart Mountain. Now there is an opportunity in the form of a leadership position for my wife, Emelee Volden, in Wisconsin.

Unfortunately, this comes at the expense of what has become a vocation that has enriched me personally, professionally, intellectually and spiritually beyond my expectations.

I won't call this a resignation and prefer to call it a "retirement" from this role. I cannot remove my passion for this place and for this work any more than I could remove Heart Mountain itself from Wyoming. I have been inspired by a tremendous group of people: board members, advisory council members, former incarcerated, colleagues, community members—some of whom have been at this for decades. We have been embraced and supported widely due to this committed network, as well as by our donors, grantors, members, friends and families.

So while this is bittersweet, I cannot believe my good fortune to have had the opportunity to contribute to something so meaningful that it makes my departure so difficult. I have nothing but gratitude for the Heart Mountain Board for giving me the greatest professional experiences of my career so far, allowing me to preserve the site and connect with many of you.

A few of the most profound points of connection were made over the past few months. In September, I had the great privilege of attending the Heart Mountain Reunion in Montebello, California. The reunion came only a few months after our annual Pilgrimage in Wyoming. One thing that struck me, in addition to the warm fellowship I experienced at both events, was how energized the people—many of whom are former incarcerated—made me feel. I had formed the habit of calling them

"living history," but given their apparent energy, it might be more accurate to say "animated" or "exuberant" history.

In Wyoming we use that energy to preserve the site and educate the public. As we close out five years of operation of the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center and 20 years since the formation of the HMWF, I wanted to provide an update on how that energy has been fueling our current efforts:

The Heart Mountain barrack we returned to the site last year is in line for structural repairs. It has already been stripped of a web of electrical wires. Soon, we will be putting a new roof on to guard it against the harsh Wyoming weather.

The root cellar stabilization project is also underway. Structural architects and engineers who specialize in historic timber structures have prepared their recommendations to provide a solid game plan

for preservation. As is always the case with major projects, we now have to fund it. I am confident, given our past successes, that we will be able to do this and start paving the way for public access to the root cellar so people can witness for themselves the remarkable structure.

Behind the scenes, we are organizing and cataloging our cornerstone photographic collection from Yoshio Okumoto, in preparation for an exhibition of his work. Before being sent to Heart Mountain, Okumoto worked as a lab tech at Stanford. At Heart Mountain, he found he had a skill with photography. (Read more about this on page 8.)

While we have done some work to bring the Heart Mountain resisters' story to light, we will make large strides in this effort over the next few years. A recent Japanese American Confinement Site grant will allow us to build off of another cornerstone collection: the Frank Emi collection. We have boxes of Emi's records, videos and photographs to draw the resister story out through his eyes. This collection has already been catalogued and organized.

(Read more about this on page 8.)

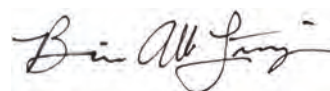
Last, but not least, we are making a concerted effort to collect and preserve Heart Mountain artifacts. The Interpretive Center opened with a strong collection, thanks to many people far and wide who entrusted items to the HMWF. But we know there is much more out there in garages, basements, attics and boxes. We have the facilities and professional staff to care for these items and to bring the context and narrative needed to draw out their greatest value for future generations. So I make this appeal to you, should you be hanging on to Heart Mountain items that will enrich the public understanding of Heart Mountain history: please consider entrusting them to us for preservation.

Continuing alongside all other projects is a constant commitment to growing an endowment that will, with your help, reach our targeted initial goal of \$2 million. This permanent fund is dedicated toward sustaining the operation of the Interpretive Center.

There is an old-school Japanese phrase that I like because it is similar to something my non-Japanese parents and grandparents also told me: if you truly value something, then "*daiji ni shinasai*." That is: if you value it, you must take care of it.

With the many projects the HMWF has contributed to, we have engaged the larger public in recognizing the value of this sacred place. Now, it is up to all of us to take care of it. It is our shared legacy, as a chapter of American history that affects us all. Heart Mountain is much more than a historic site, and it must outlive us all. I have had the fortune of being not only a "compassionate witness" but also a compassionate actor, with the privilege of a hands-on contribution to this goal.

If I have done my job well, my tenure here will represent a tiny dot on a long timeline of Heart Mountain success. Even still, it has been the groundwork laid by all of our most dedicated supporters and the many former incarcerated in these early years who have empowered us to do all that we have and put us in a position to carry it forward. We will continue to ask for your support and guidance, and I will always be grateful.



Brian A. Liesinger

# PILGRIMAGE

## *The 2016 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage Celebrates with a Song of America*

By Claire Cella

“The best yet” is how attendees have been describing the 2016 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage, which took place in Wyoming on July 29-30. Over the course of two days, the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation (HMWF) welcomed over 250 former Japanese American World War II incarcerated, their families and friends, HMWF leadership, distinguished public and political figures, and local community members to the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center. As it does every year, the event served as a vital and vibrant reunion to remember the three-plus years this tract of land served as a prison to over 14,000 Japanese Americans and to honor the lives of the people who lived through it. But this year also included the simultaneous celebration of a number of anniversaries important to the HMWF’s creation and the continuance of its mission and vision.

A highlight of the program on Friday, July 29 was a Multigenerational Forum held at the Northwest College Cody Center, where HMWF Chair Shirley Ann Higuchi, Advisory Council Member Amy Iwasaki Mass and Secretary Aura Newlin facilitated an open discussion about the Japanese American incarceration experience and its impact across generations.

Throughout the day in a conference room nearby, five high school students—Carolyn Hoover, Reed Leventis, Julia Shin, Halle Sousa and Connor Yu—selected by the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF) worked diligently on digital storytelling projects. They were part of an intensive two-day workshop that was facilitated by NJAMF, HMWF and Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Jeff MacIntyre of Content Media Group. On Thursday, the students began their work at the Interpretive Center—under the guidance and assistance of MacIntyre and teaching assistants Vanessa Yuille and Hana Maruyama—and learned how to weave personal messages with historic memory to produce insightful films to be screened at

the dinner banquet.

The evening program commenced with an introduction from HMWF Executive Director Brian Liesinger and Higuchi. They also welcomed to the stage Consul General Makoto Ito, HMWF Board Member Darrell

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*Valdez believes this country is a great crossroads of the world, but that it needs to celebrate its diversity. And for that reason, Heart Mountain is a necessity; to see Heart Mountain as a place where we understand America.*

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Kunitomi and Judge Margaret Fujioka to give remarks. MacIntyre followed to introduce the Digital Storytelling Workshop and the participating students—and to screen their films for the first time. Each film was a digital collage of archival images, music and spoken narratives that created heartwarming yet stirring chronicles of current generational perspectives on Japanese American incarceration in five different WRA “Relocation Centers.”

Following the films, Liesinger asked the Kuwahara family to join him on stage. The Kuwaharas, descendants of former Heart Mountain incarcerated Bob Kuwahara and Julia Suski, announced they would be making a generous gift of \$5,000 to the Center.

In good spirits, attendees then crossed the hall to enjoy a dessert reception and conclude the evening’s activities with a silent auction of vintage collectibles and authentic artworks from Japan.

On Saturday, July 30, attendees once again gathered together, this time for the opening ceremony at the Interpretive Center. The ceremony began with a flag raising and the Pledge of Allegiance led by a local Boy Scout troop. Liesinger, Higuchi and HMWF Vice-Chair Douglas Nelson then addressed the crowd.

Liesinger shared a letter received in the mail this past summer, signed only by “John.” The letter said, “Why build a museum for people who tried to kill us all and still are?” He underscored that it is exactly this reason that we need this museum: for the purpose of education and empowerment.



Photo by Claire Cella



"It is through this work that compassionate witnesses are born and nurtured," added Higuchi. She pointed to the examples of influential people to the Foundation and the continuation of the HMWF mission like Alan Simpson, Nelson, and LaDonna Zall—people who although not of Japanese ancestry, feel a compassion and a connection strong enough to be able to tell the Japanese American story to others.

NJAMF Chair Cal Shintani spoke of

***"This is an American story, not just a Japanese American story."***

***—Cal Shintani***

the unity of the story of Heart Mountain, saying, "This is an American story, not just a Japanese American story."

Luis Valdez, the acclaimed playwright and the program's keynote speaker, would continue this sentiment, sharing his story of adversity and of America. Valdez's most recent play "Valley of the Heart" takes place partly at Heart Mountain and tells the love story between a Mexican man and a Japanese woman living in California during World War II. On the Interpretive Center stage, Valdez told his own story of living as a migrant farm worker with his family in San Joaquin Valley, and how his family worked on the vacated ranch of an incarcerated Japanese American family. In this way, Valdez said, he became a compassionate witness at a young age, and in becoming a storyteller, he felt it was his duty to tell the story of America, and to make the connections between the shared histories of not only Japanese and Mexican Americans, but all Americans. Valdez believes this country is a great crossroads of the world, but that it needs to celebrate

its diversity. And for that reason, Heart Mountain is a necessity; to see Heart Mountain as a place where we understand America.

Following the opening ceremony, attendees viewed presentations by Gabriel Tajima-Peña and his mother, Rene Tajima-Peña, in which Gabriel discussed and demonstrated his Minecraft computer game project "Heart Mountain 3.0." Attendees, both young and old, were invited to play the game following the presentation. The presentation provided a powerful demonstration of the potential of a new generation's creative interaction with history.

Attendees also viewed the exhibits—including "The Fabric of Memory," a textile art exhibit that had been on display since early spring, along with the release of a book commemorating the exhibit and the artists. Also on view was the newly unveiled exhibit, "The Power of Place," which depicts a series of milestones and physical features crucial to the HMWF's evolution over the past 20 years. In 2016, the HMWF celebrates five years of successful operation of the Interpretive Center, 10 years since Heart Mountain's National Historic Landmark designation, and 20 years since the foundation of the HMWF.

*The Pilgrimage was sponsored by Blair Hotels, Party Time Plus, The Cody Enterprise, Powell Tribune, Wyoming Financial Insurance—Powell, Keele Sanitation, BPO Elks Lodge No. 1611, and the Cody*



Alameda County Superior Court Judge Margaret Fujioka and the Executive Director of the Fred T. Korematsu Institute, Karen Korematsu, pause for a photo at the July 29 evening program.



HMWF Chair, Shirley Ann Higuchi, addresses the gathered visitors at the Pilgrimage's opening ceremony at the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center on July 30.



Above: Julia Harumi Mass and her children, Emiko and Ryoji Martinez-Mass, take a picture in front of Heart Mountain. Opposite Page: Acclaimed playwright Luis Valdez gives a keynote address during the Pilgrimage's opening ceremony.

# SAVE *the* DATE

## 2017 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage

Fri., July 28 &  
Sat., July 29

Cody & Powell, Wyo.



Emily Erickson, the great granddaughter of former incarcerated Kiyoko Kushino, reflects on her experience at the 2016 Pilgrimage.

Wednesday, August 12, 1942, brought the first trains from the West. Sixty days of building for three years of living through hot, drowning dust storms, brutally cold winters and confinement by limits of a barbed wire fence.

It's not the story of Heart Mountain. It's the 14,025 stories of Heart Mountain. It's not the story of Family #32166, it's the story of Great Grandma Kay, Great Uncle Dick and my dear Grandpa Norm.

73 years, 11 months and 19 days later from that infamous Wednesday in August, families and compassionate witnesses of those who were interned gathered back at the camp to remember. As we pulled up in our rental car, chills ran down my arms although the heat of the sun was beating down on us. In the distance, I could see Heart Mountain keeping an eye on us. Only Heart Mountain had seen the first train arriving 73 years ago.

We came together underneath the shade at the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center. We started the day off by raising the American flag and saying the Pledge of Allegiance together.

I was surrounded by proud, loyal and dedicated Americans.

That morning, different perspectives came together to keep the legacy of Heart Mountain alive. How can we respect those who lived it? How can we make sure it never happens again? Let us all be compassionate witnesses. It's the little stories that make up the big stories. It's the small memories that fill in the spaces between the facts.

The barracks were small tarpaper stalls that could be built in 58 minutes. There were 468 of them within 20 blocks at Heart Mountain. Each apartment in the barracks came with a stove, a light fixture and some army cots for sleeping. Now, the remaining barracks serve on farm lands. Then, it was where my Great Uncle Dick learned how to light a coal stove for the first time. 23-9-F was the Kushino's address for three years.

The camp was surrounded by barbed wire fencing. This was built not to keep

# A GOSEI'S PERSPECTIVE

people out, but to keep people in. Now it's gone, only photographs and words in a museum keeping the fence alive. Then, it was where my Grandpa and Great Uncle would crawl underneath to escape to the river for a night, away from the barracks and close quarters and guards. They would spend the night camping underneath the stars, sharing stories. They didn't dare come back at night or go into town, for fear of being shot. But they would take breaks

from camp life and experience the other side of the barbed wire fence. They were just 9 and 11 years old, and needed space to adventure, just like all kids.

Little creatures, birds and bugs are scattered around the camp. Now, they are just little critters. Then, there was little Maggie, the talking magpie, one of Shig Yabu's many pets in camp. Little Maggie has helped Shig share his stories of living in camp to this day. Heart Mountain is built on memories, not just statistics.

Being at the Pilgrimage was moving and educational. For all I had researched and read growing up, there was still so much to learn. I was surrounded by empowered, strong and fearless Americans. Every inch of camp could have been a seed for revenge and bitterness, but not one seed had been planted.

Remember that this happened. Remember that ignorance can result in misplaced fear. Remember that these were humans, family members and American citizens who were imprisoned, not just prisoners. Learn their stories and let their legacy live on.

Today it is not about sharing the stories for revenge, it's about sharing the stories for hope, heart, humanity, healing and restoration.



*Photos courtesy of Richard Kushino*

*Top:* Emily Erickson, Richard Kushino's grand-niece. *Above (L-R):* Richard Kushino, a former Heart Mountain incarcerated, talks with the HMWF's Marketing and Development manager Darlene Bos in the Center's original barrack during the 2016 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage. A total of 13 members of their extended family, spanning three generations, attended the Pilgrimage.

The following is the speech given by Douglas Nelson, Vice-Chair of the HMWF, at the opening ceremony of the 2016 Pilgrimage.

My name is Doug Nelson and I have been a member of the Heart Mountain Board of Directors for the last 15 years. Over that time I have frequently had the happy task of introducing our two esteemed “honorary advisors,” Secretary Norm Mineta and retired U.S. Senator Alan Simpson.

Unfortunately, Norm, who was with us here on Wednesday and Thursday, had to fly to L.A. to chair a special Board of Directors meeting of the Japanese American National Museum. Norm wanted to convey his sincerest regrets at not being here and his real disappointment at not being able to share remarks with his longtime and very special friend Alan Simpson.

As many of you know, Norm and Alan have been pals for more than 70 years, ever since they met at a Boy Scout jamboree held right here at the Heart Mountain camp in 1943. In every way, it has been an extraordinary and remarkable friendship. For starters, Norm and Al make up one of the most amusing and uproarious duos to appear together in public since Abbot and Costello passed away. I am not sure how Al will handle not having his straight man at his side, but I have a hunch he will manage.

But there is a far more extraordinary and inspiring side to the meaning of Al and Norm’s special friendship. It was a friendship that was born despite the barriers created by barbed wire and war-driven racial suspicions and hatred. And it was a friendship that grew, deepened and endured to this day, despite vast differences in their family cultures, in their childhood circumstances, in their hometown geography, in their temperaments, in their partisan political loyalties, in their height, and, of course, in their ancestry and ethnicity. But despite all of this, I dare you to find two better, closer, more loving old pals than Al and Norm.

To all of us involved with Heart Mountain, Norm and Al’s enduring bond symbolizes—perhaps better than anything

# A PILGRIMAGE TRIBUTE TO ALAN K. SIMPSON

else—the hope, the heart, the humanity, the healing and the redemption that the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation seeks to convey to all of those who listen to the stories we are trying to preserve. It is also a friendship that exemplifies what America means, when America is at its best.

Let me close this long-winded introduction with two quick and deadly serious observations about Senator Simpson. First, I believe him to be, despite our personal political differences, nothing less than one of the wisest, wittiest, best informed, most honest, most principled, most patriotic, most courageous, most farseeing and most honorable men to grace our nation’s public life in the last half century. I mean that.

And, closer to home, let me say a final word about what Al and his wife Ann

and his brother Pete have meant to Heart Mountain. We are today celebrating the fifth anniversary of our beautiful Interpretive Center and the 20th anniversary of our intrepid little Foundation. We have reached these milestone achievements thanks to

the commitment, vision, and generosity of literally hundreds, probably now thousands, of Japanese Americans and white Americans who have come together to envision, dream, work, volunteer, donate, support, finance and build something really important at this sacred place. But for

all that we together have done, I want everyone to know what I know: We would not have gotten where we are today without the 20 years of steadfast, unwavering, and courageous presence, prestige, support, advocacy and advice of Alan K. Simpson and his extraordinary family.

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*We would not have gotten where we are today without the 20 years of steadfast, unwavering, and courageous presence, prestige, support, advocacy and advice of Alan K. Simpson and his extraordinary family.*

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*—Douglas Nelson*



Photo by Claire Cella

HMWF Board Member Pete Simpson, Ann Simpson and HMWF Honorary Advisor Alan K. Simpson at the 2016 Pilgrimage dessert reception on July 29.



# The Walk Family: At the Heart of Generosity

By Claire Cella

According to Margot Walk, it is difficult to pinpoint a single reason why her family and their Foundation—the Marguerite A. Walk Foundation—has continued to give generously to the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation (HMWF) for years. Instead, said Margot, “It is something like a snowball.”

First was the connection to her father’s work. Margot, and her younger sister Cynthia, are the daughters of the late Maurice Walk, a prestigious lawyer from Chicago. In 1942, the War Relocation Authority (WRA) sought Maurice for his legal expertise to write briefs to support their planned detention policies for 120,000 Japanese Americans living on the West Coast. However, shortly after assuming the position, Maurice began to question the constitutionality of forced removal and urged his colleagues to reconsider the dangers of the policy. When it was apparent that the WRA would go through with their plans, Maurice resigned in an act of protest in 1943. The family left Washington D.C., returned to Chicago, and Maurice quietly resumed his law practice.

As an infant at the time, Margot had no memory of these events. It was only later, when she began studying American history, that she would come to ask and learn about her father’s stand. “It was just my father being my father,” Margot said. “Another example of him doing what he thought was the right thing, even if it wasn’t always the easy thing.”

Margot also discovered that her family had employed two Japanese American women—Alice and Toki—in their Chicago home, which nurtured the family’s deep respect for Japanese Americans. “We admire that, instead of punching back, they stuck it out and reintegrated into American society and contributed enormously,” Margot said. “This is an example of courage

and resilience.”

“So, there’s all these little bits of things that I have in my memory,” she continued. “And then there were these really admirable local people that I met.” Margot recalled her first interaction with Ann Noble, an instrumental figure in the early creation of the HMWF, in Jackson, Wyoming, in the mid-2000s. Margot had called Wyoming home since 1974, after her late

The Walks were eager to become involved. Margot said that after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, they saw how easy it was for the country to repeat mistakes, and they wanted to increase the possibility that the country would make the right decision if a similar situation ever arose.

“To my mother, my sister and myself, we thought this was a project where we could make a significant difference,” Margot said.

They knew the HMWF would make sure the project succeeded and that it would welcome a great number of visitors to this part of the country.

And so, the Walks made a crucial donation toward the \$5 million capital campaign needed to build and open the now award-winning Interpretive Center. Since the grand opening in 2011, the Walks have attended various HMWF gatherings and Heart Mountain Pilgrimages. At these events, Margot has connected with many former incarcerated, and

said these experiences have reinforced her commitment to Heart Mountain.

She was particularly touched by Shirley Ann Higuchi’s story, whose parents had wanted to shield Shirley from the burden of their history. Despite this, Shirley understood what her mother would want, and with her father’s help, made it happen, Margot said. “Shirley has a wonderful heritage of filial respect and devotion that shines through.”

The Walk family has continued to give over the years, and has pledged over \$500,000 to the Memory and Justice Endowment Fund—a critical provision to the HMWF’s ability to carry out and fulfill its mission in years to come. Without the Center, the Walks believed this important history and its lessons for the future would be forgotten. “Once something has been done, that creates a little path,” she said. “But, how do we make a new path? That’s what the Center is all about, isn’t it? It invites this question.”



Photo courtesy of Brian Smyer

Cynthia Walk, HMWF Vice-Chair Douglas Nelson, Margot Walk, HMWF Executive Director Brian Liesinger, HMWF Chair Shirley Ann Higuchi, and Dr. William I. Higuchi at Dr. Higuchi’s birthday celebration in Salt Lake City in March 2016.

husband, Maestro Ling Tung, was invited to guest conduct at the Grand Teton Music Festival—then known as the Jackson Hole Fine Arts Foundation—in 1967. Margot has been involved with the Festival for 50 years, helping alongside her husband to build a concert hall in Teton Village and expand the event into the notable summer-long classical music series it is today. Wyoming has become very important to Margot, especially with these two projects in her life.

Margot described Ann as a lively and delightful woman who introduced her to the Heart Mountain story and its importance to Wyoming’s history and broader national awareness. Margot also met former HMWF Board Member and now Advisory Council Member Eric Muller, then a law professor at the University of Wyoming. Together, Eric and Ann discussed the possibility of an education center at the Heart Mountain site to serve as a cautionary reminder of what had happened.



# Incarceration *in* Focus

*Above (L-R): A photograph taken by Yoshio Okumoto of the "Heart Mountain Relocation Center" appears next to one of Ansel Adams' photographs of the "Manzanar War Relocation Center." Both depict Japanese American incarcerated walking among the camp barracks with stark and barren mountain landscapes looming in the background.*

***In the spring of 2017, the HMWF will feature a special exhibition providing a comparative look at the photographic visions of two very different men: Ansel Adams and Yoshio Okumoto.***

By Darlene Bos

On September 10, 1942 the "Heart Mountain Relocation Center" gained an incarcerated who would change the way we view the past. On that day, Yoshio Okumoto stepped off the train that deposited incarcerated on the high desert between Cody and Powell, and into history. And now, 74 years later, the HMWF will celebrate this remarkable man and the events he documented with a special exhibition at the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center.

Okumoto was imprisoned at Heart Mountain until January 16, 1945. A bachelor whose family lived in Hawaii, Okumoto shared living quarters with three other bachelors in unit 5B, block 29. Where the 39-year-old Stanford graduate acquired a camera and where he got his film developed, we do not yet know. What we do know is his collection of over 1,300 photographs captured life in camp, illuminating the place, the people and their every day lives.

"We always knew him as Oku," said Julie Kawakami. Her mother Grace was a close friend of Okumoto's and is the one who donated his collection to Heart Mountain in 2010. "Mom would be so proud to know that the work she put into organizing his things and finding homes for them has led to this."

For incarceration historians familiar

with Manzanar in California, these remarkable black and white photos call to mind another photographer, one far more famous: Ansel Adams. Adams is perhaps the most well-known American photographer of all time, with an unparalleled technical mastery of the craft. His photos of Manzanar are considered a crucial collection documenting Japanese American incarceration.

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***"This exhibit will shed light on a nationally-significant historic event that shaped the physical and social landscape of Wyoming and beyond."***

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Adams took his photographs as a free man, a man curious about incarceration. Adams already was a well-known photographer when he visited the "Manzanar War Relocation Center" on invitation from the camp's director. He knew his medium and his equipment well. However, his thoughts, feelings and viewpoint are much debated and may never truly be understood. What we have is what he captured through the lens of his camera, and the book he published on that experience titled "Born Free and Equal."

Okumoto is much more of a mystery. He left behind no heirs to give insight into his experience. He left no publications. How he felt about his incarceration, we cannot say. Nor do we know the quality of his equipment and how he learned to shoot and develop film. We can only gaze at the pictures in his astounding collection and make our own conclusions.

Coming in spring 2017, the HMWF will

explore the photographic visions of two men, with very different lives. One was famous and free. The other was trapped behind barbed wire and largely unknown. Both used the same medium to explore how this moment in U.S. history looked to the people who lived through it.

"This exhibit will bring a unique and interesting angle at which to approach the well-known Adams images, while also bringing attention to the incredible work of Yoshio Okumoto," said HMWF Executive Director Brian Liesinger. "This exhibit will shed light on a nationally-significant historic event that shaped the physical and social landscape of Wyoming and beyond."

This one-of-a-kind exhibit is funded in part by a grant from the Wyoming Arts Council. With their support, the HMWF will present an art exhibition that examines the works of a world-renowned artist alongside an unknown local to visitors to the Interpretive Center. Following its residence at the Center, the exhibit will be offered as a traveling exhibition for institutions across the country.

"I think Oku would be thrilled," Grace's son Mel Kawakami said, "to know that his photographs are being displayed side by side with those of Ansel Adams."



*Supported in part by the Wyoming Arts Council through funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.*

# Hanako Wakatsuki Joins the Heart Mountain Board of Directors

By Claire Cella

In July 2016, the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation (HMWF) welcomed another member to its now 18-member Board of Directors: Hanako Wakatsuki.

Hanako is the Education Specialist at U.S. Navy Seabee Museum in Port Hueneme, California, and a Regional Advisor for the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. But beyond Hanako's professional experience in museums and her interest in Asian American issues, her relation to the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans is familial. Her grandparents, Woodrow and Chizuye Wakatsuki, were incarcerated at Manzanar, along with her aunts, Patty Kosmo and JoAnne Corbin, and uncles, George Wakatsuki and Woody Wakatsuki, Jr. Her father, Steven Wakatsuki, was born in 1948, after the family left Manzanar.

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*"I'm excited to bring my passion and my enthusiasm to Heart Mountain, and I hope that my skill set will help enable the HMWF to create a strategic management plan for the future so that we can get it to a broader audience."*

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Growing up, Hanako was always aware of her family's experience, even if they did not talk about it much. Her history was brought to the fore after her great-aunt and uncle, Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and James Houston, wrote "Farewell to Manzanar" in 1973. The widely-read novel, which is still used in thousands of classrooms in California and elsewhere, was how Hanako became involved in the movement. It was at Boise State University (BSU) in 2008 when she received a phone call from the former dean, Robert Sims. He had recognized her last name and wanted to ask about her interest in becoming involved in the Friends of Minidoka—a nonprofit organization that educates the public about the incarceration of Japanese Americans by upholding their legacy and working with the National Park Service (NPS) to restore the Minidoka Internment National Historic Site. Hanako joined their Board of Directors in January 2009, and began working with the NPS on development and preservation of the site.

Hanako said she is compelled to continue this work because of the societal parallels she sees returning today: xenophobia, war hysteria, racism and immigration issues. Growing up in Boise, Idaho, Hanako said she had to fight for her Asian identity, which made her extremely proud of her heritage. At BSU, Hanako earned both a Bachelor of Arts in History as well as a Bachelor of Science in Political Science with an emphasis in International



Relations in 2008. She also minored in Japanese Studies. In 2014, she earned a Master of Science in Museum Studies from Johns Hopkins University, and chose to pursue work in public history. She worked for the Idaho State Historical Society for five years, as well as with the NPS at the Tule Lake Unit WWII Valor and the Pacific National Monument, prior to her move to the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum in 2014. In all of her roles, she held key management positions and helped liaison with the Japanese American community.

In 2016, HMWF Chair Shirley Ann Higuchi asked Hanako if she was interested in joining the HMWF Board as well. She and Higuchi had met at a Heart Mountain Pilgrimage a few years prior. "Since our first meeting, I have seen how instrumental she is to engaging younger generations with this story and ensuring this part of our nation's history is not forgotten," said Higuchi.

Hanako has attended every Heart Mountain Pilgrimage, except one, and enjoys touring the sites, meeting new people and hearing their stories. "I'm excited to bring my passion and my enthusiasm to Heart Mountain," she said, "and I hope that my skill set will help enable the HMWF to create a strategic management plan for the future so that we can get it to a broader audience."



# A YEAR FOR GRANTS

## *Crucial Incoming Funding for HMWF Projects*

*By Darlene Bos*

In the past year, the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation (HMWF) received several grants to facilitate research, provide opportunities for the public to hear first-hand experiences of former incarcerated, create dynamic new exhibits, educate school children about the historical significance of Heart Mountain and bring new visitors to the Interpretive Center.

The Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) grant program has helped fund many HMWF projects over the past five years. In the 2016 granting cycle they provided funding for a ground-breaking project that will carry forth comprehensive research on the Draft Resister movement at the “Heart Mountain Relocation Center.” This two-year project will establish the HMWF as the premier repository and knowledge center for the history of the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee and the Resister movement through: the development of collection holdings and subject matter expertise as well as the preservation of and online access to information, interpretation and select historic materials.

While the JACS grant will provide the opportunity for researchers to access significant materials stored in the Center’s archives, a 2016 Wyoming Arts Council grant will provide the public with the chance to see a remarkable set of photos that are being cared for in the archives. The exhibit is explored in depth on page 8.

These two grants further research and exhibitions at the Center and, with the addition of a third grant, enable the HMWF to educate—another component of the Foundation’s mission. The Wyoming Humanities Council provided a grant for a program spanning the 2016–2017 school year, entitled “Heart Mountain: A Wyoming Civil Rights Story.” The program provides free field trips for all Wyoming school groups along with dynamic educational programming that emphasizes civil rights and liberties. The grant also provides funding for a former incarcerated to come to the Interpretive Center and give presentations to school groups and the general public.

Programming execution at the Center will be enhanced by the addition of the HMWF’s newest staff member, Dakota

Russell. Russell serves as museum manager, with oversight of programming, interpretation and facility maintenance. He will facilitate programming to help visitors connect to Heart Mountain’s meaning and its poignant place in history, in the present and in the future.

“I think it’s important to provide students with tours and activities that speak directly to them and their experience,” Russell says. “Interpretive sites are often kids’ first encounter with history beyond their home and classroom, and we have a responsibility to make that a meaningful encounter.”

Russell brings to Heart Mountain 15 years of experience as an interpreter with Missouri State Parks. As a member of the National Association for Interpretation (NAI) and an experienced interpretive presenter and planner, Russell utilizes his vast knowledge to make connections for visitors. He hopes to use his skills and experience to help the Heart Mountain story resonate with current and new audiences by creating special programs and exhibits that dig deeper into the history.

“I’m most interested in helping our visitors make an emotional connection,” Russell says. “We have an opportunity here to foster empathy, which there’s always room for more of in the world.”

Finally, all HMWF programs are assisted by a grant from the Park County Travel Council (PCTC). This crucial funding for marketing resources brings in new audiences from across the globe. “The PCTC grant allows us to get our message in front a larger audience,” says Marketing and Development Manager Darlene Bos. “With these funds we can bring in new visitors that will themselves become advocates for our Center and our story.”

The HMWF thanks these generous organizations for their invaluable support, along with all the funders who have provided the resources essential to the HMWF’s continued success, especially the those donors who contribute matching funds to the granted projects.



*Photo by Claire Cella*

Dakota Russell (far right), the HMWF’s newest staff member, speaks with fourth graders from Basin, Wyo. As museum manager, he will assist with day-to-day operations and executing the site’s interpretative plan.

# ADDING LAYERS: A Matsushige Family Story

By Claire Cella

It is impossible to capture the experience of an entire group of people in one museum, even for just a specific period in American history. With each person affected by the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans also comes thousands of perspectives, memories and emotions; the influence of years before; the consequences in years after; and the ripples that touch future generations.

The incarceration of Japanese Americans is layered, deep and nuanced—much like a donation we received from Vivian Matsushige, a Japanese American born at Heart Mountain. Inside the box she donated were photographs, documents and scrapbooks depicting the lives of her maternal aunt, Fumiko Shimizu, and her paternal uncle and aunt, Harris and Sumiko Matsushige—yet another layer to add to our collective understanding of this period in history.

Vivian, an only child, is one of the only living members of her family, out of a long list of grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles. She is the daughter of Asako Shimizu and Koji Matsushige, who were a young and recently-engaged couple when the bombing of Pearl Harbor occurred in 1941. At the time, the Shimizus and the Matsushiges both lived in the heart of Los Angeles' Little Tokyo. As both families prepared for the government-enforced relocation, her grandfather, Hiroshi Matsushige—who Vivian remembers as a natural-born leader (he would become a block manager at Heart Mountain)—suggested the two families report together to be placed in the same camp. The night before their departure, the Shimizus—Buntaro and Shima (her maternal grandparents), Asao (her uncle), Masako and Fumiko (her aunts)—spent the night at the Matsushige home with Hiroshi and Take (her paternal grandparents), Sumiko (her aunt) and Kenji and Harris (her uncles). The families were sent to “Pomona Assembly Center” in California and then transferred in 1942 to Heart Mountain.

Vivian's father, however, was not there.



LEFT: Asako holds six-month-old Vivian outside of their barrack apartment at Heart Mountain.



RIGHT: Vivian's parents, Koji and Asako, at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where Koji was sent for the duration of the war.

Koji was one of approximately 3,000 men of Japanese ancestry on the mainland who were enlisted in the U.S. Army prior to Pearl Harbor. He was drafted March 13, 1941, but shortly after the attack, was sent to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, for the duration of the war. Koji and the other Japanese American soldiers in service prior to Pearl Harbor represent a lesser-known story about military service and the state of uncertainty these soldiers lived through during World War II.

Shortly after President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, the U.S. Army either discharged these soldiers or stripped them of their ranks and weaponry and moved them to military bases in the country's interior. The latter was the case for Koji. While the War Department retained a large number of them in the army—predicting a manpower shortage during which they could be useful—these soldiers were excluded from combat training and sent into medical, quartermaster, or engineering corps. There, they were assigned menial tasks like latrine duty, lawn mowing or motor pool work. This was the common treatment for conscientious objectors, but these soldiers were not typical objectors.

While a small group went on record objecting to combat service, most pre-Pearl Harbor Japanese American servicemen had made no objections to combat.

At Fort Riley, Kansas, for instance, there were about 600 pre-Pearl Harbor servicemen. Once the government lifted the restriction on Japanese American service and formed the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, two-thirds of these men moved on to combat training at Fort Shelby, Mississippi. The remaining soldiers, many of whom were Kibei (educated in Japan but American-born), continued at Fort Riley with their tedious chores.

Fort Sill, where Koji was sent, eventually became a Department of Justice internment facility as well. In 1942, Fort Sill held approximately 700 Japanese Americans—most of whom were non-citizens. They were labeled trouble-makers and spies, despite the lack of evidence supporting these charges. Furthermore, there were a number of detained Japanese Americans, like Koji, who had the odd designation of being a soldier and an enemy alien at the same time.

Koji was discharged from the army in



November of 1945, and although he would never see battle, he was allowed to see—and marry—his fiancée Asako at Heart Mountain on December 23, 1942. Asako would join Koji in Oklahoma where she worked as a cleaning lady for the wives of Army Colonels. Upon learning she was pregnant, Asako stayed until her due date approached and then returned to Heart Mountain to have Vivian on November 23, 1944. After Koji was discharged in 1945, he picked up his family at Heart Mountain and headed to Cleveland.

When Heart Mountain closed in November 1945, the families dispersed. Buntaro and Shima Shimizu went back to Los Angeles with her aunt Masako. Her uncle Asao Shimizu found a job as a chick-sexer at a Pennsylvania poultry farm—a job in which he quickly and accurately determined of the sex of chicks. In the 1940s-50s, the profession was dominated by Japanese American Nisei who perfected the skill and could sort 800-1,200 chicks a day. After a successful career, Asao moved to Belgium, married Maria Van Overbeke and had a son, Raymo.

Vivian's uncle Harris enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in the 441st Counter Intelligence Corps. Detachment in Japan. In 1946, he returned to Los Angeles and worked in Hollywood. He was cast as an extra in the film "Go for Broke!" and Vivian says she has a picture of Harris standing with Van Johnson, the film's star. Her uncle

Kenji had left Heart Mountain early to work on farms in other states, and eventually married a Winnebago Sioux woman, Lucy Humphrey, from Nebraska.

Hiroshi and Take Matsushige moved to Cleveland, Ohio, along with her mother and her aunts Fumiko and Sumiko. Both of her aunts, then young women, worked as secretaries—and Sumiko actually worked for the War Relocation Authority in their Great Lakes Region. Vivian's father joined the family in Cleveland, and found a job with a manufacturing company, F.C. Russell Co. Vivian, then almost five years old, remembers it being a happy time, despite living in a small one-room house with six adults—almost like camp.

After five years in Cleveland, the family moved back to Los Angeles. Vivian attended Belmont High School and after graduation pursued a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). It was during her time at UCLA in the 1960s that she became involved in civil rights, the fight for social justice and the anti-war movement of the era—reacting to the subtle racism she experienced as an Asian American. At the time, Vivian was working for Pan American, using her Spanish skills as a reservations agent, before she returned to UCLA as one of the first employees of the newly-established Asian American Studies Center. In 1974, she entered the UCLA School of Social Work and graduated in

1976 with a Master of Social Work. She worked as a social worker for the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, a role she held for almost 35 years.

Vivian's parents passed away young, ten years apart—her mother at the age of 59 in 1976 and her father at the age of 69 in 1986. Her aunts and uncles have all also passed, except for her aunt Masako.

For years, Vivian has been the sole steward of her family's past and has inherited over eight boxes of artifacts. Often, it involved much pleading with her elders not to toss fading photographs, bound albums and worn documents into the trash. She's saved her family's relics from rubbish piles with the heartfelt belief that her family's story—which connects to so many others—needs to be heard and respected. She says many of her younger relatives know little about the family lineage and least of all their experiences in the 1940s. So in July, she generously passed along these artifacts and the responsibility of their care to the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center. Just like the glue that binds the photo albums and the scrapbooks together, she said her family's experience, although tragic, has been a binding force that has made the Japanese American community closer. "To this day," she says, "the first thing we ask each other when we meet is: what camp were you in?"



HMWF Collections

Members of the Japanese Union Church of Los Angeles were all sent to Heart Mountain during World War II. Vivian's grandfather, Hiroshi Matsushige, is in the third row on the right. Rev. Donald Toriumi, the church's minister immediately before evacuation, continued to lead the congregation while they were interned.

# Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation Seeking New Executive Director

With the upcoming departure of current Executive Director Brian Liesinger, the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation has begun preparations to name a successor to continue the momentum built by Liesinger and Stevan Leger before him.

"I've had the great privilege of working for a tremendous board of directors and with a great team of colleagues—all some of the finest people I have ever met," Liesinger said. "Together we have transformed a site of former injustice into a place of education and community engagement which is fostering a much deeper understanding of the World War II Japanese American incarceration experience. I will always be an enthusiastic teacher of this unique history and a passionate advocate for the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation."

Liesinger will formally step down from his position in mid-November, but will continue to serve the Foundation as a managing consultant until his successor is named. Liesinger has served the HMWF for more than three and a half years during which he advanced many of the HMWF's goals and expanded its vision.

Liesinger's decision to leave was motivated by a family opportunity involving career advancement for his wife, Emelee Volden, who accepted a key leadership position at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

During his tenure, Liesinger strengthened operations at the Interpretive

Center and assembled a dedicated staff. He oversaw steady growth in visitation to the National Historic Landmark site, and ushered in more than half a million dollars in grant funding to support new programs, building acquisition and preservation, and several high-profile special exhibitions.

"Brian has been one of those rare leaders who brought to his work at the Foundation both superb organizational skills and a profound personal commitment to our mission. He leaves us with a strong

Interpretive Center, implementing the HMWF's strategic plan and continuing to foster and steward key relationships.

Since the opening of the Interpretive Center in 2011, more than 70,000 people have visited the site that has won widespread critical acclaim for its depictions of the wartime experiences of Japanese Americans unjustly incarcerated at Heart Mountain.

Prior to Liesinger's tenure, Leger served as executive director for two crucial years,

overseeing the final construction of the Interpretive Center and laying a financial foundation for the HMWF.

The board will soon launch a search for a new executive director. In the meantime, activity will continue as usual at the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center, including a new exhibit entitled "The Power of Place," which explores the evolution of the historic site over the past 20 years.

In early 2017, the Interpretive Center will open a special exhibition of the photography of Heart Mountain incarcerated Yoshio Okumoto. The

exhibit, funded in part by the Wyoming Arts Council, will compare photographs of daily life at Heart Mountain to those of the famed photographer Ansel Adams taken at Manzanar.

Persons interested in the position can send their resumes and a cover letter via email to Helen Yoshida at [heleny@heartmountain.org](mailto:heleny@heartmountain.org).



*Photo by Claire Cella*

Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation Executive Director Brian Liesinger speaks while snapping a photo of the crowd at the 2016 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage. The HMWF is seeking his replacement to lead the organization forward.

foundation for continued growth and success," said Shirley Ann Higuchi, Chair of the HMWF.

Looking ahead, the HMWF is actively pursuing a qualified candidate to fill the executive director role. A formal job announcement will be forthcoming on the HMWF website.

The new executive director will be a full-time professional responsible for leading the day-to-day operations of the



# MEMBERSHIP MATTERS: Join Us or Renew Your Membership Today!

Member support is an ongoing commitment to the mission of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation and to the daily operations of the Interpretive Center. We love our members—not only because you give annually to the HMWF, but also because you allow us to form stronger relationships over time. “It is heartening to see the growing community, both locally and nationally,” says Danielle Constein, Operations Manager. “The members who support us are the backbone of our organization and the foundation of the HMWF, continually helping us to reach our goals.”

You may have received a membership card reminder in the mail. As we continue to grow our membership, we will continue following up. If you are already a member, we cannot thank you enough for your support. If not, we would love if you would accept this invitation to take a more active role in the Heart Mountain family. Your membership helps us educate the public and tell the stories of those families who were confined at Heart Mountain during WWII and of those who have been affected by the Japanese American incarceration experience. It also helps you become more connected to the Foundation. To become a member or renew online, go to [www.shopheartmountain.org](http://www.shopheartmountain.org) or use the form below and mail it in—feel free to enclose a note!

## Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation Membership Benefits

### General Membership Benefits

*(Valid for one year and renewable annually)*

- Free Admission to the Interpretive Center
- Subscription to the newsletter
- Free admission to exhibit receptions and previews
- 10% discount on store purchases, on site or online

### Senior/Student (\$30)

- General Membership Benefits for 1

### Individual (\$35)

- General Membership Benefits for 1

### Family/Dual Membership (\$60)

- General Membership Benefits for 2 adults at the same address and children or grandchildren under the age of 18

### Friend (\$100)

Family/Dual Membership Benefits plus:

- 2 one-time-use guest passes

### Contributing (\$250)

Family/Dual Membership Benefits plus:

- 5 one-time-use-guest passes

### Sustaining (\$500)

Family/Dual Membership Benefits plus:

- 10 one-time-use guest passes
- Discount on use of multi-purpose room (by appt.)

### Heart Mountain Circle (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Family/Dual Membership Benefits plus:

- 20 one-time-use guest passes
- Recognition on the Annual Giving Wall
- Discount on use of multi-purpose room (by appt.)
- Behind the scenes collections tours (by appt.)

### Kokoro Kara Circle (\$5,000 and above)

*(Kokoro Kara-from the heart)*

Heart Mountain Circle Membership Benefits plus:

- Any-time admission for 2 member-accompanied guests
- Free use of multi-purpose room (by appt.)



Photo: HMWF Okumoto Collection

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# Join us with Densho at JANM!

## Saturday, November 5, 2016 ♦ 4–6 p.m.

Both the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation and Densho will be at the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) for a Town Hall event. The HMWF will provide updates on the Foundation's work at the Heart Mountain site and Densho will discuss how to keep the WWII Japanese American incarceration story alive in a digital world.

*The event is free and open to the public. RSVP to Helen Yoshida: [heleny@heartmountain.org](mailto:heleny@heartmountain.org)*

