



## In the Works: 2008 Projects & Programs

by Emily Hanako Momohara

The Friends of Minidoka is off to a great start in 2008. We held our annual retreat in Boise, where the board outlined several priority projects for this year.

We have made moving existing barracks back to Minidoka a main concern. The fragility of the structures creates a need to act quickly to move and stabilize these historic buildings.

The board also made designing and fundraising for the Issei Memorial a top priority. We are very excited to share the progress at this year's pilgrimage.

The Friends of Minidoka is doing preliminary studies and a model for recreating the Honor Roll. Please see the Honor Roll Flyer for more information.

We will also be starting a major fundraising, grant writing and membership drive to support the large ticket projects. Any help with these activities would be a blessing. If you have fundraising skills, FOM needs you!

In addition, we are planning to send four people to the *All Camp Summit* in Denver this July.

As usual, we are co-sponsoring and organizing the Pilgrimage and Civil Rights Symposium. Thanks to Steve Thorson, FOM is co-sponsoring a student swing band group from Portland, Oregon to come and play 1940's classics at these two events.

We had a record renewal rate this December and January. Thank you for supporting FOM. The year is looking bright and full!

## Issei Memorial by Alan Momohara

We are excited to announce that the Issei Memorial design team has developed a proposed memorial to be built at the Minidoka National Internment Monument. The design team consists of Kenichi Nakano of Nakano and Associates, retired architect Jerry Arai, renowned artist Valerie Otani, and Anna Tamura of the National Parks Service.

Design elements include a parasol-like structure, sculptural basalt walls with Issei names, and poetry inscribed lanterns or cairns. The site will offer several experiences: 1) pathways for learning and contemplation, 2) lookout area at the highpoint on the site, and 3) memorial walls for remembrance, commemoration, and reflection. The proposal also includes a parking area, restrooms and links to the site's trail system.

The Issei Memorial is a high priority project for the Friends of Minidoka. It will tell the story of the first generation of men and women of Japanese ancestry who came to America looking for a better life. They worked hard and achieved success, only to have most of it taken away when they were placed in the camps. It would have been easy for them to be bitter as a result of this experience. However, they left the camps, rebuilt their lives, and taught their children to be good Americans. The Memorial will honor each Issei who was interned at Minidoka.

FOM will kick off the public comment period and fundraising for the Issei Memorial at the Minidoka Pilgrimage, June 20-22. The design will also be presented for comment at meetings to be held in Idaho, Washington and Oregon during the late summer and fall.

## Welcome New Board Members!

We are fortunate this year to have two new board members:



**Sharon Wada** owns a real estate agency in Ontario, Oregon. She has two children and three grandchildren. During WWII, Sharon's family was sent to Tule Lake, where Sharon was born. However, like many of us, while growing up she never knew of the negativity that surrounded the evacuation or the stories of the Japanese Americans' misfortunes. She has served on numerous community boards. Sharon is serving on our Membership and Finance Committees.



**Keith Yamaguchi's** grandparents, mother, aunts and uncles were incarcerated at Minidoka. Keith has honored our country in military service and is an active member of the Seattle Nisei Vets Committee. He has worked on the Pilgrimage Committee for the last several years, as well as assisting on the Honor Roll Project and the Membership Committee. Keith lives in Seattle, is married and has two daughters and two grandchildren. He owns his own sports equipment wholesale business.

## Retirement of Superintendent Neil King

by Emily Hanako Momohara

As of January 2008, Neil King retired from his distinguished career in the National Park Service. Many of us have met Neil at planning meetings or pilgrimage events. He has been present at every step of the way and we will miss his leadership.

Neil won my respect and admiration at an archeological dig in 2002. I was photographing the excavation of the Minidoka guard station area. At that point, I admit I was skeptical that he could represent me, as a Japanese American, in the important task of making Minidoka a National Park. During that dig, I had the unpleasant experience of finding a swastika carved in the port-a-potty. Neil expeditiously scraped it off. He was enraged at and embarrassed for the fellow Idahoan that wrote the racist symbol. I knew then that Neil had the integrity and passion for this place, the people, and Minidoka's larger social significance.

Neil attended the 2008 Friends of Minidoka Board Retreat in January where our board thanked him for his service and presented him with a parting gift. Neil's devotion to Minidoka and its lessons cannot be squelched. He has accepted a position on our Honorary Board and taken the task seriously, already writing a grant for FOM in February. Though Neil will no longer be working full-time at Minidoka, he remains a strong advocate and now a new volunteer. The Friends of Minidoka wishes him much deserved relaxation.



top: Retired Superintendent Neil King leads a group at the 2005 Pilgrimage  
bottom: Interim Superintendent Tami DeGrosky

## Superintendent's Update

by Tami DeGrosky

Hello from Idaho,

I started working in Idaho as the interim Superintendent for Minidoka National Monument in January. Good things are happening at Minidoka, here are some updates.

In 2008, the Senate Energy Committee passed S. 2739 with the Monument boundary expansion for Farm-In-A-Day, the conveyance of the Bureau of Reclamation lands for the visitor contact area, BLM lands for the camp dump, and Issei Memorial site. The bill should go to the House, be passed and sent to the President for his signature, before the end of this session of Congress.

Late last year Jerome County received a request to build and operate a 13,000 animal Concentrated Animal Feed Operation (CAFO) near Minidoka. They are preparing to go to court to defend their decision to deny the permit. The hearing is scheduled for May 23, 2008. The Jerome County Planning Board is taking comments on changes they are proposing to their CAFO ordinances. The NPS provided comments on the proposed changes. The effects of a CAFO include ground water pollution, air pollution and a breeding ground for flies. A CAFO near the site would be very detrimental to staff health and visitor experience.

We just started a project to identify and assess the condition of the historic barracks in the areas near Minidoka. By the end of the summer we hope to have a list of people who will donate their barracks to us and to know which structures are sound enough to be moved to the site. The National Park Service will begin acquiring barracks as soon as funding is available.

The final draft of Minidoka interpretive exhibits will be available for review at the Pilgrimage in June. We hope to install the exhibits on site this fall.

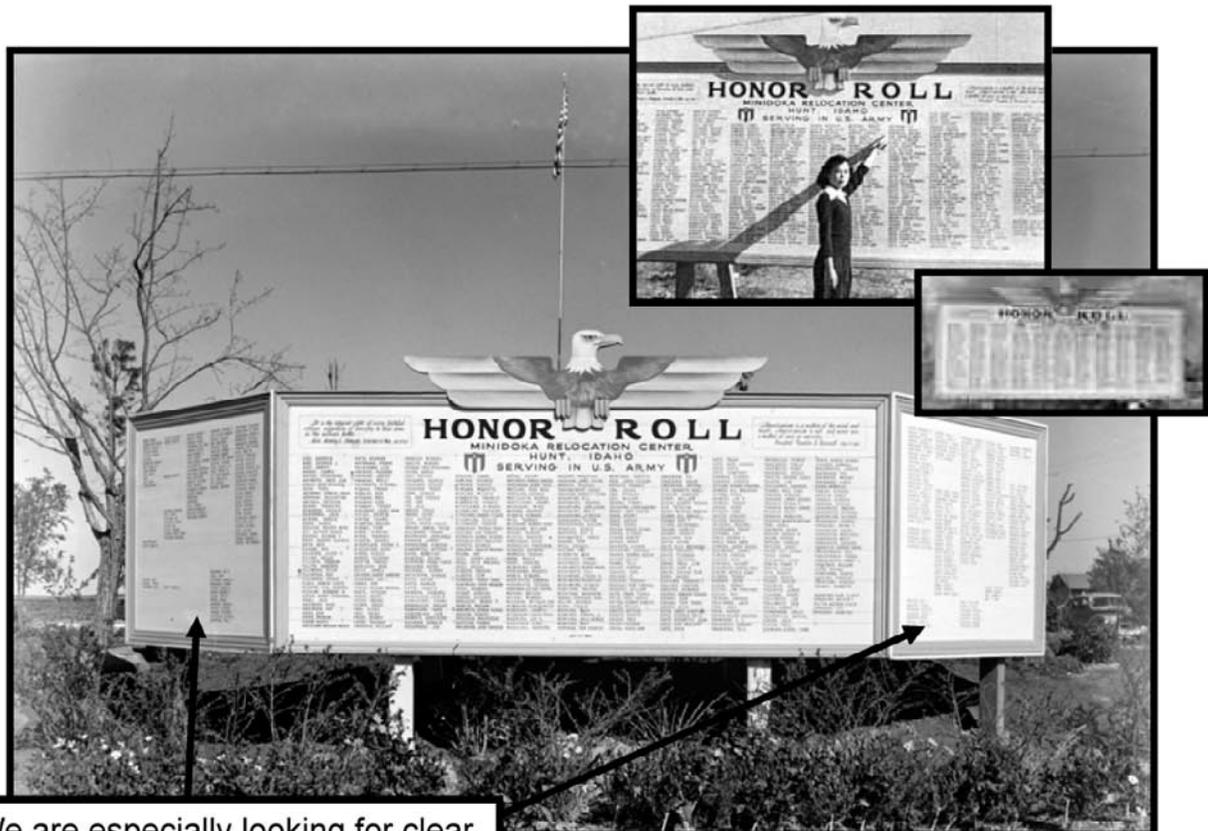
Densho has been awarded a contract to prepare education curriculum for Minidoka. If things go as planned we hope to be able to provide outreach programs about Minidoka this winter and have a staffed visitor contact center at the site operational by 2010.

My time as Superintendent will end at the end of April. We hope a new permanent superintendent will be on the job by midsummer.

Hope to see you in Idaho this summer,

*Tami*

## Do YOU! have pictures of the original Minidoka Honor Roll?



We are especially looking for clear photos of the two side panels.

Originally located across the road from the Guard Station, the Minidoka Honor Roll was installed in 1943 and listed the names of all the men and women from Minidoka who were serving in the U.S. military. Crowned with an eagle, the sign proclaimed the patriotism and loyalty of the Minidoka internees.

Friends of Minidoka and the Minidoka Pilgrimage Committee are hoping to install a replacement Honor Roll in its original location and we need YOUR help! We are looking for photographs, paintings or sketches of the original Honor Roll that once stood at Minidoka.

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

Contact: Keith Yamaguchi  
 Phone: 206-767-0914  
 E-mail: [kyamaguchi48@yahoo.com](mailto:kyamaguchi48@yahoo.com)

## MINIDOKA NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE - *making progress!*

### Legislation to Expand Minidoka

**Bill S. 2739, Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, recently passed through the Senate to expand the boundary of Minidoka. This is the first step in implementing the National Park Service's General Management Plan. The land includes the *Eagledale Ferry Dock* on Bainbridge Island in Washington, the *Herrmann Family Farm* which is adjacent to the current site and a parcel of government owned land next to the Minidoka canal. The new land includes several historical elements and many artifacts that will expand the significance of Minidoka as a National Park.**

#### Specific Historic Relevance

The original fire station sits erect on the *Herrmann Family Farm* property. The building still has many original features to better tell the story of the buildings that resided at Minidoka. In addition, this property will be the only land on the National Park Service boundary that contains a location of internee housing. An authentic barrack experience in the historic placement of Block 22 will be the capstone of a visitors experience at the Minidoka National Historic Site. Without this element, the personal and emotional story would be incomplete.

There is also a very important post-war building on the property. After Minidoka was disbanded, the land was lotteried to returning soldiers. The Herrmann Family was a recipient of some of this property. After living in the firehouse for some time, Mr. Herrmann participated in the Farm-in-a-Day project. During one weekend, several hundred people came and built the Herrmann home.

A portion of government property, which contains original warehouse space, is also included in the boundary expansion. This property will allow the National Park Service to create a visitors' center with exhibition, educational and administrative facilities. Also on this property, the canal front area will be the future location of the Issei Memorial.

The Bainbridge Island site is the historic *Eagledale Ferry Dock*, where the first Japanese Americans to be forcibly relocated left their homes. Symbolically, this site has been named Nidoto Nai Yoni ('Let It Not Happen Again') Memorial. For many people, this was the beginning of the Minidoka experience. In addition to the physicality of the experience visitors may have, we also see this satellite site as an opportunity to reach more people. The close proximity to dozens of school districts allows for further educational opportunities.



Historic Minidoka fire station, still standing on the Herrman Family Farm.



Leaving Bainbridge Island, March 1942 (Seattle Post Intelligencer Collection, Museum of History & Industry).

# MINIDOKA NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE - *making progress!*

“ *The passage of this legislation creates the potential for a public-private partnership that will underscore our commitment to human rights here in Idaho.* ”

- Senator Crapo  
Seattle Times, April 14, 2008

## Impact of New Boundaries

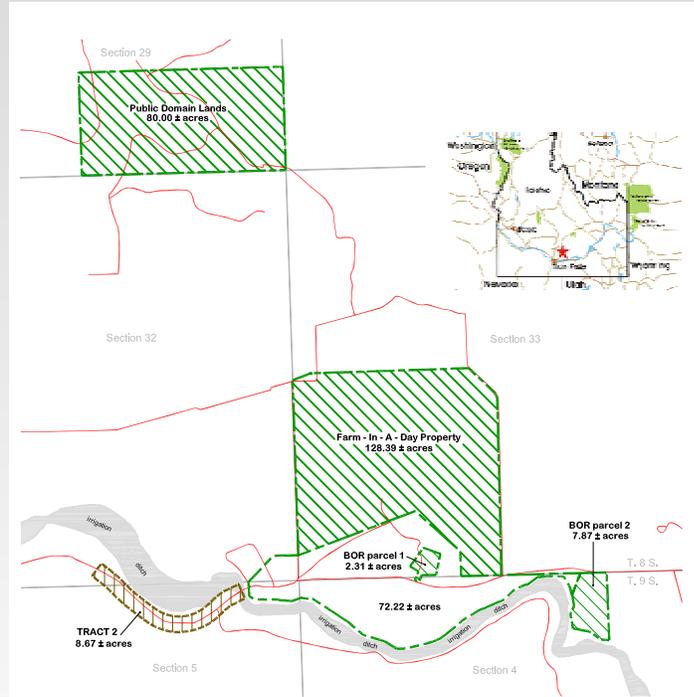
Above are the individual significance of each addition to the Minidoka National Historic Site. However, as a whole, the boundary expansion has much more of an impact on the effectiveness of the Minidoka National Historic Site. With the addition of these significant historical elements, the story of Minidoka will be told in a much richer and compete way. The border expansion preserves the history of the state of Idaho, Washington and our country. It saves deteriorating artifacts and allows them to live on. The border expansion is a monumental tool to educate current and future Americans about the WWII experience on our own soil.

Many stories of Minidoka and the other World War II camps have been suppressed and disregarded. By allowing the public to legally own and participate in these sites, we hope that Minidoka's message of Civil Liberties and justice will be further embraced. The Friends of Minidoka strives to build bridges through this new boundary expansion through the geographic areas it encompasses and in the hearts of the communities which are affected.

## Thank You

The Friends of Minidoka is thankful to many people who enabled this legislation to be heard and passed through the Senate. We thank Sen. Craig and Sen. Crapo from Idaho and Sen. Cantwell and Sen. Murray from the Washington delegation. We also thank Rep. Simpson and Rep. Enslee for their continued support of Minidoka issues. This bipartisan teamwork is a demonstration of the importance of Minidoka to our country. The Friends of Minidoka feels honored to have worked with these distinguished leaders.

In addition, the Friends of Minidoka would also like to thank the Conservation Fund for its role in acquiring the Herrmann Farm property and the National Park Service for its leadership and creation of the Minidoka General Management Plan. The Friends of Minidoka would like to thank all those who participated in the legislative process and wrote to their Representatives and Senators. Together we are building a National Park to be proud of.



Minidoka National Historic Site, Proposed boundary map (National Park Service). Bainbridge Island satellite site not shown on map.

## The Barracks Block by Dr. Bob Sims

The Minidoka General Management Plan calls for the reestablishment of an entire barracks block to be “the cornerstone of the interpretive services and facilities at the national monument,” (p. 59) and public comments “repeatedly identified barracks as the most important buildings to accurately convey the Minidoka story.” (p. 67) FOM has established a committee, chaired by Bill Vaughn, to work with the National Park Service to accomplish this goal. Prior to leaving his post as Superintendent of MIIN, Neil King began the process of identifying former barracks throughout the Magic Valley area. Through Neil's efforts, a Boise State University graduate student, Patrick Taylor, has been hired to work on this project.

Bill Vaughn has offered a barrack building. The immediate need is to assess the cost of moving it to the site, which could be as much as \$15,000. At the January FOM board meeting, the barrack project was designated as high priority due to the vulnerability of the resource.

## UPCOMING EVENTS – Register now!

### 2008 Minidoka Pilgrimage

by Keith Yamaguchi

June 20-22, 2008, former internees, their families, friends, and those interested in Minidoka will make a pilgrimage to the former Minidoka Internment Camp. The Seattle Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, the Nisei Veterans Committee, and the Friends of Minidoka invite all those who are interested to join us on our pilgrimage.

Those on the pilgrimage will revisit the site and a barrack, and reflect on memories shared in a supportive environment with family, friends and National Park Service officials. Our purpose is to honor all those who were incarcerated and suffered disrupted lives due to the rampant racism of the times and to pledge anew that “Never Again” will this be tolerated. On the first day, guided tours of what remains of the “camp” will be provided. The following day, a memorial service will be held at the National Monument to honor internees. At a BBQ hosted the Prescott Ranch, a local family will share the pilgrimage experience with those who live in the Minidoka area. Throughout the trip, there will be opportunities to share memories and stories, and reflect on the many impacts of the incarceration.



2007 pilgrimage participants leave origami kaeru (frogs) at the site during the closing ceremony. Kaeru also means “return” in Japanese.

The entire pilgrimage package costs \$225, including transportation by bus from Seattle to Twin Falls, meals, and all related program fees. (\$90 for seniors over age 75). For those who choose to meet the group in Twin Falls, the cost is \$90 (\$75 for seniors over age 75). Several area hotels have special *Minidoka Pilgrimage* rates that need to be arranged by May 15, 2008. Lodging costs are in addition to all pilgrimage packages. **Registration is due by June 10, 2008.**

For more information, please contact Keith Yamaguchi at: 206-767-0914 or [minidokapilgrimage@comcast.net](mailto:minidokapilgrimage@comcast.net). Or go to the Minidoka Pilgrimage website: <http://minidokapilgrimage.org/>

### The Minidoka Swing Band by Robbie Tsuboi

The Minidoka Swing Band was formed to remember the perseverance and accomplishments of those who were interned at Japanese internment camps during WWII. The band is made up of high school students who spend their free time learning big band music. They will perform at the Civil Liberties Symposium and the Minidoka Pilgrimage.

Many of our members have great-grandparents, grandparents, relatives, or acquaintances who were interned at Minidoka. One of our immediate goals is to establish a Minidoka Swing Band to exemplify the spirit and strength which internees embodied during their period of internment. The Minidoka internees held Saturday night dances and music performances—which helped them keep life as upbeat and positive as possible.

Our aspiration is to develop an ongoing project and include youth members from across the United States.

The JAACL Youth Group, Unite People, is in the process of raising funds to finance a trip to the Minidoka Pilgrimage in June 2008. The youth would like to request your support in the form of a tax-deductible donation. Your kind donation will help us establish the Minidoka Swing Band and provide transportation and housing.

Please accept my gift/pledge of:

\$250    \$200    \$150    \$100

\$50    \$25    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose a check, payable to: **JAACL/Minidoka Youth Project**. Your donation is tax-deductible.

Mailing address: JAACL/Minidoka Youth Project,  
P.O. Box 42222 Portland, Oregon 97242.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and/or e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We wish to be recognized as: \_\_\_\_\_

In-Kind Sponsors: Let us know how you want to help: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your kind support!**

## UPCOMING EVENTS – Register now!

### Third Annual Civil Liberties Symposium

by Russ Tremayne

The Minidoka Internment National Monument, the Friends of Minidoka, and the College of Southern Idaho are presenting a symposium on Civil Liberties and the Media, **June 19-20**, on the campus of the College of Southern Idaho. This year the symposium will focus on **“The Media and Civil Liberties”** and the organizing committee has invited an impressive group of legal scholars, journalists, and educators. The conference promises to offer a stimulating analysis of the role of the media in U.S. culture, past and present.

Participants may register with the Friends of Minidoka Treasurer, Janet Keegan.

Speakers:

- **Geoffrey Stone**, former Dean of the Law School at the University of Chicago and author of: *Perilous Times, Free Speech in Wartime*.
- **Jim Jones**, a justice of the Idaho Supreme Court and former Idaho Attorney General.
- **Don Burnett**, Dean of the College of Law, University of Idaho.
- **Mark Trahan**, editorial page editor of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*.
- **Caroline Aoyagi-Stom**, executive editor, *The Pacific Citizen*, (Japanese American Citizens League journal).
- **Diana Owen**, Professor of Political Science, Georgetown University and editor of *New Media and American Politics*.
- **Tom Ikeda**, executive director, Densho, a Japanese American legacy project preserving Japanese American history and promoting education.
- **Dan Prinzing**, educational director, the Idaho Human Rights Education Center.
- **Mark Johnson**, President, the Gallatin Group, a governmental relations and public affairs firm.
- **James G. Wright**, Editor, *The Twin Falls Times-News*.

**Registration cost:** \$60. (Students and Teachers taking the symposium for credit may register for \$30. Two meals each day are included in the cost of registering).

**College Credit** is available from College of Southern Idaho, Boise State University, and the University of Idaho. This is separate from and in addition to the regular registration fee. Consult the online schedules of each school for more information.

### Accommodations

Several hotels are providing conference rates for June 18 and 19. When booking, indicate that you want the “Civil Liberties Symposium” Rate. Please book your room by May 15<sup>th</sup> to ensure the conference rate.

*Best Western Twin Falls*

Rooms with two Queen beds: \$99.75 plus tax.

Tel: 1-800-822-8946

*Red Lion*

\$102.95 for 1-2 people; or \$112.95 plus tax for 3-4 people.

Tel: 1-800-733-5466.

Several other hotels are in the area, including Quality 8 and Motel Six.

### Academic Credit

Academic credit is available through: Boise State University; College of Southern Idaho; University of Idaho; and Treasure Valley Community College. Please check their respective web sites for registering for credit.

If you have questions about the symposium, consult the Friends of Minidoka web site or contact Robert Sims at [rsims@boisestate.edu](mailto:rsims@boisestate.edu) or Russ Tremayne at [RTremayne@csi.edu](mailto:RTremayne@csi.edu).

### Symposium Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

General Registration: \$60

Student or Teacher enrolled for credit: \$30

Please make checks payable to:  
“Friends of Minidoka”

Mail Registration form to:  
Friends of Minidoka  
PO Box 1085  
Twin Falls, ID 83303

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\_\_\_\_\_ Donation (the Friends of Minidoka is a non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law)

Make checks payable to Friends of Minidoka

Please mail checks to: Friends of Minidoka, PO Box 1085, Twin Falls, ID 83303-1085

## Thank you!

### 2008 Friends of Minidoka Board Members

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

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



**Friends of Minidoka**

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