



2010 Minidoka Pilgrimage

by Ryan Koza

This year will mark the eighth pilgrimage to the Minidoka National Historic Site. The Minidoka Pilgrimage provides an opportunity for family, friends and all those who are interested to ask questions, share memories and learn more about the Minidoka experience.

The 2010 Minidoka Pilgrimage will occur from June 24-27, 2010 in Twin Falls, Idaho. This year's pilgrimage has added one additional day to its program so that pilgrimage participants will have the opportunity to attend the Civil Liberties Symposium: *Civil Liberties and the Arts*. The Symposium is cosponsored by the Friends of Minidoka, College of Southern Idaho and National Park Service. Please see Hanako Wakatsuke's article about the Symposium for a line up of speakers.

We are excited to have Portland Taiko join as a participant in a Friday night taiko concert at the Canyon Crest Dining and Event Facility. Established in 1994, Portland Taiko creates performances of the highest artistic quality to touch the universal in all of us and to provide a strong and beautiful voice for Asian America. Portland Taiko's participation will be a great addition to the 2010 Pilgrimage.

This year's pilgrimage also includes:

- Guided tour of Minidoka
- Visit to an original Minidoka barrack
- BBQ dinner hosted by local rancher, Roy Prescott
- Sharing of present and past Minidoka experiences
- Commemorative Ceremony at the Minidoka Victory Garden.

Two registration packages are available for this year's pilgrimage. The Seattle Pilgrimage package includes pilgrimage activities, meals and roundtrip motor coach bus transportation. The bus is departing Bellevue College at 6am on Thursday, June 24 and arriving back at Bellevue College at 11:59pm Sunday, June 27. The Twin Falls Pilgrimage package (arriving in Twin Falls on your own) includes pilgrimage activities and meals. Senior rates (75 and older) and child rates (12 and under) are available as well. Please see the registration form on the next page.

For more information about the pilgrimage visit our website: minidokapilgrimage.org. Hotel accommodations are not included in the pilgrimage registration fee. Hotel accommodations and costs are listed on our website as well. Please contact minidokapilgrimage@gmail.com with further questions.

We hope to see you at the Pilgrimage!



Photo of 2009 Pilgrimage participants who were incarcerated at Minidoka

MINIDOKA PILGRIMAGE

June 24 – 27, 2010
Registration Form

Seattle Package *(Departs Seattle on Thursday, June 24 at 6am)*

Package price

Includes:

Transportation from Seattle to Idaho; lunches and dinners.	\$ 300.00
Children (12 & under) and Seniors (75 and older).....	\$ 250.00

Twin Falls Package *(arrive via your own transportation)*

Includes:

Local transportation to pilgrimage venues; lunches and dinners.....	\$ 150.00
Children (12 & under) and Seniors (75 and older).....	\$ 130.00

Both Packages include the registration fee for the 2nd day of the Civil Liberties Symposium on Friday, June 25

For more information about the Civil Liberties Symposium or to register for the first day, please contact
Dr. Russ Tremayne at 208-732-6885. (The Seattle Package cannot accommodate the 1st day of the symposium)
To avoid a \$20.00 late fee per person, your registration must be postmarked by June 4, 2010

Name: _____ \$ _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Phone _____ E-mail: _____

Additional people in your party:

Name: _____ \$ _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Phone _____ E-mail: _____

Name: _____ \$ _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Phone _____ E-mail: _____

Name: _____ \$ _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Phone _____ E-mail: _____

Donation: \$ _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to 'Minidoka Pilgrimage' by June 4, 2010

~A \$20.00 cancellation fee will be charged per person if cancellation occurs after June 13th, 2010~

~A \$20.00 fee will be charged per person for registration after June 4th, 2010~

Mail registration form and check to:

May Namba: 2324 NW 94th, Seattle, WA 98117
Phone: 206-784-3824

5th Annual Civil Liberties Symposium: Civil Liberties and the Arts

by Hanako Wakatsuki, Vice Chairperson

The fifth annual Civil Liberties Symposium will be held June 24-25 at the Canyon Crest Events Center in Twin Falls, Idaho. This year's theme is: Civil Liberties and the Arts. It will explore the role that art plays in periods of conflict regarding civil liberties, and will present several perspectives, including the long and continuing struggle for civil rights.

Artists have continued to revisit this period and inform us about its significance in the ongoing struggle for justice. All genres of artistic expression will be examined, including photography, literature, performance, film, painting and more. The first day of the symposium will feature presentations by Greg Robinson, author of *Following Her Own Road*, the story of Japanese American artist Mine Okubo; Bob Sims, the former Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs at Boise State University; Megumi who is a storyteller; Emily Hanako Momohara, Assistant Professor of Art at the Art Academy of Cincinnati; David Alder, Professor of Political Science at Idaho State University. The day will conclude with a showing of *The Cats of Mirikitani*. On

the Symposium's second day, pilgrimage participants will arrive and join the group. Presenters will be: Roger Shimomura, University of Kansas Distinguished Professor Emeritus, who has exhibited his artworks in more than 125 solo exhibitions; Jeanne Wakatsuki-Houston, author of the book *Farewell to Manzanar*; Larry Matsuda, author of the book *A Cold Wind in Idaho*; Mira Nakashima, author of *Nature, Form & Spirit: The Life and Legacy of George Nakashima*; Grateful Crane Ensemble; and Portland Taiko.

Those who want to attend are encouraged to register early. The fee for participants will be \$70. You can register by contacting Russ Tremayne at 208-732-6885 or Lauri Watkins at 208-732-6850.

College credit is also available. The fee for attending for college credit through the College of Southern Idaho is \$140 for Social Science class SOCS 199 C01H. Registrations can be done at CSI's Matrix office in the Taylor building or online at www.csi.edu.

For more information, go online to: www.csi.edu/forms/civilliberties/index.asp

Hearing on the Feedlot at Minidoka

by Emily Hanako Momohara

On April 23, 2010, Judge Elgee of Jerome County held a hearing concerning the feedlot permit given to South View Dairy to construct a facility 1.2 miles from the Minidoka National Historic Site. The proposed feedlot would house 13,000 animals in a Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO). Minidoka's safe operation and preservation abilities would be severely inhibited by a CAFO of this size and proximity.

At the hearing our lawyers, Charlie Tebbutt and Pat Brown, were able to present arguments on why Jerome county should reconsider the permit to build the CAFO. Also presenting were South View Dairy and Jerome County's lawyers. Present in the courtroom to support the coalition were Friends of Minidoka board members, Bill Vaughn, Janet Keegan

(Treasurer), Hanako Wakatsuki (Vice Chairperson), Brian Turner from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Alma Hasse of ICARE, and the entire Dimond family.

Judge Elgee will deliver his verdict within the month.

Additionally, the air quality study conducted by Washington State University is complete and awaiting a final report. The study was funded by NPS and the Friends of Minidoka through a Hart Family Foundation Grant. The information gathered will be used to fight the permit of the CAFO further.

The Friends of Minidoka is doing all we can legally to keep the CAFO from polluting Minidoka. For more information or to donate to for this cause go to www.minidoka.org/cafo.php

The Friends of Minidoka supports agriculture and our neighbors who are part of the farming community. However, this specific feedlot location is damaging to the safety of Minidoka. The Minidoka National Historic Site tells American history which is deeply important to our country and cannot be endangered.

Letter from the Superintendant

Spring is officially here, but I awoke today to frost on the ground and gray skies. Despite the weather, excitement continues to be in the air as we move forward on various Minidoka projects!

First, I want to congratulate the Friends of Minidoka and the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Committee for receiving grants through the 2010 Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program! The National Park Service received a total of 42 applications, requesting nearly \$7.8 million for the Federal share of the program. The grants were evaluated and awarded in a competitive process. A total of 23 projects have been funded this year.

Thanks to the wonderful work of FOM Board member Bill Vaughn and park AmeriCorps intern Tim Clark, we have a detailed research document that will be the foundation for the project. The park has provided funding to pay for Harpers Ferry Center (HFC) staff to work on this important project. The installation of the Honor Roll will be another key component at the park's entrance area and help educate visitors as to the contributions and sacrifices of those in military service.

Funding was also received to complete the fabrication and installation of interpretive materials for the Memorial Wall at Minidoka National Historic Site's Bainbridge Island Unit. I was honored to attend the open house on the March 30 anniversary, and was struck once again by the beauty of the Memorial. It was a wonderful event, another testament to the community's commitment to telling the story and honoring those who lived through that period in history. We continue to work with the Memorial interpretive committee on the exhibit design by participating in meetings with the committee and contractors and providing feedback and information.

In addition, we are excited to be working with the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) on a new project, thanks to funding from the Confinement Sites Grant Program. The JACL received funding to develop a youth program for Minidoka NHS, Manzanar NHS, Tule Lake (now a unit of the NPS) and Poston. The program is "Passing the Legacy Down: Youth Interpretations of Confinement Sites in



Wendy Janssen at 2009 Pilgrimage

the Western United States.” This program will engage the next generation (both Japanese American and non-traditional audiences) to learn about and become involved in preserving internment sites through education, dialogue, creative art, and community service. Stay tuned for more details as this new program develops!

We continue to make great strides in implementing the park's General Management Plan (GMP). Last year, we contracted with the Portland firm Fletcher, Farr, and Ayotte to develop specific site plans for the entrance area, warehouse area (which will house the visitor center), Block 22, Herrmann/Robison properties (location of the original camp fire station), as well as an overall park circulation plan. The warehouse area site plan is complete, with the other plans to follow this spring and summer. The plans include condition assessments of the historic structures, as well as funding packages. This winter we submitted a construction package for the visitor center through the NPS' line item construction program. We will now make our way “up the list” to receive funding.

Superintendent Continued...

The development of Block 22 continues as well. We have had the NPS' regional preservation crew to the park twice this spring to prepare the site for the barrack and mess hall buildings to be moved. The crew should be back before this year's Pilgrimage to complete the barrack foundation, with the mess hall foundation to be completed later in the year. Funding was obtained this year to provide initial stabilization and preservation of the two buildings.

Thanks to American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, we began work on the park's trail plan this spring. A draft plan will be available this summer for partner review and comment, with the final trail plan completed by September. The new trail will be constructed next year (including re-establishing a portion of the barbed wire fence) and allow us to install the rest of our outdoor wayside exhibits. Completion of the trail will enable visitors to have a more informative and memorable experience. Along with a new entrance sign that will be constructed, these additions to the park will welcome visitors and signify the site's importance. We also started our popular ranger-guided walking tours again this spring after a brief hiatus during the winter.

We are working with our regional lands office and The Conservation Fund to complete the acquisition of the Herrmann and Robison properties. I'm also happy to report that the transmission line that threatened to go through the park has been moved west, outside not only the park boundary, but historic camp footprint.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we have received funding for a Long-Range Interpretive Plan

to guide the development of our education programs in the future. Work will begin late this summer and I'll be sharing dates soon.

Last, but not least, we're putting the finishing touches on the 5th Annual Civil Liberties Symposium. This is a great partnership with the Friends of Minidoka and the College of Southern Idaho. Working with Russ Tremayne and Hanako Wakatsuki, this year's event will explore the role that art plays in periods of conflict over civil liberties.

It is especially exciting this year to have the first day of the Pilgrimage coincide with the last day of the Symposium. I am looking forward to my second Pilgrimage, and the opportunity to see those who attended last year's event and meet new participants as well.

As always, thank you for your continued support, assistance, passion, and commitment to preserving the park and sharing your stories. Whether I'm smelling the cedar and seeing herons flying overhead at the Bainbridge Island Memorial or walking among the sagebrush and buildings here in Idaho, the "power of place" is so strong. I'm transported back in time as well as reminded of the continued relevance of this piece of our collective American history. Thank you for working with us to establish this as one of the National Park Service's premiere sites and to educate and inspire present and future generations.

Wendy Janssen

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



Minidoka Taiko Fundraiser: Day of Remembrance 2010

By Dale H. Watanabe, Chairperson

The steady beat of the drums could be heard throughout the hall one lazy Sunday afternoon in February. A near capacity crowd had gathered for a very special occasion. Sponsored by the Minidoka Pilgrimage, Friends of Minidoka, the Korematsu Center for Law and Equality, the International Student Center and the Division of Student Development at Seattle University, and the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington, the first Minidoka Taiko Fundraiser was a huge success. This program, presented as part of the annual Day of Remembrance at Seattle University, a Jesuit university east of downtown Seattle, brought together seven taiko groups from the Seattle area.

The program included presentations from Mr. Dale H. Watanabe, Chair of Friends of Minidoka and Interim Director of the International Student Center at Seattle University, Ms. Lorraine Bannai, Associate Director of the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality at Seattle University, and Dr. Frank Kitamoto, Secretary of the Friends of Minidoka and President of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community. The taiko groups in performance were Inochi Taiko, Northwest Taiko, One World Taiko, Kaze Daiko, Seattle Kokon Taiko, Seattle Matsuri Taiko and the Ringtaro Tateishi School of Taiko. The grand finale included the seven taiko groups performing together on one stage for the first time ever. Days after many in the community still spoke

of this once in a lifetime experience.

The program included a brief intermission which allowed the audience to visit the various vendor displays in the atrium. The National Parks Service, Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community, the Japanese Cultural and Community Center, the Minidoka Pilgrimage, the Regional Taiko Group and the Seattle Nisei Veterans youth group, the YoGos all contributed to the intermission activity.

The event raised approximately \$4,000 and will be split between the Minidoka Pilgrimage and the Friends of Minidoka. Plans for a future fundraiser event are yet to be determined. The work of the fundraiser planning committee, comprised of the Minidoka Pilgrimage committee and members of the Friends of Minidoka, really came together to make this show possible. The outpouring of support from the University, the taiko groups and the community really made the event possible. Some audience members expressed that this was their first exposure to the story of Minidoka. For those of us that worked on this project, our commitment is to all those that experienced this dark chapter of American history. Know that your story will continue to be told. We came very close to a similar experience for our Middle Eastern neighbors after 9/11. The real stories need to be told so we don't repeat this for any group based on their race or national origin.



photo by Ryan Koza



Photo: National Archives

Confinement Site Grants for Honor Roll and Eagledale Ferry Dock

by Emily Hanako Momohara

On May 13, the Friends of Minidoka was awarded \$17,295 in a 2 for 1 matching grant to reestablish the Honor Roll. The Honor Roll was the first site upon entering Minidoka and represented creativity and patriotism of the Nikkei held there. During Minidoka's operation, the Honor Roll was constructed with the names of 1,000 plus men who served in the military from the camp. The Honor Roll was a three-sided structure with the hand-painted names of each soldier serving in the US Army, crowned with a hand carved bald eagle.

The National Park Service and Bill Vaughn, Friends of Minidoka board member, determined the placement, scale and materials of the original Honor Roll. Then durable materials were chosen to reestablish the structure with utmost accuracy. The large panels will mimic the original boards and all known names of Minidoka soldiers will be listed on the new Honor Roll.

The Honor Roll is scheduled to be completed by the 2011 Pilgrimage and Civil Liberties Symposium. In the past, Civil Liberties Symposium themes have included diversity, arts and media. The theme for 2011 is Military service. The 442nd Regiment Combat Unit's bravery and sacrifice will be highlighted, as well as the lessons which are applicable to contemporary life. The 2011 pilgrimage will hold a formal dedication of the Honor Roll.

The Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Committee received \$182,725 to continue working on the Memorial at the Eagledale Ferry Dock. The Exclusion Memorial on Bainbridge Island is a satellite site of the Minidoka National Historic Site. Currently the Memorial Wall is in design stages. The Confinement Site Grant will be used for the fabrication, materials and installation of the wall.

Many worthy projects received Confinement Site Grants as well. To find a full list and more about the Confinement Site Grants visit minidoka.org.

Join Us!

By Dale H. Watanabe, Chairperson

There are many ways you can get involved to support the work of the Friends of Minidoka. *Consider joining the membership roster of the Friends of Minidoka and contribute to the organization today, or join us on the annual pilgrimage at the end of June.* We cannot continue without your support. We need to keep the momentum of creating a space at the Minidoka National Historic Site that will be a place where individual stories can be told, where visitors can learn

about and honor the experience of our Nikkei ancestors. The Friends of Minidoka is committed to working with the National Park Service to ensure that the legacy of the experience is not forgotten. As the site continues to be developed, the stories are vital. The site is what remains as proof of this injustice. Please join me in supporting the work we do and help build the Minidoka National Historic Site and keep this story alive so that it will never happen again.

Join | Renew

Benefits of your membership include:

- 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.



Friends of Minidoka

☐ 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: _____

Student/Senior 75 & older \$ 25 \$ _____

Individual Membership \$ 50 \$ _____

Family Membership \$ 100 \$ _____

Additional donation \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Thank You



Friends of Minidoka

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