

Winter 2015

KOKORO KARA

HEART MOUNTAIN WYOMING FOUNDATION

"from our heart"



• **Coming Together: Heart Mountain Pilgrimage**

• *New Exhibit: "I Want the Wide American Earth"*



• **Journey of the Barracks**

Coming Together: Chair Shirley Ann Higuchi

When I think of the word “community,” I look to my Heart Mountain Family, including our friends, donors, supporters, and volunteers. The auction of the Japanese American artifacts this past spring, though a challenging time, has expanded and broadened our family into a thriving and unified network of groups and organizations. Every difficult predicament has a silver lining. For us, it is knowing who our friends are and how to overcome adversity. Just as our ancestors advocated, resisted, and fought for what they believed in, so did we, by coming together as a community to halt the public auction of those precious artifacts. In turn, that process helped deepen existing relationships and forge new ones.

That strength was amplified in our “All Camps” Pilgrimage this past August with poignant remarks by our advisors, former Secretary Norman Mineta and Senator Alan Simpson and special performances of hand-crafted poetry from featured artist, G Yamazawa. Former incarcerated and their families journeyed from all over the country to take part in this celebration, alongside many local friends who joined us. It was a pleasure to see the *Yonsei* and *Gosei*, many of whom are *hapa* (partially of Asian or Pacific Islander descent), engage and connect with their heritage and history. Representatives from all camps and stakeholder organizations enjoyed the Pilgrimage festivities and brought their expertise and insight to the Japanese American Confinement Site Consortium meeting on Friday, August 21.

During this Consortium meeting, we met to discuss various confinement site issues and work towards a strategy for a successful preservation plan. Representatives from the Amache Legacy Project, Friends of Manzanar, Friends of Minidoka, Friends of Topaz, Manzanar Com-

mittee, Topaz Museum and the Tule Lake Committee were present. They shared the table with representatives from stakeholder organizations such as the Ad Hoc Committee to Preserve Japanese American Heritage (Ad Hoc Committee), Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies, Densho, Embassy of Japan, Japanese American Citizens League, Japanese American National Museum, and the National Park Service. Together, we established a planning committee which will build each organizations’ capacity to preserve, protect, and interpret historic sites, artifacts, and experiences and highlight the social justice lessons resulting from the incarceration experience and the ways in which abuses of civil and human rights endanger the rights of all Americans.



Shirley Ann Higuchi

This fall, we continue to tell this multicultural American story to local and national communities through ongoing outreach and collaboration. We are honored that the Wyoming Psychological Association chose our Center as the site to host their annual fall conference entitled “Exploring Issues in Multicultural Diversity” in October. This conference featured Dr. Satsuki Ina’s film, *Children of the Camps* and a lecture by her addressing the history and cultural issues of incarceration and trauma within the Japanese American community. I met Dr. Ina, who was born at Tule Lake, through her involvement with the Ad Hoc Committee and our collective efforts to halt the auction. Her involvement in this conference was just one example of the many silver linings from the challenges of the public auction.

We also hosted a two-day seminar for grades 5–12 teachers at the Interpretive Center in October. The seminar, which was part of a professional development program, included presentations by HMWF Board Member Sam Mihara to educators

from across the state. The seminar focused on using Heart Mountain’s history to teach constitutional rights and civic issues.

In late October, we reached out to Penn State University and the Foxdale Village, a Quaker community, for two screenings of *The Legacy of Heart Mountain*. We discussed the experiences of former Heart Mountain incarcerated and its impact on their families today. The Quakers played a significant role of support by helping Japanese American college students transfer to other colleges before their forced removal. Moreover, they donated goods and aided our families in acquiring employment and temporary lodging outside of the camps.

As many of you may recall, the HMWF hosted the 26th annual meeting of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts at our Center in June 2014, which was attended by hundreds of judges, judicial staff, attorneys, and scholars to garner insight into the history of the unjust treatment of our people. Among them were Judges Anna Blackburne-Rigsby and Hiram Puig-Lugo. They brought the lessons they learned at Heart Mountain back to Washington, D.C., where I and HMWF Secretary, Aura Matsumura Newlin, will speak with them at a judicial training session in early December at the D.C. Courts.

We will also begin planning for the next Confinement Site Consortium meeting on May 13 in Washington D.C. We will continue to foster our relationships with key stakeholders and hope to bring others into the fold to work toward our collective goals of preservation, education, and public policy outreach. As 2015 draws to a close, we reflect on how our story has grown into a multi-faceted American story. With 2016 on the horizon, we look forward to strengthening our community by continuing to connect with other diverse groups and communities to ensure all rights and liberties are protected for future generations. We hope to see you next summer at the Heart Mountain Pilgrimage (July 29–30) so we can continue this dialogue towards a better America.

Shirley Ann Higuchi

True Stories: Executive Director Brian Liesinger

There is a new musical on Broadway about the World War II experience of Japanese Americans and, while I don't believe I'll have the chance to see it, I have been following the media attention it has garnered, browsing the web pages of *Allegiance*, The Musical, and checking their social media posts. We have even been contacted by one of their consultants in search of information.

Allegiance is a historical fiction set at Heart Mountain that aims to capture the tragedy of incarceration while tackling both the service in the military by incarcerated and the resisters of conscience who refused to accept draft orders until their rights as citizens were restored. The musical no doubt provides a compelling storyline executed by powerful voices—or else it would not have reached Broadway.

Through all my browsing online and on the musical's website, however, I have been disappointed by the absence of any historical or educational resources. Not a cursory Wikipedia link. Or a mention of Densho.org. There's no link to the Japanese American National Museum, where George Takei served on the Board of Trustees. Or even a mention of the fact that Heart Mountain, Wyoming, was a real place of confinement, where more than 14,000 people were forced to live during World War II.

Other forms of visual entertainment have chosen to take on the imprisonment of Japanese Americans during WWII for their subject matter. These have included *Hawaii Five-O* in 2013, the *Teen Wolf* TV series in 2014, and a recent episode of *Longmire*, a modern-day, pseudo-cowboy drama set in Wyoming. I have found these fictional renderings sometimes interesting, sometimes confusing, but almost always missing a valuable educational opportunity. While these productions have provided a considerable amount of entertainment using historical fiction, they fail to link the events they depict to the historical record. My concern is that without at least some effort on the part of producers to leverage

their productions to educate people, a significant opportunity to raise awareness about the realities of incarceration is sadly missed. Why not take a moment to shine a light on the real people and real events of incarceration? As much as I enjoy good fiction and good theatre, I maintain a personal belief that true stories are often even more compelling than fiction, no matter how "based on a true story" some historical fictions claim to be.



Brian Liesinger

Considering my vocation, I likely have a different perspective on historical fiction than most people—especially as it pertains to this profound, overlooked chapter of World War II history. When history is transformed for the screen and stage, my deepest hope is that the mainstream exposure leads to a greater awareness of it. If these productions, either via media campaigns, social media, or a simple epilogue screen at the end of their productions, would send viewers to a website or other resources, it would expose thousands more to this important history. Let's face it: even my local theaters, which charge roughly the same cost for movies as we do for a visit to our Interpretive Center, receive more visitors than we do. Netflix will always have more subscribers than we have members.

But if the service of the *Nisei* units in World War II or the resistance of the Fair Play Committee from Heart Mountain can be used to make successful theatre in New York City, we at least owe the patriotic Americans being depicted better recognition for standing up for their rights on a national stage, with the highest stakes. That includes the more than 800 from Heart Mountain who served to prove their loyalty. And it includes the more than 100 Heart Mountain draft resisters—63 of whom were sentenced to three years in federal penitentiaries for protesting the denial of their basic civil rights. There are thousands more people with thousands more true stories worth capturing and hearing.

I urge and encourage you, should you

have the occasion, to use pop culture references or depictions in fiction or even recent comments by politicians in reference to the World War II experience of Japanese Americans as an opportunity to better inform those around you. Tell a true story about that history. Or point them to the HMWF website (www.heartmountain.org) and to *The Legacy of Heart Mountain* (www.heartmountainfilm.com), an award-winning documentary capturing Heart Mountain stories so well.

Seek out former incarcerated and speak to them. Better yet: record them if you can. If you are a former incarcerated: preserve your memories for the future by recording your recollections.

Many are willing to speak about this history, like HMWF Board member Sam Mihara, who travels the country delivering presentations to as many people as possible. You are tremendous resources. Your stories run the gamut of the human experience and you truly are living history.

Brian Liesinger

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Annual Heart Mountain Pilgrimage Brings “All Camps” Together in Wyoming

Former Japanese American World War II incarcerated with their families, dignitaries, community leaders and locals came together in Wyoming on August 21–22 for the Heart Mountain Pilgrimage. With nearly 300 people in attendance, the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation (HMWF) organized the event this year to celebrate all of the Japanese American World War II confinement sites.

The events kicked off with an “All Camps” fair and dinner banquet in Cody on August 21. In addition, leadership from various confinement sites and other organizations working to advance the history of the World War II experiences of Japanese Americans across the country gathered to discuss the formation of a Confinement Site Consortium. The Consortium would include those active in educating the public about the World War II experience of Japanese Americans and the relevance of this history today. The group hopes to build an ongoing network of collaboration.

The dinner program on August 21 included the screening of a moving digital story produced by Hana Maruyama, staff at the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center and former staff for the HMWF. The digital story, a story form that weaves

images, spoken narrative and music, focuses on the experience of Hana’s grandfather who lost nearly everything when removed from his home and sent to Heart Mountain. Three generations of the Maruyama family were present, including Hana’s father, Warren, and her grandmother, Fudeko, who was incarcerated at Heart Mountain.

The opening ceremony on August 22 at the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center was highlighted by speeches delivered by former Secretary Norman Mineta and former U.S. Sen. Alan K. Simpson. In addition, remarks were given by HMWF Chair Shirley Ann Higuchi, HMWF Vice-Chair Douglas Nelson and HMWF Executive Director Brian Liesinger.

“We welcome those who come here on the pilgrimage. ‘Pilgrimage’ is usually a journey to a foreign land, but the journey of your forebears was a journey to a foreign place in your own land,” Sen. Simpson said.

Secretary Mineta reminded the crowd of the importance of not forgetting our past in order to avoid repeating mistakes. He recounted his service as Secretary of Transportation following the 9/11 attacks and the risk for racial profiling practices against Arab and Muslim Americans.

Liesinger spoke of the recent efforts to

preserve the Heart Mountain Root Cellar and the return of an original Heart Mountain barrack back to the National Historic Landmark site.

“We do our preservation with the power of place in mind. We move buildings, restore structures, and preserve artworks and artifacts knowing that their presence here will move visitors in a deep and meaningful way that could not be matched if they were located away from Heart Mountain,” said Liesinger. “More importantly, we collect the experiences, the stories, the lessons attached to these places and items. Only with those can we really tell the Heart Mountain story and the confinement history well. Only with those can we also stress the importance of preventing it from happening again.”

The opening ceremony was capped off with a moving performance by G Yamazawa, a spoken word artist and National Slam Poetry Champion. G wrote two unique pieces for the event. “This is for the heart, this is for the mountain, this is for the heart inside the mountain...” he said in his performance. “For the history that doesn’t repeat itself. For the last time the government said this is the last time. For the under-served, under-represented and



Photo by Stan Honda

under-estimated all living under sky and above ground.”

A viewing of the “new” barrack followed the performance, with a special barrack exhibit. It was moved 80 miles from the hamlet of Shell, Wyo., after a nation-wide grassroots fundraising campaign and with the help of two grants from the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund and the Foundation for the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming.

The Heart Mountain Root Cellar was dedicated to the daughters of Eiichi Edward Sakauye who, as the assistant superintendent of agriculture at Heart Mountain from 1943–45, oversaw the use of the cellar, as well as the agriculture program. His daughters, Carolyn Sakauye and Jane May were there to accept the dedication on his behalf.

The root cellar was donated to the HMWF by Dawn and Rudolph “Rudy” Jolovich Jr. Rudy’s parents homesteaded near Heart Mountain and came into possession of the root cellar in a subsequent acquisition of land many years ago.

“This is an extraordinary example of the kindness and generosity of our Park County, Wyoming, neighbors,” said HMWF Vice-Chair Nelson. “They have helped make everything we do possible.”

Visitors cannot yet enter the 300-foot structure, but the HMWF has secured two grants to conduct stabilization work beginning this fall.

On Saturday afternoon, incarcerated from Topaz (Hal Kato), Tule Lake (Hiroshi Shimizu), Heart Mountain (Fred Miyauchi), Poston (Frank Yamamoto) and the Tashme confinement camp in Canada (Ken Suzuki) spoke on an afternoon panel. Suzuki provided perspective on the difference between the camps in Canada and the U.S., citing the extreme remoteness of Tashme but also the absence of barbed wire fences and guard towers. Tashme was located in the Sunshine Valley in British Columbia.

Kato spoke of joyful experiences as a child in Heart Mountain. He believed his time there taught

him to endure struggle with grace and taught him discipline that eventually served him well as a Navy Commander and an electrical engineer.

Yamamoto recalled the sacrifices of his parents and remembered the long train ride during which all the parents stood in the train car so that the children could sleep on the seats. He stressed the importance of the World War II incarceration history being included in education curricula, as it is still not widely known.

Miyauchi talked about Christmas at Heart Mountain as a child and how his experience there led to a strong Christian faith. He also attributed his trips back to Heart Mountain as a healing process with his family. Fred’s wife, Pauline, and son, Terry, were also in attendance.

Shimizu detailed the travails of his family as they were bounced from one confinement site to another. They had stints in Topaz, Minidoka, Heart Mountain, Ellis Island, Rohwer, Tule Lake and finally Crystal City, Texas. They had been sent to Ellis Island, with the expectation of being sent to Japan, only to find themselves sent to Rohwer instead. Since Shimizu’s parents answered “no-no” on the loyalty questionnaire, they were sent to Tule Lake. From Tule Lake, they were sent to Crystal City and remained incarcerated until Sept. 1947.

Yet another former incarcerated shared

her experience through art at the event. The HMWF was surprised by a unique donation by Naoko Ito, in the form of a quilt titled “Letting Go.” The piece features Naoko with her and her brother freeing the pet bird they had at Heart Mountain and also serves as a metaphor of her own imprisoned teen years. In 1997, the Southern Poverty Law Center featured the image on one of their national outreach posters.

The Pilgrimage was sponsored by Studies Weekly, an educational organization that conducted oral histories at the event, the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies, the Japanese American Citizen League, the Tule Lake Committee and several local organizations, including the Powell Tribune, Cody Enterprise, Wyoming Financial Insurance, Blair Hotels, Marquis Awards, Keele Sanitation, Shiki Japanese Restaurant and the Cody UPS Store.



Naoko Ito presents her quilt titled “Letting Go” to HMWF Executive Director Brian Liesinger at the August 21 Pilgrimage dinner.



Above: Mary Endo photographing the interior of the returned barrack.

Opposite Page: Margaret Cooper, Judge Raymond Uno & Yo Uno at the Pilgrimage.

-SAVE THE DATE!-

Next year’s Pilgrimage will be held in Cody and Powell, Wyoming on

Friday, July 29 & Saturday, July 30, 2016

celebrating the 5th Anniversary of the Opening of the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center

Heart Mountain Receives Two Grants from National Park Service

The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation (HMWF) recently received two major grant awards from the National Park Service's Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) Grant Program. The funds, totaling \$119,139 will enable the HMWF to continue to preserve the Heart Mountain Root Cellar as well as to spearhead efforts for a consortium of Japanese American Confinement Site leaders.

Heart Mountain is one of several organizations benefiting in 2015 from more than \$2.8 million in grants to help preserve and interpret the sites where more than 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry were imprisoned during World War II.

"As stewards of our nation's history, the National Park Service recognizes the importance of preserving these confinement sites," said NPS Director John Jarvis upon awarding the grants. "They are poignant reminders—today and for future generations—that we must be always vigilant in upholding civil liberties for all. These grants help us share valuable lessons on the fragility of our constitutional rights and ensure the experiences of those who were incarcerated are not forgotten."

The bulk of Heart Mountain's award is to further preserve the Heart Mountain Root Cellar. HMWF was awarded \$90,500 to stabilize the deteriorating structure. The Heart Mountain Root Cellar is one of the few remaining structures of the "Heart Mountain Relocation Center."

"The root cellar played an important role at Heart Mountain from 1943–45 and holds significant historical value for our National Historic Landmark site, for the agricultural development of Park County, Wyo., and for the larger history of the Japanese American confinement experience," said HMWF Executive Director Brian Liesinger.

After acquiring the property—a generous donation from the Rudolph Jolovich Jr. family—the HMWF initiated land surveys, assessments and the formal process of creating a subdivision for the preservation and structural needs of the root cellar. Julie Rosen, National Park Service structural engineer, contributed a significant structural



Photo by Brian Liesinger

The deteriorating Heart Mountain Root Cellar is set to receive structural preservation work with the help of a Japanese American Confinement Site grant from the National Park Service.

assessment that will inform the preservation plan to halt continued deterioration.

Through a request for qualifications process, the HMWF is currently seeking qualified contractors with preservation experience to tackle the root cellar project. While the grant will cover the next two years of work, the preservation of this important artifact will be ongoing, with work expected to continue for the next several years. At 34 feet wide by more than 300 feet long, it will require extensive repairs.

A Confinement Site Consortium

In addition to the Root Cellar project, the HMWF was also awarded \$28,639 to support efforts to build a consortium of active Japanese American Confinement Site leaders allowing "all camps" to come together with a common purpose of continuing to raise awareness about the Japanese American Confinement experience.

The Consortium is intended to elevate the message and the efforts of each of the participating organizations through resource sharing, networking and community building. With those efforts in mind, participants will address common issues, most importantly engaging future generations both at the confinement sites and among other partners that contribute to a national dialogue about the World War II Japanese American confinement experi-

ence and its affects today.

"A challenge we all face is how to engage a younger audience when the most important physical reminders of incarceration—the internees themselves—are disappearing before our eyes," said HMWF Chair Shirley Ann Higuchi. "Each organization has done their individual parts in preservation, cultivating community, and educating the public. But as a larger group, we can accomplish much more."

An initial Confinement Site Consortium meeting took place this August in Cody in conjunction with the Heart Mountain Pilgrimage. During the meeting, leaders developed a draft mission statement, assembled a planning committee, and identified immediate goals for a follow-up meeting in Washington, D.C., in May 2016.

The goal of the JACS grant program is to teach present and future generations about the injustice of the World War II confinement history and inspire a commitment to equal justice under the law. Successful proposals are chosen through a competitive process that requires applicants to match the grant award with \$1 in non-federal funds or "in-kind" contributions for every \$2 they receive in federal money. A list of the winning projects and more information can be found online at: <http://www.nps.gov/JACS/>.



SMITHSONIAN EXHIBITION

I Want the Wide American Earth: An Asian Pacific American Story

Asian and Pacific Americans make up over five percent of the U.S. population—more than 17 million people—and those numbers are growing. Their ancestral roots represent more than 50 percent of the world, extending from East Asia to Southeast Asia, and from South Asia to the Pacific Islands and Polynesia.

In commemoration of this important history the Smithsonian exhibit, “I Want the Wide American Earth: An Asian Pacific American Story” opened at the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center on September 19 as part of a 13-city national tour. In this first exhibition of its kind, the Smithsonian celebrates Asian Pacific American history across diverse cultures and explores how Asian Pacific Americans have shaped and been shaped by the course of the nation’s history.

“I Want the Wide American Earth” tells the rich and complex stories of the first Asian immigrants, including their participation in key moments in American

history: Asian immigrants panned in the Gold Rush, hammered ties in the Transcontinental Railroad, fought on both sides in the Civil War and helped build the nation’s agricultural system.

Through the decades, Asian immigrants struggled against legal exclusion, civil rights violations and unlawful detention, such as the 120,000 Japanese who were imprisoned during World War II. Since the 1960s, vibrant new communities, pan-Asian, Pacific Islander and cross-cultural in make-up, have blossomed.

“It is an honor to feature this exhibit,” said Brian Liesinger, HMWF Executive Director. “These narratives represent Asian Pacific American achievement, influence—and, unfortunately, suffering—which continue to shape our country and contribute to a richer, more diverse, American identity.”

The exhibit is complemented by a free, downloadable e-book, a 14-page illustrated adaptation of the exhibition. Produced in

collaboration with SI Universe Media, creators of the first-ever Asian Pacific American comics anthology, the e-book tells the Asian Pacific American story in graphic narrative, featuring work by seven Asian Pacific American comic artists.

The exhibit also features a free mobile tour app (available on the App Store under “Wide Earth”), which includes interviews with authors Maxine Hong Kingston and Monique Truong; former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta; Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center director Konrad Ng; activist Deepa Iyer; and U.S. retired major general Antonio Taguba. A set of educational posters based on the exhibit for distribution to schools and other learning and cultural organizations is also available for download at <http://www.sites.si.edu/>.

“I Want the Wide American Earth” was created by the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) and curated by Lawrence-Ming Bui Davis, Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center Initiative coordinator. The exhibition is supported by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. SITES has been sharing the wealth of Smithsonian collections and research programs with millions of people for more than 60 years. SITES connects Americans to their cultural heritage through a wide range of exhibitions about art, science and history.

The Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center produces programs and exhibitions featuring the Asian Pacific American experience. It shares the challenges and stories of America’s fastest-growing communities. It connects treasures and scholars with the public, celebrates long-lived traditions and explores contemporary expressions. The stories it tells are vital to a deeper understanding of the nation and a richer appreciation of Asian Pacific cultures. Visit www.apa.si.edu for more information.



Above: “Issei” by Laura Kina, 2001. Top (L–R): Bangladesh American Society of Greater Houston; Tule Lake, courtesy Library of Congress; Kalpana Chawla, courtesy NASA; Transcontinental Railroad construction, courtesy California Historical Society; Angkor Dance Troupe ©James Higgins; Reaction to 9/11/01, photo by Corky Lee.

The Journey of the Barracks

By Helen Yoshida

The A-frame, tar-paper barrack is a familiar and powerful emblem of the camps that incarcerated Japanese Americans during World War II. It has so gripped filmmaker and writer Sharon Yamato that she has devoted two projects that focus on Heart Mountain barracks.

Yamato wrote the book *Moving Walls: Preserving the Barracks of America's Concentration Camps* to chronicle the journey of two barrack segments disassembled in the Wyoming prairie and reconstructed in Los Angeles in 1994. The pieces served as part of an exhibit for the Japanese American National Museum (JANM). One of these segments stands today in the middle of the museum as a centerpiece of JANM's permanent collection and is a powerful symbol of the Japanese American experiences during World War II.

With funding from the Japanese American Confinement Grant (JACS) program, Yamato has taken on a second barrack project, which involves expanding her original book to incorporate the history of the Wyoming homesteaders and also creating a documentary about the Heart Mountain barracks and the people who own them today.

With the closing of the Heart Mountain camp in 1945, and as more veterans returned from the war, the U.S. government held three lotteries from 1947 to 1949 for prospective homesteaders, who had to apply and meet certain criteria to receive a homestead.

"You had to be a veteran, you had to have some farming experience, and you had to have a certain amount of equity," said Yamato. "That was one way to attract people to the area to farm. The fact they were given the [homestead] property and then sold a barrack for a dollar was a real boon to the local community and to the farmers who received them."

Yamato traveled to Wyoming this past summer to interview homesteaders about their experiences. She spoke with Evaleen George, Lavern Solberg, Forrest Allen, Tak Ogawa, Dorothy Hedrick, and Mary Ellen "Tiny" Collar. George and Solberg, both in their nineties, continue to live in their remodeled barrack buildings they consider



Photo by Stan Honda

Homesteader Evaleen George baking bread in the kitchen of her remodeled barrack.

home, respectively. Allen continues to live on his homestead property, which has several barrack buildings on it. Yamato noted that Ogawa, a Japanese American who fought in World War II and who donated the barrack segment that is in JANM's permanent exhibit, is the only homesteader that continues to farm on his original property.

Throughout her interviews, Yamato focused on the process, including the homesteaders' arrival in Wyoming, the hardship and survival endured while living in the vacated barracks, and how their lives intertwined with the former Heart Mountain camp. Yamato described how much the homesteaders appreciated the barracks, which provided shelter to veterans and their families who were starting their lives as farmers and had no place else to live. She discussed how they readily moved into the barracks, which imprisoned more than 14,000 Japanese Americans and lived at the former camp until they were assigned homestead properties and were sold a barrack. As she delved into the project, Yamato also noticed a collective sentiment expressed among the homesteaders.

"There was some feeling that they had it harder than the Japanese Americans in the camps because they didn't have run-

ning water or toilets. They didn't have mess halls. They basically had nothing. No electricity, no light, no cooking. But it was having no running water that was the most difficult thing for them because they all had to carry water. Some of them would get it from the camp and carry it back to their properties in buckets," she said.

During Yamato's stay in Wyoming, she and gifted photojournalist Stan Honda took photographs of barracks in the region, many of which had been sawed by hand in halves or thirds. They saw barracks in different states: from dilapidated sheds to sturdy storage units to remodeled homes, which were often remodeled to form an "L" shape. Although some of the remodeled homes have structural issues, Yamato noted that the homesteaders were happy to live in them. Honda also photographed complete barrack buildings.

"We saw one right outside of Cody that's on a field. It had more tar paper on it, which I think is indicative of its original state," Yamato said. "Those buildings are really exciting to see because they're very much in their original form. They're not torn apart. They're not cut up. They're the whole building, which is very significant."

Completeness and originality were two major factors that led HMWF Executive

Director Brian Liesinger to seek out and return a Heart Mountain barrack to the site from Shell, Wyo., this past summer. On viewing the barrack, which now sits adjacent to the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center, Yamato reflected on its journey back. For her, witnessing the move was a process that mirrored the homesteaders' moving of barracks to their land so many years ago. She marveled at its completeness and its significance as a symbol of incarceration at Heart Mountain.

"It brings up a lot of memories for the people who lived in them, but they're also symbolic for the people who didn't live in them because they never got to see what it was like," she said. "It's a very important artifact and probably one of the most significant artifacts of camp."

In talking about her book, Yamato envisions a pictorial history of the barracks with commentary that gives voice to the buildings and the people who live in them today. With interviews of former incarcerated, many of whom were from Heart Mountain, she will explore what happened to the barracks after the incarcerated left camp. Her documentary will highlight the experiences of the homesteaders after the closing of the camp and will illustrate the connections between the camp and the homesteader community.

With this pictorial journey, Yamato



Photo by Stan Honda

Finished Heart Mountain barracks outside the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles in 1994.

helps bring the Japanese American community together to ensure that the Heart Mountain experiences do not become isolated from Wyoming history. Yamato and Honda are working with the HMWF on the possibility of arranging an exhibit of Honda's photographs of the barracks. Yamato hopes the first place to show them will be at the Center.

"[Integrating both of these communi-

ties] is important because we talked to a lot of people who live [in Wyoming] and have not been to the Center. Telling their stories at the Center will bring them out. They all live there and if not the homesteaders, certainly their kids," she said.

Yamato anticipates completing her project by Fall 2016. Learn more about her project by visiting her website, www.movingbarracks.com.



Photo by Stan Honda

A fragment of a barrack used as an outbuilding on the Jolovich farm outside of Cody, Wyoming. The Jolovich family also owned a section of land that contained two of three Heart Mountain root cellars. They have since donated a three acre parcel containing the remaining root cellar to the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation.

Heart Mountain Archivist Leads Japanese American Confinement Collections Symposium at Annual Conference

Led by the efforts of Heart Mountain archivist Nicole Blechynden, 13 presenters from across the nation recently participated in a half-day symposium on World War II Japanese American confinement collections at the 2015 Society of American Archivists (SAA) annual meeting in Cleveland, Ohio.

The SAA Annual Meeting, which took place in August, is the largest conference of archiving professionals in the nation and more than 60 archivists and collections managers attended the symposium.

In the fall of 2014, Blechynden sought interest for a conference presentation on confinement site collections and received nearly two dozen responses. Due to the strong interest and commitment from these professionals, SAA asked that she expand her session to a full four-hour symposium.

“Not only was it an excellent chance to promote these collections to our peers in the archives profession, but we also provided them with information to better assist the research communities they work with,” Blechynden said. “The event allowed us to highlight various collections across the country; explore management strategies for these collections; investigate how to grow collections and improve access; and facilitate educational opportunities.”

The day also served as a way for those working with related collections to meet, network, and initiate discussion on potential collaborations for future projects related to Japanese American confinement collections.

Presenters covered a broad range of resources focused on Japanese American incarceration. The day was launched with a screening of the HMWF introductory film *All We Could Carry* followed by presentations with a rich and diverse sampling of historical materials and artifacts available for use and research.

Each presenter brought a unique and interesting perspective. Shannon Lausch from the University of Arkansas, Little Rock Center for History and Culture and Stephanie Bayless from the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies spoke about

outreach to connect the public with the Rohwer and Jerome Confinement Sites in Arkansas. Next, Wyoming took stage again with Ginny Kilander, from the University of Wyoming, who spoke about the Heart Mountain collections at the American Heritage Center in Laramie. Then, Michael Lotstein’s “Common Threads: Manuscript Collections on Japanese Internment in Arizona at Yale University Library” illustrated that historical documents can be found both near and far.

Naturally, California has numerous academic institutions and one of the highest concentrations of Japanese Americans in the country, so that state was well represented. Greg Williams of California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSU) spoke about their project to aggregate information related to multiple holdings in the CSU system to facilitate both discovery and access through the CSU Japanese American Digitization Collaboration. Sue Tyson worked on the first phase of the CSU project and spoke of the technical and euphemistic terminology challenges which occur behind the scenes during such a massive digital undertaking. In the content preservation and ease of access realm, the incredible work done by the “Densho Digital Repository” was covered by Geoff Froh.

The second half of the program began with the theme of “Collections of Conscience” by the trio of Blechynden, Dainan Skeem of the University of Hawaii Manoa Library, and Steven Bingo from Washington State University. They shared quotes found within their donated materials. The poignant, humorous, and thought-provoking words resonated with many, who said this intimate, personal view was a particular highlight of the day.

Blechynden then spoke on the HMWF Archives and Frank Emi Papers, with a special focus on the Fair Play Committee and the Resister movement, which was unique to Heart Mountain. “Emi was a student of his own circumstances for well over 60 years,” she said. “His life-long activism is evidenced in his collection through speeches, correspondence, recordings, education efforts, research, records, and

ultimately his desire to leave this legacy to a repository committed to preserving it for further use and learning. His advocacy was his avocation, and we are privileged to continue his work.”

Skeem then showed how his collections demonstrate the difference in the response that came from Hawaii, in particular the role of the Victory Volunteers and their influence on the establishment of the 442nd in his aptly titled talk, “The Hawaiian Japanese American Perspective - From Dismissal to Decoration.” Bingo aimed to unite the work we do and suggest some ways information professionals and collections stewards can bridge access to our collections.

Lauren Zuchowski, speaking for the Japanese American National Museum, elaborated on the success of their programming that makes creative use of collections, with a special emphasis on the Mollie Wilson Murphy Collection and her rich correspondence with friends forced to leave their Boyle Heights community.

In the spirit of community, Karen Kanemoto, formerly of the Japanese American Service Committee Legacy Center and Jane Kenamore, President of Kenamore and Klinkow, LLC, wrapped up the program with their joint presentation “Chicago Resettlement and the Japanese American Service Committee,” expounding on the role and necessary services many civic, academic, and religious organizations provided the mid and post-war existence of the Japanese American community.

The symposium group also created an informational webpage for the event, which contains links to repositories and collections with related content, including some of the organizations unable to participate in the event. (This can be found at http://www.respectdesfonds.com/jacc_symp/index.html).

Blechynden has served as the HMWF’s archivist since March 2014, overseeing the organization of the Interpretive Center’s archive, as well as serving researchers and contributing to collection preservation and management.

Recognition and Thanks to:

Kim Barhaug

When Kim Barhaug came to Heart Mountain in 2011, she was thrown into the excitement and action of the Grand Opening of the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center. Newly hired as a volunteer coordinator, she worked tirelessly to ensure the event was a success. Little did she know that in four years time she would become instrumental to the management of the Interpretive Center.

Kim has served the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation (HMWF) longer than any previous Heart Mountain staff person. In her tenure, Kim rose up through the ranks, holding several positions including Lead Educator, Gift Shop Manager, Front Desk Manager, Volunteer Coordinator and Facilities Manager. She personified the phrase “someone who wears many hats.” And along with Kim also came contributions from her entire family. Sons Taten and Teak, and her husband, Trampus, have been constant volunteers in support of the HMWF.

Among her many accomplishments, Kim was a driving force in the creation and maintenance of the James O. Ito His-

toric Garden, a modern-day victory garden adjacent to the Center. And along with Executive Director Brian Liesinger, ensured the safe return of an original barrack to the Heart Mountain site from Shell, Wyo. In addition, Kim has contributed to the preservation and maintenance of the Heart Mountain Honor Roll memorial, the Setsuko Saito Higuchi walking trail, the root cellar and the hospital chimney. Indeed, she has touched every acre of the land on the site and has put forth every effort to ensure that the HMWF’s work continues at the highest level.

“From the care she puts into making sure our four-year-old building still has a like-new look, to the care she has put into the grounds, advancing our gift shop, teaching

countless school children, contributing to all our events and on and on—it is impossible to think of a Heart Mountain project that Kim has not had a hand in advancing,” said Liesinger.

This past August, Kim left the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation for a new position as the Media Center Clerk at the Powell Middle School. This new career opportunity will enable Kim to spend more time with her sons, Taten and Teak, and it will also afford her the opportunity to complete her teaching certification, a goal she has been working toward for some time. While we are extremely sad to see her go, we know that we will see her again, and that her commitment to our work is unwavering. We thank Kim for everything she has done for us and wish her the best in this new adventure.



Above: Kim tends to the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center’s James O. Ito victory garden.

(L-R): Kim Barhaug, Sharyl McDowell, Anna Clifton, Kate Wilson and Danielle Constein enjoying a staff moment at the 2014 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage.



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