



## Letter from the Superintendent

Though the calendar says that fall is here, it certainly doesn't feel that way in southern Idaho. The days still feel like summer, and what a summer it has been at Minidoka National Historic Site!

The summer began at the **University of Oregon** where I shared updates about the future of the park as part of the **Joel Yamauchi Lecture Series**. Sponsored by the School of Architecture, this series examined the social and cultural implications of internment. Dr. Kevin Nute and his students visited the park and included our visitor center project in their architectural design studio that semester.

It was then time for the **Civil Liberties Symposium** in partnership with FoM and the College of Southern Idaho. This year's Symposium set a new attendance record and students, scholars, interested citizens, and individuals involved in helping shape and document the history of our country all came together to learn and share. The theme was "Color and the Constitution" and we examined not only the issues raised by internment 67 years ago, but other times in our history when citizens have questioned what it means to be an American and our Constitutional Rights.

During the Symposium we introduced **new education curriculum** developed in partnership with Densho. Tom Ikeda joined our education specialist Annette Rousseau in presenting the lesson plans and materials. Three separate units meet Idaho education standards for grades 4-6, 7-8, and 9-12. Based upon evaluation, we'll continue this project to provide additional materials and develop curriculum that meet state education standards in Oregon and Washington.

The Symposium events led to the **Pilgrimage**, my first at the park. I had the opportunity to listen to incredible stories of courage and memories of long ago. By shining light into those dark corners of our nation's history, we can better understand the mistakes of the past and ensure that they are not repeated.

Pilgrimage participants had the opportunity to see the **new outdoor exhibits**, as several had already been installed. The exhibits provide a self-guided experience for visitors. The remaining panels will be installed once we have completed the park's trail plan and trail work, which will begin next spring thanks to funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The park also received ARRA funds for additional site clean-up to ensure visitor safety and resource protection, and construct a boundary fence.

Our maintenance crew was busy this summer removing

debris and addressing safety hazards. The interpretive staff presented **new regularly scheduled guided walking tours** of the park and special programs at the visitor center in Hagerman. The public programs will continue this fall, as will new programs for school groups.

We continue to move forward to implement the park's **General Management Plan (GMP)**. We will be developing specific site plans for the entrance area, including the historic rock garden, warehouse – which will be the visitor center, and Block 22. These site plans will address visitor access, infrastructure (e.g. utilities), and the rehabilitation of historic structures. We will then be able to seek funds for these projects so that you will see improvements at the park with each new visit. A contract has been awarded to move a historic mess hall and complete barrack building to the site.

Great work continues at **Bainbridge Island**. I was able to see the beautiful memorial wall (nearing completion!) during a visit in September. Meeting with members of the memorial committee, we brainstormed about the information to share on the memorial and the best materials to display that story. NPS staff will continue to work with the committee as they seek an exhibit designer to turn these ideas into reality.

We also continue to actively address threats to the park from incompatible development. The park is working with our neighbors, elected officials, subject matter experts, stakeholders, and project proponents to ensure that all projects are well planned and do not have permanent adverse impacts upon this nationally significant site.

In the last newsletter I mentioned other projects on the horizon, both will be funded in 2010: a **Long-Range Interpretive Plan** to guide the development of our education programs in the future and **an amendment to the park's GMP**. The amended GMP will include long-term strategies and actions that include the addition of Bainbridge Island to the park. Both of these projects will involve our partners, so I look forward to seeing you in the upcoming year!

As you can see, we're moving forward on many projects that would not be possible without the commitment and expertise of our many partners. The story of Minidoka is one not only of upheaval, hardship, sacrifice, and pain, but ultimately one of hope, healing, and triumph. Thank you for joining us as trustees for the future of a site and story which is as relevant today as it was 67 years ago.

-Wendy Janssen, *Superintendent of Minidoka National Historic Site and Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument*

## A Teacher's Reflections on the Pilgrimage Experience

by Libby Sinclair

Last year I learned about the pilgrimage to Minidoka, and when the Nisei Vets invited me to go along, I jumped at the chance. Although I teach about the incarceration of Americans of Japanese ancestry every year, I am mostly self-taught on the subject. I looked forward to this opportunity to listen and learn from those who had lived it.

I was out of college before I was aware of this chapter in our history. Working at the ACLU in the early 70's, I learned the names Hirabayashi and Korematsu and about the movement for redress. I was shocked as I uncovered the story of Executive Order 9066 and its aftermath. As a white kid growing up in Los Angeles, my otherwise excellent education failed to mention this profound experience, part of which had happened in my own back yard. My mother never mentioned her classmates at UCLA who had been forced to leave college. My father, an Army private who was wounded in France, surely knew about his fellow soldiers in the 442nd, but never said a word. He and I used to watch the thoroughbreds work out sometimes in the cool morning hours at Santa Anita near my grandparents' home. Never did I know that thousands of people had been forced to live there while being "processed" and assigned to Manzanar and other camps. My family was mute on this topic.

I joined the Pilgrimage to Minidoka on a lovely day in June. Some spry 80-something's cheerfully welcomed me aboard the bus that would take about 40 of us to Twin Falls. On the way there and back, I heard a lot about silence. It was the reason so many fellow-travelers had come. Many wanted answers to questions that had been met with silence by parents and grandparents. My seatmate, a camp baby, came to see where she was born. Many came for solidarity- with grandparents, with stateside Japanese, with advocates for social justice.

As an outsider, I thought a lot about the silence of my own family, perhaps also bystanders whose passivity was fueled by the fear of "other" and the calamity of war. I wonder still at the silencing of the Bill of Rights, and the ongoing ignorance of the whole episode in our culture and our classrooms.

Some elders I visited with spoke of their silence. One explained *gaman*, the virtue of endurance, that helped some stay strong and move past pain, but whose expression was silence. The campsite at Minidoka itself, speaks of silence. Barracks and mess halls, baseball fields, barbed wire and guard towers are long gone. Wind blows across quiet fields. Few structures remain, as if disappearing the evidence could erase what happened there.

Many former internees rode on our bus. This journey reconnected them with their former lives in the camps

and military service. They were our best teachers and kept things real. One gentleman spoke up forcefully when we stopped near the camp to look at some existing barracks preserved by the local historical society. He wasn't buying it. "Too clean! Too nice! We didn't have these lowered ceilings. There was no wallboard, just bare studs. Dust sifted in through cracks in the walls everywhere!" He was echoed by another who told that as bleak as they were, the bare walls and exposed studs provided needed shelving. "That's where we kept our lipstick, she said."

Today we approach Minidoka through fields lush with crops, but former internees straightened us out. Back then, there was desert as far as the eye could see. When the wind blew, the six-inch deep dust covered everything and made it impossible to see. When it rained it turned into ankle-deep, mucky goo that "sucked the shoes right off your feet."

I was mesmerized by first-hand accounts of soldiers in the 442nd's: the taking of Monte Cassino, breaking the Gothic Line, finding the "Lost Battalion", and liberating horrific Nazi death camps. I learned how the Honor Roll at the gate to Minidoka restored dignity and lifted spirits.

What I take away from this experience is huge: a clearer understanding of physical losses and the deeper emotional ones, especially the humiliation of betrayal. But, I also discovered many sources of strength: family, *gaman*, the 442nd, the Honor Roll, baseball, the No-No Boys, and a special Kubota garden. Carved out of desolation, each stone selected and placed with exquisite care, it was a gift to the community, a cultural touchstone that offered sanctuary in the desert. Water also gave strength to displaced Northwesterners. A wet, green place in the dust was where one could go and be reminded of home. And, there was solidarity: Not all bystanders looked the other way. The Woodward's fought internment with their newspaper and outspoken opposition to Exec. Order 9066. And there was Pastor Andrews of the Japanese-Baptist church in Seattle who protected people's belongings and moved with his family to Twin Falls to continue serving his evacuated congregation. In 1942, the ACLU stood up for Gordon Hirabayashi, and Fred Korematsu, and the Bill of Rights.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the Minidoka Pilgrimage this year, and look forward to returning with members of my family.

***Mark your calendar! Next year's Pilgrimage will be held June 25th -27th.***



1: Portrait of former internees in attendance; 2 & 3: Pilgrims examine new outdoor exhibits at Minidoka; 4: "Talk-story" allows pilgrims to share and reflect; 5: Excavated historic garden at Minidoka; 6: Tour of historic Minidoka firehouse; 7: Pilgrims sing karaoke at the social hour; 8: Frank Kitamoto, FoM Secretary greets Pilgrims at the opening picnic; 9: The Inouye family at this year's Pilgrimage; 10: Duramas with wishes are pinned up during the closing ceremony. Pilgrimage photos courtesy of Lisa Ferrier, Frank Kitamoto, Ryan Kozu and Eugene Tagawa

## Civil Liberties Symposium 2009 in Review

by Dr. Russ Tremayne

In June the College of Southern Idaho hosted the fourth annual Civil Liberties Symposium, "Color and the Constitution." The Friends of Minidoka, the National Parks Service, and CSI sponsor the event each year which coincides with the annual Minidoka Pilgrimage.

Conference participants heard from several prominent civil rights leaders and world class scholars. Joseph McNeil of the Greensboro Four made the record crowd (185) laugh and cry. Law Professor Raymond Cross spoke about Native American issues. Former National JACL director and author John Tateishi offered an emotional account of his involvement with the Redress Movement, and Raul Sanchez and Raquel Arenz examined the Hispanic experience. Dr. Lane Hirabayashi, Chair of the UCLA Asian American Studies Department, shared his impressive new publication Japanese American Resettlement Through the Lens and Dr. Bob Sims and Dr. Dave Adler offered stimulating, thoughtful lectures. Storyteller Alton Chung entertained and provoked the audience and Federal Judge Lynn Winmill presented another powerful talk making his third appearance in four years. Tom Ikeda, Executive Director of Densho, presented a superb workshop for teachers on Friday afternoon.

The meeting this year was held in the spectacular Herrett Center which allowed participants an opportunity to enjoy an art gallery and world class anthropology museum. An evening social took place at the historic Turf Club and most of those who attended the symposium and social found the venues to be outstanding, the conference speakers brilliant and the event planning and organization exceptional.

Thank you and congratulations to the planning committee (Wendy Janssen, Neil King, Russ Tremayne, Matt Reynolds, and Hanako Wakatsuki) for a job well done!

**Mark your calendar!**

**Next year's symposium will be held  
at the College of Southern Idaho  
June 24th -25th with a focus on  
"Civil Liberties and the Arts."**



**Symposium photos:** 1. Tom Ikeda, Executive Director, Densho; 2. Joseph McNeil of the Greensboro Four; 3. Dr. Bob Sims; 4. Alton Chung, Storyteller; 5. Dr. Russ Tremayne with Ballet Folklorico. *Photos courtesy of Frank Kitamoto*



## Issei Memorial Update

by Alan Momohara

During the current Federal fiscal year, Congress appropriated almost \$1 million under the Japanese American Confinement Grants program. These funds were available to eligible organizations, such as the Friends of Minidoka (FoM), for the preservation and interpretation of U. S. confinement sites where Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II. Under this program, \$2 in federal funds would be awarded for each \$1 raised.

FoM applied for \$67,419 under this program (to be matched by \$33,711 raised by FoM). These funds were to be used to develop actual construction plans based on the conceptual design created by the Issei Memorial Design Team. The Design Team, consisting of Kenichi Nakano, Valerie Otani, Jerry Arai, John Buday, and Anna Tamura, has developed a concept for the Memorial which is in the process of being vetted by the National Parks Service (NPS).

FoM was disappointed to learn that the Issei Memorial application was not funded, nor was any application concerning the Minidoka National Historic Site. FoM is committed to the construction of the Issei Memorial however, the tough economic climate makes fundraising particularly difficult. The estimated budget for the Issei Memorial is \$1.2 million.

Whether the final budget adopted by Congress for 2010 will appropriate funds under the Japanese American Confinement Grants program is not yet known. FoM is hopeful that funds will be included for this important program and we will apply again if funds are available.

In the meantime, we encourage you to financially support FoM and the Issei Memorial. It is our understanding that donations specifically for the Issei Memorial can be used as matching funds for Confinement Grants awarded to FoM in the future. Thank you to all who have supported this important project.

## Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial (BIJAEM) *Nidoto Nai Yoni, Let it Not Happen Again*

by Frank Kitamoto

The Memorial site of the first group of Americans of Japanese descent to be forcibly removed from their homes to America's concentration camps during WWII through Exclusion Order #1, has entered its 2nd phase. The construction of the 276 ft. long granite stone and cedar wall (a foot for each resident of Japanese descent living on the Island at that time) is scheduled to be completed by late October 2009. The Wall will have names, ages and occupations of those excluded on March 30, 1942. The story will be told through images and quotes gathered through oral histories and will feature early pioneering of the Island, the exclusion, the stories of other Islanders who supported or did not support us, the military, "camp" life and the return. A "break" in the Wall with a basalt structure will represent our time in both Manzanar and Minidoka. Pegs and stone ledges will allow visitors to leave mementos.

Those who visit the Memorial will be able to trace the actual steps taken by the men, women and children as they were herded by armed U. S. Army soldiers with fixed bayonets down the road to the waiting ferry "Kelohken".

In September the BIJAEM Interpretive Committee, as a satellite of the Minidoka National Park Historical Site, met for two days with Minidoka Historical Site Superintendent Wendy Janssen; Anna Tamura, Landscape Architect, Pacific West Regional Office; Alisa Lynch, Chief of Interpretation Manzanar Historic Site; Lynne Nakata, Interpretive Specialist Pacific West Regional Office; David Guiney, Exhibit Planner Harper's Ferry Center; and Susan Karren, Director Pacific Alaska Region of the National Archives, to work on the content for the Memorial wall.

The 3rd phase of the designed Memorial (150 ft. pier, a foot for each person who returned to the Island, symbolizing the original Egleddale ferry dock) and the 4th phase (4,000 square-foot interpretive center and a smaller educational building) will be built as funds are secured.

The personal recollections and emotions of Bainbridge Islanders will represent the stories of many communities whose lives were disrupted and interrupted. The goal of the Memorial will be to stimulate people not to be only passive recipients of knowledge, but be active participants in the democratic process for social change. So, *Nidoto Nai Yoni, Let It Not Happen Again*, will be a reality.

For more info on the Bainbridge Island experience visit [www.bijac.org](http://www.bijac.org).

## Wendy Janssen on the Future of Minidoka

### *Joel Yamauchi Lecture Series, U of O*

*by Dr. Kevin Nute*

On June 3rd, the Superintendent of Minidoka National Historic Site Wendy Janssen delivered the final lecture in the University of Oregon's Joel Yamauchi lecture series commemorating the Japanese American internment in the Pacific Northwest and a former Nikkei student of architecture at the U of O, Joel Yamauchi, whose parents and older sister were interned at Minidoka.

The lecture series was organized by professor of architecture Kevin Nute in conjunction with an architectural design studio in which students designed new interpretive facilities for either Minidoka or the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center (ONLC), a project of Oregon Nikkei Endowment, in downtown Portland.

Superintendent Janssen together with Nicole Nathan of the ONLC and other experts reviewed the student designs before the evening lecture, which was introduced by the Executive Director of the Oregon Nikkei Endowment, Mari Watanabe. Janssen discussed the present state of plans for Minidoka in the context of other Nikkei sites and her own wide experience with the National Park Service.

Joel Yamauchi's elder sister and brother, Pam Torgensen and Terry Yamauchi, were in attendance, from Seattle and Arkansas respectively, and the latter read from a moving letter from their father George Yamauchi to the local newspaper editor in Hood River protesting the unfair wartime treatment of loyal Japanese Americans, including veterans of the 442nd like himself.

DVDs of the lecture are available from the University of Oregon. Please contact Professor Kevin Nute at [knute@uoregon.edu](mailto:knute@uoregon.edu).

***Check out the new and improved  
Friends of Minidoka website!***

[www.minidoka.org](http://www.minidoka.org)

Learn more about the Minidoka National Historic Site, ongoing FoM projects and upcoming events.

## CAFO Air Study Complete

*by Emily Hanako Momohara*

For over a year, the Friends of Minidoka (FoM) has been engaged in a legal challenge to the permitting of a 13,000 animal Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) located on property 1.2 miles from the Minidoka National Historic Site. We joined hands with a variety of organizations in our efforts: Preservation Idaho, the National Parks Conservation Association, the Japanese American Citizens League, Idaho Concerned Area Residents for the Environment (ICARE), Diamond and Sloan families (Minidoka's neighbors), and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

A feedlot of this scale would considerably change the way we visit Minidoka. The air and water born pollutants would put the health of those who work and live near Minidoka at risk. The severe smell would deter visitors from spending time at the outdoor exhibits, artifacts, and future memorials. In addition, there would be safety issues to navigate with truck traffic and manure on the roads.

FoM supports agriculture and our neighbors who are part of the farming community. However, we believe we can also protect the Minidoka National Historic Site.

FoM partnered with the National Park Service in an air quality impact study. We are thankful to the Hart Family Foundation who granted FoM funds for the study, funds that were matched by the National Park Service. Together, we were able to hire prominent Washington State University scholars and environmental specialists to collect data from the region. Currently, these specialists are creating a model based on this data to scientifically track the wind patterns in combination with potential pollutant levels.

Big Sky Dairy and South View Dairy's plans have been put on hold by our legal challenge. We are awaiting the official record to be compiled by Jerome County and our lawyers at the Western Environmental Law Center. On October 29th a hearing will be held, after which Judge Elgee will rule on what will be allowed into the record this month. Following this decision, the legal proceedings of our challenge to the dairy's permit to build the dairy will begin. We hope arguments will be heard in the new year.

Minidoka's American story is deeply important. Our legal battle is essential to the future of the site and FoM is committed to fighting the permit. As a result of the effort to protect Minidoka from these pollutants, we have and continue to accrue considerable costs. With the help of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, you are able to contribute at <http://www.minidoka.org/cafo.php> If you would like to help preserve Minidoka, please donate.

## Join the Friends of Minidoka

As an all-volunteer, membership based organization your support and membership dues are vital to the work FoM is doing. Join us today and support the vision for this historic site!

**Since its creation in 2002 Friends of Minidoka (FoM) successfully:**

- Co-sponsors the annual June Minidoka Pilgrimage
- Co-sponsors the Civil Liberties Symposium at the College of Southern Idaho
- Actively engages in legal issues to protect Minidoka
- Worked closely with the Conservation Fund to purchase land to expand Minidoka to include Block 22 and the historic Farm-In-A-Day site
- Reprinted the Minidoka Interlude
- Developed the design for the proposed Issei Memorial
- Developed drawings for the rebuilding of the Honor Roll
- Assists educational groups to experience Minidoka first hand
- Built local and national support to protect other national camp sites like Minidoka

**Benefits of Friends of Minidoka membership include:**

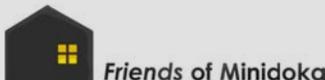
- Discounted registration fee for Minidoka Pilgrimage
- Access to timely information on Minidoka National Historic Site and FoM activities and projects
- Invitations to upcoming Members Only events
- Publications:
  - FoM bi-annual Newsletter
  - Informational and educational bulletins
  - Future email updates
- Ensure **your** voice is present in the plans for the Minidoka National Historic Site!

Donations to support development of Minidoka National Historic Site are made possible through Friends of Minidoka, Inc. (FoM). In addition to becoming a member, contributing to FoM is a special way to honor or remember friends and relatives. FoM also accepts in-kind donations and stock transfers.

Please fill out and return the form below to become a member, renew your membership or make a donation.

<h1 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">Join   Renew</h1> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">Make checks payable to "Friends of Minidoka" Please mail this form with your check to: <b>Friends of Minidoka</b> PO Box 1085 Twin Falls, ID 83303-1085 Questions: info@minidoka.org</p> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">Friends of Minidoka, Inc. is a non-profit corporation recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 exempt organization. Accordingly, gifts to FoM are deductible for federal and state income tax purposes subject to applicable regulations. Please consult your tax advisor as to whether your donation is eligible for other credits, such to education entities in your state. Your contribution may qualify for other tax deductions.</p>	<div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> New Member      <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal                 </div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Please let me know about volunteer opportunities with Friends of Minidoka                 </div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in including Friends of Minidoka in my will                 </div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">                     Name: _____                 </div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">                     Address: _____                 </div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">                     City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____                 </div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">                     Phone: (    ) _____ Email: _____                 </div> <table style="width: 100%; margin-top: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Student/Senior 75 &amp; older</td> <td style="width: 10%;">\$ 25</td> <td style="width: 30%;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Individual Membership</td> <td>\$ 50</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Family Membership</td> <td>\$ 100</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Corporate Membership</td> <td>\$ 500</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Additional donation</i></td> <td></td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;"><b>TOTAL</b></td> <td><b>\$ _____</b></td> </tr> </table>	Student/Senior 75 & older	\$ 25	\$ _____	Individual Membership	\$ 50	\$ _____	Family Membership	\$ 100	\$ _____	Corporate Membership	\$ 500	\$ _____	<i>Additional donation</i>		\$ _____	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ _____</b>
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Thank You





Early spring scene at the Minidoka Wartime Relocation Center. Frances Stewart Photograph, Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley.

### **Mud**

I start to school in the morning,  
And my shoes are Spic-and-span  
When I come home at noon-time  
They're like a muddy van.  
I wish the mud would go away  
And all the muddy pools,  
But I guess that nothing can  
Fix that up,  
Including all the tools.

*Poem written by 6th grade girl at  
Minidoka elementary school.  
(quoted in Relocation Center Diary  
by Arthur Kleinkopf)*

Learn more by visiting us at [www.minidoka.org](http://www.minidoka.org)

Questions about the newsletter? Corrections? Please contact Lisa Ferrier at [littleferrier@hotmail.com](mailto:littleferrier@hotmail.com)



**Friends of Minidoka**

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