



KOKORO KARA

Summer 2013

HEART MOUNTAIN WYOMING FOUNDATION

“from our heart”

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NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Joins Solid Team at Interpretive Center

Brian Liesinger began working as the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center's new Executive Director on May 15. Arriving from Minneapolis where he worked as Communications Manager for the University of Minnesota's Learning Abroad Center, Liesinger is eager to become a part of the local and national Heart Mountain community. In some ways, Liesinger was a part of this community long before he became Executive Director. His connection to Heart Mountain extends back more than fifty years when his grandfather arrived in the Riverton area as a veteran homesteader after World War II.

"He was a very resourceful man, and a very intelligent man. He didn't have the benefit of a lot of formal education but he loved this Wyoming area," Liesinger said in an interview with Kokoro Kara. "And Heart Mountain to him—I don't know, it spoke to him in a unique way."

Liesinger's grandfather, like many other homesteaders, was told that he could salvage pieces from the Heart Mountain camp. As Liesinger's grandfather wandered through the old site, he came across a bell.

"He just knew that it had significance, and he knew for it to just sit out there and rust or for someone else to grab it would be a shame," Liesinger said. "He had just a reverence for the land and a respect for that history... He couldn't leave it behind." Several years later, when Liesinger's grandfather left Wyoming for South Dakota, he hauled the bell with him. The bell was left to Liesinger's mother after his death in 1999.

When Liesinger's parents heard about the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation and its mission, they decided to make the trek to Wyoming to return the bell. Brian also returned to Heart Mountain in 2012, where he met Sam Mihara and saw the bell in our exhibits. It was there that he learned that the bell had been a school bell at the camp. Liesinger was touched to hear Mihara tell him about his experience at Heart Mountain and to know that his family had

already played a small role in preserving the story of Japanese American confinement.

"The importance of capturing these stories, of educating people, of inspiring others to share their stories of this history—that's really one of the biggest reasons," Liesinger explained.

Liesinger's training has prepared him well to be involved in this process of education and of storytelling. A journalist by trade, he has been leading Digital Storytelling workshops with students at the University of Minnesota. He hopes to start a similar digital storytelling workshop at the Center to encourage people from Heart Mountain and people from the Cody/Powell community to tell their stories.

This interest in telling the story of the confinement of people of Japanese descent is a large part of why the Board hired him. "Brian's passion, energy and commitment to the mission of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation will make him a valuable asset to the future of the Foundation and the Center," said Chair of the Board Shirley Ann Higuchi.

Liesinger may be new to the Foundation but he is happy to be joining a strong team. "I'm excited to hear about their experiences, to learn from them," he said. "Kim

Barhaug and Bethany Sandvik: they're dialed in."

Kim Barhaug is the Facilities Manager and Education Director at the Center. She also supervises the part-time employees and volunteers and manages the Heart Mountain Gift Shop. During the fall and spring, Barhaug spends much of her time organizing and instructing school groups at the Center. To that end, she piloted the Center's Education Curriculum, an effort to bring our mission of educating youth about Japanese American incarceration to the larger community.

"The curriculum will continue to educate students, hopefully worldwide, about this time in history that the U.S. government and many Americans would like to hide or forget," said Barhaug. "If we can get the correct information out to enough people, maybe the history books will be rewritten someday."

Bethany Sandvik, Operations Manager, has been working with the Center for a little over a year. She holds a Masters in Arts Administration from Drexel University, and worked for six years as the office manager for the Education Division at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History before moving to Cody in 2011. As Operations Manager,



PHOTO BY SHARYL MCDOWELL

From left: Bethany Sandvik, Brian Liesinger and Kim Barhaug.

she has been invaluable to the Center. In addition to managing the Center's day to day operations, her duties include writing and editing marketing materials, overseeing the Heart Mountain website and online store, and drafting grant proposals and reports.

Both Barhaug and Sandvik find it rewarding to share the story of Japanese American incarceration with visitors. Liesinger looks forward to joining this dynamic and enthusiastic team. "I prefer to work in a very collaborative environment," he said. "Kim and Bethany both are on the same page in that regard—great work ethics and great senses of humor, and they're passionate about their work."

That passion has always been and will continue to be the heart of the Interpretive Center. "I am moved almost every day by talking to a former internee or descendant of someone who was incarcerated at Heart Mountain," Sandvik said. "Our members and visitors are so grateful to know that this story is being told. I like being part of that." ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 11, 2013 at Noon

U.S. Citizenship Ceremony at the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center

July 19 - 21, 2013

Heart Mountain Pilgrimage Weekend (See back page for more details)

October 18, 2013 at 7 pm

Building Community for Heart Mountain Presentation and Film with special appearance by Former Sec. of Transportation, Norman Y. Mineta and U.S. Sen. (WY) Alan K. Simpson (Ret.) at The National Museum of Wildlife Art, Jackson, WY

May 28 - June 1, 2014

National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts Annual Meeting to be held at Heart Mountain Interpretive Center

August 22 - 23, 2014

Heart Mountain Pilgrimage honoring the late Sen. Daniel Inoyue and all those who served in the armed forces

www.heartmountain.org/news_events.html

From The Outgoing Executive Director: Stevan Leger

This spring brings changes for me and for the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation. As I officially retire and leave my post as Executive Director, I have been looking both back and to the future. I am exceptionally grateful for my time with the Foundation and the people associated with it. My days were filled with challenges and tasks made much lighter because of the dedicated and talented staff and volunteers of the Interpretive Center. They start and end each day with enthusiasm and good humor. Their commitment to telling the Heart Mountain Story and welcoming each visitor with a warm smile and sincere appreciation is a great credit to them and the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation. I am also grateful for the thousands of visitors to the Interpretive Center from all over the United States and the world who share their heartfelt thoughts and feelings with me and the staff. It has been an honor to meet the hundreds of former internees who visited the Center and shared their

moving stories, struggles and thanks for the work of the Foundation.

The Foundation has grown and is moving forward with great promise due in no small part to the generosity and our many donors, large and small. It is a real joy to share with these donors our successes and plans for the future and to feel their enthusiasm for our work

through their magnificent generosity. For me it has been a humbling and fulfilling experience to come to know many of these donors personally.

The Foundation is privileged to have an incredibly hard-working and talented Board of Directors who serve our mission with passion, enthusiasm and grace, and without financial compensation. This group of wonderful people has been a constant support for me and our staff as we



work together to move the Foundation forward. What a great joy to experience the inspired leadership and enthusiasm of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation Board. I am confident that they will continue to sustain and grow this world-class institution under the leadership of Shirley Ann Higuchi and our new Executive Director, Brian

Liesinger.

I have enjoyed constant support, encouragement and friendship of the Board and staff. How very lucky I have been. Now, as I transition into a new phase of my life, I look forward to many new adventures. But, I also plan to continue my association with the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation and will offer my encouragement and friendship as an advisor, volunteer, donor and friend. ■

Newlin Speaks at HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

For years, Clarence Matsumura did not talk about what happened at Dachau. He did not talk about stumbling upon mounds in the snow, mounds that turned out to be the emaciated corpses of the Nazis' victims at Dachau. He did not talk about trying to feed the survivors, only to have them choke on the food they were given because their teeth had rotted. He did not talk about the people he held in his arms as they died. He did not talk about what it was like to know that his own family was still behind barbed wire in a place called Heart Mountain while he fought off the Germans and liberated Dachau as part of the American army.

For years, this time in Matsumura's life was a secret that he did not share even with members of his own family. Aura Newlin, a Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation Board Member, only learned about her great-uncle's heroism and the heroism of the rest of the 522nd Field Artillery (a specialized division of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team) when she read *Light One Candle*, a 1995 memoir by Holocaust survivor Solly Ganor.

"It was just at the end of his life that he started talking about things," Newlin said in a recent interview with *Kokoro Kara*.

Matsumura had decided that this story needed to be passed on. "I'm representing the 442nd to get their story told," he said in a *Rafu Shimpo* interview shortly before his death. "They told us to keep it quiet, but the hell with those guys, we have to let people know. A lot of guys gave their lives back there." Though Matsumura passed away in May 1995, his story continues to be shared today.

On March 21 of this year, Newlin told her uncle's story as part of a panel at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. She was one of three panelists chosen to speak at the 25th annual meeting of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts. Newlin was asked to address the following question: "What can you do in

your community right now to ensure that the kinds of failures that led to the Holocaust do not happen again?"

"It was such an honor for me to be able to share our story at this amazing place, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. And the connection seemed really clear," Newlin said. "Just the idea of being fearful of the other, targeting the other, and persecuting the other—those parallels were striking."

Briefing the consortium on the overall history of the Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Newlin focused her discussion on the Heart Mountain experience of her uncle, Clarence Matsumura, and the irony of his situation: a young soldier being drafted out of one camp to rescue prisoners from another. She also spoke about the HMWF mission for communicating a broader message which includes educating for the future. To illustrate her point, Newlin referred to the recent controversial Muslim American Portrait exhibit that was on display at the Center last summer.

"We wanted to encourage visitors to reflect on the extent to which the demonizing of Japanese Americans in the wake of Pearl Harbor has parallels with how Muslim Americans are perceived now, in the wake of 9/11," Newlin explained to those in attendance.

It is tempting to think that what happened to Jews during the Holocaust could not happen again. It is tempting to think that what happened to Japanese Americans could not happen again. But Newlin warned against that kind of thinking, recalling Norman Mineta's story at the Foundation's Interpretive Center Grand Opening.

"I know from my own work that it can happen [again]. It came very close on September 11, 2001," Mineta said at the Grand Opening. He explained how as Secretary of Transportation, "There were a lot of people who were saying 'Don't let Middle Easterners or Muslims on the airplanes.' And they were even talking about intern-

ment and rounding them up."

Newlin herself remembers how after 9/11, the Muslim community and others who were mistaken for Muslims faced severe discrimination. "Even today we see a fringe segment of our society expressing fear and hate toward people with brown skin who wear turbans and head scarves," Newlin said. "Thankfully, these aren't mainstream positions, but I think that in the immediate aftermath of 9/11, these sentiments were not necessarily restricted to the fringe."

Newlin believes that the way to make sure that Muslim Americans are not treated the same way as Japanese Americans is to tell the story of Japanese American confinement and, more personally, the story of her family. Whether in an introductory sociology class at Northwest College or on a panel at the Holocaust Museum, she finds that, "Hearing the story from me—hearing stories about real people who were good people and [yet] were persecuted—I think that opens their eyes."

And unfortunately, too often, this story goes untold. "It's a story that has kind of been forgotten," Newlin said. "It's been buried in American history."

The story may have been buried but thanks to people like Clarence Matsumura and Solly Ganor, it has not been lost forever. It stays with us, told today in places like the Holocaust Museum, because they refused to stay silent. ■



PHOTO BY SHEILA NEWLIN

Professor Eric Muller Focuses on Manbo Photos

When Eric Muller saw Bill Manbo's photographs for the first time, he did what he describes as "one of those cartoon double takes." He was sorting through photographs of Heart Mountain sent to him by Advisory Council member Bacon Sakatani while developing exhibits for the new Interpretive Center when he discovered them. Sakatani had met Manbo while planning an early Heart Mountain reunion in the 1980s, and Manbo had shown Sakatani his pictures of Heart Mountain.

"I thought it was fantastic," Sakatani said. "I think that was the first time I'd seen color slide photos [of the camp]."

Manbo captures both day-to-day life at Heart Mountain and the harsh effects of confinement. But what distinguishes his photographs from the others that Muller had seen were the colors: Manbo used Kodachrome film, a technology only six or seven years old at the time, to create some of the few color photographs of the Heart Mountain Relocation Center.

"I was stunned and amazed, both by the beauty of the colors and also just by the immediacy of the effect of seeing color," Muller said. The memory of these photos stayed with him even after he had finished working on the exhibits for the Interpretive Center. "I just had this nagging sense that there was something important about the photographs," he explained. Thus began the project that would develop into Muller's book, *Colors of Confinement: Rare Kodachrome Photographs of Japanese American Incarceration in World War II*.

As Muller began to research the photographs, he met with the photographer's son, Bill Manbo, Jr. Muller soon discovered that Bill, Jr., "doesn't have a lot of independent recollection about this time period. It's not something that was talked about much within the family after internment ended."

Next, Muller headed to the National Archives in Washington, D.C., where the individual internee files are stored. There, he was able to fill in many of the blanks about the photographer and his family. As a researcher and author of two previous

books about the American concentration camps, Muller was well acquainted with the National Archives. "Like most historical researchers who write about American history, I spend a lot of time at the National Archives," he said. "And, you sort of develop a certain fondness for that resource as well as an appreciation for the resource and the people who work there."

When he returned to the National Archives this past February, however, it wasn't to conduct research. He was there this time to discuss *Colors of Confinement*. "It was very touching to be able to speak at the National Archives, in the same building where I had spent time reading all of the files that led me to be able to publish the book in the first place."

On his book tour, Muller also visited universities, among which are the University of North Carolina where he is a law professor, and Brown University. He spoke at the Midtown Manhattan New York Public Library as well as at our very own Heart Mountain Interpretive Center.

Sakatani worries that those not acquainted with the camps will see the photographs and think they represent the whole of confinement. Many moments of camp life were never captured in Manbo's photographs. "To show that my family of seven lived in a room 20 feet by 24 feet—that's something very important to put across or to show people," Sakatani said. "And there's no photo like that."

"That is why I asked Bacon Sakatani to contribute an essay to the book," Muller explained. "Knowing that no photography collection could capture every facet of life in camp, I thought it important to have a former internee contribute an essay to fill in some of those blanks."

Though some of the everyday hardships suffered by those in the camp are not documented in Manbo's photographs, many

like the one of Manbo's son Billy clinging to the barbed wire fence, demonstrate how much the realities of confinement infiltrated the Manbo family's everyday life.

Colors of Confinement was lauded by newspapers like *The New York Times* and *The Huffington Post*. *Publishers Weekly* called this work a "provocative and noteworthy collection" and *The Washington Post* called it "a testament to the incredible power of photography."

As a writer, researcher, and Board member, Muller has been invaluable in raising awareness about Heart Mountain. "He is highly knowledgeable about the camps and Heart Mountain," Sakatani said. "He's really a big asset to the Foundation."

In fact, as a sign of his support, Muller generously donated his proceeds from this book to the Foundation. "I'm not a super wealthy person and I don't have the ability to give major financial donations, but this seemed like a way that I could give at least relatively small amounts of money," Muller explained. "It also just seemed right." ■



PHOTO BY WARREN MARUYAMA

Message from the Chair: Shirley Ann Higuchi

The Foundation leadership was filled with gratitude when Steve Leger retired as our Executive Director at the end of April. Under Steve's leadership, we celebrated the grand opening of the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center which has quickly become an important institution in both the Wyoming and Japanese American communities. The Foundation benefitted in countless ways from Steve's presence, contributions and devotion to our work, and we thank him for his pledge to stay part of the Heart Mountain family.

While we will all miss Steve's everyday leadership, we are thrilled to welcome our new Executive Director, Brian Liesinger, to our team. The entire Board of Directors first met Brian during a series of interviews held at the Center in early March. He comes to us from the University of Minnesota's Learning Abroad Center, where he served as Communications Manager. I look forward to seeing the new directions which his leadership will take us, and am excited to be working with him.

As Brian settles into his new role, I am confident that our core team will give him crucial support to make this a smooth transition. I spent several days in Cody in April and was impressed by the dedication and commitment of our hard-working staff and volunteers. Staff members Bethany Sandvik and Kim Barhaug are our "boots on the ground" at the Interpretive Center. They have kept things moving along under Steve's leadership while we conducted a national search with over 40 applicants. Special thanks to Claudia Wade and Pete Simpson, who assisted Steve in the pre-screening process, and to board member LaDonna Zall who, along with Joyce Harkin, volunteers tirelessly in support of the Center's operations.

I would also like to use this column to welcome our newest Board member, Aura Newlin. Aura is an Instructor of Sociol-

ogy at Northwest College in Powell. As the descendant of Heart Mountain internees and a native Wyomingite, Aura will bring an invaluable perspective to our Board. She recently traveled to Washington, D.C. to represent the Foundation on a panel for the Consortium of Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts, held at the Holocaust Museum. She shared her family's history at Heart Mountain and, indeed, *our* history.



PHOTO BY KEVIN J. MIYAZAKI

Under Brian's leadership, we look to the future to even closer connections to the next generation, which includes a growing number of members of our recently launched Youth Council. In addition, Hana Maruyama, a Yonsei whose grandmother's family was at

Heart Mountain, has also become part of our team over the past year. She has helped write several of the articles that you have read in these last two newsletters, and you may have also noticed her influence on our Facebook and Twitter feeds.

As young Japanese Americans with strong ties to Heart Mountain, Aura and Hana are helping to carry our message and mission to new, younger and wider audiences. We are also making great strides in our efforts to bring the world to Heart Mountain. In this vein, we will be hosting the same Consortium event that Aura recently attended in Washington, D.C., to our own Center in 2014. It will be an honor for us to have the highest sitting judges from all 50 states convene at Heart Mountain—the very site where American law and courts failed to protect the rights of citizens who were wrongfully incarcerated during World War II. We hope that by hosting this Consortium at our Center we can help demonstrate how instrumental the courts are in protecting the individual rights of all people.

The Foundation also has the honor to host the State of Wyoming's Naturalization Ceremony on June 11, 2013. This special

event, spearheaded by Park County, Fifth District Court Judge Steven R. Cranfill and our own Senator Alan Simpson, will celebrate the welcoming of new American citizens to our country. Having been a guest speaker at naturalization ceremonies in Washington, D.C., I was deeply touched by the demonstration of loyalty and enthusiasm by new citizens.

Our country is a nation of immigrants and it reminds me of my own heritage when my grandparents arrived in the United States in the late 1800s. When I spoke at these ceremonies, I brought a photo of my grandparents with their immigration papers to impress upon the new Americans that their grandchildren, like me, could one day be standing in a federal court welcoming future citizens to this great country.

Finally, please join us in celebrating the next generation of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation this summer, July 19-21, at our annual Pilgrimage and Special Events Weekend at Heart Mountain. We look forward to seeing you. ■

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

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

Heart Mountain Interpretive Center ADVISOR IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM

The Heart Mountain Interpretive Center began an “Advisor in Residence Program” last July, featuring two former Internees from the Heart Mountain Relocation Center. The program is intended to offer visitors a chance to attend formal presentations and guided tours of the Interpretive Center by former Incarcerates.

Bacon Sakatani, affectionately referred to as “Mr. Heart Mountain” because of his long-time involvement with the Heart Mountain Pilgrimages and his extensive research, and Sam Mihara were the first official Advisors In Residence and provided very personal and thought-provoking presentations and tours of the Interpretive Center. Both men offered their deeply personal reflections and perspectives that enhanced the visitor experience and provided rich details of camp life and its aftermath.

After Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, all persons of Japanese ancestry were deemed a threat to the U.S. Bacon Sakatani and Sam Mihara and their families were removed from California and sent to the Heart Mountain Relocation Center in Wyoming for the duration of the war. Sam was nine years old and Bacon turned 13 while at the Center.

They spent the next three years behind barbed wire and armed guards, crammed with 10,000 others in one square mile at Heart Mountain. To stop juvenile delinquency

in the camp, authorities set up many activities to keep the youngsters busy. They were able to participate in many sports events, hiking, sledding and ice skating. Scouting was encouraged, and in 1944, 500 Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts spent one week at nearby Yellowstone National Park to enjoy the “American way of life” outside of the camp. Sam describes extremely difficult times during his stay, that is at Heart Mountain, including the death of a family member and abusive treatment from near-by residents outside the camp. Bacon recounts receiving a pass to visit Powell and still remembers how scared he felt when he saw the “No Japs” signs in the store windows.

The Heart Mountain

Wyoming Foundation is eager to continue the Advisor in Residence program during the 2013 tourist season. If you are interested in sharing your story with guests to the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center, please contact Operations Manager, Bethany Sandvik at (307)754-8000. ■



PHOTOS BY STEVAN LEGER

Pen Pals Needed

The staff at the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation is often asked by school children if there is someone they can talk to about their time spent at Heart Mountain. Because of this, we have been maintaining a small list of pen pals. If you are willing to

respond to questions regarding your time at Heart Mountain, it would be greatly appreciated, not only by the Foundation but by the children who are learning about the injustice of the Internment. HMWF staff will always initiate the connection between

former internee and child. Contact can be made by letter, email or telephone if preferred. If you are interested in becoming a Heart Mountain Pen Pal, please contact Operations Manager, Bethany Sandvik at (307)754-8000. ■

SHARE THEIR STORY

How To Conduct an Oral History

We live in a world of smart phones and e-tablets. But in 1996, when Tom Ikeda founded Densho, an organization that collects oral histories about the WWII Japanese American experience, personal computers were relatively young. While similar organizations were using expensive mainframe computer technologies to conduct and preserve recorded stories, Ikeda, a Microsoft employee, had a new idea: using personal computers to collect oral histories.

Oral histories are audio or video recorded, first-person testimonies that explain how personal experiences weave in and out of history. While people have been sharing and passing on their stories for millennia, recorded oral histories did not appear until the latter half of the twentieth century because the technology needed to record them was not available. Technology has come a long way since then. Today, many computers, cameras and even phones can record audio and video, and the good news is that we don't have to be computer whizzes to use this technology. Anyone can be an oral historian.

However, just because we have the technology does not mean we are ready to start interviewing. I talked to Ikeda and also with Sarah Rouse, a former senior staff member with the Library of Congress' Veterans' History Project, to get advice from people who have made their careers out of asking others to share their stories. Here is what they had to offer.

Know the History

"The more familiar you are with the topic, the better interviewer you are," Ikeda says. Background knowledge will not only allow you to formulate your questions but also help you respond to the interviewee in the moment.

After conducting research, write down some questions to ask. Try to ask specific ques-

tions that encourage the interviewee to tell a story. Broad questions like "What were the camps like?" are hard to answer. Instead, edge into these questions. Start with life before the camps and move chronologically.

"Learn to say, 'And what happened next?' or 'Then what?' and 'How did that go?'" Rouse advises.

Keep in mind that while there may be no such thing as a stupid question, there are careless ones. Always be sensitive and place yourself in the interviewee's shoes.

Practice Makes Perfect

"I've done over 200 interviews, and I think I can honestly say my first ten interviews were not that good," Ikeda says. Practice beforehand to gain ease with asking questions—and with using technology. Figure out now how long your battery will last and how to set up a microphone. Technological problems can make the interviewee anxious, so practice setting up before hand.

"If the interviewer is nervous, then I think the narrator becomes nervous," Ikeda points out—and that is the last thing you want on the day of the interview.

Interviewing a family member

If you are interviewing a family mem-

ber, you are in a unique position because you know some of the good stories and can guide the interview. However, this proximity can also be challenging: "The narrator may not go into as much detail about a story because he or she already knows that you know that story," Ikeda warns. Remind the interviewee beforehand that you are recording this for future generations and to tell the story as if you've never heard it before.

Jump In

No matter how much research you've done or how many questions you've prepared, there will always be ways you can improve. The most important thing is to record the oral history.

"Don't wait until it's too late," Rouse says. "I never interviewed my father. I regret it very much but I did not."

Set up the interviewee in a place where he or she feels comfortable, with minimal distracting sounds or images. Begin by stating the names of the interviewer and the interviewee, and the date and place of the interview. Ask background questions, like place and date of birth, age when he or she was incarcerated, and where he or she was sent. Then, start asking the questions you've prepared and listen.

Be Curious and Ask Questions

Both Ikeda and Rouse agree that it isn't just preparation that makes a good interview.

"One of the things that really helps the interviewer is to have a genuine enthusiasm," Rouse says. But always remember you are not there to talk—you are there to listen and guide the conversation. Rouse hints, "You don't have to try to be entertaining or laugh too much or have too much to say. You really want to stay in the background."

Still, don't be afraid to ask

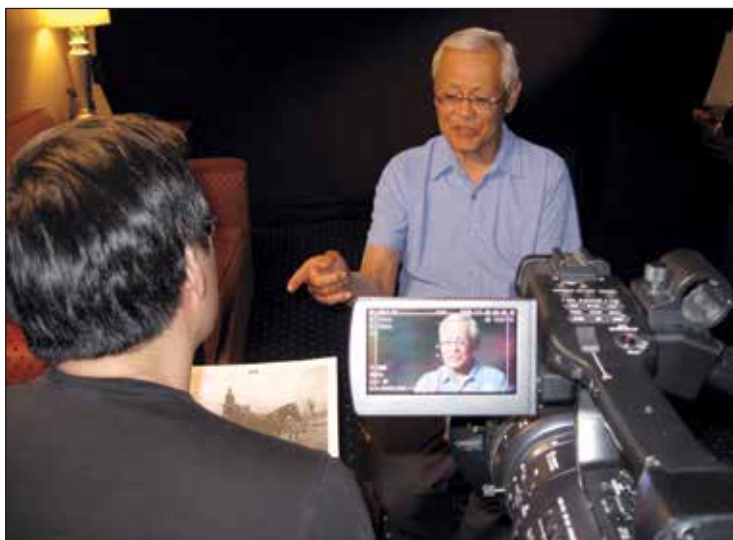


PHOTO COURTESY TOM IKEDA

Tom Ikeda interviews Shig Yabu

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LEDGER ARTIST WORKS EXHIBITED at Heart Mountain Interpretive Center

The art of Alaina Buffalo Spirit was on display from March 8 through May 4 at the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center, thanks to a generous grant from the First Peoples Fund.

Buffalo Spirit is a self-taught artist from the So'taa'ee band of the Northern Cheyenne Nation whose work honors the women who have made a difference in her life. Buffalo Spirit's artwork is based on traditional ledger art, originated by Indian warriors who were incarcerated in the 1800s. Using the materials that were available to them, these warrior artists recorded their powerful stories through images made on ledger paper issued by the government for tallying and record-keeping. Inspired by these early images which depicted life on the Plains, both before and during times of conflict, Buffalo Spirit uses ledger paper made during this period in much of her work.

Like the ledger artists who inspired Buffalo Spirit, Japanese Americans who were confined here during WWII also created powerful works of art using only materials that were available to them. Because of this connection, HMWF felt that the Interpretive Center was a perfect venue to honor and display this kind of work.

An opening reception was held on Friday, March 8 at the Interpretive Center, where Buffalo Spirit briefly discussed her work with attendees. Her formal presentation was held on April 6 in the Ford

Foundation Special Exhibition Room to a standing-room-only crowd. In her presentation, Buffalo Spirit talked about her life, her inspirations, and her "a-ha moment" when she went from a craft-person to an artist. Wearing her traditional Northern Cheyenne dress, Buffalo Spirit spoke in her native language and translated not only her words but her art for the crowd.

Buffalo Spirit lives in Billings, Montana, and began her artistic career in 2004 and has participated in several art shows throughout the west. In 2008, her work was on display at the Museum of the Plains Indian in Browning, Montana, and in June of that year was chosen as the cover art for the University of Washington

Medical School's *Pediatrics Archives Journal*. Most recently, Buffalo Spirit's work was showcased in Kalispell, Montana, at the Montana Arts Council Art Showcase. This summer, her work will be featured in Butte, Montana, and at the Collage Gallery in Big Fork, Montana.

Buffalo Spirit can be reached at buffalospiritdesigns@gmail.com. Notecards featuring her work are available at the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center gift shop.

Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation's "The Ledger Art of Alaina Buffalo Spirit" project was supported in part by First Peoples Fund and the Ford Foundation through a grant from the PPF Our Nations Spaces Program. ■



Alaina Buffalo Spirit



"Spirit Rider" was one of the works on display at the Interpretive Center.

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a question that pops into your head. Have a pen and paper ready for when that happens.

"My best interviews are when you really come to the interview with a lot of curiosity," Ikeda says, "That [shows] you're really interested in learning something new."

After the Interview

Give the interviewee a copy of the interview. If you intend to publish it, have the interviewee sign a waiver. Send him or her

a "thank you" note—what the interviewee did for you was generous.

Oral histories are more than just a way of preserving the past, Rouse believes: they are a way of honoring people. She found that the experience of interviewing family members "made a bond between me and those two uncles that I think is very valuable to me."

"History is official," she says, "but history is also people."

To hear oral histories from Densho

or the Veterans' Oral History Project, go to: www.densho.org and <http://www.loc.gov/vets/>. For more information on conducting oral histories, you can visit: www.oralhistory.org or www.loc.gov/vets/pdf/fieldkit-2008.pdf. The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation also has sample questions to ask when conducting oral histories. If you would like a copy, please contact Operations Manager, Bethany Sandvik at 307-754-8000 or bethanys@heartmountain.org. ■

Humanities Councils Fund Field Trips

Field trips for Wyoming and Montana school children to the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center will be easier for teachers to schedule thanks to a \$4,250 grant from the Wyoming Humanities Council and a Humanities Montana grant award of \$2,877. The recently awarded grants will benefit approximately 825 school children and teachers who visit the Center during the 2013-2014 school year. Funding from both organizations will cover bus mileage, driver pay and half of the admission fees to the Center. The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation (HMWF), which supports the Center, will match grant funding by covering the additional cost of admission, creating and distributing education-specific marketing materials, absorbing administrative costs and providing instructors for programming.

Because of this funding, the HMWF is expecting an increase in visits from schools which are located between a one and three hour drive from the Center, ensuring that students can make the trip in one day when including a 90 to 120 minute visit. Schools in Wyoming that will benefit will be from

outside Park County and as far away as Rock Springs and Casper. Schools in Bozeman, Big Timber, Hardin and Billings, Montana, are also expected to take advantage of the opportunity.

During the 2011-2012 school year, the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center welcomed approximately 1000 students. As this school year winds down, the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center expects to host roughly 700 total students. The decrease in school group bookings is due in part to the limited funding for field trips covered by school districts. By receiving these grants, The HMWF hopes to help bridge that gap and enable more students to visit the Heart Mountain site.

Included in one grant application was a letter of support from Janna Pennington, a social studies teacher from Hardin High School. In her compelling letter she notes, "The Heart Mountain Interpretive Center contains extensive knowledge of Japanese Internment and life lessons that are applicable today. By choosing the HMWF, Humanities Montana will convey to students the importance of Japanese Internment to

American history and our rich Montana history."

Humanities Montana is Montana's independent, nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Humanities Montana has benefited hundreds of Montana organizations and thousands of its citizens, providing support and educational programming in the humanities throughout the state. The Wyoming Humanities Council has been the sole nonprofit public humanities organization in the state for over forty years. The council offers common spaces for sharing and considering diverse perspectives, grant funds for humanities-based projects, and programs. The HMWF is extremely humbled and thankful for this opportunity to partner with both organizations on this project.

Grant funds will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Teachers and principals in Wyoming and Montana who are ready to schedule groups for the 2013-2014 school year should contact Project Director, Kim Barhaug at (307)754-8000 or kimb@heartmountain.org. Field trips scheduled for fall 2013 are highly encouraged. ■



Photo: Okumoto Collection/HMWF

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New Membership Membership Renewal

Name: _____ Mr. Mrs. Ms.

Name: _____ Mr. Mrs. Ms.

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ H W C Email: _____

Giving Level: Senior/Student (\$30) Individual (\$35) Family/Dual Membership (\$60)
 Friend (\$100) Contributing (\$250) Sustaining (\$500)
 Heart Mountain Circle (\$1,000-\$4,999) Kokoro Kara Circle (\$5,000+)

Membership contribution: \$ _____

I would like to make an additional tax deductible gift of: \$ _____

Total contribution: \$ _____

I would like to receive information about planned giving opportunities.

Method of Payment: Cash Check Mastercard Visa

Name: _____
(exactly as it appears on your credit card)

CC#: _____ Exp Date: _____

Signature: _____

Mail forms to: Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, 1539 Road 19, Powell, Wyoming 82435. (307) 754-8000.

New Heart Mountain Website and Online Store Up and Running

The Heart Mountain website has a new look! If you haven't clicked on to www.heartmountain.org in a while, now is a great time to do so. New features on the site include a virtual tour, education curriculum, visit information and an online store. Information on the history of the Japanese American Internment, the Honor Roll, the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation and news and events remain part of the site as well.

"The response to the new site has been pretty positive," HMWF Operations Manager, Bethany Sandvik says. "The online store has been a great way for us to serve our members across time-zones, enabling them to register for the pilgrimage, buy products and renew memberships at any time of day."

We hope that you find the new website to be user-friendly as well as eye-catching. Click on it and tell us what you think! ■



GIFT SHOP GETS NEW INVENTORY!

Here's a first look at what's new this summer at the Heart Mountain Gift Shop. T-shirts will be available in short and long sleeves in both navy and rust. Hooded sweatshirts will be offered in navy only. In addition, we will be offering burgundy Polo shirts for the first time. Shirt orders can be placed online or over the phone.

We are also excited to offer "Maggie" magpie plushes for the first time. These hand-made plush toys are perfect for everyone who loves the story of young Shig Yabu and his pet magpie, "Maggie" whom he cared for during his time at Heart Mountain. Maggie plushes are scheduled to arrive at the store at the beginning of June. ■





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

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Join us!

For the 2013 Heart Mountain
PILGRIMAGE

July 19–21, 2013 • Cody & Powell Wyoming

There is still time to register for this year's event which will celebrate the pending acquisition of the Heart Mountain Root Cellar, the restoration of the Hospital Chimney and the dedication of the new James Ito Historic Garden! Weekend packages are only \$75 and include the Friday evening Pilgrimage Dinner with Keynote Speaker Judge Lance Ito and activities at the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center on Saturday with opening remarks by Former Secretary of Transportation, Norman Mineta.



Keynote Speaker Judge Ito



Norman Mineta

**To register or for more information,
call (307)754-8000 or log
on to www.HeartMountain.org**

