

Photo by Eugene Ingawa



Friends of Minidoka

Fall 2010 Newsletter

FoM Continues to Take Action to Protect Minidoka from Feedlot Contaminates

by Emily Hanako Momohara

Over the last several years, the Friends of Minidoka has been fighting a 13,000 head Confined Animal Feedlot Operation (CAFO) from being built 1.2 miles near Minidoka. Minidoka's preservation and the enjoyment of visitors would be severely impacted by a CAFO of this size and proximity. An air-quality study showed that the smell of the cattle and feces would directly collide with Minidoka causing all visitors to endure the harsh smells or leave the site. In addition, there are possible water and soil contaminates that will damage the artifacts at Minidoka.

We are part of a coalition to stop the CAFO from being built. Members include: Preservation Idaho, the Japanese American Citizens League, Idaho Concerned Area Residents for the Environment (ICARE), Idaho Rural Council, Dimond and Sloan families (Minidoka's neighbors), and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

This spring, our lawyers were finally able to appear in court and ask that the permitting process of that feedlot be reevaluated. We felt there were good grounds for us to have the permit revoked. However, late in the summer Judge Elgee of Jerome County rendered a verdict, which sided with the CAFO owners.

The Friends of Minidoka is now taking the litigation further to fight against the CAFO being built. In September, we filed a notice to appeal the recent court decision. Our lawyers feel that there are several areas of the ruling, which have strong appeal merits. Currently, we await a court date with the Idaho Supreme Court.

Consequently, on October 5th, the County has filed a cross-appeal challenging the standing of two of our coalition members and current legal fee requirements.



The legal fees are quite cumbersome for an organization of our size. Thus, the Friends of Minidoka needs your help more than ever. We cannot allow Minidoka to become a smelly, fly haven. Can you imagine walking the new Minidoka trails while swatting flies? Looking for a name on the Honor Roll or contemplating the Issei Memorial will be cut short because the air will smell like a feedlot. We also believe that visitors without a personal connection to Minidoka will be deterred from spending any amount of time on the anchorage of Minidoka where the Victory Garden lies, or the fire station area, or even the future reestablishment of block 22. The smell will be too unpleasant.

Friends of Minidoka has accrued and is still accumulating debt from the legal fees. We hope that by collecting donations of any amount from our members, we can continue this fight.

Several members have given generously. Thank you for your graciousness and dedication to making Minidoka a National Park that can be visited by millions.

If you have not helped yet, we would greatly appreciate your donation. Please help us protect Minidoka from the CAFO.

Donations can be made to: Friends of Minidoka, CAFO fund, PO Box 1085, Twin Falls, ID 83303 or by credit card at www.minidoka.org/cafo.php.



Letter from the Superintendent

As some of you may have heard, there was a major wildland fire that swept through the other park that I am responsible for, Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument. In late August the area witnessed the largest wildland fire then burning in the country. When all was said and done, approximately 310,000 acres burned, including 75% of the Monument. The fire was caused by lightning and was wind driven, natural threats which we could not stop.

However, there are other threats to parks that we can try to stop. In 2007, Minidoka National Historic Site was on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's (NTHP) list of 11 Most Endangered Historic Sites due to threats to park resources and values from transmission lines and a large-scale dairy feedlot. In April 2009, NTHP stated, "Minidoka National Historic Site is a place with a hard past, and for the past few years, a pretty challenging present, too."

In 1916, Congress created the National Park Service to manage a growing collection of special places "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." The National Park Service is entrusted with the preservation of nature and our shared heritage and has the responsibility to share the significance of these sites throughout the country.

With the support of many partners, we successfully had the Southwest Intertie Project transmission line re-routed out of the park (it was proposed to be placed near the historic rock garden). Another threat that we have been addressing for several years, along with partners such as you, is the prospect of having 13,000 cows and calves a little more than one mile from the entrance to the park.

We are actively working with our Solicitor's Office and regional and national staff to protect this park from impairment. There was no "confined animal feeding operation" (CAFO) when the President and Congress considered the establishment and expansion of this park. We have put the holder of the CAFO permit on clear and written notice of our concerns. I thank you and our other

partners for your active support and willingness to address this threat so that together we can protect the irreplaceable national treasure that is Minidoka National Historic Site.

With our collective efforts, we can continue to achieve all that we have been working for at the park:

- ever more successful Pilgrimage and Civil Liberties Symposium events
- a new 1.6 mile trail to be constructed in the spring of 2011
- an additional 20 outdoor wayside exhibits to be installed along the new trail
- funds to design and construct a Visitor Center in the historic warehouse
- re-establishing Barrack Block 22 and having an original barrack and mess hall at the park before next year's Pilgrimage
- re-establishing the Honor Roll at the entrance to the park
- education curriculum developed with Densho
- condition assessments of historic structures such as the original fire station to professionally guide future stabilization and restoration
- a new museum collections building to house priceless Minidoka artifacts that will be constructed this winter

As President Theodore Roosevelt, one of this country's great conservationists stated, "We have fallen heirs to the most glorious heritage a people ever received, and each one must do his part if we wish to show that the nation is worthy of its good fortune."

Thank you for your part in helping preserve such an important site that we all care for so deeply.

Wendy K. Janssen

Superintendent of Minidoka National Historic Site and Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument



Color guard during the ceremony at Minidoka National Historic Site

Contribute to the Friends of Minidoka

'Tis the Season for Gift Memberships

The holidays are coming up! Give your loved one a membership to the Friends of Minidoka. They will receive updates and be a part of the exciting changes happening. Your donations also go a long way.

- \$150 will help a student attend the pilgrimage.
- \$89 will print and mail 100 newsletters.
- \$35 will pay for a phone meeting with our lawyer to fighting the 13,000 head CAFO.

With your donation, if received before December 10th, you will receive a certificate of gift membership or gift donation for your loved one. The certificate will be mailed to you before the holidays. It's a perfect way to get your family thinking about Minidoka, keep them informed and help with the projects that the Friends of Minidoka does for our communities.



Looking to Contribute in Other Ways?

The Friends of Minidoka needs a bookkeeper, membership committee members and web support. Do you have time to give to preserving Minidoka? If so, please email Emily Momohara at ehmomohara@yahoo.com

Join | Renew

- New Member Renewal
- Please let me know about volunteer opportunities with Friends of Minidoka
- I am interested in including Friends of Minidoka in my will

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ Email: _____

Benefits of your membership include:

- Discounted registration fee for Minidoka Pilgrimage
- Access to timely information on Minidoka National Historic Site (MNHS) 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 MNHS

Make checks payable to "Friends of Minidoka"

Please mail this form with your check to:

Friends of Minidoka
PO Box 1085
Twin Falls, ID 83303-1085

Friends of Minidoka is a nonprofit organization.
Donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law.

Student/Senior 75 & older	\$ 25	\$ _____
Individual Membership	\$ 50	\$ _____
Family Membership	\$ 100	\$ _____
Corporate Membership	\$ 500	\$ _____
<i>Additional donation</i>		\$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Thank You

Scholarship Recipient: Bree Keaveney Reflection on the 2010 Pilgrimage

What was most meaningful for me was spending time with Japanese Americans. Spending time with people interested in Japanese American history. Spending time with wonderful people. For me, the symposium was the most important event, because it helped me come to terms with many feelings and thoughts I have had about identity, family and community.

I now see how Japanese Incarceration shapes my family.

Being mixed race and deprived of Japanese culture, I never felt like I could be a part of the community. But after this weekend I feel like I am. My story is not that uncommon in the community—not being raised with Japanese culture and/or being mixed race. What I have taken away from this pilgrimage is a sense of belonging to a greater Japanese community outside of my family. It is wonderful.

What I plan to do with what I learned from the Pilgrimage

I took a class called The African American Religious Experience. My professor, Dr. Flora Wilson Bridges is a pastor, ordained in three different denominations in the Black Church. She is a key person in charge of the Ecumenical practices at SU. Dr. Bridges essentially builds bridges between different faith traditions by fostering dialogue. One of the countless lessons I learned from her is how I can apply the three components of African American Spirituality to my life. The three components are: (1) Cultural/Historical Memory, (2) Forgiveness, (3) Ability to form community.

I think these three components are what I can do for really anything in life. For the Japanese American community I will continue to learn about the culture and history. I will do my best to forgive myself and my family and the United States government. And I will form community with people of Japanese ancestry, and people who are interested in Japanese culture and history.

I want to say Thank You to the JCCCW and Minidoka Pilgrimage Planning Committee for providing scholarships for students to attend the pilgrimage. I am so grateful I attended. It truly helped me heal and I know I am closer with my Grandpa Ogami because of it. And I think being closer with my family is what I am most grateful for.

Bree Kimiko Keaveney is a 2010 Scholarship Recipient to the Minidoka Pilgrimage. She will enter her third year at Seattle University, studying Global African Studies and Sociology.



Top: Bree (top) with her family: Arthur Ogami (Papa), Kimiko Ogami (Nana), Charlene Ogami (Mom); bottom: Bree poses with other Yonsei and Gosei at this year's Pilgrimage



Minidoka Pilgrimage is blogging!

The Minidoka Pilgrimage has started a blog about anything related to Minidoka and the internment camp experience, especially from the Pacific Northwest region, including Idaho. Check it out!

<http://minidokapilgrimage.wordpress.com/>

If you have suggestions or contributions for the blog please feel free to email Ryan Kozu at ryankozu@gmail.com.

As always, for general Pilgrimage updates and information, please visit:

<http://minidokapilgrimage.org>

Mark your calendars for these 2011 events!

Wednesday 6/29 - Thursday 6/30 - Civil Liberties Symposium, College of Southern Idaho

Thursday 6/30 - Sunday 7/3 - Minidoka Pilgrimage, Twin Falls, Idaho

Check for updates on <http://minidokapilgrimage.org>

Civil Liberties and the Arts Symposium

by Hanako Wakastuki

The 5th Annual Civil Liberties Symposium was held on June 24 and 25 at the Canyon Crest Dining and Events Center overlooking the beautiful Snake River Canyon. It was a world class event focusing on civil liberties and the arts and was very emotionally charged. This year was the first time that the Symposium and the Pilgrimage overlapped, giving Symposium attendees the opportunity to meet Pilgrims, many of whom were former internees.

Fantastic presenters came from across the United States and Canada to discuss the role that art plays during periods of conflict over civil liberties and specifically the art that came out of the Japanese American internment experience. All facets of artistic expression were examined, including photography, literature, performance, and film.

The symposium featured presentations by Greg Robinson, professor at l'Universite du Quebec A Montreal and author of 'Following Her Own Road'; Roger Shimomura, retired University of Kansas professor who has exhibited artworks in more than 125 solo exhibitions; Jeanne Wakatsuki-Houston, author of 'Farewell to Manzanar'; Larry Matsuda, author of 'A Cold Wind in Idaho'; Bob Sims, professor emeritus and the former Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs at Boise State University; Megumi, storyteller; Mira Nakashima, author of 'Nature, Form & Spirit: The Life and Legacy of George Nakashima'; Emily Hanako Momohara, Asst. Professor of Art at the Art Academy of Cincinnati; David Alder, Professor of Political Science at Idaho State University; Linda Hattendorf, producer/director of 'The Cats of Mirikitani'; Lucy Ostrander, producer/director/writer of 'Fumiko Hayashida: The Woman Behind the Symbol'; The Grateful Crane Ensemble; and Portland Taiko.

All of the presentations were phenomenal, some very emotional, and their methods ranged from first hand experiences of former internees, to beautifully produced documentaries, to outstanding performances. Participants were able to engage with the presenters to learn more about how artists revisit the Japanese American internment experience to inform us about its significance in the continuing struggle for justice.



Top: Linda Hattendorf and Roger Shimimura; bottom: members of the Grateful Crane Ensemble answer questions after their performance.

Honor Roll Installation Scheduled for 2011

In the spring, Friends of Minidoka won a Confinement Sites Grant to re-establish the Honor Roll. It is in the process and will be ready by the 2011 Civil Liberties Symposium and Pilgrimage. The theme for the two events will be Military Service and a dedication ceremony will be held at the Pilgrimage.



Plan your family reunion at the next Minidoka Pilgrimage!



Three generations of the Okamoto family came together during the 2010 Minidoka Pilgrimage.



Did you know?

The logo used by the Minidoka Pilgrimage was designed by Frank Fuji and contains meaningful symbols. The marks at the center reference the Japanese characters for one, two, and three and represent the generations interned (Issei, Nisei and Sansei). The outer circle represents the Yonsei, Gosei, and all others. The barbed wire envelopes all, as the internment experience impacts the entire community.

Please note: In an effort to save trees and costs, the Friends of Minidoka will continue to offer the printed newsletter only to members. If you would like to sign up for our e-newsletter, please submit your email address at: www.minidoka.org

Learn more by visiting us at www.minidoka.org. Questions? Corrections?
Please contact Lisa Ferrier at littleferrier@hotmail.com



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