

KOKORO KARA

# HEART MOUNTAIN WYOMING FOUNDATION

*"from our heart"*

Spring 2015

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*Hatsuko Mary Goto*



# Creating a Unified Voice: Chair Shirley Ann Higuchi

Six months ago I met with Floyd Mori of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS), Dan Sakura of the Friends of Minidoka, and a Heart Mountain legacy, Warren Maruyama, of the law firm of Hogan Lovells, about creating a support mechanism for all of the ten Japanese American Confinement Sites. We discussed past gatherings of the sites and the importance of engaging camp leadership for site development and funding for the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program (JACS). Greg Kimura of the Japanese American National Museum (JANM), who has led a summit of all the camps in the past, agreed to partner with our Executive Director, Brian Liesinger, to submit a JACS proposal to bring together leadership from all the confinement sites and key stakeholders engaged with the Japanese American incarceration during World War II. (Read more about this on page 4).

We plan to kick off this Confinement Site Consortium (“All Camps”) with a planning meeting to coincide with our 2015 Pilgrimage in August. We will follow that up with another meeting in early 2016, with the intent of building an ongoing network of collaborators. Out of these two meetings, we will build a platform for year-round communication and engagement from key participants. We recognize that together, we can build something much stronger than ten individual camps.

Many interested in forming this Consortium convened on February 18 in Washington, D.C., to discuss the need for a collective presence in our nation’s capitol. The need to educate local communities, lawmakers and other public officials about the importance of preservation became clear to us. The next day, the HMWF board had a productive meeting graciously hosted by Walter Eggers’s D.C. office at the

law firm of Holland and Hart. We had a lively discussion led by Liesinger, who reported on a campaign to return an original barrack to Heart Mountain, the root cellar preservation, funding initiatives and the 2015 Pilgrimage.

Vice-Chair Doug Nelson spoke of ramping up for a Memorial Wall of Names and a crowdsourcing campaign to fund it. This wall will honor the Issei and Nisei who were imprisoned at the very site where this wall will stand. Board members spoke of their current work: Aura Newlin on research and training projects; Kris Horiuchi on creating a master site plan for Heart Mountain as the site evolves; and Sam Mihara on his speaking engagements across the country.

That evening, the HMWF experienced a significant milestone with the screening of *The Legacy of Heart Mountain*

at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History for their annual Day of Remembrance celebration. I was proud to sit on a panel with dear friends, former Secretary of Commerce and Transportation Norman Mineta and ABC7 co-anchor David Ono, who created this film. I was honored to connect with Jerome Confinement Site legacies Alice and Paul Takemoto and the founder of the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center, Franklin Odo. A diverse group of nearly 300 people were in attendance to learn about this shameful period in our nation’s history. It symbolized a critical step in telling the confinement story on a national level. (Read more about this event on page 3).

The HMWF has been fortunate to achieve great success since its establishment in 1996 and grand opening of the Interpretive Center in August 2011. Our Foundation, started by a small but dedicated band of Wyomingites and Japanese Americans, dreamed of creating a world-class educational facility. Since that time

we’ve held successful events at our Center by hosting the annual conference of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts and throughout the country with film screenings at JANM, the Japanese American Museum of San Jose (JAMsj) and, now, the Smithsonian. As we reflect on these major milestones and the dedication from our staff, board and advisory members and volunteers, we continue to look ahead to our next successes.

When an individual possesses a unique talent or if a group of like-minded individuals achieve great success, it’s our social responsibility to share those talents with others. To this end, that is why we are hosting an “All Camps” theme for our August 2015 Pilgrimage. We hope to unite those interested in the collective history of all the camps at Heart Mountain this summer. This will provide an opportunity for the HMWF to work closely with other camp leaders on how to create a successful preservation plan. Together we can share resources, challenges, goals and dreams. We hope to highlight stories symbolizing the unique identities of each of the camps. We know our own themes quite well and look forward to creating a forum to share and exchange information from the other camps.

We have an exciting year ahead of us. With your continued commitment and our Foundation’s efforts to engage future generations, we can ensure that the Japanese American story will be told—and that it will be woven into the larger historical narrative of this great country. Future generations will remember this American story as we address how racial and civil rights issues faced by Japanese Americans many years ago continue to affect all of us today. I hope to see you at our August 21–22 Pilgrimage this summer!



Shirley Ann Higuchi

*Shirley Ann Higuchi*

# Elevating Our Impact: Executive Director Brian Liesinger

My grandfather, Allen Talbott, way back in the late 1940s, came to Heart Mountain searching for the American dream. What he found there was a site that represented the opposite. A site where the dreams of 14,025 crumbled in the wake of World War II hysteria. He must have felt a sense of righteousness by dismantling one of the hospital buildings from the camp. He, along with his wife, Vivian, served in World War II. He had fought in Italy in 1944—at the same time members of the 442nd Central Postal Directory were leaving their mark there. He was discharged on November 11, 1945—one day after the last trainload of incarcerated left Heart Mountain.

My grandparents had been granted a homestead plot in Wyoming through a lottery for veterans. He was also granted permission to scavenge materials from the camp and found what he needed to build a homestead house in the form of a Heart Mountain hospital building.

I have immense pride in my grandparents' service (including that of my paternal grandfather who served in WWII as well). I also have conflicting emotions when I look at the faded pictures of Grandpa Talbott dismantling a hospital building board by board. I greatly respect the effort: building his dream by giving new life to old lumber that had represented tragedy. Even while I acknowledge that I would not have such a strong connection to Heart Mountain without my grandparents' efforts, I sometimes wish our site still had the hospital building they dismantled. The structures that stood here are powerful artifacts of the Heart Mountain experience. Anyone who has seen the Heart Mountain barrack fragment at the Japanese American National Museum can attest to this.

By erasing nearly all elements of the camps, either through direct demolition or distributing the remnants to homesteaders, the government put the country at risk of writing a revisionist history. So I am proud to report on two immensely significant projects that are underway: the rehabilitation of

an original root cellar and the relocation of a complete Heart Mountain barrack back to our site. Without remnants of incarceration—without actual structures—it's easy to forget the depth of the hardship endured here. They serve as powerful testaments to life behind barbed wire, speaking not only to daily life in hastily erected shacks but also to the injustices of forced removal, the psychological impacts of incarceration and the subsequent post-incarceration struggle.



Brian Liesinger

Today, we have an opportunity to not only recreate some facets of the original site but also to build something much more meaningful than the original, temporary camp. We are building a lasting historical presence and preserving a significant part of American history. We are employing the stories of all those affected by incarceration in our mission to engage and educate the public.

Our efforts represent a continued evolution at Heart Mountain. As Board Chair Shirley Ann Higuchi's column states, we are also engaged with several efforts beyond "our four walls." We are building a network of collaborators that will allow us to collectively elevate each other and elevate this history.

Speaking of elevation: Heart Mountain was elevated to a Smithsonian Institution stage in February at a powerful Day of Remembrance event. It was an incredible opportunity to work with this historic organization (read more on page 3).

There is continued elevation in store as well, with your help. The Foundation works tirelessly to raise the bar for each new initiative. But this cannot be done without your participation and financial support. We must elevate our endowment balance; we must elevate the figure raised for the root cellar and barrack projects; and we must elevate our membership base. Together we will raise this site, which sits at an actual elevation of 4700 feet, to a heightened level of national awareness appealing to all Americans.

*Brian Liesinger*

## HEART MOUNTAIN WYOMING FOUNDATION

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# MEMORABLE *Day of Remembrance* AT THE SMITHSONIAN

The Heart Mountain story landed on a major national stage on this year's Day of Remembrance, February 19. The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation (HMWF) partnered with the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History to bring the award-winning film *The Legacy of Heart Mountain* and a panel discussion to an audience of nearly 300.

Braving bitter cold and biting winds, the standing-room only crowd participated in the discussion with HMWF Board Chair Shirley Ann Higuchi; former Secretary of Commerce and Transportation, Norman Mineta; *Legacy* filmmaker and ABC7 co-anchor David Ono; Alice Takemoto, who was imprisoned at the Jerome camp; and Alice's son, Paul Takemoto. The panel was moderated by Dr. Franklin Odo, founder of the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center and a University of Massachusetts professor. The discussion was followed by a spoken word performance by 2014 National Poetry Slam champion G. Yamazawa.

With a diverse D.C.-area audience represented, comments hinged on the need for Americans of all backgrounds to embrace and share the Japanese American incarceration history. "We need to find the people, of all ethnicities, that want to tell this story," said Ono.

Mineta shared his personal experiences of confinement at Heart Mountain as a boy and about the importance of recognizing and acting against the violation of civil rights. "We must be vigilant, not vigilantes, about our Constitutional rights," Mineta said. He also recounted the day, in 1942, that he discovered his government had deemed him a "non-alien" and how he struggled—and still struggles—to understand the term. "To this day, I cherish the word 'citizen,'" he said.

Alice Takemoto spoke about her desire to attend Oberlin College in order to get out of the "Jerome War Relocation Center" in Arkansas. She heard that "a Nisei was the student body president. I thought it was a friendly place and that was my main reason for going there."

Her son, Paul Takemoto, author of *Nisei Memories: My Parents Talk About the War Years*, spoke about how the shame his parents felt after confinement lingered in his



(L-R) Shirley Higuchi, Norm Mineta, David Ono, Alice Takemoto & Paul Takemoto discuss civil rights and the experience of confinement at Heart Mountain.

family's background and how he carried that shame forward in his younger years. He also explained how his book was an effort to understand not only his parents' feelings but also his own ill-placed embarrassment while he was growing up.

A powerful spoken word performance by G. Yamazawa closed the event. G., which stands for George, told the audience about his upbringing in North Carolina with his Japanese-born parents and about connecting to his culture through his grandmother. "Obachan, you have choreographed my respect for elders and as long as I'm breathing I will be dancing behind your face paint. Forget when you're gone. I want to remember you now," Yamazawa said. Ultimately, understanding the experiences of older generations by younger generations was the crux of his performance. "We must bridge older and younger Japanese Americans to move forward," he said.

With his rhythmic lines, Yamazawa grappled with his unique identity in rhyme, leaving the audience to ponder their own identities and how these identities intertwine with a larger American narrative. In another one of his poems, he states, "I hated myself for the shape of my eyes so I became a bully because we all want to feel like America sometimes... but it's funny how flags and people have the same knack

for politely waving at the ones they have forgotten."

In true "coast to coast" fashion, the Smithsonian events were also covered by Ono's ABC7 Los Angeles station, and he was back on air in LA reporting about them in a feature story the very next night. In that report, he concluded, "Even though this dark moment in our history was 70 years ago, its lessons of hate, racial profiling and the protection of our civil rights are as relevant today as the day it happened."

The event was organized by the Smithsonian Institution as an annual Day of Remembrance celebration to mark the date of February 19, 1942, the day that President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. The order authorized the secretary of war to declare military areas "from which any or all persons may be excluded" and paved the way for the forced removal and subsequent imprisonment of Japanese Americans living on the West Coast.

The Smithsonian is the largest museum complex in the world, with 19 museums and research centers. The Museum of American History—one of the three largest Smithsonian museums—features a powerful record of the history of the American people.

# An “All Camps” Collaboration Gaining Momentum

The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation (HMWF) and Japanese American National Museum (JANM) have made a major step in building bridges between the dispersed and isolated sites that represent the former World War II War Relocation Authority “Relocation Centers.” The organizations have partnered to submit a Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) grant proposal to unify leaders from each of the confinement camps, as well as key stakeholders in organizations committed to advancing the stories of and lessons from the Japanese American incarceration during World War II. The grant would fund two planning meetings to create a lasting network of involved collaborators.

Leaders from the confinement sites of Gila River, Minidoka, Poston, Rohwer, Topaz and Tule Lake have come out in formal support of the proposal. Conversations have been underway to ensure Manzanar, Jerome and Amache are involved as well. In addition, the effort has gained support from Densho, the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS), the National Veterans Network, the Japanese Culture Center of Hawai’i and The Conservation Fund.

To advance the effort, leadership from the HMWF met recently with key supporters at the law firm of Hogan Lovells in Washington D.C., to prepare for rallying the “All Camps” consortium. The ultimate goal is to build an ongoing connection with each partnering organization to share ideas, publicity, resources and clout. Solidarity as a major key to success was a central theme of the discussion.

Representing the HMWF at the

meeting were Chair Shirley Ann Higuchi, Secretary Aura Newlin, Executive Director Brian Liesinger and Executive Assistant to the Chair, Helen Yoshida. They were joined by representatives of the APAICS, CEO/President Floyd Mori and Program Director Amy Watanabe. The JACL was represented by Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida and Craig Shimizu, Daniel K. Inouye Fellow. In addition, JANM Executive Director Greg Kimura, Smithsonian National Museum of American History Curator Noriko Sanefuji, Poston Community Alliance Project Director Marlene Shigekawa, Hogan Lovells partner Warren Maruyama, Friends of Minidoka’s Dan Sakura, and Riccetti lobbyist Peter Kiefhaber also participated. The group discussed the need for an association of “All Camps” leadership nationwide to educate the public about the importance of supporting and preserving the confinement sites.

“I think there’s a great need for creating an all camps support group,” said Shigekawa. “There’s a struggle on how to receive additional funding and guidance...It’s great to be united in this effort.”

Maruyama suspects that without collaboration, there is a risk to see each other as competition, and this group wants to avoid that. “One thing that may have hurt the Japanese American and Asian American

community more broadly is that the camps have seen each other as rivals. We must work together, not separately,” he said.

Honing a strategy for All Camps leadership to connect with interested parties to garner support was cited by Higuchi. “We must develop a working strategy for all of the camps so that the camp leaders can easily connect with their communities,” she said.

Peter Kiefhaber, who served as staff for the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee for more than a decade, was heavily involved in the funding process for the creation of the JACS grant program. He stressed the importance of building meaningful relationships not only with confinement site partners but also with the National Park Service and other potential constituents and funders such as the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Alliance of National Heritage Areas so that they know why “your program is important so that it gets the support it needs to continue.”

The group eagerly awaits decision on the JACS funding to bring the consortium together. The initial meeting is set to take place at Heart Mountain on August 21, 2015. The HMWF is in the planning stages of the event and will fund the meeting even if JACS funding does not come through.

“At Heart Mountain, we have had a tremendous amount of success, and we are in a position to share that success,” Liesinger said after the meeting. “We have also encountered challenges, and others can benefit from a discussion of both. I’m excited about collaborating to collectively elevate our efforts.”



(L-R) Brian Liesinger, Helen Yoshida, Kris Horiuchi, Shirley Higuchi, Doug Nelson, Aura Newlin and Sam Mihara with a table of pieces from the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History. The artifacts represent several of the Japanese American World War II confinement sites.



# Paying Homage to “Uncle Ted”

Words by Dale S. Kunitomi

Last October, I traveled with a group of 18 relatives to France. Our goal was, as you can imagine, to enjoy wonderful vistas, eat well, drink wine and visit World War II sites. There was a more important underlying goal: to visit the grave site of my mother's younger brother, our uncle Teruo “Ted” Fujioka.

Ted was a member of the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT) and is buried at the American Military Cemetery in Epinal, France. The 442nd RCT was comprised of *Nisei* Hawaiians of the 442nd RCT along with many mainland *Nisei* who volunteered or were drafted while their families were imprisoned behind barbed wire at the remote, desolate “relocation centers.”

Of the 19 of us, only my aunt Fujiko “Fudge” Fujioka and I had met Ted. I was much too young to recall him and Fudge, who married Ted's brother Dick Fujioka, had met him briefly before 1941.

Our trip began ominously with Air France pilots on strike, causing last minute re-routing. Then two members of our Los Angeles group missed the departure flight (but somehow arrived in Paris before the rest of us). A couple joining us from Paris had a wallet stolen at Charles de Gaulle airport. A rocky start for sure.

However, everything improved as we traveled in a luxurious tour bus to the Normandy coast, where we sampled strong calvados (apple brandy) and viewed the World War II invasion beaches. We visited Brussels and ate mussels and fries. And in Bastogne, we chatted with a Battle of the Bulge veteran. We saw many battle sites and even climbed over Allied and German tanks. The memories are still strong and the Allied efforts to liberate their countries is very respected and honored by the French and Belgians.

Uncle Ted enlisted in the US Army in 1943 immediately after graduating from Heart Mountain High School in Wyoming. He was 18 years old. He was inducted in 1944 and after basic training, assigned to the anti-tank unit of the 442nd RCT. Uncle Ted wrote often to his family and friends, and we are fortunate to have many of his letters. My brother, Darrell, would read these letters as we traveled eastward toward

the towns of Epinal and Bruyeres. In late October 1944, the 442nd RCT liberated the small towns of Bruyeres and neighboring Biffontaine and La Houssiere.

Before leaving California I'd made contact with Claudie Deschaseaux Fischer, whose father and mother established the Bruyeres-Honolulu Association. Each year on special occasions the Association members decorate many of the American graves at the American Military Cemetery at Epinal. Her parents had adopted Uncle Ted's and now Claudie, her sister and other Association members have continued this tradition. She and Association members met us in Bruyeres, and we visited the memorial to the 442nd RCT on a hill above the town and even the site where the Texas “Lost Battalion” held out for five cold, wet lonely days. During the month of October 1944, Ted participated in the rescue of the Lost Battalion.

Ted fought in Italy and landed by glider in southeastern France a month after the Normandy invasion. From there the Allied units rapidly advanced northward up the Rhone River valley until they encountered the Vosges Mountains and the Argonne forest as the increasingly cold, wet winter weather closed in. On November 6, 1944 he was killed on a hillside outside the tiny village of La Houssiere. He was 19 years old.

Two unforgettable young Frenchmen, Michael and Christophe, dressed as World War II GIs, accompanied us and lead us to foxholes and a muddy spring that served as the water supply for the Lost Battalion. Artifacts of the battle are still scattered on the ground. The day before our arrival in Bruyeres, Michael, staying up late into the night, discovered a military document that pinpointed the location where Ted Fujioka was killed.



Teruo “Ted” Fujioka is buried at the American Military Cemetery in Epinal, France, along with several other members of the 442nd RCT.

In Bruyeres we were hosted by Mayor Yves Bonjean and the next day by Epinal Deputy Mayor Jacques Grasser. Both Mayor Bonjean and Deputy Mayor Grasser were born after World War II but spoke with great emotion about how honored they were to have families of veterans visit.

I thought that Shig Yabu's books *Hello Maggie!* and *A Boy of Heart Mountain* would help to explain what happened 74 years ago. Shig, a Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation Board Member, generously gave me two copies of each book that I presented to Mayor Bonjean and Deputy Mayor Grasser. Both mayors will place the books in their elementary school for the children to learn of these events.



(L-R) Dale Kunitomi, Alice (Fujioka) Chaurest, & Deputy Mayor Grasser

# New Book Explores Incarceration Lessons through Speeches & Articles

“Why is it that people do not have a better understanding of the confinement camps?” was a question Floyd Mori had become accustomed to fielding. Mori’s career included three posts for the Japanese American Citizens league (JACL): Executive Director/CEO, National President and Director of Public Policy. He has spoken widely on the topic of Japanese American incarceration to Congress, federal agencies and at two Heart Mountain Pilgrimages.

After hearing this question repeatedly, Mori used it as the catalyst for writing his book *The Japanese American Story: As Told Through a Collection of Speeches and Articles*, which was recently released.

“I’ve wanted to write this book for a long time,” said Mori at a January book talk in Washington, D.C. This work includes speeches presented and articles written while Floyd was serving the JACL. This is an attempt to tell some of the Japanese American story in order to make people aware of this travesty of justice so that it will never happen again to any other people in the United States of America.

Speeches and articles in *The Japanese American Story* span from 2002 to 2012. Over a period of ten years, readers can see how the Japanese American confinement experience is connected to civil rights, immigrant issues and racial issues in the 21st century. Highlights include the June 2011 speech “Lessons from History: 9066 to 9-11” to participants of the JACL Collegiate Leadership Conference. Mori drew parallels between the increased racism Japanese Americans confronted after the signing of Executive Order 9066 and the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks

on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, which included false accusations, arrests and imprisonment of Muslim, Sikh and South Asian Americans.

“We must be ever watchful to assure that the horrible wrongs committed during World War II against Japanese Americans, through no fault of their own and only because of their ethnic heritage, are not repeated against any other people,” wrote Mori.

A second highlight is the May 2007 speech “The Kid From Nebraska: Ben Kuroki” to Freddie Mac employees. Kuroki fought in World War II as a gunner for the United States Air Corps and survived 58

missions in Europe, Northern Africa and the Pacific and was the target of racism as a soldier and civilian. After reading a book about him called *Boy from Nebraska: The Story of Ben Kuroki* in high school, Mori looked to Kuroki as a hero and later met him at a White House ceremony honoring outstanding Asian and Pacific Island Americans.

“There were many other Asian American soldiers during this time in our history, who, like Ben, held to their principles and became leaders,” wrote Mori. “My challenge to you is that you provide that same kind of leadership for our future generations.”

During a signing at Reiter’s Books in Washington, D.C., on January 14, Mori discussed his inspiration for writing the book and his most memorable speeches. He concluded

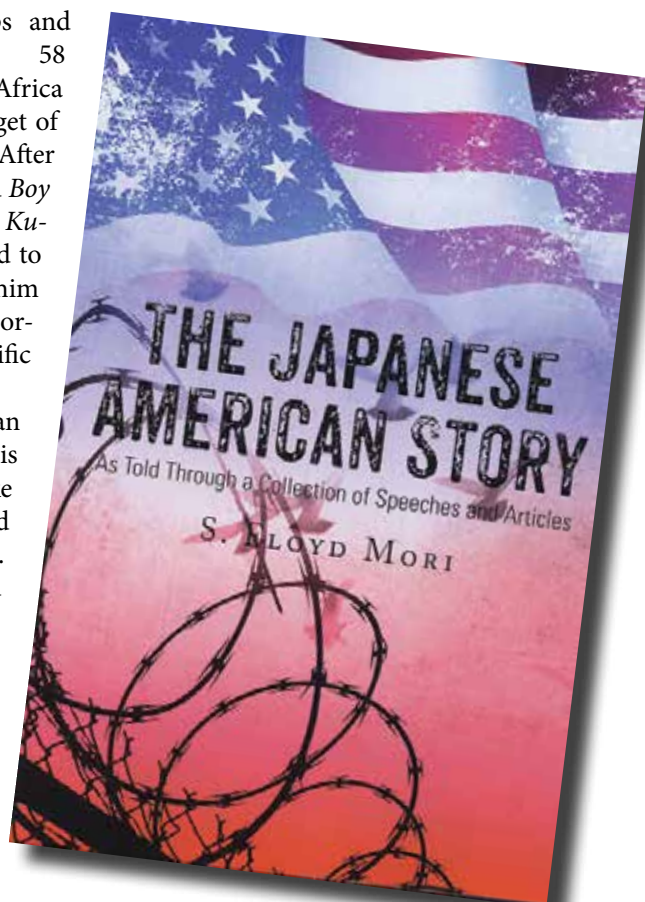
his talk by stressing that we must share the confinement story to ensure future generations are educated about this period in history and can apply the lessons learned from it in today’s world.

“The most important action people can take toward educating the public, especially younger generations of Americans, is to tell the story. We’ve got to tell the story.”

Mori is currently CEO and President of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies. He is also active with the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation in the planning stages of building an “All Camps” consortium of leaders engaged with interpreting the Japanese American incarceration experience today.

For information on the author and how to purchase this book, visit [thejapaneseamericanstory.tateauthor.com](http://thejapaneseamericanstory.tateauthor.com).

***The most important action people of Japanese American descent can take toward educating the public, especially younger generations of Americans, is to tell the story. We’ve got to tell the story.***







# the *Legacy* of

By David & Susan Parris

Frank Nobori Goto's saga involved world travel, several changes of occupation and lifestyle, incarceration and great accomplishments. His direction in life was fundamentally altered by his confinement at the Heart Mountain "Relocation Center" in Wyoming. That was true of all of the Japanese Americans who were sent to that unfamiliar place, but Frank would emerge from his unfortunate circumstances with a new resolve to succeed in a demanding profession.

It was at Heart Mountain that Frank, through his participation in the Nature Study Club, prepared himself for a fulfilling career after confinement. He embraced the Wyoming landscape, despite being forcibly sent there. He discovered ancient treasures in the form of fossils, and he discovered his calling.

Frank lived before the days of rampant mass media and technology, so his life has been mostly undocumented outside of scientific circles. But this small, unassuming man remains a heavyweight at the New Jersey State Museum, long after his death. Fossil specimens that he collected and prepared are among the most iconic holdings of New Jersey's treasures.

Few facts can be added to the memorial to Frank that was written by Glenn Lowell Jepsen shortly after his death (see opposite page). A life that involved travel on various continents, settlement in the United States, the founding of a restaurant with his wife, the disruption caused by incarceration during World War II and a triumphant emergence as a technician and scientific assistant: all of these elements were documented by Jepsen in his portrayal of a gentle, hard-working man. Nor did he neglect the amusing aspects of a man who never quite mastered pronunciation of the English language, adding introductory syllables that converted "good" into "ga-good" and fish into "ga-fwish."

Stories of fieldwork with Frank as an off-

road driver were often told with the implication that the ride was much more amusing in recollection than it was at the time of occurrence.

Few people now living remember Frank Goto, for he died more than fifty years ago. But the Vernon Mastodon, a great fossil elephant in the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton, arguably its most famous specimen, is one that Frank helped collect; we have a picture of him in action (see opposite page).

There were many fossil fish from the Triassic Period (200,000,000 years ago), found when Princeton University's Firestone Library was excavated; Frank helped collect and curate those as well. And the magnificent fossil of the sea lizard known as *Mosasaurus Maximus*, one of the first things seen as the visitor enters the New Jersey State Museum, is one of the great specimens that Frank worked to clean and repair during the final year of his life (an image of the fossil's head appears in the upper left of this page).

The laboratory workers who clean, repair, and restore fossils are known as preparators. Their labors are an absolute necessity to the science of paleontology, the study of fossil organisms. Yet they were traditionally unsung, appreciated for their incredible skills, but not often cited in publications, unless a particular task was incredibly difficult. Many were self-taught, as Frank was, and lacked the university degrees that were necessary to enter the higher circles of science.

Much of what we know about Frank and other preparators is oral and photographic history. Their works are

largely unrecognized, and there are usually few objects of material culture by which we can remember them.

Frank Goto, however, left behind a bridge between the worlds of science and art. His love of fossils and the creatures that they represent led him to create model restorations of fossil mammals, which he would give to friends. They symbolize his need to understand the ancient world of life. He didn't simply labor in the field and laboratory; he sought a fuller understanding of nature.

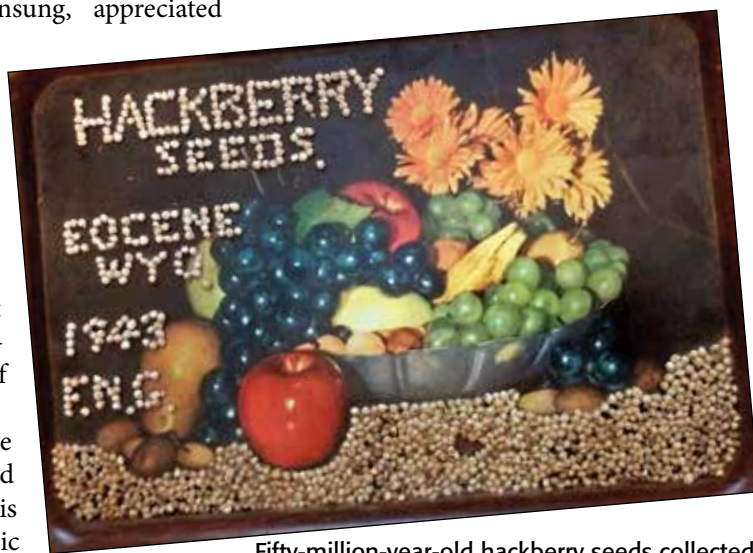
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*[Frank] didn't simply labor in the field and laboratory; he sought a fuller understanding of nature.*

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One other object remains with us that tells much of what you would like to know about Frank—essentially a signed art-

work. It is a simple serving tray that adorns the office of the Curator of Natural History at the New Jersey State Museum. Glued to the surface are hundreds of fossil hackberry seeds that Frank collected from the grounds of the Heart Mountain facility and surrounding areas. They are fifty million year old seeds, but they are also treasured remembrances of a period in history and the life of a decent and accomplished man. Attached to the tray in such a way as to form letters, they tell a simple but powerful story: "Hackberry Seeds. Eocene Wyo. 1943" and signed simply "F.N.G."



Fifty-million-year-old hackberry seeds collected and attached to the tray by Frank Goto, 1943.



# Frank Nobori Goto

## *In Memory of...*

*This obituary was written by friend and colleague, Glenn L. Jepsen. It was printed in the Feb. 1963 News Bulletin [Number 67] of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology.*

After fourteen useful and happy years as a preparator of fossil vertebrates at Princeton University, Frank Goto died suddenly on November 7, 1962, at the age of sixty four. He was born in Kyushu, Japan, on February 20, 1898, and as a youth attended an agricultural college for courses in sericulture. Perhaps this training in the silk worm industry started his compelling interest in nature.

Before he selected America for his home in a political and social democracy he traveled widely in Europe as a reporter for the Japanese newspaper *The Kyushu Daily News*. In the United States, he lived first in New York and then moved to California. After his marriage to Mary Sachi, he owned and operated the F and M (Frank and Mary) restaurant in Los Angeles. In

the mid 1940s when he and his family were transferred to the Heart Mountain "Relocation Center" in northwest Wyoming he became a very enthusiastic member of the Nature Study Club. Members of this group were in friendly but strong competition with each other to see who could collect the best and most fossils, rocks and minerals from nearby walking-distance sites in the surrounding mountains and plains. It is doubtful if any early Tertiary sediments have ever been more thoroughly prospected than those between Cody and Powell in the Bighorn Basin. For years after the Relocation Center was abandoned and the residents therein were released, the badlands of McCulloch Peaks showed strong evidence of the activities of the Nature Study Club through the abundant presence of dried orange peels and the notable absence of fossils on the surface.

Many of the petrified teeth which were picked up by the Club members on their one or two day prospecting trips were sent to me for identification, and through these taxonomic exercises I met Frank, who

gave several rare specimens to Princeton and applied for a position here with the statement "Geology is my life." During his stay in Wyoming the service of his son Lloyd with the American Army in Italy was a source of great pride to Mary and Frank and their two daughters. Frank was awarded a special citation by the director of the camp for outstanding service in the organization of building and housing developments within the camp.

His astonishing two-word question at the end of his first day of work in Princeton in November, 1948, dramatically showed the intensity of his pleasure with fossils and his ability for total concentration on a much-loved task. When he reported for work at 9 o'clock that morning, he was given an oreodont skull for practice in removing the White River clay matrix. Once during the day I spent a few minutes in the lab and complimented him on his obvious skill. At a few minutes before 5 o'clock, I returned to the lab and told him it was time to put aside the specimen and clean up his desk before going home. He looked up happily



Frank Goto (far left) and Glenn L. Jepsen (far right) with a team excavating New Jersey State Museum's mastodon specimen.

# Frank Nobori Goto *continued...*

and with a broad grin asked “Noon yet?”

Kipling’s ballad “Oh East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet” was composed long before Frank intermingled the linguistic traits of America and Japan in a richly varied and fascinating blend of words and sounds. These verbal mixtures symbolized the more significant mosaic which he made of Oriental and Occidental philosophies and ways of life, for just as his speech drew upon Nipponese and English tongues for expressing ideas, so his ideas about man and the universe were based upon his experiences and observations in the New and the Old Worlds. He thus lived, by preference, in two cultural worlds although to do so he had to be far away from most of his Japanese friends who returned to California after World War II.

Like an Oriental sage he knew that the wisdom in life consists of the elimination of non-essentials and this conviction led to his simplified and direct and youthful personal appreciation of nature as shown

by his comments “I like everything that lives,” and “I think of rocks and fossils under ground where we walk.” His pet turtles were treated almost like children, with much care and affection.

He also believed that “good heart is better than good head,” and he was especially fond of people near either end of life for he found it easy to communicate with young children and elderly people and he

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*A ride in a Jeep with him confidently at the wheel was an experience with figurative and, often, nearly literal, “cliff-hanger” suspense.*

---

liked to work in old folks’ homes.

In the Princeton labs he spent much time in preparing the Triassic fish from

excavations on Campus and the early Tertiary mammals from Wyoming. Several times he went with me on western field trips where he showed great skill as a fossil finder. A ride in a Jeep with him confidently at the wheel was an experience with figurative and, often, nearly literal, “cliff-hanger” suspense. He disliked the camp chore of cooking but preferred to cook rather than to watch the time-consuming efforts of inexperienced student cooks and many groups of undergraduates, perceiving this, quickly learned to be very bungling and clumsy around the cookstove.

He would have retired from Princeton next July to follow his life-long hope to open his own lapidary shop somewhere in the West.

No words I know seem more appropriate for Frank than these by Bryant:

“To him who in the love Nature holds  
Communion with her visible forms,  
she speaks  
A various language.”

## Save *the* Date

**This year’s Pilgrimage will take place  
in Cody and Powell, Wyoming  
on Friday, August 21 and Saturday, August 22**

**Register online at [www.heartmountain.org](http://www.heartmountain.org)  
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# PILGRIMAGE 2015



# Hayami Story Speaks to Racial Issues Today

On Tuesday, February 10, 2015, the Motion Picture Association of America hosted the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies' (APAICS) screening and panel discussion of the film documentary *A Flicker in Eternity*. The film, directed by Sharon Yamato, focuses on Heart Mountain internee Stanley Hayami, a 15-year-old teenager who dreamed of becoming a writer and artist who was killed in action while fighting in Italy as a soldier in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT).

Through sketches and excerpts from his diary entries about school, grades, camp activities and warfare, Hayami's experience at Heart Mountain and as a soldier in the 442nd RCT demonstrate the irony and tragedy of war.

Following the screening was a panel discussion on racial profiling of Japanese Americans during World War II and the current state of racial profiling today. The panel was moderated by Floyd Mori, President and CEO of APAICS, and featured Norman Mineta, former United States Secretary of Commerce and Transportation, Suman Raghunathan, Executive Director of South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT), Jasjit Singh, Executive Director of Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF) and Congressman Mike Honda (D-CA).

Mineta began the discussion with his father's reaction to the arrest of Japanese men who were community leaders by the FBI shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor. After his father made a series of calls to law enforcement to determine who had been making the arrests and why, an FBI agent arrived at their home to give him an explanation.

"He told my dad that they were picking up community leaders who were sympathetic to the Japanese cause. My dad was slightly offended because he thought of himself as a community leader and the next day, he packed a suitcase and left it by the door, just in case they came back."

Witnessing his father's reaction and being behind barbed wire at Heart Mountain poised Mineta to make the immediate decision to ground all planes in the wake of the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks on September 11, 2001.

"[Norm] knows how to respond," said Congressman Honda. "That's the certainty that comes with recognizing and understanding what happened to us and acting it out."

Mineta cited how former President George W. Bush said "We don't want what happened to Norm in 1942 to happen again today."

"In 1942, we all looked like the enemy but we had nothing to do with the planes," Mineta said, drawing a parallel between the nation's attitudes toward Japanese Americans and Middle Eastern Americans fol-

lowing both attacks.

Congressman Honda emphasized that everyone has a responsibility to recognize racial profiling and act against it. Raghunathan and Singh spoke of the racial profiling people of South Asian and Middle Eastern descent face and the impacts it has on their communities today.

"The reality for South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Middle Eastern and Arab communities 14 years later is that they're being seen as under suspicion and under attack," said Raghunathan. "There is a conglomeration of racial profiling in our communities all over the country."

"When we talk about racial profiling, we're talking about institutionalized racial profiling," said Singh. "The [Japanese American] internment is a dark period that will never be erased. We say we've learned from this period, but have we really? With racial profiling still prevalent today, we're still trying to learn those lessons. When we look back on this internment period, we still haven't learned our lesson. We still have so much work to do."

Singh told Mineta that he was both proud and thankful for the role Mineta played in reopening the conversation on minorities' experience of racial profiling in the United States today.

"Now that we've seen that example from the Japanese American community, we can stand up and join the chorus. We can't let this happen again," said Singh.

In his closing remarks, Congressman Honda noted that the effort to stop racial profiling today "has to come from the community for the community to change. Racial profiling is one long piece of mistaken education and we must train teachers to help future generations unlearn it. You don't put up with it. You teach. You model. You change."

***Racial profiling is one long piece of mistaken education and we must train teachers to help future generations unlearn it. You don't put up with it. You teach. You model. You change.***



Stanley Hayami (above) and an image of his drawings from *A Flicker in Eternity*.

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Virginia L. Finley	Joel & Sue Kimmel	Kimie Ouchi	Mickey Waddell
Virginia Fish	Mae S. Kimura	Louise R. Oyama	David & Naomi Wagner
Christy Fleming	Mitsuko Kinoshita	Mieko A. Ozeki	Gretchen Wagner
Greg Ford	George & Betty Kometani	Eduardo Padro	Dick Warren
Frances A. Franklin	Dale S. Kunitomi	Paul I. Pedtke	June E. Watanabe
George Fujikawa	Howard Kuramitsu	Frances Pratt	Carol R. T. Wills
Wendy T. Fukuda	June S. (Akizuki) Kuwada	Jacqueline Princevalle	Priscilla Working
Yoneichi Fukui	Sharon Leaf	Lois Ann Ramirez	Ruth T. Yahanda
Kiyomi (Okamoto) Fukushima	Jason A. Lillegraven	Bayard D. Rea	Gordon Yamamoto
Mary Y. Furuta	Karen Little	Ann W. Reishus	Mitsuye Yamamoto
Mary Ellen Goff	Kristine Lucas	Lee Ann Reiter	Toshiko Yamamoto
Andrea Graham	Nancy Lucas	Carol Richendifer	Carolyn Yamaoka
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Emerly Gueron	Gregory M. Marutani	Linda Chizuko Takahashi Rodriguez	Dorothy Yamashita
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Nancy Hall	Dr. Kayoshi Masuoka	Sharon White Roland	Nancy Yamauchi
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Pamela A. Hashimoto &	Lisette McCormick	Elizabeth B. Rothbart	Fusae Yoshida
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Toshio & Takeko Hayashi	Richard N. Mikami	Carol F. Samuel	Kathy Saito Yuille
Hatsuko Mary Higuchi	Florence T. Mikawa	Richard Savino	Patricia Zellar
Glen Susumu Hiranuma	Steve Mishima	Mr. Steven Sawyer	Sue Zimmerman

+ indicates funds for National Consortium on Racial & Ethnic Fairness in the Courts Event.  
The event also received donations in 2013 that are not recognized here.



**Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation**  
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[www.HeartMountain.org](http://www.HeartMountain.org)

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## ***Gaman: Surviving the Nikkei Gulag and Diaspora in World War II***

This hauntingly beautiful exhibit by Hatsuko Mary Higuchi explores the incarcerated experience through a variety of media including watercolor, acrylic, mixed media, collage and calligraphy. Higuchi's artwork features themes ranging from landscapes to figures to abstracts. Below is one of her abstract paintings entitled *Executive Order 9066, Series 33. Turmoil at Heart Mountain*. The painting featured on the cover of this newsletter is *Executive Order 9066, Series 32. Heart Mountain #1*. Both are on display now with the rest of the exhibit and will be up through May.



Hatsuko Mary Higuchi



*This exhibit was made possible in part through a grant from the Wyoming Arts Council, and we are grateful for their support.*

***Join us for an artist's talk &  
reception on Thursday, May 21!***

