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## Newsletter: Fall 2012

Posted Dec 3, 2012

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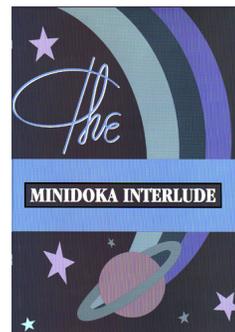
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Questions, comments, ideas?  
Email us: [info@minidoka.org](mailto:info@minidoka.org)

### Minidoka Interlude for Sale

by Alan Momohara

Who was the first "Sweetheart of Minidoka?" If you had a Minidoka Interlude, you would know that in 1943, Ise Inuzuka from Block 32 was so honored after competing with 6 other "Block Queens." Did you know there was a Norakuro Harmonica Band and a group called the Harmonaires (which actually was founded in Seattle in 1939)? You would if you had an Interlude. Did you know that there was a semi-pro baseball team (Hunt All-Stars) from Minidoka who went 10 - 2 in 1943, beating teams from such places as Jerome, Rupert, and Idaho Falls. You would if you had an Interlude.



The Friends on Minidoka has printed its second edition of the Minidoka Interlude. The Interlude was first published in 1943 as a yearbook depicting life in Minidoka. There are photographs of the residents of each block, and lists their names by barrack and unit letter. In addition, there are many pages of pictures depicting life in Minidoka including sports, the tofu plant, the swimming hole, the root cellar, a hospital ward, and many other aspects of Minidoka.

This is an important document for anyone who had family or friends in Minidoka or is interested in this tragic episode in history of the United States. The Friends of Minidoka is selling copies of the Interlude for \$65 plus \$5 for shipping. [Click here for order form \(PDF\)](#) or pick one up at the Civil Liberties Symposium in Twin Falls in June 2013 or at the 2013 Minidoka Pilgrimage.

### Guard Tower Reconstruction Project

by Hanako Wakatsuke

The Friends of Minidoka was awarded a two-for-one matching grant from the 2012 Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program for \$280,378 to reconstruct a guard tower at Minidoka. Only 17 projects were selected. The guard tower project is a two-year project that will restore the entrance of the camp to more closely resemble what former incarcerated witnesses when confined at Minidoka. The tower will be constructed with the same materials as originally created and placed in its historical location. Boise State University's Department of Construction Management will oversee the construction and installation with the help of National Park Service staff.



We are honored to be working with two faculty members at Boise State University's Department of Construction Management, Dr. Rebecca Mirsky and Dr. Casey Cline. They will develop a class to research, construct, and install the guard tower at the Minidoka National Historic Site. This class is scheduled to take place this spring semester with Boise State students.

The Friends of Minidoka is fundraising for this project. We have to raise \$16,200 for this project to meet our match requirement for the grant. We need your help to make this successful. Please help us by donating to complete this project! Thank you for your support! [Click here to donate to the Guard Tower project](#)

### Ongoing & Upcoming Projects at Minidoka

by Wendy K. Janssen, Superintendent, Minidoka National Historic Site & Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument

With the holidays just around the corner, it is an opportune time to thank all of you for your partnership and continued support and commitment to Minidoka National Historic Site. Our busy summer has turned into a busy fall as we continue to move forward on various projects.



#### *Visitor Center Funded*

Just before submitting this article for the newsletter, I learned that our proposal to adapt the historic warehouse for use as the park's Visitor Center has been funded! Planning and design for the \$4.3 million project will begin this year, with construction to follow. This is incredibly exciting and we look forward to working with our partners as we develop exhibits and preserve this original camp structure.

#### Fire Station Preservation

The historic preservation crew from Grand Teton National Park finished preservation work on the fire station and mess hall doors and windows in August, including reconstructing the three bay doors to the fire station so they look as they did during the camp years.

#### Signage Along Walking Trail

We've added additional interpretive signage along the 1.6 mile trail (including additional audio units), and continue to increase the number of school programs and tours presented for the general public.

#### Root Cellar Preservation

Our maintenance crew completed preservation work on the root cellar and building foundations this summer and fall. A temporary fence has been constructed around the root cellar to help preserve the structure and ensure visitor safety. Once funding is received in a few years to completely rehabilitate the root cellar, the fencing will be removed.

#### 2013 Symposium Planning

The planning and organizing committee for the civil liberties symposium has begun work on next year's symposium. The theme will be "First Generations," so we will discuss the Issei and immigration, and other first generation immigrants in the US.

#### Guard Tower Reconstruction

Planning also continues with Hanako Wakatsuke, FOM Chair Person, and Boise State University (BSU) staff on the guard tower reconstruction project. The BSU students will be learning about Minidoka history and historic preservation principles first, then will focus on the guard tower design in the spring, with construction next summer. It's another wonderful partnership!

#### Long-Range Planning

The Long-Range Interpretive Plan is in the final stages of design and should be available by late February.

#### Decontamination of Buildings

A contractor has just completed decontaminating and stabilizing the remnant camp buildings near the fire station that were later used by the Herrmann family.

#### Maintenance Facility Design

The design for the new maintenance facility for both Hagerman Fossil Beds NM and Minidoka NHS is complete, and construction will begin in 2013.

Our work would not be possible without you, so thank you for sharing this journey with us!

### **Feedlot Letter Writing Campaign**

by Emily Hanako Momohara

Over the last three years, the Friends of Minidoka has been fighting the building of an 8,000-head Confined Animal Feedlot Operation (CAFO) just 1.2 miles from Minidoka. We performed an air-quality study, which showed that the smell of the cattle and feces would blow directly through Minidoka. In addition, there are possible water and soil contaminants that would damage the historical artifacts and site features at Minidoka. In 2011, our lawyers went to court to request that the CAFO permitting process be reevaluated. Despite the coalition's

belief that there are good grounds to revoke the permit, Judge Elgee of Jerome County rendered a verdict siding with the CAFO owners. September 2011, the coalition filed a notice to appeal his decision. In 2012, we had a hearing with the Idaho Supreme Court for that appeal and we lost.

Although there is no further legal option for us, the National Park Service (NPS) and the US Government have opportunities to continue further. We just need to get their attention for Minidoka. You can help by writing to your legislators, the National Park Service, and Secretary of Interior Salazar. Below you can find contact information for NPS and Secretary Salazar. At [minidoka.org](http://minidoka.org), you will find addresses for the many Congress Men and Women and a sample letter which you can edit and add to.

Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar  
Department of Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W., Washington DC 20240

Jonathan Jarvis, Director  
National Park Service  
202-208-3818, [Jon\\_Jarvis@nps.gov](mailto:Jon_Jarvis@nps.gov)

If you have questions about the CAFO litigation or how to help, please contact Emily Hanako Momohara at [ehmomohara@yahoo.com](mailto:ehmomohara@yahoo.com)

### **SAVE THE DATE: 8th Annual Civil Liberties Symposium: Immigration & Civil Liberties**

The 2013 Civil Liberties Symposium will be on the College of Southern Idaho campus June 20-21. The conference, sponsored by Friends of Minidoka, College of Southern Idaho, and the National Park Service, will focus on immigration and involve several prominent academic, political, and legal experts. The symposium will also include several entertainers representing various cultures specifically for the enjoyment of Pilgrimage participants. We look forward to seeing everyone this summer in the Magic Valley for a stimulating meeting.



### **Minidoka Book**

By Russ Tremayne

This upcoming publication was inspired by my mentor Dr. Bob Sims and the past 8 years working on the Civil Liberties Symposium and Pilgrimage. I decided some of the powerful presentations and stories that are central to our annual gathering should be collected. I received a Pioneering Grant from the College of Southern Idaho (CSI) for the proposal. The National Park Service agreed to match the CSI grant and the Center for History and Politics at Boise State University accepted it for publishing and donated considerable funds. Subsequently, the Idaho Humanities Council and the Idaho State Historical Society made contributions as well.



The book is progressing nicely. It started as a brief publication consisting of 6-7 chapters and has grown into a fairly substantial book with 11-12 chapters and about 200 photos. There are several people working on the publication including a graphics editor, copy editor, publisher, and general editor plus ten different contributors. At times it has seemed like a three ring circus but we have almost a complete draft and are in the process of acquiring photos and writing captions. There is still much work to be completed but the plan is to be finished in March or April and if the history gods are willing, the book will be available for the 2013 Symposium and Pilgrimage.

### **The Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial**

by Frank Kitamoto

The 276 feet long "Nidoto Nai, Let it Not Happen Again," Memorial Wall has had many visitors, locally, Nationally and Internationally since its completion. The Bainbridge Island Museum and Historical Society, one of our Memorial Partners has graciously consented to work with us in supplying docents for visitors to the Wall. Any school classes, community groups, or individuals who wish to have a guided tour at the Memorial site should contact Lilly Kodama at 206-842-2226, [lykodama@live.com](mailto:lykodama@live.com) or Katy Curtis at 206-842-2773, [outreach@bainbridgehistory.org](mailto:outreach@bainbridgehistory.org), with preferably a 3 weeks lead time.



The Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial Association Board (BIJAMA) is now in a planning phase exploring the next steps for capital improvements at the 5 acre Memorial site. They are exploring what facilities will best facilitate education in the Japanese American experience based on historical events, personal interviews, civil rights and human rights and dignity. The goal is to further the mission of the Memorial, "Nidoto Nai Yoni, Let It Not Happen Again"

The Bainbridge Island Japanese Community (BIJAC) will be holding its annual Mochi Tsuki Celebration at IslandWood from 11:00 to 3:00 on Sunday January 6. There will again be three performances by the Seattle Kokon Taiko group. Admission is free. Tickets are limited and are on a first come basis 20 minutes before each performance.

Last year over 1500 people attended the festivities to pound rice, roll rice, or to watch. The award winning traveling Photo Exhibit "Kodomo No Tame NI, For the Sake of the Children, The First 100 Years of Americans of Japanese Descent on Bainbridge Island", will be on display as well as models for the possible future plans at the Memorial site and films. Mochi Tsuki and BIJAC T-shirts will be available to be purchased as well as books and videos.

### **SAVE THE DATE: 2013 Seattle Taiko Festival**

February 17, 2013. For more information visit [www.minidokapilgrimage.org](http://www.minidokapilgrimage.org)

### **2012 Minidoka Pilgrimage Recap**

by Frank Kitamoto and Keith Yamaguchi

This year's Pilgrimage was a total success. Over 200 people attended, many of which included many former incarcerated who were given scholarships to participate. The sharing between youths and elders was inspiring.



Once again the Pilgrimage bus left Bellevue Community College at 6:00 a.m. and made the journey to Idaho. Included was a stop at the Cultural Center in Ontario, Oregon. In Boise, the Pilgrims attended the 2nd day of the Civil Liberties Symposium with the theme "Children of the Camps" and heard presentations that were moving and emotional. The Symposium was held at Boise State College and then the Pilgrimage continued to Twin Falls. For those of you that have attended previous Minidoka Pilgrimages, you have observed the many changes that have taken place at the Minidoka National Historic Site. The most visible signs of progress and development at the Minidoka include: the reconstruction of the Honor Roll which was unveiled at the 2011 Pilgrimage, the placement of an original Mess Hall building and an original barrack back on the site of Block 22, which we were allowed to enter and examine the Mess Hall and barrack at the 2012 Minidoka Pilgrimage (we were not allowed to enter these buildings during the 2011 Pilgrimage). The Mess Hall and barrack will be the cornerstones for the planned rebuilding of the entire Block 22 complex. Minidoka Pilgrimage participants were able to take both guided and self-guided tours along a 1.6 mile loop that was completed before Minidoka Pilgrimage 2012. Along this 1.6 mile loop, visitors are able to identify specific areas of interest with signs (called waysides) that described the significance of what the visitor is viewing and

at several locations, there are audio units available that "talk" to the visitor to explain what is being viewed. The completion of a section of barbed wire fence line, also added a profound sense of confinement and incarceration.

The 2013 Pilgrimage will take place June 20-23rd. For more information about next year's Pilgrimage, please visit: [www.minidokapilgrimage.org](http://www.minidokapilgrimage.org)

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