KOKORO KARA HEART MOUNTAIN WYOMING FOUNDATION TOM OUT KEAT

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A Place of Love: Board Chair Shirley Ann Higuchi

When I was a child, I believed Heart Mountain was a place of love. My mother told me it was where she and my dad had met. And then there was the name itself: *Heart* Mountain. After she died, our friend, former Heart Mountain internee and fellow Board Member Shig Yabu, told me she had spoken at a board meeting about the importance of building some-

thing to commemorate what had happened at the site. As we begin a new year, I think about how far we have come since then and I believe that my mother—and other former internees who are no longer with us—would be proud to see what we have built.

Over the years, the Heart Mountain community has grown. We have welcomed many new friends to our In-

terpretive Center. This year alone, we met many new people, including more than 12,000 visitors who walked through our exhibits. In May, we welcomed our new Executive Director, Brian Liesinger. In June, thanks to our friend, Judge Steven Cranfill, we celebrated new American citizens in the first Naturalization Ceremony held at the Center. In July, we brought together more than 200 friends new and old for our annual pilgrimage. Our new victory garden, the James O. Ito Historic Garden, was beginning to flourish, under the supervision of Facilities Manager Kim Barhaug, Master Gardener Bob Prchal and many volunteers. We developed a strong friendship with ABC Reporter David Ono and Producer Jeff MacIntyre, who created a documentary about Heart Mountain. In August, we celebrated the culmination of the Interpretive Center's second year in operation. In October, we brought Heart Mountain to an event in Washington, D.C., with the support of the law firm Epstein Becker Green, and, in collaboration with the National Parks Conversation Association, held events in Jackson Hole, Wyo. As 2013 came to an end, we reached the 1,000-follower mark on Facebook.

In 2014, we continue to share the story of Heart Mountain both at the Interpre-

tive Center and around the country. On February 22, starting at 4 p.m., we invite the West Coast community to join us for events at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. We will kick off the evening discussing day-to-day operations of the Interpretive Center and hope to answer any questions you may have about our accomplishments. We will pre-

> miere the extended version of *Witness: The Legacy of Heart Mountain*, a documentary by Jeff and David, in which they feature the friendship between Senator Alan Simpson and Secretary Norman Mineta. Jeff and David will moderate a panel discussion after the film, and we will end the night with a cocktail reception.

> In June 2014, more than 200 judges, lawyers and

scholars will convene at our site for the 26th Annual Meeting of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts. I thank our board members, Eric Muller, Aura Newlin, Kathy Yuille and Claudia Wade, who are working with me to plan for the meeting. Not only will we take part in a larger dialogue about the issues facing minorities in our courts and how we can improve our justice system, we will also share the story of Heart Mountain with people who will play a considerable role in ensuring that what happened here never happens again. We rely on these judges and lawyers to protect the rights of minorities now, in a way that the courts did not protect the rights of people like Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi and Minoru Yasui.

On August 22–23, 2014, we will celebrate the lives of the Heart Mountain veterans with our annual pilgrimage. Irene Hirano Inouye, who spoke at our Grand Opening with her husband, the late Senator Daniel K. Inouye, will return to our site as we recognize him for his service and support. Al and Norm, and many more, will join us for this momentous occasion. It is an honor for us to recognize both Senator Inouye and the other Nisei veterans for their heroism. We are working to reach out to veterans, and we hope you will get in touch if you are or someone you know is a Nisei veteran. (Please contact the staff at info@heartmountain.org.)

Heart Mountain was once a place of injustice, of sadness, of devastation. Yet, if not for Heart Mountain, my parents may have never met. If not for Heart Mountain, Al and Norm may have never become lifelong friends, and Jim and Toshi Ito may have never fallen in love and gotten married.

Shig gave me a connection to my mother when he told me she wanted something built at Heart Mountain. Just as he was once my mother's friend, I am now proud to call him one of mine. As chair, I have gained priceless friendships and learned from talented leaders—including one of the top philanthropy experts in the nation, distinguished professors of history and law, former internees who overcame oppression to become successful in their fields, important members of the Cody/ Powell communities and many more.

For better or for worse, Heart Mountain is a place that connects us. It is the place where we keep alive the memory of our families and their experiences. It is the place to which we return, some of us every year, some of us every ten or twenty years. It is the place where we have met new friends and kept in touch with old friends, where we have united for a common cause. It is the place that holds the stories of 14,000 people. For me, Heart Mountain is a place of love. Love is what protects the stories of the Heart Mountain internees so that they are never forgotten, by their families and by their country.

Thank you to all our generous donors and volunteers. Thank you to our dedicated board members and advisory council members. Thank you to our devoted staff. All of you go above and beyond to make our Interpretive Center the world-class museum it is. Thank you to those who return to Heart Mountain whenever you can and for helping ensure the story of Heart Mountain lives on for generations to come.

Board Chair Shirley Ann Higuchi welcomes your comments and can be reached at shiguchi@heartmountain.org.



Shirley Ann Higuchi

HMWF Leadership to Miss Longtime Board Member Rick Ewig

After more than a decade serving on the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation Board, Secretary Rick Ewig has decided to step down.

"Rick has shown us tremendous loyalty and dedication over the years," said Chair Shirley Ann Higuchi. "He was instrumental in the building of the Interpretive Center and has stood by us through many challenges and transitions. We greatly appreciate his significant contributions to the Foundation and would not be where we are today without his help."

Ewig is leaving to dedicate time to other pressing responsibilities and interests. He currently serves as the Associate Director of the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming. He also acts as editor of the Annals of Wyoming: The Wyoming History Journal. He is passionate about Wyoming history and culture and has published several articles, including one on women's suffrage in the state, as well as a book about the history of the University of Wyoming, called University of Wyoming, in The Campus History Series.

"My time on the Board has been so rewarding professionally," said Ewig. "I feel extremely fortunate to have been a part of the board and especially part of the creation of the Interpretive Center."

Ewig joined the Board in 2002 and became secretary of the board in 2010. A historian and archivist by trade, he has been actively involved in many aspects of the Foundation. Acting Curator LaDonna Zall expressed gratitude for his help with the mainte-

nance and organization of the Foundation's significant artifacts and archives.

"He brought a wealth of information not only about Heart Mountain and about the role of museums and archives in the cultural life of the state, but he also knows deeply about the history of Wyoming, which has been an enormous help to the Foundation," said Vice-Chair Doug Nelson.

While the Foundation was in the midst of building the Interpretive Center, Ewig became a member of the Program Committee, which oversaw the creation of the permanent exhibit—one that has since won several awards. Ewig advised the commit-

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Pilgrimage: August 22–23, 2014 Honoring Selfless Service

We will honor the service of veterans to our country, with recognition of soldiers from Heart Mountain. Events include an Honor Roll Memorial dedication, distinguished speakers, film screenings and banquet. Mark your calendars: registration opens April 15.

WE NEED YOUR HELP:

We are reaching out to veterans who may be able to attend our pilgrimage. If you are a Japanese American veteran and former internee or if you know someone who is, contact us at info@heartmountain.org or by phone at 307.754.8000.



Rick Ewig

tee on interpretive language and artifact use because of his experience working in archives. He also helped design strategies for engaging the Wyoming audience.

"He was (as he is in everything) a calm, wise, and centering presence on the committee," said Program Committee Co-Chair Eric Muller. "And someone to whom I knew I could turn for t absolutely any point"

sage advice at absolutely any point."

Most recently, Ewig has contributed significantly to the committee charged with hiring Heart Mountain's first archivist, who will start work this spring.

Though he will continue to be involved in the Foundation in other ways, his absence will be felt profoundly at board meetings, at which he has been a dedicated participant for more than a decade.

"It is a commonplace cliché to describe an admirable person as 'a gentleman and scholar," said Nelson. "But Rick Ewig is actually one of those rare people who genuinely fits that description."

HEART MOUNTAIN WYOMING FOUNDATION

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WALK FAMILY LEGACY ALIGNED WITH HEART MOUNTAIN MISSION

It was an act of protest and defiance in 1943 that has endeared Maurice Walk to the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation (HMWF). And it is through continued commitment by his family that we remember his courageous act and are poised to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Heart Mountain World War II Japanese American Confinement Site.

In late 1942, with 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry incarcerated in camps across the country, Mr. Walk, a young Chicago lawyer, was hired by the War Relocation Authority (WRA). He served as one of two advisors on legal issues arising from the forced removal and confinement of West Coast Japanese Americans.

Early on, he questioned the constitutionality the WRA's actions and was concerned about the effect on fundamental civil liberties of Japanese Americans. Walk warned his superiors about the arguments of his other advisor, James McLaughlin, in favor of the forced relocation of Japanese Americans. He wrote, "By setting no conceptual limitations upon military authority over civilians under the war powers, McLaughlin's approach would do nothing to restrain, but would rather encourage military absolutism in time of war."

Failing to persuade his colleagues of the dangers of the WRA's procedures, Walk courageously resigned in protest of the violation of Japanese Americans' rights.

More than sixty years later, Maurice Walk's family, led by daughters Margot and Cynthia, reaffirmed their commitment to the former internees and to ensuring that this country does not make a similar mistake in the future.

The Marguerite A. Walk Foundation has been a major supportor of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, giving a timely donation that launched the HMWF's \$5 million Capital Campaign to build the Interpretive Center. Ultimately, this gift would pave the way for the construction and opening of Heart Mountain's world-class museum in 2011.

"Had the Walks not stepped forward with this early pledge of support, we probably wouldn't have gained the momentum to get that job done," said HMWF Vice-Chair Doug Nelson. More recently, the Walk family pledged an additional \$250,000 to support the HMWF's endowment fund. The Memory and Justice Fund will ensure the HMWF fulfills the mission of educating the public about this violation of civil rights and supporting programs and scholarship about this period of American history.

At a reception in Jackson Hole, Wyo., on Oct. 19, 2013, the HMWF leadership publicly thanked the Walk family for their steadfast support. Margot Walk, daughter of Maurice Walk, spoke about the importance of the Foundation, not only to the country, but also to her family. The Walk family's contributions extend beyond monetary support: they have advocated for the rights of Japanese Americans since World War II.

In addition to the \$250,000 donated by the Walk family, the endowment fund has received a gift of \$250,000 from William I. Higuchi, a former Heart Mountain internee and Chairman of Lipocine, Inc., as well as numerous other individual and family donations amounting to an additional \$220,000. The HMWF has also received an anonymous challenge grant, which will match any new endowment contributions that are secured in 2014, up to \$250,000.

"We are asking friends and supporters as well as interested institutions to help us meet this challenge grant of \$250,000," said Nelson. The endowment committee aims to raise \$1.25 million by the end of 2014.



PHOTO BY BRIAN LIESINGER Margot Walk speaks at an event in Jackson Hole, Wyo., after being recognized by the HMWF's

With the current gifts of the Walk family, the Higuchi family and the many other individuals, the Foundation is more than halfway there.

leadership for her family's contributions.

"The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation was created to play a significant role in educating the country about the World War II experience of Japanese Americans, as well as to serve as an honest and independent voice in describing what the Japanese Americans endured during World War II," explained Nelson. "The Memory and Justice Endowment Fund will allow that independent voice to remain loud and clear for decades to come."

Help build the Memory & Justice Fund for the future of the HMWF!

<i>Cut out and mail the info below or call the</i> deductible gift.	e HMWF at 307.754	.8000 to make your tax
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Heart Mountain to Host NCREFC Annual Meeting

Pairing its commitment to examining the treatment of minorities in the courts with the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation's (HMWF) dedication to issues of prejudice faced by Japanese Americans during World War II, the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts (NCREFC) will hold its 26th annual meeting in Cody, Wyo., in 2014.

It is the first time in the history of the NCREFC that their annual meeting will be held in the Rocky Mountain West. The site is a significant location for the event because of its history as one of the places where people of Japanese ancestry were unjustly incarcerated during World War II. The event will also draw upon the significance of Heart Mountain for Native Americans, and will include speakers from the tribal courts in the region.

Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigsby, who organized the NCREFC's 25th annual meeting, believes it is critical for the organization to address and educate attendees about issues facing immigrants and minorities. She said, "It continues to happen unless we continue to keep these issues in the forefront."

With fundraising well underway, HMWF Chair Shirley Ann Higuchi and co-chairs of the 2014 conference, Aura Newlin and Eric Muller, are deep into planning the June 2014 event. Speakers like Secretary Norman Mineta, Senator Alan Simpson and Judge Lance Ito—all familiar faces at our annual pilgrimages—will be in attendance, as will many legal scholars, judges and lawyers.

On October 3, 2013 the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation and the NCREFC participated in a kick-off event for the 2014 collaboration for the 26th Annual Meeting. The event was hosted by the D.C. law firm of Epstein Becker Green. The HMWF has currently raised approximately \$20,000 in donations and pledges for the 2014 conference, which will take place June 25–28, in Cody, including sessions at the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center.

This event was one in a series of recent opportunities that the Foundation hopes will foster national awareness of the Interpretive Center for the work it is doing to preserve the legacy of Japanese American



PHOTO BY WARREN MARUYAMA

Pictured from L to R: Carrie Valiant (Epstein Becker Green), Judge Edward Clifton (President of the NCREFC), Shirley Ann Higuchi, Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigsby (Chair of the 25th Annual NCREFC Meeting), Judge Richard Roberts (Chief Judge of the US District Court in DC)

incarceration. Many judges from the D.C. courts and from courts around the country attended, as well as members of the District of Columbia Bar and local Heart Mountain supporters. Chief Judge Richard W. Roberts of the Federal District Court of the District of Columbia was also in attendance.

The event featured speeches from the Consortium's President, Judge Edward Clifton, and Judge Blackburne-Rigsby, as well as Higuchi. Epstein Becker Green recognized Higuchi for her commitment to diversity both in the District of Columbia legal community and at Heart Mountain. Higuchi is a former Epstein Becker Green attorney.

Stuart Gerson, on behalf of the firm, noted, "Shirley and her family—what a fabulous legacy—are greatly to be commended, and we're very proud in our firm that we've had a very small role."

Higuchi said later, "We would not be where we are today without the board and the advisory council who give so much to the Foundation every day, our amazing staff and volunteers and our donors. It is a team effort in every sense, and it has been an honor for me to be a part of it. I look forward to seeing what we continue to accomplish together."

Congressman Mike Honda (D-CA) was in attendance at the event, recalling

the story of Secretary Norman Mineta and Senator Alan Simpson, who met at Heart Mountain as boy scouts. He also spoke about the friendship between Floyd Mori, former President of the Japanese American Citizens' League, and Representative Bill Thomas, former Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. Their friendship greatly influenced Representative Thomas, who became instrumental in creating what is now known as the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program.

"That's what the Heart Mountain tradition is about," said Congressman Honda. "To give an opportunity to teach people who don't know—who should know and future generations to learn about the American experience, what the Japanese Americans had experienced and its relevance to the future."

Thanks to those who have donated or made pledges for the 2014 Conference:

The American Psychological Association The Annie E. Casey Foundation Epstein Becker Green Hogan Lovells Holland & Hart LLP The Olender Foundation Vinson & Elkins LLP

Preservation of Honor Roll Memorial Underway

By Katharine Chizuko Solien

An American flag flies at the Honor Roll Memorial overlooking the vast site where the Heart Mountain Relocation Center once stood, with the towering silhouette of Heart Mountain rising in the distance.

The flag is raised and lowered, just as it was when 10,000 Japanese Americans were imprisoned here, in a quiet ritual of patriotism that commemorates internees who served in the armed forces during World War II. Today, the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation (HMWF) in collaboration with the National Park Service (NPS) is taking important measures to preserve the Honor Roll Memorial so that future generations can remember the extraordinary courage of these brave men and women.

More than 800 individuals left their families behind the barbed wire fences of Heart Mountain to defend their country during World War II, and their names are listed individually on the Honor Roll. Many fought with great heroism in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the segregated Japanese American unit considered to be the most decorated infantry unit in U.S. Army history for its size and length of service. Fifteen from Heart Mountain were killed in action and two received the Medal of Honor, the military's highest award. Today, the Honor Roll preserves the memory of these men and women.

"It is a crucial piece of the historic site, standing as a testament to the loyalty of those who, despite severe slight by their government, served bravely for our nation," said Brian Liesinger, Executive Director of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation.

The Honor Roll was built by Heart Mountain internees near the main gate of the camp in August 1944. They handpainted the names of the servicemen and women from Heart Mountain onto grey asbestos panels, mounted onto a wood frame bulletin board. They collected stones from the nearby Shoshone River to build a circular wall and steps to define a base, where they erected a wooden flagpole. Today, upon close observation of the stone wall, one can trace handprints in the



The Honor Roll Memorial rests on a bluff above the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center, surrounded by interpretive signs and the Setsuko Saito Higuchi Memorial Walking Tour.

mortar left by the internees when they built the memorial.

In recent years, the monument has undergone several improvements. In 2003, the original Honor Roll, which had faded due to exposure to the elements was replaced with a new signboard. In 2005, the structure was integrated into the Setsuko Saito Higuchi Memorial Walking Tour-an interpretive trail that features eight interpretive signs describing facets of the camp's history. At this time, the wood flagpole was replaced with a metal pole. In 2006, the Honor Roll and the surrounding site was designated a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service. Today, the Honor Roll is open at all times and is an important part of the Center's educational programming.

"We encourage every visitor to the Interpretive Center to visit the Honor Roll and take the Walking Tour," said Liesinger. The Honor Roll is one of the few original structures that remain from the camp, including a few hospital buildings, the hospital boilerhouse and chimney and one of the root cellars.

Unfortunately, after decades of exposure to the harsh Wyoming weather, the stone wall and steps surrounding the Honor Roll have started to fail. The masonry was built simply by the internees, without structural foundations, and now the original mortar and stones have become loose.

In August 2012, Christy Fleming, Chief of Interpretation at the National Park Service Bighorn Canyon Recreation Area (BCRA) and Ted Preator, BCRA Historic Preservationist, met with the HMWF Board of Directors to discuss a joint project between Heart Mountain and the National Park Service. Fleming, former HMWF Deputy Executive Director, was familiar with the importance of maintaining the Honor Roll, and Preator brought extensive experience in masonry restoration.

"When I was at Heart Mountain, we knew that the Honor Roll needed work," Fleming recalled, "and the stones from the wall were starting to disappear."

Kris Horiuchi, HMWF Board Member and principal of Horiuchi Solien Landscape Architects in Falmouth, Mass., worked with Fleming and Preator on a restoration plan for the stone wall and steps.

"The board agreed that preserving the historic character of the wall was essential," noted Horiuchi. The original river stones will be reset and the new mortar will match the color and texture of the original wall.

"It's a challenging restoration project," said Preator, "and it's important that the new masonry matches the original so that it will be hard to tell the sections that we worked on."

Fleming is quick to point out that the

project is intended ultimately to "preserve—not reconstruct" a valued historic and cultural landmark. "Part of the NPS mission is to preserve historic places," she said. "And we are honored to share our skills and labor to ensure the Heart Mountain Honor Roll endures."

Through a Memorandum of Agreement, NPS will provide HMWF with labor and technical assistance on culturally significant structures and landscapes. The Honor Roll project has been divided into two phases. Phase I, completed in August 2013, focused on rebuilding the main entry steps and adding a handrail. Phase II will include the restoration of the circular wall and the two rear steps. This phase will begin in June and be completed prior to the 2014 Pilgrimage in August, which will honor the late Senator Daniel Inouye and all those who served in the armed forces.

"With preservation being a main part of our mission, we hold sacred the few structures of the Heart Mountain World War II Japanese American confinement site that remain," said Liesinger. "By preserving the Honor Roll, we ensure that future generations learn about and honor the sacrifices of Japanese Americans incarcerated here during World War II."

Katie Solien is the granddaughter of Heart Mountain internee, Katsuhiro Horiuchi, and attends Tabor Academy in Massachusetts.



The Honor Roll Memorial commemorates by name the men and women from Heart Mountain who served in World War II.

HMWF Supports JACL at Annual Gala

Representatives from the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation showed their support for the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) by sponsoring a table at their annual gala held on October 10, 2013. This year, the event recognized Chair of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Daphne Kwok, National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis, Southwest Airlines, Toyota and Congressman Mike Honda (D–CA).

"In 2013, we honored those who have made outstanding contributions to promote diversity, the idea that opportunity belongs to everyone," said Priscilla Ouchida, President of the JACL, in an interview.

In addition to recognizing the honorees, the event celebrated the efforts of the JACL during the past year and throughout the organization's history. Since the 1930s, the JACL has built itself into a key supporter of civil rights. Secretary Norman Mineta, who spoke briefly at the event noted, "There's no question that the Japanese American Citizens' League has been the banner organization for the Japanese American community, in particular, but also as the oldest Asian American civil rights organization, it has been carrying the banner for the Asian Pacific American community for a long time."

During the past year, the JACL fought for comprehensive immigration reform. At its summer convention in Washington, D.C., participants lobbied their state representatives and senators to support legislation that would allow immigrants to bring their families to this country and provide a pathway to citizenship for the DREAMers, individuals who meet the requirements of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act. Participants came from all over the country and met with many members of the House and Senate. The JACL also supported the push to give Nisei veterans the Congressional Medal of Honor.

At the October event, Congresswoman Judy Chu, Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, told the attendees, "It was so moving for me to be able to see these elderly Nisei



Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation Board Chair Shirley Ann Higuchi (center) poses here with Congressman Mike Honda (D–CA) and Congresswoman Judy Chu (D–CA) at the 2013 Japanese American Citizens' League Annual Gala.

finally getting the recognition that they deserved right there at the U.S. Capitol."

Still, the work of the JACL is far from over. An organization that has had to rebuild and rebrand itself several times over the last few decades, the JACL is currently pushing for younger generations to take on more active roles in the organization and has become increasingly active not only in Japanese American affairs but also in Asian Pacific American and minority affairs in general.

"We must continue to look at our young people to become the champions of diversity, to become champions in their own right," said Congressman Mike Honda in his remarks.

"Jon Jarvis, Congressman Mike Honda—the people who were honored at the JACL gala have also supported us," said Chair Shirley Ann Higuchi. "We felt that it was important for us to show our appreciation for them, and to the JACL, which has been so supportive of our own work."

Warm Thanks in this Cold Season: Executive Director Brian Liesinger

With snow drifting at the entranceway of the Interpretive Center and forcing its way in the front door, I imagine this winter being much like the winter of 1942-43 endured by the first Heart Mountain internees. They were greeted not only with barracks and barbed wire but also biting winds and an intense chill brought on by sub-zero tempera-



tures. The positive spin on a harsh winter in Wyoming is that recent visitors to the Center are presented with an authentic internee experience. They can better consider the shock the west coasters would have experienced coming from temperate climates to Northwest Wyoming. I shiver at the thought of the wind ripping through the cracks in the barracks walls. But then my mind gravitates back to the work we're doing today and the ongoing support we receive, and I am warmed. It is with great pride that I look back on the successes of 2013 and thank those who made these successes possible.

Without you, donors and members, volunteers and in-kind contributors, Heart Mountain champions and word-of-mouth messengers, we would not be thrivingbuilding an endowment and improving the historic Heart Mountain World War II Japanese American Confinement Site.

With your generous donations and member-

ship, you enabled us to serve 12,427 visitors at the Interpretive Center in 2013, allowing us to open the doors seven days a week in the summer and four days a week in the winter. You have allowed us to feature special exhibits in the gallery. You have contributed to the renovation of the iconic boilerhouse chimney and the historic Honor Roll Memorial.

With hard work and the contributions of goods and services, you have helped build the newly-dedicated James O. Ito Historic Garden, maintain the grounds and keep our archives in order.

With the contribution of artifacts and

documents, you have enriched our exhibits, filled our archives and given us a wealth of primary source material to draw on for education and research.

And with the dedication of the board of directors and advisory council members, all of whom have their hearts in the work of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, we are guided on a sure course toward long-term stability and growth.

I offer my sincerest thanks to you all, on behalf of the entire staff. Through your contributions we maintain the historic site and advance the Foundation's mission. We will continue to serve visitors, expand outreach and ensure the site educates generations to come about the Japanese American confinement at Heart Mountain.

The book is closed on 2013, and it's full speed ahead in 2014, as indicated by Board Chair Shirley Ann Higuchi's column in this newsletter. I'm energized by the projects ahead, the partnerships to be made and the visitation coming our way. And I ask you to join us in continued successes. It is you on which our Foundation has been built, and it is with you that we will continue to strengthen it.

Thank you donors: 2013

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Maggie the Magpie: A Gift Fit for a Prince

When Sharyl McDowell sent a baby gift to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge after the birth of their son, Prince George, she never expected to receive anything back from England. Yet, just weeks after she sent Shig Yabu's book, *Hello Maggie* and a plush magpie from the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center gift shop, Sharyl received an official "thank you" card from the Royal Family.

"The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge were most touched by the thoughtful gift you so kindly sent on the occasion of the birth of their son, Prince George," the note began. "Their Royal Highnesses have been overwhelmed by all the wonderful messages and gifts they have received and send you their warmest thanks and best wishes." The inscription on the bottom of the note reads: "HRH Prince George Alexander Louis of Cambridge, 22nd July, 2013."

"Won't it be nice," Sharyl jokes, "when we see His Royal Highness being pushed in his pram, Maggie clutched in his little hand?"

Sharyl has been at the Interpretive Center for a year and a half and serves as a year-round front desk receptionist. She admits to being a bit of an Anglophile.

Hello Maggie is the story of young Shig Yabu, who while confined at Heart Mountain, adopted a magpie and taught it to talk. It is illustrated by Willie Ito, who was incarcerated at Topaz, Utah, during the war. Both *Hello Maggie* and plush magpies are available at the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center gift shop.



PHOTOS BY BETHANY SANDVIK ABOVE: Sharyl McDowell holds her "thank you" card from Prince William and Princess Kate.

RIGHT: The gifts sent by McDowell to Prince George are available in the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center gift shop and online at shopheartmountain.org.

