

KOKORO KARA

Fall 2013

HEART MOUNTAIN WYOMING FOUNDATION

"from our heart"

In This Issue:

- Two JACS Grants Awarded
- 2013 Pilgrimage Recap
- Smile at Heart Mountain



Message from the Chair: Shirley Ann Higuchi

This summer was a busy one for the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation. In addition to celebrating two years since opening the doors of the Interpretive Center, we have continued with outreach across the country.

In the beginning of July, I traveled to Seattle with HMWF Board Member Tak Hoshizaki and Memory and Justice Council Leader Bill Collier for the 2013 Japanese American National Museum (JANM) Conference. Although they come from two different generations, both Tak and Bill spoke movingly about their connections to Heart Mountain—Tak as a Heart Mountain draft resister and Bill as a *yonsei* Heart Mountain descendant. We also had the chance to see Board Member Allyson Nakamoto in action; she works tirelessly for JANM.

The month ended with our annual summer Pilgrimage, which was a huge success with over 200 attendees from all over the country for two days of remembrance.

Many thanks to those of you who joined us in Wyoming for the Pilgrimage, and particularly to those who join us year after year. This year, Secretary Mineta gave an inspiring speech in which he encouraged young people to take an active role in ensuring the future of the site.

We were pleased that over 30 people signed up to be part of our Memory and Justice Council, and we hope to recruit many more. I was busy doing just that and found someone who I am hopeful will some day ably fill my shoes as Chair of the Board: “Mai Mai,” Toshi Ito’s great-granddaughter (pictured with me above). Of course this may not happen until 2050, but like Secretary Mineta, I look forward to seeing what future generations will accomplish.

The busy summer is to be followed by an equally busy fall. On October 3, in honor of Diversity Month, the law firm of Epstein Becker Green generously hosted a cocktail reception in Washington, D.C., featuring the Foundation. This reception

served as a preview of the 26th Annual Meeting of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts (NCREFC), which will take place June 25–28, 2014. The annual meeting will be held in Wyoming and will be hosted by the Foundation. The cocktail reception featured Justice Edward C. Clifton of the Superior Court of Rhode Island, who is President of the NCREFC; Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigsby, of the D.C. Court of Appeals; and myself. We were joined by several members of the Heart Mountain community at the event. Thank you to all who supported us.



PHOTO BY ERIC MULLER

On October 18–19, HMWF board members will travel to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, for a reception in collaboration with the National Parks Conservation Association and the National Museum of Wildlife Art. A short film on Heart Mountain will be shown, and Board Member Eric Muller’s exhibit for his book *Colors of Confinement* will be on display. Senator Al Simpson and Secretary Norman Mineta have kindly agreed to speak at the event on a panel about their experiences at Heart Mountain and in government. In addition, HMWF Vice-Chair Doug Nelson will be advocating for our endowment.

I also want to thank our friends at the law firm Holland & Hart, who have graciously offered to host the HMWF Board’s fall meeting at their Jackson Hole office that weekend.

As Chair, my deepest wish is to secure the Foundation’s future so that it will flourish for years to come. To do so, we must share our story in new places and with new people. That is exactly what we are doing in D.C. and in Jackson Hole—and what we will continue to do at next June’s NCREFC Conference. The NCREFC seeks to ensure that our courts examine the treatment accorded to minorities in the courts and we feel that Heart Mountain is a historically-significant venue for this event. Most of those incarcerated at Heart Mountain and other confinement sites did not receive a

trial, and the small minority who did faced discrimination that went unrecognized for years. Board Members Eric Muller, Aura Newlin, Kathy Yuille and Claudia Wade are already hard at work planning for this event, and I look forward to sharing more details with you as they become available.

This is an important time for the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, as we try to secure our future and continue to preserve our history. Whether you volunteer or become an annual member, whether you give to our Memory and Justice Fund or donate a cherished artifact, you are helping to ensure that the story of Heart Mountain will be shared for many more generations. ■

HONORARY ADVISORS

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Shirley Ann Higuchi, *Chair*
Douglas W. Nelson, *Vice-Chair*
Claudia Wade, *Treasurer*
Rick Ewig, *Secretary*
Kris Horiuchi
Takashi Hoshizaki
Alan Kumamoto
Eric Muller
Allyson Nakamoto
R. Dana Ono
Pete Simpson
Shigeru Yabu
Kathleen Saito Yuille
LaDonna Zall
Aura Newlin

STAFF

Brian Liesinger - *Executive Director*
Bethany H. Sandvik - *Operations Manager*
Kim Barhaug - *Facilities Manager*
Hana Maruyama - *Newsletter Contributor*

A special thanks to our summer Interpretive Center staff for another great season:

Anna Clifton
Danielle Constein
Sharyl McDowell
Kathryn McKee
Carter Reed

Message from the Executive Director: Brian Liesinger

Recently moving from Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Powell, Wyoming, and transitioning from working at a massive institution (the University of Minnesota) to a small (but mighty) non-profit has resulted in something akin to culture shock. But my first months with the HMWF have been as gratifying as they have been eye-opening. I continue to be impressed by the staff, the board and the compliments from visitors at the Interpretive Center.

Having a contemplative spirit, I have gotten into the habit of taking note of many of my “firsts” in this new role: the first visitors I checked in; the first board meeting; the first fire alarm; and my first Pilgrimage. There will be many more visitors checked in, hopefully fire alarms of only the testing variety and, with luck, many more Pilgrimages.

But my very first connection with Heart Mountain happened long before I was born—during the last of the homesteading days in Wyoming. My grandparents, both veterans of World War II, roamed the camp in the early 1950s. They had secured a farm plot north of Riverton, Wyoming, and were given rights to collect materials from the Heart Mountain Relocation Center. My grandfather dismantled one of the hospital buildings and used the materials to construct a homestead house.

On one level, I’m perturbed. I lament the loss of nearly all of the camp structures—we have to rely heavily on our imaginations and our exhibits to envision the layout of the camp. But on a greater level, I am fortunate that his desire to live in Wyoming ensured that I would have roots here. Heart Mountain exerts the same mythical, magnetic pull on me that it did on him.

Today, I channel his ingenuity in my work, despite the difference between our Heart Mountain experiences. The main point of difference being that his energy went into dismantling while mine is devoted to preservation. Otherwise, his intentions in Wyoming were not dissimilar from mine—we were both compelled to

move here to make something grow.

The Foundation has its own list of “firsts” to boast about from this past summer, and I am honored to have been a part of them.

For the first time, a naturalization ceremony was held at the Center in June, where seven people were sworn in as American citizens by District Court Judge Steven Cranfill. It was a moving ceremony, during which Chair Shirley Ann Higuchi, Board Member Pete Simpson and U.S. Senator Alan Simpson spoke. The poignancy of welcoming new citizens on a site where U.S. citizens were at one time unjustly denied their rights was not lost on those present.



The first crop of our modern incarnation of a Victory Garden went in the ground in June as well. With tremendous contributions from volunteers, local businesses and staff, the James O. Ito Historical Garden was dedicated at the Pilgrimage in July, with four generations of his family present. By now, the cucumbers, tomatoes, eggplant, squash and daikon have been producing, while the hollyhocks are nearly taking over the north end of the garden.

The first renovations to the Honor Roll Memorial have been completed by workers from the National Park Service’s Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area. The crew stabilized the staircase up to the monument and equipped it with a handrail support—all while maintaining the structure’s historical integrity. We thank them for completing this work, and we look forward to working with them on future renovations.

I am also happy to report that the first funds for the newly-acquired Heart Mountain root cellar have come in. Thanks to a grant from the National Park Service’s Japanese American Confinement Sites program, we will begin exploring options for preservation and, hopefully, exhibition to the public in the future.

I would also be remiss if I did not mention the acquisition of a number of

historical pieces large and small: from photos to watercolor paintings to government documents to garden implements. We are incredibly grateful to those who bring in pieces of Heart Mountain history.

And yet with all that has happened this summer—during which we also celebrated the second anniversary of the Interpretive Center—the schedule remains full with planning for fall and for 2014:

- If you can make it to Jackson Hole on October 18, please join us for a “Building Community for Heart Mountain” event (highlighted on page 8), featuring a film on Heart Mountain and a panel discussion with Secretary Norman Mineta and Senator Al Simpson.
- With the help of another Japanese American Confinement Sites grant, we’re also in the process of hiring an archivist to tackle the organization of our Archives Center. We hope to have candidates identified and interviews conducted this fall.
- We’re growing our outreach through a new Memory and Justice Council, which is detailed in the story on page 7. Let us know if you’d like to be involved.
- In addition to our annual Pilgrimage in August next year, we are bringing another major event to the area by hosting the annual meeting of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts in June.

Having wrapped up a summer season at the Center, during which we met thousands of visitors, we now set our sights on these and several other initiatives in the works.

In closing for my first column in the *Kokoro Kara* newsletter, I would like to take a moment to recognize Stevan Leger for his work with the Foundation. Steve retired in April from the Executive Director position after nearly two years of service. The best way I can think of to thank him for this service is to follow through on the strong plan he helped set in motion here and to ensure the vitality of the HMWF for many years to come.

PILGRIMAGE 2013

Celebrates the Legacy of Heart Mountain

This past July the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center celebrated its second annual Pilgrimage, attended by more than 200 people. A flurry of activity took place over the course of the weekend as former internees, staff, supporters and friends walked through our doors to celebrate with us—and there was plenty to celebrate.

At the Friday night dinner, Keynote Speaker Judge Lance Ito spoke to guests, including his mother Toshi and other members of the Ito family, about his parents' experiences at Heart Mountain. Ito's address was followed by a viewing of *Witness: The Legacy of Heart Mountain*, a documentary produced by ABC 7 Los Angeles's David Ono and Jeff MacIntyre.

On Saturday morning, attendees gathered outside of the Interpretive Center to hear remarks from former Secretary of Transportation, Norman Mineta, who spoke about his family's experience at Heart Mountain. More importantly, how-



David Ono



Lance Ito

always remember what happened here, what happened at Manzanar, Poston, Gila River, Rohwer, Jerome, Tule Lake, Minidoka, Topaz," Mineta said. "And that it was not just a quirk in history, but it's a time to be remembered so that it never ever occurs again."

The law firm of Holland and Hart was also recognized at the Saturday morning ceremony for their many hours of pro bono work contributed to the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation since its inception. Holland and Hart lawyers Walter Eggers and Kelly Johnson accepted a plaque on behalf of the firm.

After opening ceremonies,

ever, Mineta talked about the responsibility of future generations to ensure that this piece of history lives on.

"We leave it to you to continue the story into the future so that future generations will

attendees viewed the newly restored hospital chimney, which is attached to the former boiler house of the hospital complex. Vice-Chair Doug Nelson thanked some of the organizations involved with the project, while Milward Simpson, Director of Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources, spoke about the challenges of completing this kind of work. In addition, Northwest College Professor Amy McKinney spoke about the conditions of the hospital and health care in camp. A ribbon cutting ceremony was performed by five of the "babies" born at the hospital.

Also on Saturday, the Foundation presented a plaque to the Ito family in memory of James O. Ito for the recently completed James O. Ito Historical Garden. James Ito was a former internee who worked as Assistant Superintendent of Agriculture at Heart Mountain, where he contributed to



PHOTO BY BACON SAKATANI

The Nishizu family was represented at the 2013 Pilgrimage with 15 family members—all sporting matching "Nishizu University" t-shirts to the event.



PHOTO BY SHARYL MCDOWELL

The James O. Ito Historical Garden sits adjacent to the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center.

many agricultural innovations that are still used in farming in Park County, Wyoming.

Although James Ito passed away last fall, his wife Toshi and his children Judge Ito and Chrislyn Ito Kodama were able to see the new growth in the garden. The garden, which was funded in part by the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, is modeled after World War II “Victory Gardens” nurtured by internees outside of their barracks in the camp.

Finally, the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation celebrated the impending acquisition of one of the original Heart Mountain root cellars. The Foundation

was thrilled to learn that we were awarded a grant from the National Parks Service’s Japanese American Confinement Sites program to begin assessing the root cellar in order to plan for its future.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this Pilgrimage. For those of you who couldn’t make it, we hope to see you next year on August 22–23, 2014! ■



PHOTO BY SHARYL MCDOWELL
Members of the Kuwahara family pose for a photo during the Pilgrimage’s second day of activities on July 20.



PHOTO BY BACON SAKATANI

Secretary Norman Mineta with Cody Boy Scout Troop 78.

THANK YOU TO OUR PILGRIMAGE SPONSORS:

Party Time Plus • Blair Hotels
Borrows Company Inc.
Big Horn Horticulture
Marquis Awards & Specialties, Inc.

Heart Mountain Awarded Two Grants From NPS

Grants totaling \$130,900 have been awarded to the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation by the National Park Service’s Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) Grant Program. The grants enable the Foundation to formally assess the recently-acquired Heart Mountain root cellar and to hire an archivist.

Heart Mountain is one of several organizations benefiting from more than \$1.3 million in grants to preserve and interpret the sites where more than 120,000 Japanese Americans were imprisoned during World War II.

National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis notes, “Our national parks tell the stories not only of American success, but of our failures such as the dark history of the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. We make these grants so that present and future generations are reminded what happened and how the people survived these camps. And we make these grants to demonstrate our nation’s

commitment to the concept of ‘equal justice under law’ that grew out of these and other civil rights experiences.”

The Heart Mountain Root Cellar Planning and Preservation Project award, which totals \$33,621, will be used to address immediate needs for structural and engineering evaluation, plans for stabilization, preliminary historical documentation and conceptual architectural plans for restoration. Funds will also help with a legal appraisal as well as survey and title work necessary as first steps in the acquisition of the root cellar.

A new archivist was also funded by a JACS grant in the amount of \$97,279. This two-year grant will enable the HMWF to hire a temporary, full-time archivist to establish a robust, fully-articulated Archives Program at the Interpretive Center. The project will include arranging, describing and making accessible for research and outreach more than 200 linear feet of significant archival collections, including

the recently-acquired Frank Emi Papers.

HMWF Executive Director Brian Liesinger was pleased with the news. “With this funding, we’re able to begin securing crucial pieces of Heart Mountain history,” Liesinger said. “Both the root cellar and our archival holdings are invaluable to the site. I’m thrilled about any steps we can take toward further preservation and toward making them accessible to the public.”

The JACS Grant Program supports projects in seven states. To date, grant totals equal \$12 million of the \$38 million Congress authorized when it established the program in 2006. Grants from JACS may go to the 10 War Relocation Authority camps established in 1942 or to more than 40 other sites, including assembly, relocation and isolation centers. These are competitive grants with required matches—a dollar of non-federal funds or \$2 in-kind contributions for every grant dollar. A full list of the funded projects can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/hps/hpg/JACS/>. ■

CHIMNEY STANDS TALL

On July 20, 2013, the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation and Pilgrimage attendees celebrated the completion of the Hospital Chimney restoration—an effort that took over ten years to complete. As one of the few remaining structures of the Heart Mountain Relocation Center, this chimney is a priceless symbol of our history.

The chimney originally was attached to the hospital boiler house. Stiff winds and the repeated freezing and thawing of moisture in the smokestack caused it to tilt 18 inches to the east.

This summer, a series of repairs strengthened the structure. Brick joints were remortared. A concrete liner, helical pins and new grout were used to stabilize it. The grout and metal flashing will keep moisture out to make the chimney more durable.

Though it will always lean slightly, its successful stabilization means that the chimney will stand tall for future generations. The outcome for this chimney could have been very different, however. Engineers predicted its imminent collapse years before the repairs were completed.

HMWF members donated thousands of dollars to the cause, but the Foundation could not tackle this project alone. We teamed up with the National Park Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails and the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office to complete the project.

In his opening remarks, HMWF Vice-Chair Doug Nelson recognized the visionaries without whom this work would have never happened. “Homesteader and Heart Mountain preservation pioneer Mary Blackburn—with amazing foresight—left

the Foundation \$10,000 to help save the Chimney,” he said.

Blackburn, who passed away in 2008, was among the first to understand the pressing need to restore the chimney. The Foundation was honored to be joined by Blackburn’s daughters, Ruth Blackburn Pfaff and Jane Blackburn Chelberg, at the ceremony.

The Bureau of Reclamation also donated \$10,000 to the project. Though the remaining hospital buildings sit on Bureau of Reclamation land, the organization allows the Foundation to use these facilities for interpretation. In addition, the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office and the Foundation received a joint grant from the National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program to aid with the chimney’s restoration.

“The big benefactors in this great work were the National Park Service, which is represented today by Heart Mountain friend Kara Miyagishima,” continued Nelson, “and by the Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources.”

Milward Simpson, Director of the Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources and son of HMWF Board Member Pete Simpson, was a constant advocate for the hospital chimney. He spoke at the ceremony about his department’s role in this project. Afterwards, Amy McKinney, a professor of history at Northwest College, shared some of the history of the hospital.

But the highlight of the program was the ribbon cutting ceremony, performed by five former internees who were born at the hospital: Jeanne Shannon, Erik Emi, Kathleen Yuille, Madeline Chandler and Carole Sekimoto. This chimney is one of the last signs of the place where they were born, the place where their parents lived for three years.

For us, as Nelson said, “This lonely, haunting, lovely hospital chimney behind us has stood as a monument, symbol and reminder of the tragedy and triumphs of what happened here between 1942 and 1945.”

For the “babies of Heart Mountain,” this chimney is that and more: it is one of the last signs of their first home. ■



PHOTOS BY BACON SAKATANI

Above: “Babies” born in the Heart Mountain Hospital led the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the chimney stabilization project.

Below: 2013 Pilgrimage attendees get a first look at the project.

Memory and Justice Council Expands Heart Mountain Outreach

The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation has launched a Memory and Justice Council (MJC) to encourage supporters near and far to get involved with the organization on a deeper level. The MJC is an outreach group intended for anyone interested in actively taking part in activities revolving around the preservation of Heart Mountain history and sharing Heart Mountain stories.

The MJC launched at the 2013 Pilgrimage and absorbs the former Youth Council. Unlike the Youth Council, there is no age limit for MJC participants. Bill Collier, who was instrumental in forming the Youth Council, now turns his efforts toward growing the MJC.

Collier sees the MJC as an opportunity for the *sansei*, *yonsei* and even *gosei* to take an active role in the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center's future.

"I think that it is extremely important for the younger generations to be involved in sharing the Japanese American internment as a historical event and to help out in the preservation of camp sites," he said.

Descendants of internees as well as various Heart Mountain supporters are scattered across the country. The MJC hopes to provide a solution for those who want to participate in Heart Mountain activities but do not live near the Interpretive Center in Wyoming. It will breach this geographic divide by using media and local initiatives.

"I hope to find people willing to devote time to advancing our mission and spreading the history and lessons of Japanese American confinement on their own turf," Executive Director Brian Liesinger said. "As a non-profit, we will always be asking for financial assistance, but for participants in the MJC, we are asking for an active contribution—hopefully one that is as enriching to their lives as it is to the HMWF mission. This may

include starting a book club focusing on internment or social justice issues. It could include collecting oral histories or conducting digital storytelling workshops. It could include writing groups or film clubs. But honestly, we're open to however people want to connect with us—even from a distance."

Liesinger's first focused initiative for the MJC is to collect digital stories about internment at Heart Mountain—a project that he has considerable experience with. In his former position with the Learning Abroad Center at the University of Minnesota, Liesinger taught students and educators how to use digital storytelling to create powerful visual narratives.

Digital stories are short narratives woven together using photographs, video, audio recordings and music to convey a story. He hopes to feature future stories at the Center, as well as on the Heart Mountain website. One advantage of digital stories is that they are easy to create, even for those who may not feel they have much experience with technology. And to maximize ease of creation and access to necessary technologies, Liesinger focuses on using free, open-source software to help people create the stories.

"We can engage people more deeply with Heart Mountain stories and share them more readily when they are crafted digitally," he explained. "I view digital storytelling projects as a combination of the age-old art

of oral storytelling with the digital media we have come to rely on for communication today."

In addition, the digital stories initiative builds upon an oral history project already in the works. The oral history project encourages volunteers to sit down with former internees to record their personal accounts of confinement. Kathryn McKee, who is the Center's Education/Archives Assistant, said, "Passing along the stories that make you who you are allows future generations to understand you and the events you lived through, great or small, a little bit more. Sometimes you are the only person to see the things you've seen, and your story needs to be told."

Since many of the former internees do not live near Heart Mountain, it is difficult for the staff to conduct these oral histories. The HMWF hopes to enable MJC volunteers to collect oral histories with former internees living in their areas. These oral histories would then be submitted to the Center for preservation in their archives and would be made available to the general public.

"While the physical remains of the camp are limited to a few structures and the Honor Roll Memorial, we have a vast number of Heart Mountain narratives available to us," Liesinger said. "We feel a strong need to go out, find more of them and capture as many as we can. The MJC can be a great asset in this endeavor. The stories we collect

together serve as a powerful reminder of the events of confinement and the effect on the lives of nearly 14,000 people."

If you or someone you know would like to join the MJC, please email info@heartmountain.org with the subject line "Join MJC." Include your name, e-mail and mailing address. ■



PHOTO BY BRIAN LIESINGER

Jackson Event Features Mineta-Simpson Story and Builds Support

The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation has teamed up with the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) and the National Museum of Wildlife Art to introduce the story of Heart Mountain to the Jackson Hole community during events taking place October 18–19, 2013.

“We hope that these events will raise awareness of the importance of the Heart Mountain site and preservation of cultural and structural resources and support funding and preservation and protection of the site,” said Sharon Mader, NPCA Grand Teton Senior Program Manager.

For the past five years, the NPCA has collaborated with the Foundation to promote awareness of the Heart Mountain story. “The sponsorship of this event is the next logical step in raising the profile of the work of the Heart Mountain Foundation to other interested communities in Wyoming,” said Mader.

These events will begin with an exhibit of Bill Manbo’s color photographs of Heart Mountain on display at the National Museum of Wildlife Art. Board Member Eric Muller, who wrote *Colors of Confinement: Rare Kodachrome Photographs of Japanese American Incarceration in World War II*, will kick off a cocktail reception with remarks about the photographs.

These color photographs make the experience of internees at Heart Mountain come alive for the audience in Jackson Hole, as they have for countless others around the country. *Colors of Confinement* has been featured in major media outlets since its publication in 2012. It recently won the biennial Joan Patterson Kerr Award, which goes to the best illustrated book about the American West.

“People who see Bill Manbo’s Kodachrome photographs of Japanese American incarceration typically feel a great intimacy and attachment to the people pictured and a sense that what’s pictured is more current and

‘alive’ than they are accustomed to,” Muller said.

After the reception, the audience will gather to see a short film about Heart Mountain, followed by a panel discussion with former Secretary of Transportation, Norman Mineta and U.S. Senator Alan Simpson (ret). Secretary Mineta and Senator Simpson met as boy scouts during World War II, when Simpson’s troop came to Heart Mountain for a jamboree with the Heart Mountain boy scouts—one of whom was the young Norman Mineta. They will discuss how their friendship at Heart Mountain shaped their later relationship and work in government. The panel will be moderated by HMWF Chair Shirley Ann Higuchi and Board Member Pete Simpson, who is also Senator Simpson’s brother.

“This is a compelling and unique Heart Mountain story,” said Higuchi. “We are thrilled to be able to share it with the Jackson Hole community.”

Operations Manager Bethany Sandvik will also visit Jackson Hole High School, as a new way to expand the Interpretive Center’s outreach to schools in Wyoming and Montana.

“I want the students to gain a better understanding of what went on here at Heart Mountain, and more importantly to think about how they would feel if it happened to them,” Sandvik said. She hopes that “students find this story compelling and can make correlations between the World War

II Japanese American experience and present day issues with all Americans who are considered ‘other.’”

Sandvik intends to show the students a film titled, “A Flicker in Eternity,” which follows the diary of Stanley Hayami at Heart Mountain. Hayami was 16 years-old when he arrived at Heart Mountain, making his story particularly engaging for high school students.

During the weekend, HMWF leadership will be encouraging donations to the Memory & Justice Fund, the Center’s endowment. Six months ago, the Foundation developed a goal of \$2 million for an endowment that will protect the Center’s future, while allowing it to grow—to acquire new artifacts, to preserve the site and to participate in programs and activities that will advance the Interpretive Center.

“An endowment gives us a source of long-term and growing support so that our ability to stay the course and be there fifty years from now is secure,” said Vice-Chair Doug Nelson.

The endowment is off to a strong start, with generous donations from Margot and Cynthia Walk and the Higuchi family. Many board members and others have also made substantial contributions.

Recently, the Foundation received an anonymous challenge grant of \$250,000, but the grant’s terms require that the Foundation match it. The event in Jackson Hole will help raise awareness about Heart

Mountain among potential donors and show them the importance of the site and its relevance today, bringing the Foundation a step closer to its goal.

“We are excited about the opportunity to bring this piece of history to another part of Wyoming,” Nelson said. “Our goal has always been to educate the wider public about Heart Mountain, and at times this means finding ways to bring Heart Mountain to the outside world.” ■



For more information on attending, contact Meghan Quinn at the National Parks Conservation Association at 307-733-4680.

If you are unable to attend but would like to contribute to the Endowment, visit shopheartmountain.org/Donate_c11.htm



ADVISORY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

Sam Mihara

though teachers are expected to teach about this facet of our history, many lack the tools to do so.

“In my opinion, teachers really need more basic information about what happened and why it happened so that they can, in turn, use that information to teach,” Mihara said.

Even when given these tools, hearing the story from Mihara himself has a much more profound impact on students. When he announces to a class, “I am a former prisoner from a concentration camp,” history takes a step into the present—into their classroom.

“I think the students tend to remember better if they hear it from someone who’s been there,” Mihara said.

For students, hearing this story from someone who was their age at the time better illustrates how unjust the camps were. When considering injustice, most kids will remember a time they were “grounded” by their parents. Mihara remembers being taken from his home by military police and the “horrible signs that were in Cody.” He remembers when his father went blind and when his grandfather suffered a painful death in the camp hospital, “all primarily due to the lack of adequate medical care.”

Despite the injustice his family faced, Mihara enjoys speaking to others about his experience at Heart Mountain even when it comes with challenges. Occasionally, there will be someone in the audience who disagrees with Mihara, insisting the

“internment” was justified. Those who oppose Mihara’s perspective will remind him and the audience that the country was at war or that American soldiers in Japan suffered far worse atrocities than the internees. When this happens, Mihara will let them have their say, but in the end, is sure to point out that, “We’re talking about the United States of America. We’re talking about the Constitution and the lack of civil rights during that time in this country.”

Fortunately, most people recognize how important it is for this story to be shared, like Dr. Susie Woo, a Professor at the University of Southern California who, after Mihara spoke to her students, wrote in her recommendation, “The stories that he shared with us that day will stay with us for a lifetime.”

Mihara continues to speak about his experience at Heart Mountain and will be at the following locations over the next year. If you are interested in attending, please contact him directly at smihara@socal.rr.com:

- October 10 in Orange County, CA, at Cal State University Fullerton
- November 1–2 in Tokyo, Japan, at various colleges and universities
- March 20–22, 2014 in Albuquerque, NM at the National Conference of History Educators
- October 16–17, 2014 in Missoula, MT at the Montana State Conference of History Educators ■

Speaking publicly about the incarceration of people of Japanese ancestry during World War II is not a job that Sam Mihara envisioned for himself. A former rocket scientist for Boeing, Mihara was enjoying retirement when the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center’s former Deputy Director Christy Fleming contacted him in 2011. Fleming told Mihara that the Center had received several calls from schools and groups interested in hearing a former internee’s perspective and asked if he would be willing to speak with them.

Thus began a journey that has taken Mihara from California to Virginia and many places in between. This fall, it will take him all the way to Japan.

Mihara has spoken with great success at places as diverse as social clubs, community centers, the Wyoming Department of Justice and the National Conference of History Educators. It was at this last conference where Mihara learned that even



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM MIHARA
Mihara family prior to incarceration.



PHOTO BY STEVAN LEGER
Mihara delivers a presentation at the Interpretive Center.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM MIHARA
Mihara family in front of barrack at Heart Mountain.

SMILE AT HEART MOUNTAIN

BY HELEN YOSHIDA

In our house there are three framed photographs of my grandfather, Masayuki Yoshida. As a young husband he stands proudly beside his bride. As a father he sits next to his wife and their three sons posing for a family portrait on the couch. As a retired gardener he stands on the beach, the waves crashing on the sand behind him. In these photographs his lips press into a straight line as he stares at the camera, waiting for it to click.

As a girl gazing into these photographs, I wondered what he was like when he was alive. Did he like to eat ice cream? Could he draw? Did he ride bikes around the neighborhood like me? These, it seemed, were the important questions. When I was older, I learned that he was sent to the Heart Mountain Relocation Center during World War II, where he met my grandmother. Yet the time they spent at Heart Mountain was something he never discussed and that was never inquired about.

From this and those three photographs I concluded that those experiences turned him into a serious and quiet man. When I attended the Grand Opening of the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center, I learned that I couldn't have been more wrong.

It was my turn to pay the campground fee when my friend and I pulled into a campground in Cody, Wyoming, on August 19, 2011. I paid my fee and bought a copy of the *Cody Enterprise*. Inside was a magazine commemorating the opening of the Center and featuring stories about camp life.

While I knew much about Heart Mountain through my research for my undergraduate thesis "The Flying Cranes and Other Stories," which included studying a handful of photographs that my grandfather took while at camp, I knew very little about my grandparents' experience at Heart Mountain. As I flipped through the pages I felt like I was taking a step towards discovering more about them, and I secretly hoped to see them or their family friends in those pages—anything to unlock this unspoken time in their lives.

Then, I paused at a photograph of the

Heart Mountain Camera Club. Standing in the second row was a young man in his twenties. He wore a leather jacket and wire-framed glasses, and he was the only one smiling. I compared that picture to some of my grandfather's photographs. Sure enough, he was my grandfather.

Seeing him in that group photograph and on the Interpretive Center wall inspired me to archive his photograph collection. It was not until I met HMWF Board Member Eric Muller, editor of the book *Colors of Confinement* and saw his presentation at the National Archives in February 2013 that I started to make headway on that idea.

In *Colors of Confinement*, Bill Manbo, a *nisei* and an amateur photographer, offers a window into life at Heart Mountain that is all the more immediate because his photographs are saturated with bright colors. Manbo was also a part of the Heart Mountain Camera Club. I met with Eric to tell him my grandfather's story and show him some of the photographs that my grandfather had taken. He encouraged me to scan

the photographs and start to archive them. I had thought about investing in a scanner for some time but never took the plunge. Soon after we met, I bought one.

With help from my mother, who brought one of my grandfather's photo albums from my family's house in California, and my father, who identified some relatives and family members, I have archived more than 400 photographs, 75 of which are from Heart Mountain. I'm currently interviewing family members and planning to visit my uncle in California so



PHOTO COURTESY OF HELEN YOSHIDA

Masayuki Yoshida.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HELEN YOSHIDA

Helen Yoshida stands next to a display at the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center where her grandfather is pictured with the Camera Club. Mr. Yoshida is standing in the back row, third from the right in the picture.

that he can help me identify others in these photographs.

Photography was a lifelong hobby for my grandfather and through archiving these photographs I am meeting him for the first time. I see him as a *kibei* in Japan, studying and spending time with his friends. As a young man in southern California, he works at a nursery. But he is also a sharp dresser, wearing tailored suits and wing tip shoes. As a mess hall cook at Heart Mountain, he smiles as he helps prepare the day's

food, and as an amateur photographer he captures friends and family, co-workers, festivals, landscapes and day hikes. I see he's a loving husband, a charismatic father and a dependable friend.

His photographs show his optimism, kindness and easy-going personality, bringing to life a totally different man than that of my childhood imagination. With each new photo album and photograph that I scan, I will continue to preserve his memory for future generations to come. ■

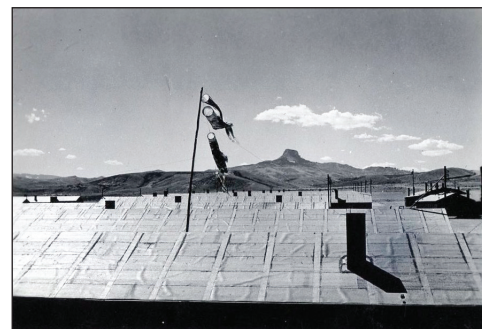


PHOTO COURTESY OF HELEN YOSHIDA
Photo taken from a barrack rooftop by Masayuki Yoshida.

UPCOMING EXHIBITS AT THE HEART MOUNTAIN INTERPRETIVE CENTER

Heart Mountain Barracks Revisited

November 1, 2013 through January 15, 2014



SHOSHONE IRRIGATION DISTRICT PHOTO

After the Heart Mountain Relocation Center shut down, Heart Mountain barracks became building blocks for homesteaders settling in Park County, Wyoming. Barracks were transformed into houses, barns or outbuildings on farms and ranches. Many still survive today as witnesses to a story that begins during World War II and extends to the present. This exhibit features photographs of surviving barracks in their various incarnations, captured by members of the American Studies Program at the University of Wyoming. The group was able to locate more than 60 of them and also interviewed many current owners of the barracks. The exhibit was assembled

in collaboration with the Homesteader Museum in Powell, who is loaning it to the Interpretive Center.

Playing The Game: Sports At Heart Mountain

February 1 through April 15, 2014

Photos and Heart Mountain Sentinel articles illustrate the importance of sports at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center for youth and adults alike. Photos from the Okumoto and Kubo collections illustrate how playing the game often meant finding creative solutions in order to be able to compete.



HMWF YONE KUBO COLLECTION



PHOTO BY RICHARD ROSS

Juvenile-In-Justice

May 1 through June 30, 2014

Photographer Richard Ross' Juvenile-in-Justice exhibit includes images of juveniles and administrators from various facilities throughout the country. The hope is that by seeing these images, people will have a better understanding of the conditions that exist within the juvenile justice system.



Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation
1539 Road 19
Powell, Wyoming 82435
www.HeartMountain.org

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
BILLINGS, MT
PERMIT NO. 1

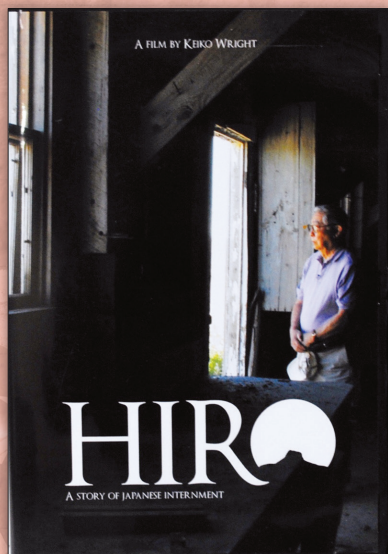
DVDS FROM OUR GIFT SHOP

Hiro: A Story of Japanese Internment

BY KEIKO WRIGHT

HIRO details the memories of Hiroshi "Hiro" Hoshizaki, a former internee of the Heart Mountain Relocation Camp during World War II. At age twelve, Hiro, an American-born citizen, and his family were forcibly removed from their homes. The voices of HIRO tell a story of the political hysteria, racism, and scars that internment evoked—feelings that still echo to this day.

\$15.00

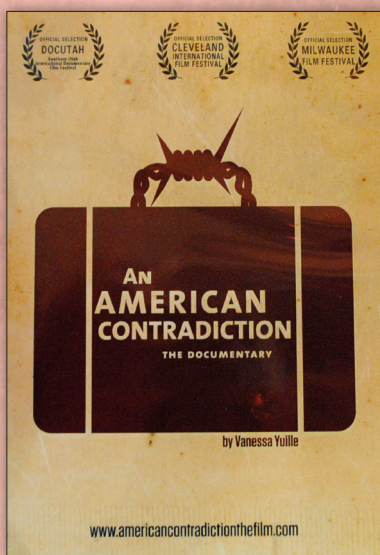


An American Contradiction

BY VANESSA YUILLE

Seeking knowledge about her country and heritage, filmmaker Vanessa Yuille journeys to her mother's birthplace, Heart Mountain, Wyoming, where Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II. Through her investigation, Vanessa challenges us to correctly define the true nature of what happened in this 'illegal place.'

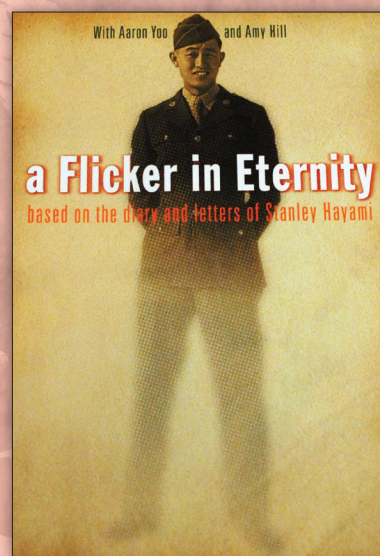
\$15.00



A Flicker in Eternity

The coming-of-age tale of a gifted teenager caught between his dream of becoming a writer/artist and his duty to his country. Based on the diary and letters of Stanley Hayami, the story is seen through the eyes of a promising young man thrown into the turmoil of World War II.

\$25.00



To place your order, visit <http://shopheartmountain.org> or call 307.754.8000,
Monday-Friday between 10 am and 5 pm MST.