

# Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



A visitor sits in the reflection room at the Heart Mountain Interpretive Learning Center.  
Photo courtesy: Kevin J. Miyazaki

Fall 2011

## 2011: A YEAR IN REVIEW — PRESERVING AND INTERPRETING WORLD WAR II JAPANESE AMERICAN CONFINEMENT SITES

The National Park Service (NPS) is pleased to report on the progress of the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program. The Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program was established to provide federal funding to preserve and interpret sites where Japanese Americans were confined during World War II, in order to teach present and future generations about the injustice of the confinement and inspire a commitment to equal justice under the law.

### Background

On December 21, 2006, President George W. Bush signed Public Law 109-441 (16 USC 461) – Preservation of Japanese American Confinement Sites – which authorized the NPS to create a grant program to encourage and support the preservation and interpretation of historic confinement sites where Japanese Americans were detained. The law authorized up to \$38 million for the life of the grant program.

Over the past three years, Congress has appropriated \$7 million for the grant program – \$1 million in 2009, \$3 million in 2010, and another \$3 million in 2011. Less than 4 percent of this appropriation is used by NPS to administer the program. To date, the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program has awarded 66 grants to private nonprofit organizations; educational institutions; state, local, and tribal governments; and

other public entities. In 2009, the first year of the program, NPS awarded 19 grants totaling \$970,000. In 2010, NPS awarded 23 grants totaling \$2.9 million. In 2011, NPS awarded 24 grants totaling \$2.9 million.

The grants are made as part of a competitive process in which \$2 of federal money matches every \$1 in non-federal funds and “in-kind” contributions. As such, these projects have already leveraged at least \$3.4 million in non-federal funds.

“The internment of Japanese Americans during World War II is an unfortunate part of the story of our nation’s journey, but it is a part that needs to be told,” said Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar in announcing the 24 grants awards for 2011. “As Winston Churchill noted, ‘Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.’ If we are to live up to the ideals expressed in the Constitution, we must learn not only from the glorious moments of our nation’s history but also from the inglorious moments.”

“These places, where more than 120,000 Japanese Americans were unjustly held, testify to the alarming fragility of our constitutional rights in the face of prejudice and fear,” said NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. “The National Park Service is honored to help preserve these sites and tell their stories, and thus prevent our nation from forgetting a shameful episode in its past.”



## **Eligible Sites and Projects**

As defined by Public Law 109-441, eligible confinement sites include the ten War Relocation Authority camps: Gila River (AZ), Granada (CO), Heart Mountain (WY), Jerome (AR), Manzanar (CA), Minidoka (ID), Poston (AZ), Rohwer (AR), Topaz (UT), and Tule Lake (CA), as well as other sites – including assembly, relocation, and isolation centers – identified in the NPS report *Confinement and Ethnicity* and as determined by the Secretary of the Interior, where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II.

Seven major categories of activities are eligible for Japanese American Confinement Sites grants: capital projects (such as construction of new interpretive centers); documentation (such as archeological surveys); oral history interviews; interpretation and education related to historic confinement sites (such as wayside exhibits or educational curricula); preservation of confinement sites and related historic resources (such as restoration of historic buildings or collections conservation); planning projects (such as resource management plans); and non-federal real property acquisition (allowed only at Heart Mountain (WY), Honouliuli (HI), Jerome (AR), Rohwer (AR), and Topaz (UT), per stipulations of Public Laws 109-441 and 111-88).

## **Overview of the 2011 Grant Program Process**

For the 2011 grant program, postcards announcing the availability of grant applications and guidelines were mailed in early December 2010 to a mailing list of more than 10,000 individuals and organizations. In early January, the grant cycle also was announced through the grant program website, press releases, and other correspondence. In January and February, NPS held informational meetings in Denver, Honolulu, Little Rock, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle to meet with interested grant applicants and address questions about the grant program and application process.

By the application deadline of March 1, 2011, the NPS received 43 applications, requesting nearly \$7.2 million in federal funds. During the week of March 14, 2011, the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program selection panel convened to evaluate the grant proposals. The panel was composed of NPS staff from the Intermountain, Midwest, and Pacific West Regions. Appointed by NPS Regional Directors, the six panel members represented a variety of backgrounds and disciplines, including expertise in architecture, history, curation, and interpretation. As was the case for the previous review panels, the 2011 selection panel also included one panelist whose family members had been interned in one of the War Relocation Authority camps. The panel members met at the NPS Intermountain Regional Office in Lakewood, Colorado, to review all eligible applications. The panel evaluated and ranked each proposal using criteria and guidelines that were established based on public input.

The panel recommended 24 proposals to receive funding. These recommendations were forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior, who announced the awards on June 23, 2011.



Exhibit at the Heart Mountain Interpretive Learning Center.  
Photo courtesy: Kevin J. Miyazaki



## STATUS OF FUNDING FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2012 JAPANESE AMERICAN CONFINEMENT SITES GRANT CYCLE

As a Federal agency, the NPS fiscal year begins on October 1 and ends on September 30 each year. At the time of this publication, Congress has not yet passed the government's formal operating budget, known as an appropriations bill, for Fiscal Year 2012.

In order to ensure that NPS has the administrative ability to successfully award Japanese American Confinement Sites grants in 2012, the grant program will operate on the following schedule: grant applications will be available on September 1, 2011; applications will be due on November 1, 2011; and grants will be awarded when funds are appropriated by Congress. As we receive updated information about funds available for the 2012 cycle, we will post it on the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program website: <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/hpg/JACS/index.html>

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Fumiko Hayashida, holds her 13-month-old daughter Natalie Kayo, as they wait to be taken off Bainbridge Island by armed military escorts on March 30, 1942. Photo was taken by a *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* photographer.

Photo courtesy: Post-Intelligencer Collection, Museum of History & Industry



Fumiko Hayashida (100 years old), left, and her daughter Natalie Ong, at the dedication ceremony for the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial on August 6, 2011.

Photo courtesy: Larry Steagall, Kitsap Sun, Bremerton, Wash. Used by permission.





## FISCAL YEAR 2011 GRANT AWARDS

In 2011 – the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program’s third year – 24 awards provided \$2.9 million to projects that involved 12 states. A list of the winning projects follows. When a project is marked with an asterisk (\*), the applicant is from one state and the confinement site associated with the project is in another.

### FY2011 Project Descriptions by State

#### ARIZONA

**Recipient:** Arizona State University  
**Project Title:** Japanese American Internment in Arizona Oral History Website Project  
**Grant Award:** \$18,635  
**Site(s):** Gila River Relocation Center, Pinal County, AZ  
Colorado River Relocation Center (Poston), La Paz County, AZ

**Description:** Arizona State University has conducted more than 100 oral history interviews with Japanese Americans interned at the Gila River and Poston camps and the surrounding communities. However, parts of only 23 interviews currently are online to supplement a K-12 curriculum developed by local teachers. Through this project, the Asian Pacific American Studies Program at Arizona State will process, edit, transcribe and post the remaining 85 interviews online, as well as incorporate the existing website into a new platform.

\*Under California, see the Poston Community Alliance project, “Poston’s Mothers and Babies: A Film on Domestic Life in Camp.”

#### ARKANSAS

**Recipient:** Central Arkansas Library System  
**Project Title:** Rosalie Gould Rohwer Collection: Preservation  
**Grant Award:** \$67,821  
**Site(s):** Rohwer Relocation Center, Desha County, AR

**Description:** In 2010, the Central Arkansas Library System obtained the Gould-Vogel collection, comprising 22 boxes of documents depicting everyday life at Rohwer Relocation Camp, as well as 306 pieces of art produced by internees who attended the camp high school, where they studied with art teacher Mabel “Jamie” Jamison Vogel. In her will, Vogel left the collection to Rosalie Gould of the nearby town of McGehee, who became a champion for preserving Rohwer and its story. Project funding will be used to clean, mend, and frame the artwork, which will be featured in an exhibit and on a website of the Central Arkansas Library.



Hand carved and painted bird by internee at the Rohwer Relocation Center; artist unknown. Photo courtesy: Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Little Rock

**Recipient:** University of Arkansas at Little Rock  
**Project Title:** The Rohwer Relocation Camp Cemetery Preservation Project  
**Grant Award:** \$250,000



Site(s): Rohwer Relocation Center, Desha County, AR

Description: The Rohwer Relocation Camp Cemetery includes markers and monuments constructed by the Japanese American internees. The cemetery is in poor condition from weathering, neglect, and vandalism. Through this project, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock will stabilize and restore the headstones, flower holders and monuments, including the Monument to the Rohwer Dead. Overgrowth and untrimmed trees will be addressed. The project also will result in a Historic American Landscapes Survey and report to guide landscape restoration.



Headstones at the Rohwer Relocation Center cemetery. Photo courtesy: The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Recipient: Arkansas State University  
Project Title: Rohwer Relocation Center Interpretive Project, PHASE II

Grant Award: \$93,155

Site(s): Rohwer Relocation Center, Desha County, AR

Description: Through this project, the Arkansas Heritage Sites Program at Arkansas State University will build on work begun in 2010 to develop a plan and install interpretive elements at Rohwer. A brochure, educational kiosk and interpretive panels funded in the first phase will be augmented in phase two by additional kiosks, panels and directional signage. An audio tour also will be recorded to guide visitors to key components of the camp, including the cemetery and brick smokestack.

## CALIFORNIA

Recipient: KEET-TV

Project Title: J.A. Jive

Grant Award: \$96,465

Site(s): Multiple

Description: Nisei organized jazz bands at 13 assembly centers and relocation camps, which offered escape and therapy during the internment. Through this project, public television station KEET will produce an hour-long documentary to tell the story of the bands and the people who played and sang in them. KEET-TV will broadcast the documentary and offer it to other PBS stations nationwide, and make DVDs available to schools, libraries and the public.

Recipient: Japanese American Museum of San Jose (JAMsj)  
Project Title: WWII Internment: Lessons from the Past for the Future

Grant Award: \$132,900

Site(s): Multiple

Description: The Japanese American Museum of San Jose has the region's largest collection of artifacts and documentation on the internment of Japanese Americans. Through this project, the museum will redesign exhibits using state-of-the-art technology and interactive materials that will appeal to its large clientele of students. The project will begin with focus groups and surveys, which will help determine the best ways to present the material, which will highlight 11 confinement sites.



**Recipient:** LTSC Community Development Corporation  
**Project Title:** Stone Ishimaru's War Relocation Authority Camp Images Archive  
**Grant Award:** \$179,156  
**Site(s):** Multiple

**Description:** Stone Ishimaru, a former internee and camp photographer, has a collection of approximately 5,000 black-and-white negatives from all 10 relocation centers. He is donating his collection for one year to the Little Tokyo Service Center so that, through this project, the negatives can be preserved, converted to digital images, archived, and entered into a database. A website will be created to provide public access to the digitized library.



Sgt. Kazuo Komoto shows his Purple Heart medal to his younger brother, while visiting his family at the Gila River Relocation Center in Arizona. Photo courtesy: The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley

**Recipient:** Poston Community Alliance  
**Project Title:** Poston's Mothers and Babies: A Film on Domestic Life in Camp  
**Grant Award:** \$61,880  
**Site(s):** Colorado River Relocation Center (Poston), La Paz County, AZ

**Description:** The story of how mothers were able to raise their children in internment camps is a little-told story. Through this project, the Poston Community Alliance will produce a 20- to 30-minute documentary film. For material, the Alliance will examine archival documents, including hospital records and historic footage. The film will highlight interviews with women who were mothers in camp, as well as people born there.

**Recipient:** National Japanese American Historical Society  
**Project Title:** Historic Inquiry and Place-based Learning in Japanese American Confinement Sites  
**Grant Award:** \$85,200  
**Site(s):** Tule Lake Relocation Center, Modoc County, CA  
 Manzanar Relocation Center, Inyo County, CA  
 Bainbridge Island/Eagledale Ferry Dock, Kitsap County, WA  
 Topaz Relocation Center, Millard County, UT  
 Tanforan Assembly Center, San Mateo County, CA  
 Sacramento Assembly Center, Sacramento County, CA

**Description:** Through this project, the National Japanese American Historical Society will help secondary school teachers develop classroom programs about the internment. A curriculum will be designed and teachers will attend a four-day in-service institute, and participate in on-site, place-based learning activities at internment sites. Teachers also will attend follow-up workshops and host training workshops at their home schools.



**Recipient:** CyArk  
**Project Title:** Digital Documentation and Virtual Tour of Japanese American Confinement Sites  
**Grant Award:** \$240,611  
**Site(s):** Topaz Relocation Center, Millard County, UT  
Tule Lake Relocation Center, Siskiyou County, CA  
Manzanar National Historic Site, Inyo County, CA

**Description:** Using the latest digital and 3D technology, CyArk will document three relocation centers: Topaz, Tule Lake and Manzanar. CyArk will employ laser scanning and high-definition photography to reconstruct the sites and present them in 3D on a web portal. Oral histories and historic images will be geo-located, resulting in photos, videos, and visualizations placed on a base map and made available on a website. Other products include an interactive kiosk and mobile applications.



A grandfather holds his grandson at the Manzanar Relocation Center in California. Photo courtesy: The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley

**Recipient:** The Regents of the University of California c/o UC Berkeley Sponsored Projects  
**Project Title:** The Japanese American Internment/World War II American Homefront Oral History Project  
**Grant Award:** \$50,000  
**Site(s):** Multiple

**Description:** Through this project, the Bancroft Library at the University of California-Berkeley will conduct 40 hours of video interviews with about 20 former Japanese American internees. Themes to be explored include the actual internment experience, and how Japanese Americans viewed the racial strife in cities such as Oakland and Richmond following their return. All interviews will be transcribed and made available on the university's website.

**Recipient:** The Regents of the University of California c/o UC Berkeley Sponsored Projects  
**Project Title:** The Japanese American Evacuation and Resettlement: A Digital Archive  
**Grant Award:** \$220,493  
**Site(s):** Multiple

**Description:** The Bancroft Library at the University of California-Berkeley has extensive manuscript and archival collections of the internment. Through this project, the library will complete the first phase of a six-year project to create a digital archive of its holdings. It will scan 99,000 images in its Japanese American Evacuation and Resettlement Study Records, and tie the images to a finding aid. A website will allow textual searches, GIS mapping, and interactive map searches.



**Recipient:** Manzanar Committee Inc.  
**Project Title:** “We Said, No-No”  
**Grant Award:** \$113,000  
**Site(s):** Tule Lake Segregation Center, Siskiyou County, CA

**Description:** Through this project, the Manzanar Committee will create a documentary film, produced and directed by Brian Tadashi Maeda. Entitled *We Said, “No-No,”* the film will incorporate more than two dozen oral histories with Tule Lake internees, as well as the work of an ACLU lawyer and Nisei lawyer who fought to restore the citizenship of some 5,000 Japanese Americans. The oral histories will be digitally archived, and the film delivered on DVDs to numerous organizations.

**COLORADO**

**Recipient:** Colorado Preservation, Inc.  
**Project Title:** Amache Water Tank Restoration, Water Tower Restoration, and Guard Tower Reconstruction  
**Grant Award:** \$291,025  
**Site(s):** Granada Relocation Center (Amache), Prowers County, CO

**Description:** Through this project, Colorado Preservation, Inc., will hire an architect, engineer, contractor, and archeologist to restore a historic water tower and reconstruct a guard tower at Amache. The water tower, once moved off site, will be restored at its original location. Funding also will be used to fabricate and install interpretive panels. An archeological survey will be conducted prior to the restoration and reconstruction phases of the project.



Historic photo of the Amache water tower.  
Photo courtesy: Hideo Takeuchi Collection

**HAWAII**

**Recipient:** Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii  
**Project Title:** Honouliuli Confinement Site Educational Tours Program  
**Grant Award:** \$38,565  
**Site(s):** Honouliuli Internment Camp, Honolulu County, HI

**Description:** The Honouliuli Relocation Center is on land now owned by the Monsanto Company and access to the site is restricted. Through this project, and with Monsanto’s cooperation, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai’i will inaugurate a pilot program to conduct six tours of 100 people each, including a pre-tour orientation. The project includes tour guide training and the development of a tour brochure.



## IDAHO

**Recipient:** University of Idaho  
**Project Title:** Kooskia Internment Camp Archaeological Project (KICAP)  
**Grant Award:** \$6,176  
**Site(s):** Kooskia Internment Camp, Idaho County, ID

**Description:** The University of Idaho will use the project funding to complete the cataloging and interpretation of artifacts recovered at Kooskia during the 2010 archeological field project. The artifacts, such as gaming pieces made of locally quarried pebbles and stone, will be displayed during special events, and the findings made available on the university's website.

**Recipient:** Friends of Minidoka  
**Project Title:** Civil Liberties Symposium: Patriotism, Honor, and Sacrifice  
**Grant Award:** \$20,000  
**Site(s):** Minidoka National Historic Site, Jerome County, ID

**Description:** This project, which was completed in July, helped fund the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Minidoka Civil Liberties Symposium: "Patriotism, Honor, and Sacrifice." See: "Completed Projects" section of this newsletter for more information.

## ILLINOIS

**Recipient:** Chicago Japanese American Historical Society  
**Project Title:** Conservation of the Chicago Japanese American Historical Society Archival Materials  
**Grant Award:** \$5,000  
**Site(s):** Multiple

**Description:** The historical society's collection includes items from Japanese Americans in Chicago in the 1930s, from the internment camps of World War II, and during resettlement in the Chicago area after the war. This project will fund the purchase of archival-safe material to help preserve that collection. To help complete the work, the society will hire two interns.

## MINNESOTA

**Recipient:** Asian Media Access, Inc.  
**Project Title:** The Registry (A documentary film about the Military Intelligence Service Language School in Minnesota)  
**Grant Award:** \$75,000  
**Site(s):** Multiple

**Description:** Many Japanese Americans who were held in the camps also served in the nation's Military Intelligence Service as interrogators, interpreters, and linguists. This project will result in an hour-long



Fumi Onodera points to the names of her family members serving in the U.S. Army from the Minidoka Relocation Center, October 1943. Photo: The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley



documentary film for public television, titled *The Registry*, which will feature some of the men who attended the Military Intelligence Service school in Minnesota. The producer/director is Bill Kubota; the co-producer/photographer is Steven Ozone. Materials collected for the film will be given to the Minnesota Historical Society.

## NEW MEXICO

**Recipient:** Japanese American Citizens League, New Mexico Chapter  
**Project Title:** New Mexico Japanese American Internment Sites History, Interpretation, and Education Project  
**Grant Award:** \$54,077  
**Site(s):** Camp Lordsburg, NM  
Fort Stanton, NM  
Santa Fe, NM

**Description:** The Japanese American Citizens League is beginning a multi-faceted project to enhance understanding of internment camps in New Mexico. This project will result in a travelling exhibit, a website on the history of the New Mexico camps, interpretive markers for the Camp Lordsburg and Fort Stanton sites, and a public outreach brochure. In this phase, the project team will conduct research, hold interviews, develop content, and determine locations and scheduling.



Santa Fe Internment Camp  
Photo courtesy: ManyMountains.org

## UTAH

\*Under California, see the CyArk project, “Digital Documentation and Virtual Tour of Japanese American Confinement Sites,” which includes Topaz Relocation Center.

## WASHINGTON

**Recipient:** Densho  
**Project Title:** Digital Archive System for Community Organizations  
**Grant Award:** \$262,980  
**Site(s):** Multiple

**Description:** Densho is designing and creating an Internet-accessible digital repository for organizations to post their collections related to all 10 Japanese American relocation centers. Through this project, and in partnership with four organizations adding new material, the Densho repository will grow to more than 50,000 objects. The partnering groups are: Japanese American Museum of San Jose, Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, Oregon Nikkei Endowment and the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Hawaii.



**Recipient:** Densho  
**Project Title:** Teach the Teachers  
**Grant Award:** \$281,733  
**Site(s):** Multiple

**Description:** Through this project, Densho will create a curriculum on the incarceration of Japanese Americans. The curriculum, designed for upper elementary through high school, will be placed on disc in a “Teacher Resource Package” that will be distributed to thousands of teachers. Densho will test the materials and conduct workshops for 600 teachers in states where relocation centers were situated. In addition, Densho will create an online learning community where a specialist will be available to help teachers use resources and connect current events to the curriculum.

**Recipient:** Washington State University  
**Project Title:** Digitizing and Preserving the George and Frank Hirahara Photograph Collection  
**Grant Award:** \$49,217  
**Site(s):** Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Park County, WY

**Description:** In 2010, Patti Hirahara donated to Washington State University a collection of artifacts, film, prints, and 950 photographs taken at Heart Mountain Relocation Center by her father and grandfather. Through this project, the university will process the collection and create a finding aid. Negatives will be cleaned and stored, and an online exhibit will include the broader context of confinement history. The university also will design five new undergraduate courses based on the Hirahara collection.

## WYOMING

**Recipient:** Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office  
**Project Title:** Restoration of the Heart Mountain Boiler House Chimney  
**Grant Award:** \$215,911  
**Site(s):** Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Park County, WY

**Description:** The 75-foot-high chimney of the Heart Mountain boiler house is a landmark feature of the relocation center but, due to deterioration, is more than 18 inches out of plumb. This project will result in the restoration of the chimney. The project team will assess the damage to the masonry, test the brick and footings, and complete a geotechnical investigation. Based on those results, the team will then stabilize and restore the chimney. An interpretive panel and brochure also will be developed.

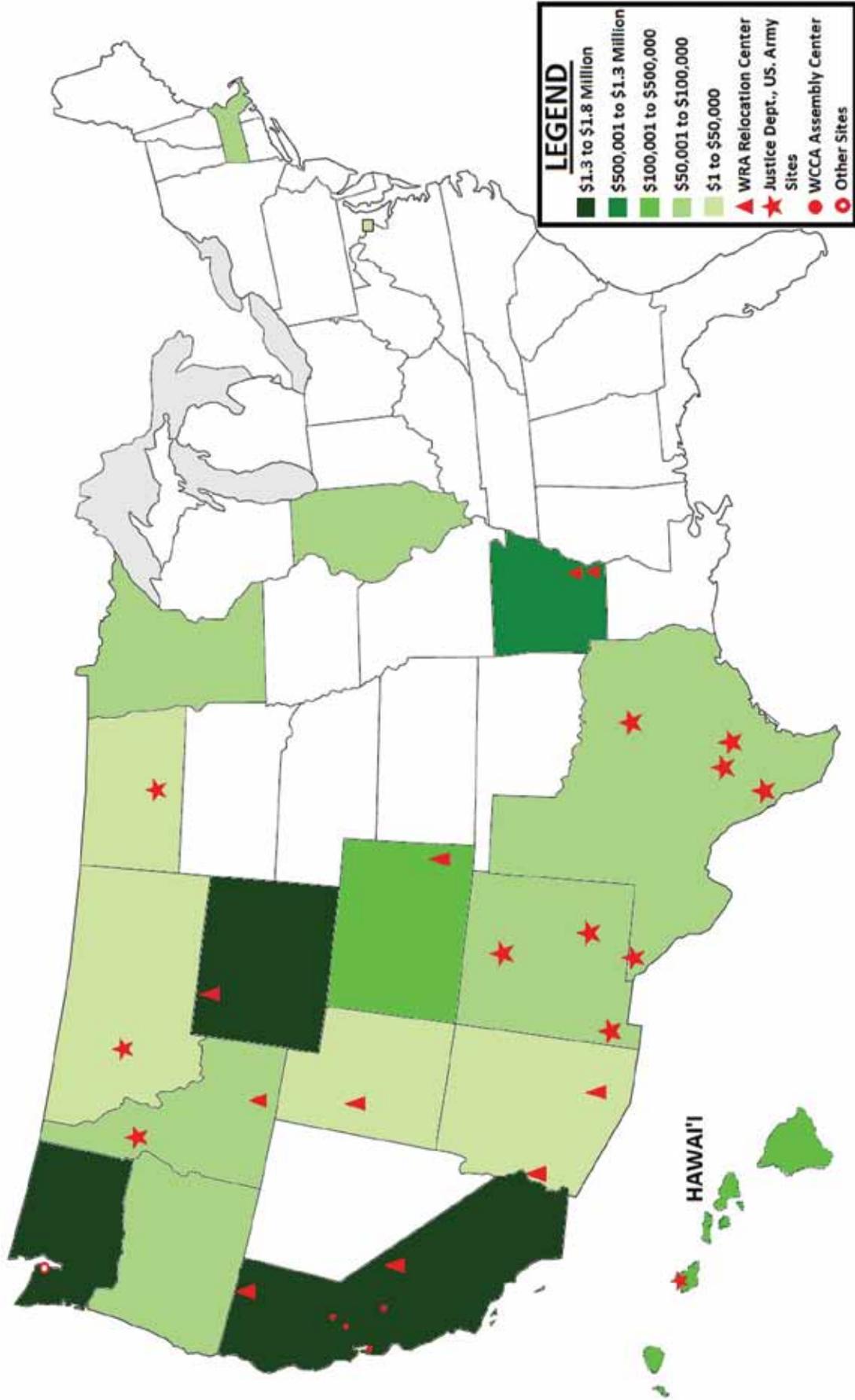
\*Under Washington, see the Washington State University project, “Digitizing and Preserving the George and Frank Hirahara Photograph Collection,” which involves Heart Mountain Relocation Center.



Heart Mountain boiler house chimney.  
Photo courtesy: NPS



# GRANT FUNDING BY STATE

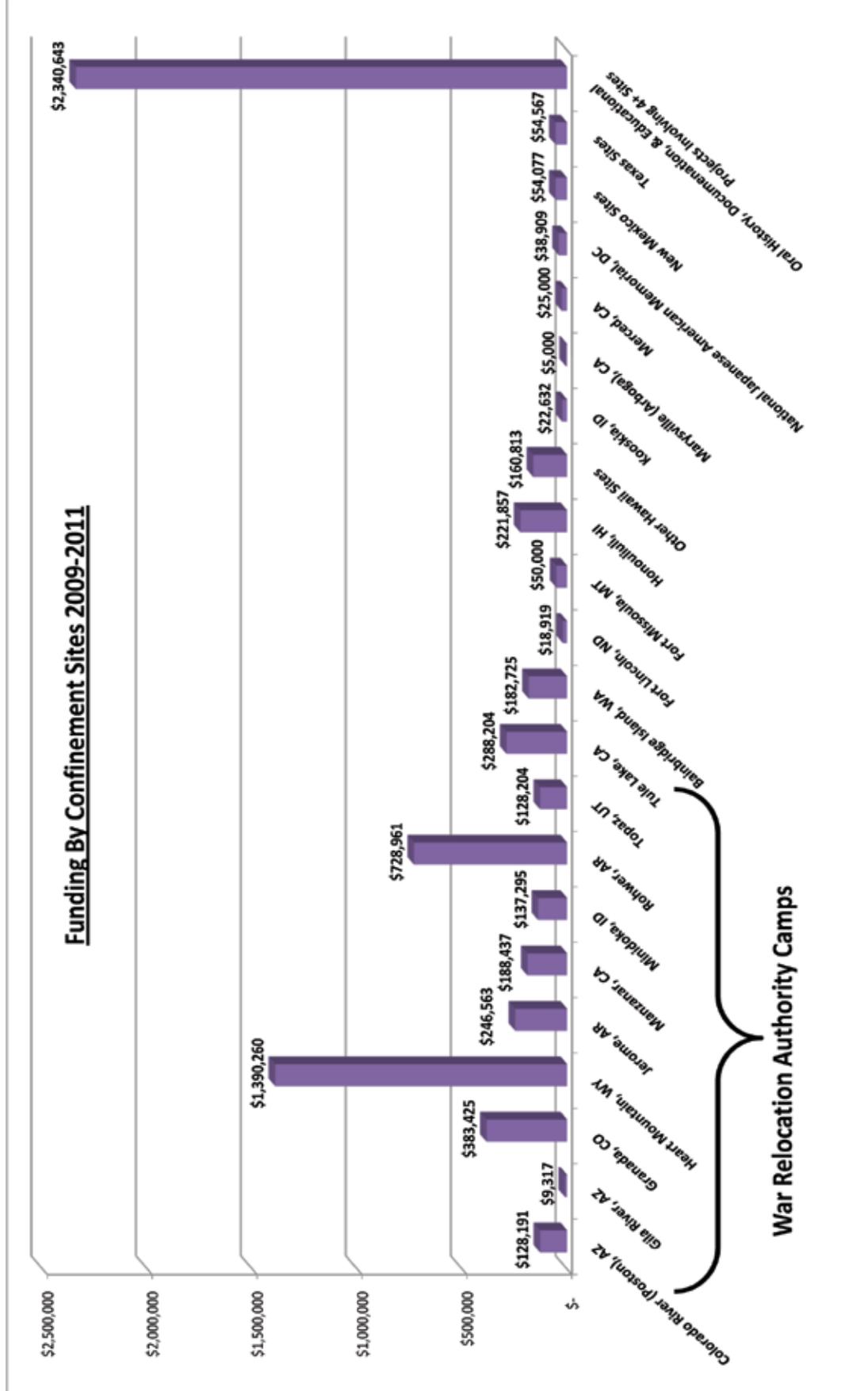


This map shows total (2009-2011) Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program funding by the states where the grantees are located. Also shown (with red symbols) are the Japanese American confinement sites that are the specific focus of those grant funds. In some cases, the grantee is in a different state than that of the confinement site. For example, Poston Community Alliance, which

is in California, received funding for a film about domestic life at the Colorado River Relocation Center (Poston) in Arizona. In addition, some projects generally benefit all confinement sites and/or interpret the overall Japanese American internment experience. While this map shows the location of those grantees, it does not show every confinement site that benefits from those general projects.



## GRANT FUNDING BY SITE



This graph shows total (2009-2011) Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program funding by confinement site. Listed is each site that is the focus of a grant project. The last bar in the graph shows funding for general projects that benefit multiple sites – four or more – and/or interpret the overall Japanese American internment experience.



## PROJECTS COMPLETED DURING FISCAL YEAR 2011

During the last year, seven projects that received Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant funding were completed. (Four projects were completed in 2010.) Following is an overview of the seven Fiscal Year 2011 project success stories, all of which reflect the dedicated commitment and hard work of numerous groups to preserve, interpret and memorialize the history of the Japanese American internment during World War II.

### Bainbridge Island’s “Story Wall” Conveys Message of *Nidoto Nai Yoni*

On the eve of World War II, Bainbridge Island counted only 3,500 people and 65 square miles, with the mainland reached only by ferry. Geography helped create the strong sense of community on the island, where many families worked the berry farms and sent their kids to the island’s one high school.

“The school kids were especially close,” recalled Frank Kitamoto of the time when, on March 30, 1942, soldiers came in trucks and took the island’s Japanese American families down to the Eagledale Ferry Dock. In that group

were high school students Sada Omoto, who was senior class president, basketball stars Jerry Nakata and Mitsu Katayama, and Harry Koba of the football team. When Earl Hanson, the son of Norwegian immigrants, tried to get down to the pier to say goodbye to his classmates, he was pushed back by soldiers.

“You’re taking away some of our best friends,” Hanson cried out, his feelings reflected later by 13 chairs left empty on graduation day at Bainbridge Island High School. That community sentiment still echoes on Bainbridge Island, which has embraced efforts to memorialize the banishment of the island’s Japanese American residents by conveying a simple message: *Nidoto Nai Yoni* – Let it not happen again.

“The message so resonates with the community,” said Sallie Maron, president of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial. The memorial’s gently curving “Story Wall,” completed in 2009, now displays interpretive panels and five terra cotta friezes financed with the help of a \$182,000 Japanese American Confinement Sites grant. The friezes, created by Seattle artist Steve Gardner, include a “Pioneer Panel” that

depicts a Japanese American farmer with rows of crops in the background, and an “American Life” panel that shows a baseball player with *Bainbridge* written across his uniform.

The memorial project received support from a host of local, state, and federal agencies, as well as from hundreds of individuals who have donated time and/or money. “Across the board,” Maron said, the community has embraced the memorial and the “remarkable story” not only of camp survivors, but of the people who welcomed them home after the war.



Visitors observe one of the terra cotta panels designed by artist Steve Gardner for the Japanese American Exclusion Memorial. Photo courtesy: Meegan M. Reid, *Kitsap Sun*, Bremerton, Wash. Used by permission



## “Enemy Aliens” Courtroom at Fort Missoula Restored

A \$50,000 Japanese American Confinement Sites grant has helped restore the courtroom at Fort Missoula, Montana, that was the site of “Enemy Alien” hearings during World War II. The courtroom, now restored to its 1942 appearance by the Historical Museum of Fort Missoula, was dedicated on September 24 during the Montana History Conference – entitled “No Ordinary Time: War, Resistance and the Montana Experience” – which was co-sponsored by the Museum and the Montana Historical Society.

Over 1,000 Japanese men – all of whom were U.S. residents prevented by law from becoming American citizens – were detained at Fort Missoula and subjected to loyalty hearings. These men, most of whom were at least 60 years old at the time, included some of America’s most successful Japanese residents. In an interview posted on the Museum website, Carol Van Valkenburg, author of *An Alien Place: The Fort Missoula, Montana, Detention Camp 1941-44*, observes that it was their success that made these men the target of investigation. These men were “particularly accomplished in all sorts of areas of their lives,” she says. “The government believed that because they were so influential that, should there be any kind of



T-1 Post Headquarters of the former Department of Justice Fort Missoula Internment Camp. Photo courtesy: Tom Bauer, *The Missoulian*, Missoula, Montana. Used by permission

sabotage, these men would be able to influence the rest of the Japanese community to commit acts of sabotage.” Although Japanese nationals were investigated at Fort Missoula and other camps during World War II, none was ever charged with any act of disloyalty.

The courtroom restoration is part of a \$350,000 project to restore the entire T-1 Post Headquarters. Museum development director Diane Sands reports that her organization has raised nearly a quarter million dollars for the project. Besides the NPS grant, the Museum received funding from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Friends of the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula, and \$150,000 from the State of Montana.

Approximately 1,200 non-military Italian men, 23 German resident aliens, 1,000 Japanese American resident aliens, and 123 Japanese Latin and South Americans were detained at Fort Missoula. Many of the buildings associated with the internment are still standing, says Bob Brown, the Museum’s executive director. An exhibit on the internment is housed in a restored barrack. “The interpretation of this period in American history is vital,” says Brown. “It’s a story that needs to be told, we need to remember it, and we need to learn from it.”



Restored courtroom. Photo courtesy: Historical Museum of Fort Missoula



## Heart Mountain Dedicates Interpretive Learning Center

After years of planning and fundraising, the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation dedicated its new Interpretive Learning Center during a three-day celebration in August. Festivities included tours of the museum, prominent speakers, and a hike up 8,000-foot Heart Mountain, which overlooks the sagebrush basin where Japanese Americans were interned during World War II.

The 11,000-square-foot interpretive center was completed with the help of nearly \$1.2 million from the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program. In 2009, in what was the largest grant conferred that year, the program awarded \$292,253 to the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation to build the exterior shell of the center, which replicates the barracks that once housed internees. In 2010, in what again was the largest grant conferred, the program awarded \$832,879 to the Foundation to complete the project, including interior construction and the remaining exterior infrastructure.

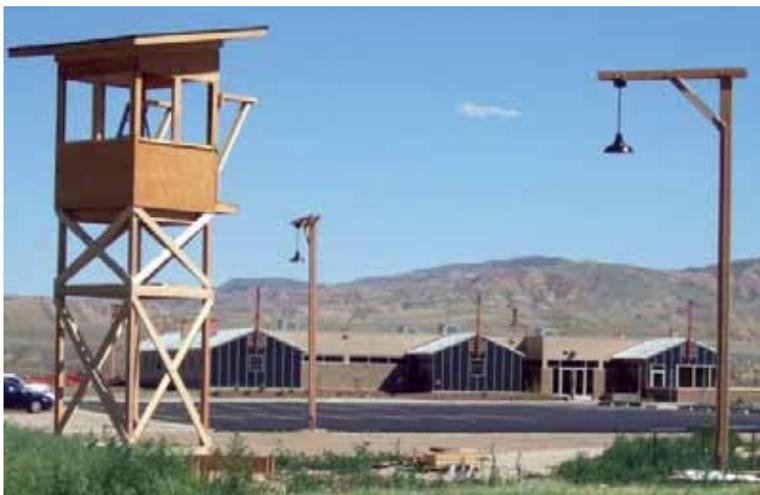
The Interpretive Learning Center is the culmination of a 15-year effort to preserve and interpret the historic site. Founded in 1996, the Heart Mountain Wyoming



Exhibits at the Heart Mountain Interpretive Learning Center. Photo courtesy: Kevin J. Miyazaki

Foundation has raised nearly \$5 million through private donations, largely contributed by former Heart Mountain internees. “The Heart Mountain Interpretive Learning Center and surrounding site will stand as a powerful reminder of the need to balance concern for national security with respect for civil rights,” said Shirley Ann Higuchi, chair of the Foundation. “The new Interpretive Learning Center has essential lessons for us all – young and old alike – and is of immeasurable importance to the neighboring communities of Powell and Cody, the state of Wyoming and the nation,” added Pete Simpson, Foundation board member.

Exhibits in the new center were designed by Minnesota-based Split Rock Studios, together with the Foundation’s program committee. The exhibit carries visitors from the pre-war lives of Japanese Americans through their forced confinement at Heart Mountain and into the challenges of post-war readjustment. Among exhibit highlights: a theater for showing Steven Okazaki’s film *All We Could Carry*; a model of the Heart Mountain camp with interactive touch screens; two recreated barrack rooms – one sparse, the other made more homey by internees; and a Reflection Room as the last stop. “We anticipate that the visit will engage both the minds and the hearts of our visitors,” Higuchi said.



Overview of the Heart Mountain Interpretive Learning Center and reconstructed guard tower. Photo courtesy: Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation



## Fishing Club Documentary Captures Love of Freedom at Manzanar

There's more to making a documentary film than "lights, camera, action." For the Manzanar Committee, a \$49,400 grant from the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program was the boost necessary to complete a project that started in 2004. With the added help of donated services and funds, T-shirt sales, a dinner/dance, and a \$22,000 grant from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program, Cory Shiozaki's film, *The Manzanar Fishing Club (From Barbed Wire To Barbed Hooks)*, has become a reality.

The full-length documentary tells a story of freedom that played out during the confinement of Japanese Americans at Manzanar War Relocation Center in the Owens Valley of California. Using archival photographs and video-taped oral interviews, as well as short re-enactments and onsite shooting in the Eastern Sierras, Shiozaki unveils the story of internees who used the cover of night to crawl under Manzanar's barbed wire fence with one goal in mind: to go trout fishing in the valley's tree-lined streams or high in the Sierra's alpine lakes.



The Manzanar Fishing Club screens segments of their upcoming film at the Long Beach Convention Center at the Fred Hall Fishing Show. Photo courtesy: Manzanar Fishing Club

"Security was high during the first 18 months, so they would time their escape as the search lights were panning right to left," Shiozaki told the *Los Angeles Times* in April 2009. Shiozaki, a resident of Gardena, California, and an avid fisherman, is a third-generation Japanese American whose parents were among the 120,000 Japanese Americans interned in relocation camps during World War II. "My mother and father always were reluctant to discuss such a painful chapter in their lives, and I vowed that someday I would make a film about the internment as a reminder that something like this must never happen again," Shiozaki said.

"This story, as unique as it was to Manzanar, is symbolic of the struggle of all of the former prisoners to find some semblance of dignity and freedom under horribly adverse conditions," Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Bruce Embrey told committee blogger Gann Matsuda. Because fishing is such a universal theme – a slice of life long enjoyed by free people – the film has the ability to connect on an emotional level with all Americans and thus further understanding of the internees' longing to be free. As one fisherman at Manzanar put it: "The air just tasted better" on the other side of the fence.

Manzanar internee Tadao Kobata fishing at the Williamson Basin behind Mt. Williamson, part of the Sierra Nevada mountain range in Inyo County, California. Photo by Amos Hashimoto, courtesy of Danny Hashimoto





## Minidoka Civil Liberties Symposium Aims to Teach, Heal, Preserve

Ask Hanako Wakatsuki why the annual Minidoka Civil Liberties Symposium – sponsored by Friends of Minidoka, the College of Southern Idaho, and Minidoka National Historic Site – is important and she'll tell you about the day a professor asked her about Minidoka and she didn't know what he was talking about. "I had to go and Google it," she says of the World War II relocation center in south-central Idaho. "I didn't learn about it," she recalls, even though she grew up in Idaho and attended Idaho public schools.



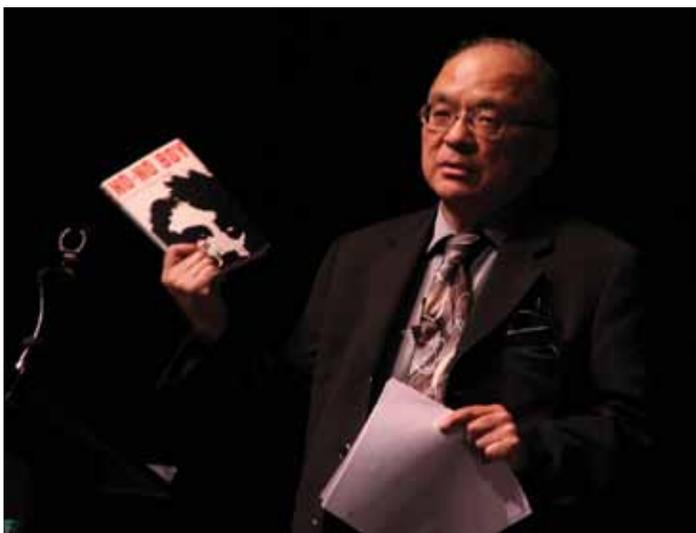
After the Grateful Crane Ensemble's performance of their play *The Betrayed*, performers addressed questions from the audience. Left to right, Soji Kashiwagi, Mary Gruenewald, and Hiroshi Kashiwagi. Photo courtesy: Minidoka Pilgrimage Committee

As chair of the non-profit Friends of Minidoka, Wakatsuki now helps plan the symposium. For the past six years, the symposium has been held in conjunction with the annual Minidoka Pilgrimage. This year's pilgrimage began on June 30 in Seattle and Portland and ended on July 3 at Minidoka. The 2011 symposium, financed with the help of a \$20,000 Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant, was titled "Civil Liberties and War: Patriotism, Honor & Sacrifice."

Nearly 300 people attended the symposium held June 30-July 1 at the College of Southern Idaho. "Hanako's

experience soon will be a thing of the past," Robert Sims, emeritus professor of history at Boise State University, said of the lack of teaching materials on the internment when Wakatsuki was a schoolgirl. "There's been a lot of progress." Sims opened the 2011 symposium with a presentation on the military contributions of Japanese Americans in World War II. Another guest speaker was David Adler of Idaho State University, who specializes in constitutional law. Also presenting was Larry Matsuda, who was born in Minidoka and who read from his poetry collection, *A Cold Wind in Idaho*. J. Todd Moyer of the University of North Texas compared the experience of Minidoka's World War II veterans with the Tuskegee Airmen. Attendees also examined two films and a play, *The Betrayed*, presented by the Grateful Crane Ensemble. Following the symposium, a caravan of buses and cars traveled the remaining 20 miles of the pilgrimage to Minidoka – or the Hunt Camp, as locals call it – where nearly 9,500 Japanese Americans were interned from August 1942 to October 1945.

"It's important history and very emotional," said Russ Tremayne, associate professor of history at the College of Southern Idaho. Tremayne, who has been involved in planning the symposium since its beginning, emphasized its role in "trying to remedy what was left out of the history books."



Frank Abe showed his documentary, *Conscience and the Constitution*, at the 2011 Civil Liberties Symposium. Photo courtesy: Minidoka Pilgrimage Committee



## Friends of Minidoka Reconstruct Minidoka Honor Roll

On March 13, 1943, the four Sakura brothers graced page one of Minidoka's camp newspaper, *The Irrigator*. The brothers – Ken, Chet, Ted and Howard – had volunteered, all within days of one another, for service in the army. A few weeks before, the three Onodera brothers did the same and, by the end of March, more than 300 men signed up.

Minidoka families, proud of their soldier sons (and a few military daughters), built an honor roll with the names of the soldiers listed in hand-painted rows. At the top was an eagle, its wings spread. In a photograph published in *The Irrigator* in October 1943, Fumi Onodera, the 20-year-old sister of the three Onodera boys, stood in front of the honor roll, pointing to the names of her brothers Ko, Kaun and Satoru, who became part of the highly decorated, all-Japanese-American 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, which fought in France and Italy, where Satoru Onodera lost his life in 1944 (see photo, page 9).

Now, the honor roll has been reconstructed by the Friends of Minidoka, with the help of a \$17,295 grant from the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program. The honor roll was dedicated on July 3, during the annual Minidoka Pilgrimage.

But first came a bit of detective work, among them determining the exact dimensions of the original honor roll. Bill Vaughn of the Friends of Minidoka, who donated his time to the project, sized historic building materials, while park volunteer Tim Clark researched the height of young Japanese women in the 1940s, finding the average female was about 5-foot-1. By applying that data to the photograph of Fumi Onodera standing in front of the honor roll, the scale came into focus. “We sat back and grinned,” Vaughn said of the day he compared his notes to Clark’s. Using different methods, the



Reconstructed honor roll near the entrance of the Minidoka National Historic Site.  
Photo courtesy: Friends of Minidoka

two had figured the honor roll's dimensions “within half an inch” of each another.

The honor roll's location at the entrance to the former internment camp creates a powerful interpretive feature. “Literally, the first thing in your face was this honor roll,” said Anna Tamura, NPS landscape architect. “It was a profound statement. Yes, we are patriotic. We have a thousand men in the military. We have an eagle. Despite being incarcerated and our rights being taken away, we are still patriotic to the United States.”



Participants at the celebration gather around the newly reconstructed Honor Roll.  
Photo courtesy: Friends of Minidoka



## Buildings at Fort Lincoln Identified as Site for Visitors' Center

North Dakota may be better known for its harsh winters and American Indian heritage than for the internment of “Enemy Aliens” during World War II. Yet a portion of Fort Lincoln in Bismarck was used to incarcerate an estimated 1,800 Japanese Americans and 1,500 Germans under the U.S. Justice Department’s Alien Enemy Control Program. The “Snow Country Prison,” as one internee called it, was on the grounds of the historic fort, established in 1895 across the Missouri River from the original Fort Abraham Lincoln, from which Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer departed for the Little Bighorn.

After the military abandoned Fort Lincoln, five American Indian nations opened an employment training center on the grounds – today’s United Tribes Technical College (UTTC). Thus did the history of an Indian college and the confinement of Japanese Americans become entwined. “The college has always been welcoming of former internees and families and scholars and researchers,” said Dennis Neumann, the school’s public information director. With the help of an \$18,919 Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant, a planning conference held at UTTC in 2010 has furthered plans to memorialize that history. Two buildings have been identified as a potential visitors’ center: the former army hospital and the former home of the hospital steward. Partnering with the tribes on the conference were the National Japanese American Historical Society, the Japanese Peruvian Oral History



2010 planning conference participants gather at the United Tribes Technical College campus  
Photo courtesy: United Tribes Technical College

Project, Hesono O Productions, the German American Internee Coalition, and the North Dakota Art Museum.

The first group of Issei arrived at Fort Lincoln on February 9, 1942. On February 14, 1945, 650 men from Tule Lake arrived. This group included “recalcitrants” such as Junichi Yamamoto and Arthur Ogami who renounced their U.S. citizenship and were deported to Japan. Neither man had returned to Bismarck – until 2010, when they attended the conference. “I don’t brag about being here,” Yamamoto told journalist Martha Nakagawa during the conference, “but I never felt ashamed about being here. I thought I did the right thing. . .” Ogami, who renounced his citizenship “to keep the family intact,” became tearful upon seeing the campus, saying it felt “like coming back home.” To welcome those participating in the conference, the tribes conducted a Lakota ceremony, “Wiping of Tears,” which tribal people use, Neumann explained, “to heal psychological and emotional wounds in their communities.”



## FISCAL YEAR 2012 GRANT CYCLE – APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE!

Applications for fiscal year 2012 are now available to assist private non-profit organizations, educational institutions, state, local and tribal governments, and other public entities in their efforts to preserve confinement sites where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II, and to educate and inspire present and future generations about the importance of these historic places and their stories.

All application materials, including program guidelines, are available on the grant program website: <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/hpg/JACS/index.html>

Applications must be received by: Tuesday, November 1, 2011 (this is not a postmark date).

Please note, informational meetings for the Fiscal Year 2012 grant cycle will not be held this year. If you have any questions about the application process, please contact one of the NPS regional representatives.

All correspondence and comments may be sent to the address listed below:

National Park Service  
Intermountain Region  
Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program  
ATTN: Kara Miyagishima  
12795 W. Alameda Parkway  
Lakewood, CO 80228

Thank you for your interest in the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program. For more information, please visit <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/hpg/JACS/index.html>.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact one of the NPS regional representatives if you have any questions about the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program.

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### MIDWEST REGION

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The Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program newsletter is published annually. To read online, visit the grant program website at:  
<http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/hpg/JACS/index.html> .

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*The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the  
American people so that all may experience our heritage.*

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Fall 2011

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- Friends of Minidoka Reconstruct Minidoka Honor Roll
- Buildings at Fort Lincoln Identified as Site for Visitors' Center

### **FISCAL YEAR 2012 GRANT CYCLE—APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE!**

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