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A new database, featured on page 17, will provide greater insight into the experiences of Japanese Americans in Hawai'i during World War II. Honouliuli internee barracks, ca. 1945-1946. Photo courtesy of Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, Hawai'i's Plantation Village Collection.

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Stockton "assembly center," in California, May 19, 1942. Photo by Dorothea Lange, courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration.

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Takashi Hoshizaki, a former Heart Mountain incarceree and draft resister, stands in front of a Heart Mountain barrack. A new book and documentary film, *Moving Walls: The Barracks of America's Concentration Camps*, funded in part by a Japanese American Confinement Sites grant, is featured on page 28. Photo by Stan Honda, courtesy of *Moving Walls* project.

2019: A Year In Review – Preserving and Interpreting World War II Japanese American Confinement Sites

The National Park Service (NPS) is pleased to report on the progress of the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program. In 2006, President George W. Bush signed Public Law 109-441 (120 STAT 3288), which authorized the National Park Service to create a grant program to encourage and support the preservation and interpretation of historic confinement sites where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II (WWII). The law authorized up to $38 million for the life of the grant program. Congress first appropriated funding for the program in 2009. JACS grants are awarded through a competitive process in which $2 of federal money matches every $1 in nonfederal funds and "in-kind" contributions.

Over the past 11 years, the program has awarded 225 grant awards totaling more than $29 million to private nonprofit organizations; educational institutions; state, local, and tribal governments; and other public entities. The projects involve 21 states and the District of Columbia and include oral histories, preservation of camp artifacts and buildings, documentaries and educational curricula, and exhibits and memorials that preserve what remains of the confinement sites and honor the people who were incarcerated there by sharing their experiences.

The Fiscal Year 2019 grant awards featured in this report include a feature-length documentary telling stories of World War II incarceration at the Manzanar and Amache incarceration sites in California and Colorado; the collection of oral histories of Japanese Americans detained at Ellis Island during World War II and of those who resettled in communities on the East Coast after the war; and the development of a series of short videos

and curriculum for middle school and high school students to teach the history of Japanese Americans who were incarcerated at Heart Mountain in Wyoming and Minidoka in Idaho.

The 19 grants awarded in 2019 range from $29,447 given to Central Michigan University to evaluate how barracks and other structures were used at the Minidoka incarceration site in Idaho using historic and archeological methods to $424,760 given to the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation to continue a third phase of preservation work to restore the only remaining root cellar at the former Heart Mountain incarceration site in Wyoming.

Each year, as new projects begin, past JACS-funded projects are completed. Some of those completed this year include a project to return a portion of an original building back to the Amache incarceration site in Colorado; a documentary highlighting the history of Japanese American incarcerees at the Tule Lake Segregation Center in California who protested their incarceration; and the development of educational curricula focused on the Department of Justice internment sites to provide educators with resources to teach a fuller history of the Japanese American World War II incarceration.

The dedication demonstrated by the various organizations committed to preserving and interpreting this significant period in United States (U.S.) history is remarkable. All together, these projects enrich the story of Japanese American incarceration, and they ensure that this important chapter in American history is not forgotten.

"As America's storytellers, the National Park Service is committed to preserving the stories of our shared history," NPS Deputy Director P. Daniel Smith said. "These projects help ensure future generations of Americans learn from the struggles and perseverance of Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II."

Eligible Sites and Projects

As defined by Public Law 109-441, eligible confinement sites include the 10 War Relocation Authority (WRA) camps: Gila River (AZ), Amache (Granada) (CO), Heart Mountain (WY), Jerome (AR), Manzanar (CA), Minidoka (ID), Poston (AZ), Rohwer (AR), Topaz (UT), and Tule Lake (CA), as well as other sites—including "assembly," "relocation," and "isolation" centers—identified in the NPS report *Confinement and Ethnicity* and as determined by the Secretary of the Interior where Japanese Americans were imprisoned during World War II.

Seven major categories of activities are eligible for JACS grants: capital projects (such as the construction of new interpretive centers); documentation (such as archeological surveys); oral history interviews; interpretation and education related to historic confinement sites (such as wayside exhibits or educational curricula); preservation of confinement sites and related historic resources (such as restoration of historic buildings or collections conservation); planning projects (such as resource management plans); and nonfederal real property acquisition (allowed only at Heart Mountain [WY], Honouliuli [HI], Jerome [AR], Rohwer [AR], and Topaz [UT], per stipulations of Public Laws 109-441 and 111-88).

Overview of the 2019 Grant Program Process

For the 2019 grant program, on October 3, 2018, the National Park Service announced the availability of application materials through the grant program website, grants.gov, social media, and e-mail correspondence.

By the application deadline of December 10, 2018, the National Park Service received 51 applications requesting more than $8.3 million in federal funds. During the week of March 11, 2019, the JACS grant review panel convened at the NPS Intermountain Regional Office in Lakewood, Colorado, to evaluate the proposals. The panel was composed of NPS staff from the Intermountain, Midwest, and Pacific West regions. The six panel members represented a variety of backgrounds and disciplines, including expertise in curation, history, interpretation, and cultural and natural resources. The panel evaluated and ranked each proposal using criteria and guidelines that were established for the program based on public input.

On August 12, 2019, Deputy Director P. Daniel Smith announced 19 grant awards totaling more than $2.8 million, with funding provided through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2019 (enacted as Public Law 116-6).

Barracks and mess hall at the former Minidoka incarceration site in Idaho. Photo by Stan Honda, courtesy of the National Park Service.

Fiscal Year 2019 Grant Awards

In 2019—the JACS Grant Program's eleventh year—19 grants provided more than $2.8 million to projects in eight states. A list of the winning projects follows. For a full list of grant award project summaries, visit the JACS Grant Program website at: www.nps.gov/JACS/.

Fiscal Year 2019 Projects By State

ARKANSAS

Recipient: University of Arkansas (Fayetteville, AR)
Project Title: Rising Above in Arkansas: Japanese American Incarceration at Rohwer and Jerome
Grant Award: $269,202
Site(s): Jerome Relocation Center, Chicot and Drew Counties, AR
Rohwer Relocation Center, Desha County, AR

Yuri Kochiyama at the Jerome incarceration site in Arkansas, 1943. Photo courtesy of University of California, Los Angeles, Kochiyama Collection.

CALIFORNIA

Recipient: Stanford University (Stanford, CA)
Project Title: Connected Through Confinement: An Archaeology of the Gila River Incarceration Camp
Grant Award: $43,685
Site(s): Gila River Relocation Center, Pinal County, AZ

Recipient: California State University, Chico Research Foundation (Chico, CA)
Project Title: Finding Closure: Insight into "Alaska" at Tule Lake Segregation Center
Grant Award: $70,125
Site(s): Tule Lake Segregation Center, Modoc County, CA

Recipient: California State University, Dominguez Hills (Carson, CA)
Project Title: California State University Japanese American Digitization Project
Grant Award: $282,102
Site(s): Multiple Sites

Recipient: Fred T. Korematsu Institute (San Francisco, CA)
Project Title: Double Displacement: Exploring the Intersecting Histories of American Indian Communities and Japanese American Confinement Sites in Arizona
Grant Award: $65,330
Site(s): Gila River Relocation Center, Pinal County, AZ
Colorado River Relocation Center (Poston), La Paz County, AZ

Recipient: Japanese American Citizens League (San Francisco, CA)
Project Title: Stories Less Told: Oral Histories and Historic Materials from Outside the Exclusion Zone
Grant Award: $209,670
Site(s): Multiple Sites

Recipient: Poston Community Alliance (Lafayette, CA)
Project Title: Reconstruction of Poston's Historic Barrack for Use as an Interpretive Center and Museum
Grant Award: $243,447
Site(s): Colorado River Relocation Center (Poston), La Paz County, AZ

Recipient: The Regents of the University of California (Berkeley, CA)
Project Title: WRA Form 26: Preserving and Expanding Access to the Individual Records of Japanese Americans Interned during World War II
Grant Award: $342,877
Site(s): Multiple Sites

Recipient: Tule Lake Committee (San Francisco, CA)
Project Title: Tule Lake Docent Training Program
Grant Award: $57,344
Site(s): Tule Lake Segregation Center, Modoc County, CA

Recipient: Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition (Pacoima, CA)
Project Title: Tuna Canyon Detention Station Legacy Project II
Grant Award: $54,000
Site(s): Tuna Canyon Detention Station, Los Angeles County, CA

Recipient: UCLA Asian American Studies Center (Los Angeles, CA)
Project Title: Yuri Kochiyama and the Crusaders
Grant Award: $224,527
Site(s): Jerome Relocation Center, Chicot and Drew Counties, AR; and others

Descendants gather at an October 2019 event to honor their fathers, grandfathers, and men imprisoned at Tuna Canyon Detention Station from 1942-1944. Photo courtesy of Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition.

Recipient: Visual Communications (Los Angeles, CA)
Project Title: Third Act: The Historical Trauma of WWII Incarceration
Grant Award: $100,074
Site(s): Multiple Sites

COLORADO

Recipient: University of Denver (Denver, CO)
Project Title: Snapshots of Confinement
Grant Award: $84,981
Site(s): Manzanar National Historic Site, Inyo County, CA
Granada Relocation Center (Amache), Prowers County, CO

ILLINOIS

Recipient: Full Spectrum Features (Chicago, IL)
Project Title: Hidden Histories 2: Public Screenings and Impact Tour
Grant Award: $67,128
Site(s): Multiple Sites

MICHIGAN

Recipient: Central Michigan University (Mount Pleasant, MI)
Project Title: Minidoka Internment Camp Housing Project
Grant Award: $29,447
Site(s): Minidoka National Historic Site, Jerome County, ID

NEW YORK

Recipient: Japanese American Association of New York (New York, NY)
Project Title: New York Japanese American Oral History Project
Grant Award: $80,308
Site(s): U.S. Immigration Station, Ellis Island, INS, New York Harbor, NY

WASHINGTON

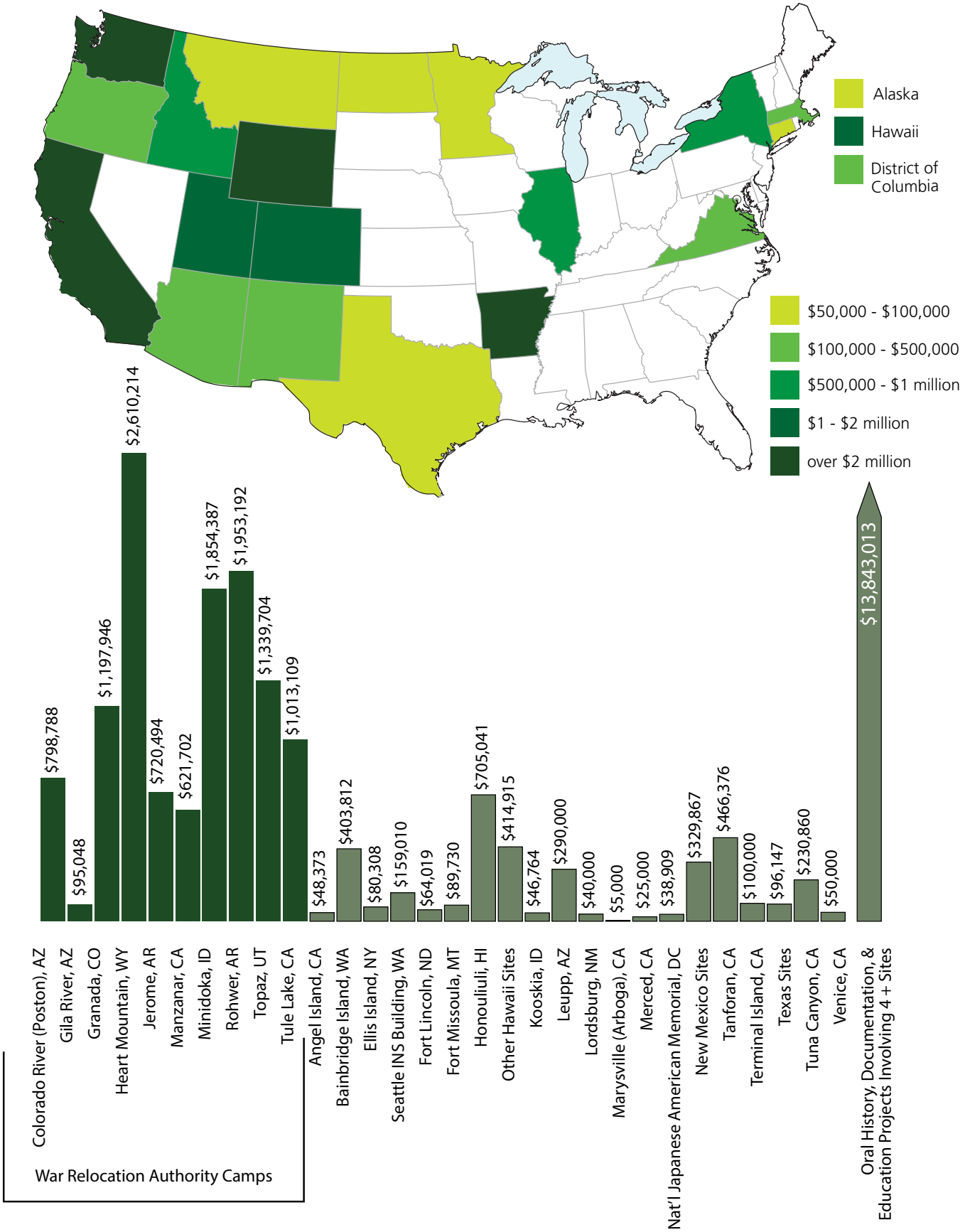
Recipient: Friends of KSPS/KSPS Public Television (Spokane, WA)
Project Title: Discrimination, Resilience and Community Building: The Resettlement of Japanese Americans in Eastern Washington after WWII
Grant Award: $66,844
Site(s): Minidoka National Historic Site, Jerome County, ID
Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Park County, WY

Recipient: Wing Luke Memorial Foundation dba Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (Seattle, WA)
Project Title: Japanese American Remembrance Trail in Seattle, Washington
Grant Award: $159,010
Site(s): Temporary Detention Station (INS Building), Seattle, King County, WA

WYOMING

Recipient: Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation (Powell, WY)
Project Title: Heart Mountain Root Cellar, Phase III: Restoration
Grant Award: $424,760
Site(s): Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Park County, WY

Grant Funding by State (Map) and Grant Funding by Site (Graph), 2009-2019



Projects Completed During Fiscal Year 2019

Following is an overview of projects successfully completed during Fiscal Year 2019. These stories reflect the dedicated commitment and hard work of numerous groups to preserve, interpret, and disseminate the history of Japanese American incarceration during World War II.

Tule Lake stockade jail exterior, 1988. Photo by Don Tateishi, courtesy of Caltrans.

Asian/Pacific Bar Association of Sacramento Law Foundation Supports Research to Increase Understanding of Complex History of Tule Lake Segregation Center

Tule Lake's troubling history tells how thousands of Japanese Americans protested the government's unjust deprivation of civil liberties based solely on race and how these protesters were coerced into giving up their U.S. citizenship, then threatened with deportation as "enemy aliens." The legal fight to restore their citizenship took decades. It has taken many more decades to document the civil rights abuses at Tule Lake.

This dark history of government misconduct remains little-known, obscured by lingering government propaganda and racial stereotypes that labeled Japanese American protest against injustice as "disloyalty." A multiyear research project seeks to change this, using archival materials to help historians and the National Park Service preserve and tell the story of government abuse and community resistance. The research was funded in part by a 2014 NPS JACS grant of $47,400 to the Asian/Pacific Bar Association of Sacramento Law Foundation.

The research project was led by noted historian and author Roger Daniels and Tule Lake Committee organizer, writer, and researcher, Barbara Takei. Their book, tentatively titled "America's Worst Concentration Camp," will be published by the University of Washington Press. The book aims to correct the record and reframe the events at Tule Lake as one of the most shocking violations of civil liberties in U.S. history. On completion of the book, research materials will be donated to the National Park Service and Densho.

In 1943, Tule Lake became the harshest of the nation's 10 incarceration sites administered by the War Relocation Authority. That year, Tule Lake was converted into a maximum-security Segregation Center, used to punish Japanese Americans who protested their incarceration by giving so-called "disloyal" responses to a misguided, incompetently administered loyalty questionnaire.

More than 12,000 imprisoned Japanese Americans used the loyalty questionnaire to protest the injustice of their World War II incarceration. These dissidents, known as "no-nos," carried the stigma of disloyalty for entire lifetimes. Tragically, Japanese Americans who were segregated at Tule Lake still hide their experiences from family members and friends, shrouding their Tule Lake past as "dirty linen."

"Tule Lake's story of segregation, denationalization and deportation of protesters is the most important civil rights story of the wartime incarceration," Takei said. "Government propaganda slandered protest as disloyal, and for too long, Tule Lake's protesters were demonized as 'pro-Japan fanatics.' Perversely, Japanese Americans accepted the racist propaganda as truth, effectively erasing the stories of leaders who displayed moral and political courage in response to injustice."

This project ensures that the story of Japanese Americans who responded to government injustice with courage and audacity won't be forgotten. Hopefully, it will encourage camp survivors and their families to see their legacy of protest at Tule Lake with pride, not shame.

Barbara Takei, independent writer/researcher (left) and Roger Daniels, Charles Phelps Taft Professor Emeritus of History, University of Cincinnati (right) at a program on Tule Lake that was organized by UCLA's Asian American Studies Center, The Suyama Project, in Sacramento on September 14, 2019. Photo courtesy of Nancy Ukai.

JACL National Executive Director David Inoue, visiting the Anaheim exhibit from Washington D.C., stands in a one-room barrack built for the exhibit. Photo courtesy of Patti Hirahara.

Anaheim Public Library Presents Unique Citywide Look at Japanese American Incarceration during World War II

The Anaheim Public Library partnered last summer and fall with the Muzeo Museum and Cultural Center to produce the 5,000-square-foot exhibition, *"I AM AN AMERICAN" – Japanese Incarceration in a Time of Fear*. The exhibition was a testament to the courage and determination of Anaheim's Japanese American pioneers and their descendants before and after World War II.

Anaheim became a center for several Japanese American families returning to Anaheim from incarceration sites as they began to rebuild their lives after the war. Commerce and religion flourished in Orange County, and Anaheim High School was the center of North Orange County education. Many Japanese Americans had established businesses and a church in the city prior to 1942.

The exhibition, funded in part by a 2018 NPS JACS grant of $38,833 and matching donations, featured personal testimonials, artifacts, a barrack room, and memorabilia from the Anaheim Public Library's own Japanese American Heritage Collection, the Poston Community Alliance, Chapman University, Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego, and the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

Highlighting the story of the city's Japanese American pioneers, the exhibition also gave a first-hand look at the Poston incarceration site in Arizona and the devastating impacts on families from Anaheim and Orange counties incarcerated there during the war.

The city promoted the exhibition in its *Anaheim Magazine*, which is published in both English and Spanish. It was the featured story on the cover of its Fall 2019 edition.

The Anaheim Union High School District, Anaheim High School, and the Anaheim Elementary School District enhanced this citywide promotion by creating a two-hour educational program on August 24, 2019, titled, "The Poston Experience: Paving the Way for the Next Generations." Staged at Anaheim High, 800 attendees from all over the country witnessed student videos interpreting this time in history. It was followed by a panel discussion.

By combining the educational sector with the Anaheim Public Library and the Muzeo Museum and Cultural Center, this is the first time an American city has focused on the Japanese American legacy at the same time. Anaheim took the lead to show that this could be accomplished, and it is the hope of many that other American cities will do the same in the future.

Asian Cinevision and Full Spectrum Features Document Japanese American World War II Incarceration History in a New Short Film and Website

A new dramatic short film documents Japanese American incarceration during World War II. Paired with an educational website that meets K-12 standards in 48 states, the film highlights key moments of the confinement experience affecting some 120,000 Japanese Americans incarcerated by the U.S. government.

The project's award-winning film, *The Orange Story*, is 18 minutes long and was inspired by the grandparents of one of the film's producers, Jason Matsumoto. It dramatizes the days following the U.S. government's exclusion orders by telling the story of Koji Oshima, a kind, elderly man who is forced to sell his grocery store to a former customer as he makes arrangements to leave his home. The groundbreaking digital education platform, overseen by Erika Street Hopman (ChavoBart Digital Media) and Dr. Jasmine Alinder (lead educational advisor, UW-Milwaukee) received honorable mention for the National Council on Public History's 2019 Outstanding Public History Project award.

On "evacuation day," Oshima waits in line at the local bus depot along with many other Japanese Americans who are being sent to one of the government's "assembly centers." Bags are inspected, people are tagged, and Koji is hot and tired.

His spirits are momentarily lifted when he sees the former customer's daughter selling fresh oranges from a stand outside his old store. But when Koji tries to buy a bag of oranges, he discovers that the girl's family charges two different prices—one for "Americans" and another for Japanese. The harsh reality of the larger political situation is painfully distilled through this small but powerful gesture of discrimination and racial bias from a one-time friend.

The Orange Story was produced by Full Spectrum Features with a 2015 NPS JACS grant of $159,548. Asian Cinevision (New York) acted as the fiscal sponsor agent and grant administrator. Matching funds and in-kind donations were contributed from Full Spectrum Features, ChavoBart Digital Media, Illinois Humanities Council, Chicago Filmmakers, the Midwest Buddhist Temple, Periscope Post & Audio, and private donations.

Full Spectrum Features is a Chicago-based nonprofit organization committed to driving equity in the independent film industry by supporting the work of women, people of color, and LGBTQ filmmakers. It also educates the public about important social and cultural issues through cinematic storytelling.

The film and educational website can be seen at https://theorangestory.org/.

The Orange Story's cast and crew gather for a group photo after a day of filming. Photo by Alessandra Giordano, courtesy of *The Orange Story*.

Colorado Preservation Inc., Moves Former Recreation Hall Back to Amache

Buildings at the Amache incarceration site in southeastern Colorado were destroyed or moved after World War II ended and the camp was closed in 1945.

One of its former recreation halls was found in the nearby city of Granada, Colorado, and moved back to its original location in the camp. It will be restored and used to teach people what life in the camp was like.

Colorado Preservation, Inc., (CPI) spearheaded the project with a 2014 NPS JACS grant of $150,254, and matching funds and resources from the Colorado State Historical Fund, the University of Denver, the Gates Family Foundation, the Town of Granada, and project architect Barbara Darden of Scheuber+Darden Architects.

Amache was one of 10 centers built around the United States to imprison some 120,000 Japanese Americans after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The camp housed more than 7,300 prisoners at its peak, two-thirds of them Japanese American citizens.

Not much remains of the 640-acre camp—a cemetery, some roads, building foundations, and reconstructions of a barracks, water tower, and guard tower. The site was declared a National Historic Landmark in 2006, and long-term plans to restore the camp are progressing.

A 2011 Amache building survey revealed that "Rec. Hall 11F" was still being used by the Town of Granada as a storage shed. Granada city officials worked with Amache Preservation Society to donate the building back to the site, and it was moved in 2018.

"Each project we have completed with our partners has strengthened the experience and sense of place felt by all visitors who step back to this somber location. Moving Rec Hall 11F back to its original location brings us another step closer to ensuring that visitors really understand this place and not forget the lessons learned from this critical time in our nation's history," CPI Executive Director Jennifer Orrigo Charles says.

Moving the historic recreation hall back to Amache. Photo courtesy of Barbara Darden, Scheuber + Darden Architects.

Densho Preserves 40,000 Artifacts of Japanese American Incarceration in 85 New Collections

With a 2016 NPS JACS grant of $344,204 and matching funds from private donors, archivists at Densho recently completed a nationwide project designed to help collect and preserve more than 40,000 fragile artifacts related to the U.S. government's incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Most of the artifacts come from personal collections in rural communities and small cities outside of California where there isn't strong institutional support for preservation.

A brochure titled "Be Your Family's History Keeper" was mailed to 25,000 Japanese Americans as part of the project's awareness-raising campaign. Densho also created an "Unboxing History" video to highlight its preservation efforts. Significantly, Densho also took several research trips to identify potential artifacts and conducted workshops and presentations with family and organizational donors in communities in Oregon, New York, Washington State, and Washington, D.C.

The project's key accomplishment was creating a digitization and collections help desk staffed by three archivists. The archivists field questions about sharing materials for addition to the Densho Digital Repository. Two new web pages support the organization's preservation mission:

- http://densho.org/share-your-collections
- http://densho.org/familyarchives

As a result of the campaign, Densho created 85 new collections with more than 40,000 high-resolution digital files of photographs, letters, diaries, artwork, publications, documents, and other ephemera. Many of the artifacts focused on lesser-known stories, especially ones related to women, segregation, and activism. Some artifacts were also placed in museums like the Wing Luke Museum and University of California at Berkeley.

Two children at Rohwer incarceration site in Arkansas. Photo courtesy of Densho, (ddr-densho-331-10), the Takasugi Family Collection.

Published collections include the Southern California Ehime Kenjinkai 75th Anniversary Book, and several family collections, including those from the Mizu Sugimura, Okano, and Morikawa families.

Densho is a Japanese word meaning "to pass on to future generations," or "to leave a legacy." The nonprofit organization was founded in 1996 and is headquartered in Seattle, Washington. Its collections are used by a large audience that generates hundreds of thousands of page views and tens of thousands of unique site visits a year.

The *Courage and Compassion* exhibition at the Olmsted History Center in Rochester, Minnesota. Photo courtesy of Go For Broke National Education Center.

Go For Broke National Educational Center Produces Traveling Exhibit

More than 75,000 people in a dozen cities throughout the United States recently learned about the lives of Japanese Americans and the communities who helped them during and after World War II through a traveling exhibit called, "Courage and Compassion: Our Shared Story of the Japanese American World War II Experience."

Funded in part by a 2016 NPS JACS grant of $378,937, the exhibition was organized by Go For Broke National Educational Center. Based in Los Angeles (California), Go For Broke National Education Center educates the public about the contributions to democracy of Japanese American veterans during World War II.

This exhibit not only brought the World War II Japanese American story to a dozen communities across the United States, it also commemorated everyday people within those communities who rose above the wartime hysteria to recognize Japanese Americans as friends, neighbors, and fellow citizens.

Go For Broke National Education Center initially selected 10 towns and cities that supported Japanese Americans during or immediately after World War II. The organization then collaborated with non-profit partners in each community to plan the exhibition and other activities.

Scheduled to display for six to eight weeks in each location, the exhibit opened in Salem, Oregon, in July 2017. It traveled to Honolulu, Hawaii; Kingsburg and Monterey, California; Oberlin, Ohio; Rochester and St. Paul, Minnesota; Peoria and Chicago, Illinois; and Albuquerque, New Mexico.

In 2019 and 2020, additional funding from the Aratani Foundation sent the exhibit to two more sites in Houston and Plano, Texas.

Each community tells a unique story, whether it's of Nisei Cadet Nurse Corps students in Minnesota, universities welcoming Nisei students, or a grassroots petition signed by Monterey residents—and even author John Steinbeck—in defense of their Nikkei neighbors.

With the help of the grant, Go For Broke National Education Center organized the design, fabrication, content, and logistics of the exhibit. "Courage and Compassion" consists of information panels with interactive elements to provide historical context as well as a designated space for the non-profit partners to honor local Nisei soldiers and insert stories highlighting what took place in their local community. Public programming accompanied the exhibitions, with Go For Broke National Education Center assisting the local community partner to arrange lectures, panel discussions, movie nights, live performances, and public outreach to generate interest.

Go For Broke National Education Center developed a middle school curriculum and an education packet for teachers planning field trips to the exhibition.

More information on "Courage and Compassion" is located at www.goforbroke.org.

Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation Saves Historic Root Cellar

Japanese American incarcerees at the Heart Mountain incarceration site in Wyoming helped feed themselves by growing 54 crops on barren land using innovative agricultural science. A lot of that produce was stored in three large root cellars, but they were nearly lost to history after one of them was plowed under, another collapsed, and the last surviving one was also in danger of falling down.

Now four of the cellar's bays—about 10 percent of the warehouse-sized cellar—have been restored and stabilized by the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, using a 2015 NPS JACS grant of $90,500 and matching funds from private donors. Restoration will continue, and the cellar will be an important teaching tool at the camp, which was declared a National Historic Landmark in 2007.

Few other structures remain at the site. The cellar is the only surviving structure from the camp built entirely by Japanese American labor.

Japanese American prisoners endured harsh conditions and food shortages when the U.S. government first sent them to Heart Mountain in August 1942. One woman recalls eating dinners of rice and canned tomatoes that winter.

Many of the camp's 14,000 Japanese American incarcerees were farmers, however. With help from a recent college graduate in soil science, James Ito, they ultimately transformed more than 1,800 acres into productive farmland, growing more than 2 million pounds of vegetables in 1943-44. The food helped feed incarcerees, and surpluses were sent to other incarceration sites.

Japanese American incarcerees built two cellars, each more than 300 feet long, in 1943. The earthen walls of the cellars were reinforced with wood planks and stuffed with straw for insulation. The sod-and-straw-covered roofs were supported by wooden beams harvested by the incarcerees from the nearby Shoshone National Forest. Entrances at either end allowed trucks full of vegetables to pass through.

The restored cellar is near the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center and was donated to the Foundation by the Jolovich family, area farmers.

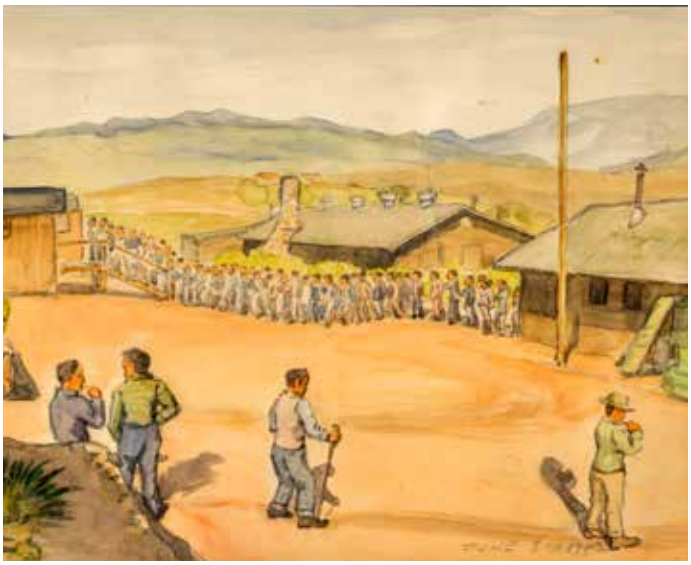
Roof of the Heart Mountain root cellar. Photo courtesy of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation.

New Mexico Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League's *Confinement in the Land of Enchantment* Project Raises Awareness in New Mexico

New Mexico residents are learning about the experiences of Japanese Americans in the state during World War II thanks to a new project, *Confinement in the Land of Enchantment*.

The project's goal is to inspire thought and conversation about issues of citizenship, identity, and civil liberties.

With a 2017 NPS JACS grant of $85,926, the New Mexico Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League produced a traveling multimedia exhibit that was shared at various libraries and museums in 2019. The project also included a series of lectures with survivors, descendants of those incarcerated, and scholars. The exhibit chronicles the experiences of Japanese Americans who were detained in internment camps in New Mexico during World War II. Extensive research completed in an earlier phase of the *Confinement in the Land of Enchantment* project led to the collection of oral histories, letters, memoirs, artwork, photographs, artifacts, maps, and prison roster that shed light on these lesser known stories, including the experiences of Japanese Americans interned in the "forgotten" New Mexico camps.



Caption on reverse of painting by Kango Takamura: "The early birds and the mess hall lineup," Santa Fe Internment Camp, June 8, 1942. Image courtesy of Densho (ddr-manz-2-18), Manzanar National Historic Site and the Kango Takamura Collection.

Large, prison camps euphemistically called "relocation centers" were run by the U.S. government's War Relocation Authority in places like Manzanar in California, Minidoka in Idaho, and Heart Mountain in Wyoming. In New Mexico, however, smaller, lesser known internment camps were run by the U.S. Department of Justice in Santa Fe, Fort Stanton, and Baca. The U.S. Army also ran a camp at Lordsburg.

In January 1942, Japanese Americans residing in Clovis, New Mexico, who worked for the Santa Fe Railroad, were forced to leave their homes and move to prison camps—weeks before any other forced removals took place. They were first sent to the camp at Baca (Old Raton Ranch) and later were moved to WRA incarceration sites in Arizona and Utah.

"In any of these cases, the family camps or in these camps in New Mexico, there was never really any government due process in terms of considering why people were put on a list and why they were moved," says Victor Yamada, who oversaw the project. "Their rights were taken away and they were put into prisons."

Confinement in the Land of Enchantment also explores how surrounding communities, and those across New Mexico, treated Japanese Americans, including misconceptions that internees were Japanese POWs, with anti-Japanese sentiment heightened as some of the first liberated survivors of the Bataan Death March returned home to New Mexico. Increased dialogue with local communities has helped dispel these misconceptions.

Yamada says the New Mexico Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League has two goals, "One is to tell the story as it happened back in World War II, and the second is—like all history—it's meant for people to be educated, to learn and to hopefully not repeat the same mistakes. That's exactly the purpose that our group is pursuing."

Santa Fe Internment Camp, ca. 1944. Photo courtesy of Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i/Anonymous.

Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i Establishes New Database to Document Stories of Japanese American Prisoners in Hawai'i

Nearly 2,000 Japanese Americans in Hawai'i were imprisoned by the U.S. government following the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the nation of Japan on December 7, 1941.

Who were these prisoners?
What were their lives like?
How did they endure?

Those questions, once murky, are easier to answer now that the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH) has created a comprehensive online, interactive, multi-media database of Japanese Americans arrested and detained in the Territory of Hawai'i. With the help of a 2017 NPS JACS grant of $45,900, and matching contributions from Monsanto, JCCH staff, and the JCCH's Tokioka Heritage Resource Center, among others, JCCH established a searchable database that ties internees' names to their personal stories, oral histories, photos, and artifacts. Compiling the database is the culmination of decades of research into government records, internee memoirs, and historical publications. Painstakingly crosschecked for accuracy, it includes each internee's name, their residence in 1941, occupation, names of family members who were also imprisoned, and the names of the sites where they were imprisoned. When available, the database includes internee photographs, artifacts, and oral histories.

The database was challenging to organize because many of the internees' journeys were scattered. Initially detained on each island in the Hawaiian chain, the prisoners were first gathered at Sand Island Internment Camp and then sent to incarceration sites on Honouliuli or the mainland.

Time was also a factor. Some 75 years have passed since World War II ended. Existing records were fragmented, most former internees had died, and many others didn't want to discuss their experiences.

Since launching in late 2018, the database has provided a better understanding of the experiences of Japanese Americans in Hawai'i during World War II to their relatives, researchers, and others.

The database is available to the public at https://interneedirectory.jcch.com and allows for corrections and additions as new information is revealed.

National Japanese American Historical Society Partners with Educators to Develop Innovative Curriculum

Until recently, much of the information about the Department of Justice and U.S. Army facilities has been classified, published only in scholarly articles and inaccessible to the general public. Now, through an innovative project, "The Untold Stories: the Department of Justice Internment Teacher Education Project," teachers have the resources they need to share a more complex history of Japanese Americans during World War II.

With the help of a 2016 NPS JACS grant of $139,605, the National Japanese American Historical Society developed a teacher workshop series to expand the traditional narrative of the Japanese American incarceration by unveiling the stories of those who were confined by the Department of Justice and the U.S. Army. Founded more than 30 years ago, the National Japanese American Historical Society has worked to present the full picture of the Japanese American incarceration experience through an array of exhibitions, programs, and publications.

Comprised of several components, the project brought together a cohort of teachers and experts from across the country to develop, evaluate, and refine its presentation of the history. Next, it designed curriculum for regional workshops and held nine professional development training sessions to teach the stories of the Department of Justice internment to nearly 200 secondary teachers.

Based on Common Core standards for history and social studies literacy, the curriculum uses place-based inquiry techniques, an immersive education model that draws on local history connections to explore the bigger picture. During the workshop sessions, teachers also visited historic confinement sites to gain a fuller understanding, with some participating in the Minidoka pilgrimage.

Working in collaboration with the National Park Service, the National Japanese American Historical Society wove together a wide range of individual site histories into a cohesive, introductory overview. Sites highlighted include Department of Justice camps such as Crystal City in Texas and Fort Lincoln in North Dakota. Other sites include Angel Island Immigration Station in California, Puyallup Assembly Center in Washington, and three former WRA incarceration sites that are now preserved by the National Park Service: Tule Lake National Monument, Manzanar National Historic Site, and Minidoka National Historic Site.

The final elements of the project included the development of an online portal featuring resources and curriculum specific to the Department of Justice internment experience and the dissemination of this content to more than 500 teachers to carry these lessons forward. The curriculum is available at https://www.njahs.org/wwii-doj-japanese-internment-curriculum/.

Professor Emeritus Tetsuden Kashima speaks at a teachers' workshop in Seattle, WA. Photo courtesy of National Japanese American Historical Society.

Los Angeles Conservation Corps Crews Help Keep Manzanar in Tip-Top Condition for Future Generations

Education, hard work, and fun. Those are the defining characteristics of a unique project to help preserve the Manzanar National Historic Site in an arid desert approximately 230 miles north of Los Angeles, California.

The hard work was done by opportunity youth from northeast, central, and south Los Angeles, some of whom have never ventured outside the city, who were recruited by the Los Angeles Conservation Corps' (LACC) Clean & Green Team. The nonprofit organization is dedicated to helping young adults find meaningful, living-wage jobs with career pathways or college or vocational school experience leading to employment. Los Angeles Conservation Corps services more than 200 contracts worth $18 million a year for city, county, state, and federal agencies.

With a 2017 NPS JACS grant of $47,341, Los Angeles Conservation Corps brought 10-member work crews and two supervisors to Manzanar six times between November 2017 and May 2019. Each three-day trip included one day of history and orientation followed by two days of conservation work directed by NPS staff at the Manzanar National Historic Site. Projects ranged from clearing brush and restoring trails to repairing fences and installing irrigation systems.

"The work was hard because of the heat, but looking up towards the mountain was worth it," student Monica Ramos said. Another student said learning about Manzanar's history was a "great experience."

After the project was completed, LACC supervisors took the crews on field trips to nearby mountain lakes. For many, it was their first experience outside of urban Los Angeles.

"I got to see nature in a new way," student Edwin Ceron said.

LACC crew member looks towards the Sierra Nevada mountains at the former Manzanar incarceration site. Photo courtesy of LA Conservation Corps.

Manzanar is one of 10 incarceration sites the U.S. government's War Relocation Authority built to imprison 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II. It is located at the foot of the Sierra Nevada mountains.

About 11,000 Japanese American men, women, and children lived there from early March 1942 until November 1945. Most came from the Los Angeles area, while others came from Stockton, California, and Bainbridge Island, Washington.

The site represents a confluence of national and personal history, civil rights, and educational opportunities. More than 97,000 people visited the site in 2019.

National Trust for Historic Preservation Documents Japanese American Possessions Abandoned in Basement of Historic Panama Hotel

They were supposed to come back for their things. Instead, the trunks, suitcases, and boxes of personal possessions sat largely untouched in the basement of the historic Panama Hotel in downtown Seattle, Washington, for nearly 75 years.

Left for safekeeping in 1942 by local Japanese Americans the U.S. government forced into incarceration sites during World War II, many of the owners rebuilt their lives after the war and never returned to pick up these possessions. But the hotel's owners preserved them in an informal museum. That included the owner at the time, Takashi Hori, and current owner Jan Johnson, who bought the hotel from Hori in 1985.

Now the contents—some 7,439 items—have been studied, cataloged, preserved, and carefully returned back to their spots in the basement by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in cooperation with Johnson, the Wing Luke Museum, the Japanese American National Museum, the Museum of History and Industry, the University of Washington, and the Huntington Library. The project was funded with a 2015 NPS JACS grant of $137,178, and matching grants from the National Trust and others.

Most of the items are exceptional because they're so ordinary—clothes, photographs, books, bowls, and even a pair of ice skates.

The five-story Panama Hotel opened in 1910, renting rooms to laborers in Seattle's International District, which was then known as the city's Nihonmachi, or Japantown. It housed a laundry, tailor, dentist, bookstore, billiards room, and a sushi restaurant. A main attraction was its traditional Japanese-style *sento* or public bathhouse, which is one of the few surviving *sento* in the United States.

The building was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2006 and later declared a national treasure by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Today, visitors can see the trunks, suitcases, and boxes through a window in the floor of the hotel's tea house.

More than 7,000 personal belongings left in the basement of the Panama Hotel for safekeeping sat largely untouched for nearly 75 years. Photo courtesy of National Trust for Historic Preservation.

San Diego Chapter of Japanese American Citizens League Shares the Deep and Long-lasting Impacts of Incarceration During World War II in *Our Lost Years*

During World War II, Japanese and Japanese Americans were forcibly uprooted from their homes along the West Coast, leaving behind all they had worked so hard to establish. Homes, cars, and businesses were sold for a fraction of their value. Careers and professional aspirations were cut short, as were secondary and postgraduate educational opportunities. A new documentary film, *Our Lost Years*, takes a deeper look at the devastating impacts experienced by those who were incarcerated during the war and explores the many layers of loss of home, of community, of one's dignity, pride, and self-worth.

"My wife and her family lived in California. I met her father, and he was a handsome guy that was really high-class. I saw him as somewhat depressed. To me, he was a man who was somebody at some time, but now he had no self-confidence," says Floyd Mori, a U.S. politician, educator and former Executive Director of the national Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) who was interviewed for the film. "So this became, I guess you could say, a personal view of what internment did. Incarceration, of course. But the destruction of a person's self-worth became real to me."

The film chronicles the stories of the 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans sent to U.S. incarceration sites like Manzanar in eastern California, Poston in Arizona, and as far East as Rohwer and Jerome in Arkansas.

One of those families included Norman Mineta. A boy at the time, Mineta went on to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives, and later as U.S. Secretary of Transportation during 9/11. But the past lingers powerfully for him.

"On December 7th, my mother turned on the radio, the music program was interrupted by the news of what was happening in Hawaii," he says. "People

Robert Ito being interviewed by film director Lane Nishikawa with cinematographer, Judith Lin at the Buddhist Temple of San Diego. Photo courtesy of Lane Nishikawa.

would start calling my dad asking, 'What's going to be the impact on us given Japan has bombed Pearl Harbor?' So about 4, 4:30, the FBI agent came to the house," explaining, "We're picking up people who are sympathetic to the Japanese…"

Mineta and his family were moved to crude barracks at the Heart Mountain incarceration camp near Cody, Wyoming, along with ten thousand other Japanese Americans. It was cold and windy, he says, and their new home for the rest of World War II was a bare 25 by 25-foot room with a single overhead light bulb and a pot-bellied stove.

Such stories impart valuable lessons today, when racial profiling by law enforcement and anti-Asian hate crimes stemming from the Covid-19 pandemic appear to be growing problems, JACL says. As Mineta puts it, "This story has to be told over and over again … All of us, each one and every one of us, has to be vigilant in the protection of our democracy and constitutional law."

The film was written and directed by Lane Nishikawa with a 2017 NPS JACS grant of $114,200 to the JACL, San Diego Chapter, and supported by matching funds from the National JACL Legacy Fund, Sempra Energy, Union Bank, Union of Pan Asian Communities, and private donors.

Third World Newsreel and Konrad Aderer Document Japanese American Resistance to Government Imprisonment in New Film

Resistance at Tule Lake is a new documentary film that explodes the myth that Japanese Americans didn't protest their imprisonment in U.S. concentration camps during World War II.

In 1943, the U.S. government imposed a further indignity on the thousands of imprisoned Japanese Americans. The War Relocation Authority (WRA) forced all the adults to answer questions on a form commonly known as the "loyalty questionnaire."

Most people gave the "correct" answers the government wanted—that "yes, they would serve in the military of the government that incarcerated them, and that yes, they would disavow loyalty to the emperor, even though many of them had never been to Japan," says Barbara Takei. Takei is a writer, researcher, and organizer of the Tule Lake Committee, which educates the public about Tule Lake Segregation Center and advocates for the site's preservation.

More than 12,000 Japanese Americans defied the flawed questionnaire, however, often out of resentment at the racism it embodied. "I said to heck with this, I'm an American, why should I answer that kind of a silly question? I wrote, when my civil rights are restored, I will answer," says Bill Nishimura, a former Tule Lake prisoner.

The U.S. government branded these dissidents as "disloyals" and confined them in Tule Lake Segregation Center, in northern California. The overcrowded, heavily militarized camp quickly became a crucible of mass unrest. When Tule Lake inmates organized to protest abusive conditions, the administration responded by imposing martial law on the camp. U.S. soldiers terrorized families with tanks and machine guns. Ultimately, more than 5,000 incarcerated Japanese Americans renounced their U.S. citizenship.

Resistance at Tule Lake brings this long-hidden history to life through the eyes of camp survivors. "These are all stories that have been marginalized for the last 70 years. They've been treated as our dirty linen…rather than stories that we cherish, that we recognize as expressions of dissent," says Takei.

Third World Newsreel (Camera News) produced the award-winning documentary, directed by Japanese American filmmaker Konrad Aderer, with a 2014 NPS JACS grant of $109,961 and matching grants from donors such as the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM) and New York State Council on the Arts.

To date, more than 100,000 people have viewed *Resistance at Tule Lake* through national broadcasts on PBS, live and virtual screening events, and home distribution. Accompanied by an 80-page educational curriculum guide, the documentary has entered the collections and classrooms of universities nationwide. Director Aderer hopes that the film will not only illuminate a dark chapter of Japanese American history, but will help viewers to take heed of the thousands of detentions of immigrants taking place in the U.S. today. Information on the film can be found at resistanceattulelake.com.

Japanese American members of the Hoshi Dan stand in mass gathering, with bugles, March 18, 1945.
Photo by R.H. Ross, courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration.

The *Rising Above* archive provides access to hundreds of archival images and documents connected to the Rohwer incarceration site in Arkansas. Image courtesy of University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

University of Arkansas at Fayetteville Enhances Database, Exploring Social Connections at Rohwer Incarceration Site in Arkansas

The idea that data is sterile, people aren't, is a convenient idea but a false construct. Data can be invigorated by human stories and experiences that illustrate the dimensions and full value of numbers and statistics. The human element brings data to life. That's the driving principal behind a project to add new archival materials to a database and then connect them to the historical narratives and social networks that imbue them with meaning.

Through a 2015 NPS JACS grant of $254,606, the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville added more than 800 new items to the *Rising Above* archive as part of the *Rohwer Reconstructed II* project. Most of the new items are unique to Arkansas collections and include a significant number of newspaper clippings from the *McGehee Times* and *Dermott News*, numerous uncut interviews from the *Time of Fear* documentary, and hundreds of new photographs from incarcerees' family collections.

About 500 documents were digitized in 2012 for the original *Rohwer Reconstructed* project, which explores the history of the Rohwer incarceration site in rural southeast Arkansas.

The new project merged data from more than 10 different collections housed at five Arkansas institutions into a single online archive available to students, the public, and scholars. This includes an updated version of the 3D reconstruction of barrack block 12 that now includes audio/video remembrances from incarcerees and camp staff as well as updated 3D content based on valuable input from former incarcerees.

Most importantly, the expanded database employs a unique "network graph" exploring the social connections between incarcerees, camp administrators, local politicians, and the general public. Biographies of at least 20 Japanese American incarcerees and WRA staff help provide a fuller story of Japanese American confinement. They reveal not only the injustices and adversities suffered but also the tenacity and accomplishments of those incarcerated and assistance provided by some leaders who fought to mitigate the hardships faced by incarcerees.

"These connections reveal a story of mutual cooperation, respect, and friendship, of people who bridged culture and circumstance to build relationships in the face of prejudice and injustice," says the university's project lead Jennifer Taylor, Ph.D., MBA, assistant vice provost for research, and director of research and sponsored programs.

Explore the database online at https://risingabove.cast.uark.edu/.

University of California Berkeley Opens Sealed Vault of 150,000 Federal Reserve Bank Records

Following the signing of Executive Order 9066, as Japanese Americans prepared to leave their homes behind, some met with agents of the Federal Reserve Bank to discuss the divestment of their personal property. Now, 150,000 pages of documents created and preserved at the time are available to researchers and the public through the National Archives and Records Administration.

Led by the History Department and the Institute for Integrative Social Sciences at the University of California, Berkeley, the project was funded in part by a 2013 NPS JACS grant of $18,488 and matching donations from the university.

Dave Tatsuno and his father stand in front of their business in San Francisco prior to their forced removal, April 4, 1942. Photo by Dorothea Lange, courtesy of Densho (ddr-densho-151-272), National Archives and Records Administration.

The project focused on a small subset of 649 written records generated by federal agents as they interviewed Japanese Americans in the Portland area in early 1942 about their property holdings. At the time, the Wartime Civil Control Authority tasked the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco with assisting Japanese Americans in the management and disposal of their personal property in less than a few months' time. A fiscal agent of the U.S. government, the Federal Reserve hastily set up a process to advise Japanese Americans on the liquidation and disposal of their urban assets, ranging from the management of their bank accounts to personal affects, grocery stores, hotels, cars, and business-related equipment. In total, the Federal Reserve met with approximately 29,000 Japanese Americans.

In converting these records into a format that can be searchable, researchers hope to shine a light on the economic conditions of—and the material losses suffered by—Japanese Americans during World War II, says Mark Brilliant, history professor and principal investigator on the project. These records provide an even fuller picture when viewed along with other records from the Farm Security Administration and Japanese Evacuation Claims Act of 1948 records.

A rich trove of information, this extensive collection of Federal records will provide researchers an opportunity to further examine the economic lives of Japanese Americans on the eve of incarceration, on the human cost of mass divestment under duress, and the role of the Federal Reserve Bank in the dispossession of property that occurred alongside the deprivation of liberty that Japanese Americans were subjected to during World War II.

Located in the Evacuee Property Files for the San Francisco Branch and the Portland Branch, these documents are accessible at: https://catalog.archives.gov/id/38221779 and https://catalog.archives.gov/id/40143322 .

Valley PBS Produces Moving *Silent Sacrifice* Documentary for U.S. Public Television Stations

Millions of Americans have an opportunity to learn about the U.S. incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II through a powerful new documentary film.

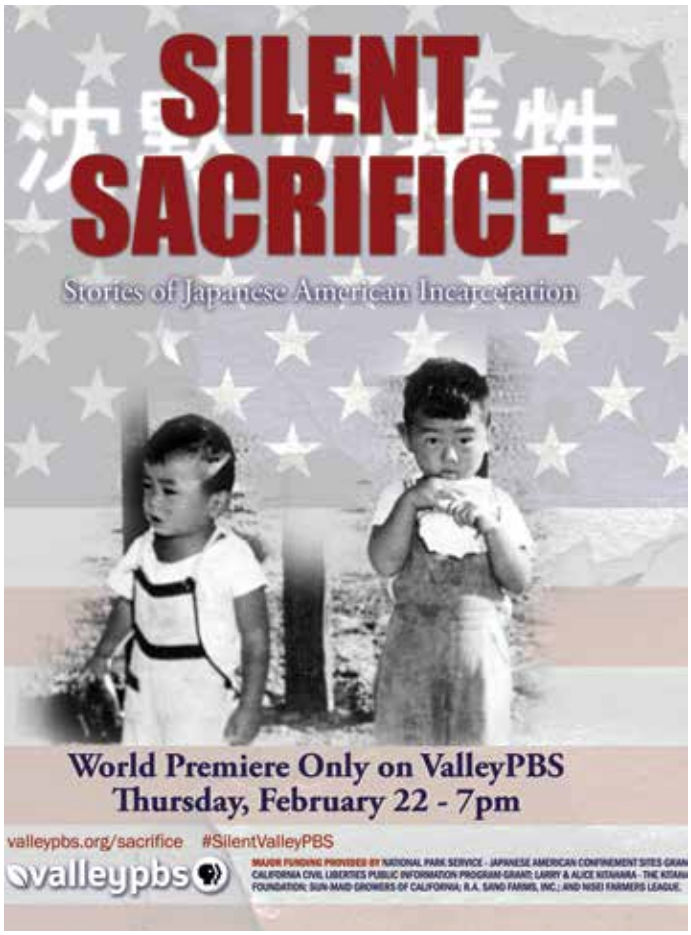
Fresno-based Valley PBS produced *Silent Sacrifice: The Story of Japanese American Incarceration in California's Central Valley and Beyond* with funding from a 2016 NPS JACS grant of $373,716 and matching funds. The film premiered to a potential audience of 2.5 million viewers in the San Joaquin Valley in early 2018 and was later picked up for broadcast by 231 public television stations across the United States. International markets continue to acquire rights as well. The project earned a prestigious regional Emmy-award for Best Historical Documentary in 2018, the first for a film of this type.

The film relies on documents, historic footage and photographs, as well as survivor interviews and reenactments to explore the personal stories of Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during World War II, with a focus on those who lived in the San Joaquin Valley around Fresno and Clovis.

The Issei there already faced strong resentment and discrimination before the war because their successful farms and businesses competed with operations of the existing white population, says Sansei Robert Shintaku in the film.

"So, when the war started, it gave them a good excuse to get them out of here," he says.

Many Japanese and Japanese Americans lost their homes, farms, businesses, and most of their personal possessions when they were forced to report to hastily constructed temporary prisons euphemistically known as "assembly centers." Later, they were moved to one of 10 incarceration sites administered by the War Relocation Authority in the country's interior. The film shows how they spent the rest of the war living under guard in cramped, substandard conditions.



Silent Sacrifice focuses on the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans from California's Central Valley. Photo courtesy of Valley PBS.

Government propaganda at the time used terms like "evacuation" and "relocation" to publicly describe what was happening to Japanese Americans.

"We were not evacuated. We were not relocated. We were incarcerated. We were imprisoned, and we were transferred to a permanent concentration camp," says Nisei Saburo Masada in the film.

Silent Sacrifice is available for viewing online at https://valleypbs.org/sacrifice/. Lesson plans for 7th to 12th graders are also available to teachers across the nation through the PBS LearningMedia website.

Visual Communications Connects New Audiences to Japanese American World War II Incarceration History through Innovative Virtual Game and *Moving Walls* Documentary

Visual Communications, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting accurate portrayals of Asian Pacific Americans through the media arts, completed two JACS-funded projects— one to engage younger audiences in learning about the World War II Japanese American incarceration and another to produce a documentary and book capturing present-day efforts to preserve barracks located near Heart Mountain in Wyoming.

Unique Video Game Teaches Japanese American History

Students can now learn about the Japanese American World War II incarceration through *Building History 3.0*, a game-based tool that encourages learning, critical analysis, and investigation. Students can research themes such as civil liberties, citizenship and democracy, and explore the built environment of the incarceration sites using the popular video game called Minecraft. Developed with the help of a 2014 NPS JACS grant of $97,150, *Building History 3.0* is the brainchild of award-winning filmmaker and educator Renee Tajima-Peña, game-based learning designer Randall Fujimoto, education technology specialist Kim Bathker and project producer, Janet Chen.

Building History 3.0 project team, pictured from left to right: Charity Capili Ellis, Melody Chen, Kim Bathker, Janet Chen, Renee Tajima-Peña, Randall Fujimoto, Justin Martin. Photo courtesy of Lan Nguyen.

Building History 3.0 engages youth in learning about the Japanese American World War II incarceration. Photo courtesy of *Building History 3.0* project.

Tajima-Peña was inspired to create the game by her then 12-year-old son, Gabriel, who built a virtual recreation of the Heart Mountain incarceration site using Minecraft. Gabriel interviewed his grandparents and other incarcerees, studied exhibits at the University of California, Los Angeles Center for EthnoCommunications, and combed through research materials to create his own interpretation of the site.

Building History 3.0 relies on the experiential nature of the game to raise children's curiosity about Japanese American history and show them how to draw from educational resources such as Discover Nikkei, Densho, and the Hanashi Oral History Archive, to build their own projects. Players present their research through essays and vlogs (video blogs) as well as short animated videos providing walk-throughs of incarceration sites that incorporate elements like oral histories, photographs, and narration.

Targeted to students (elementary through high school), families, and educators, the game is available free online at https://www.buildinghistoryproject.com/, along with lesson plans and other learning resources.

There is also a new learn-at-home component called "Building History 3.0 @ Home," which includes activities and worksheets for the featured short films about the incarceration camp experience.

Moving Walls Explores Adversity, Renewal Sparked by Prison Camp Barracks

The barracks that once housed Japanese Americans imprisoned by the U.S. government during World War II are a source of deep emotion for many people, much of it rooted in dislocation and adversity.

They also tell a story of resilience and renewal, says Sharon Yamato.

Yamato is the author and director of a new book and documentary film, *Moving Walls: The Barracks of America's Concentration Camps*, funded in part by a 2014 NPS JACS grant of $89,510. The project expands on a book Yamato wrote 20 years earlier, which told the story of a barrack that was moved from the Heart Mountain incarceration site near Cody, Wyoming, to the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, California. Featuring photographs by renowned photojournalist Stan Honda, the second project explores what happened to the rest of the buildings.

The government built about 450 barracks at Heart Mountain. More than 10,000 people were incarcerated there, with up to six families sharing space in the 20- by 120-foot buildings. Many of the buildings were poorly constructed and were either gone or their remnants hard to find.

"I already knew that after the war, the buildings were sold to homesteaders for one dollar each, and I was on a quest to find any sign of those that remained," Yamato writes. "When I arrived, I felt a little like Indiana Jones in search of lost treasure."

With no secret map to guide her, Yamato's first stop was at the home of local resident LaDonna Zall. Zall was a child when the camps closed but remembered how they affected families. During the time of the project, Zall served on the board of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation and as the acting curator at the Heart Mountain Interpretive Learning Center. In a driving tour, Zall pointed to buildings that were once barracks.

"I was taken aback when seeing building after building with the familiar 20' x 40' outline (remnants of the 20' x 120' originals), some still with peeling tarpaper and others transformed to form L-shaped modern ranch style homes," Yamato writes. "Not only did I learn that hundreds of barracks survived the 73 years since their construction. . .I was able to talk to the people who made these buildings come alive long after the last Japanese Americans left. The buildings' transition from camp to Wyoming landscape told a unique story of adversity, resilience, and renewal."

A barracks building found outside of Cody, Wyoming, was moved from its original location at the historic Heart Mountain incarceration site. Photo by Stan Honda, courtesy of *Moving Walls* project.

Contact Information

Please contact one of the NPS regional representatives if you have any questions about the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program.

Intermountain Region
AZ, CO, MT, NM, OK, TX, UT, WY

Contact: Kara Miyagishima,Program Manager
Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program
Phone: 303-969-2885
Email: kara_miyagishima@nps.gov

Midwest Region
AR, IA, IL, IN, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI

Contact: Rachel Franklin-Weekley, Historian
Midwest Regional Office, Div of Cultural Resources
Phone: 402-661-1928
Email: rachel_franklin-weekley@nps.gov

Pacific West Region
CA, HI, ID, NV, OR, WA, and other states not listed

Contact: Tom Leatherman, Superintendent
Rosie the Riveter/World War II
Home Front National Historical Park
Phone: 510-778-4171
Email: tom_leatherman@nps.gov

All correspondence and comments may be sent to the address listed below:

National Park Service
Intermountain Region
Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program

ATTN: Kara Miyagishima
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
Lakewood, CO 80228

Please visit the NPS Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program website for more information, including a list of eligible sites and projects, grant program guidelines, funded projects, and past newsletters:

Website: www.nps.gov/JACS/

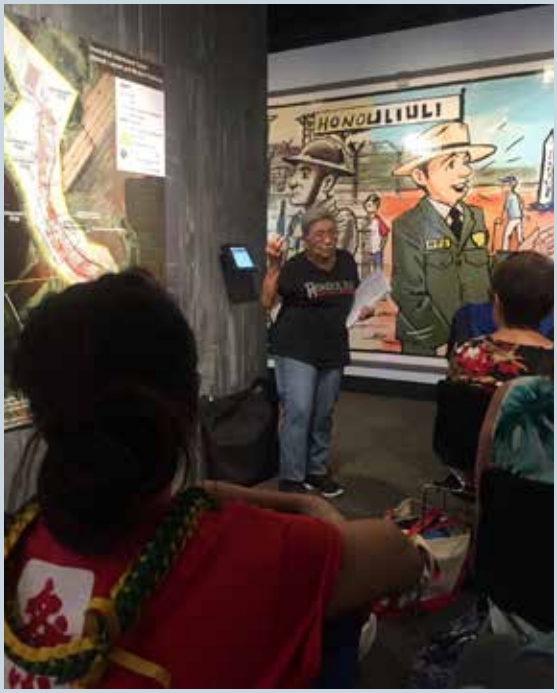
"Like" us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/jacsgrant

Thank you for your interest in the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program

Mary Noda Oyama, a descendant of Ichimatsu Noda who was detained at Tuna Canyon during World War II, is pictured here with her son, Robert Oyama. Photo courtesy of Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition.

Los Angeles Conservation Corps crew members at the former Manzanar incarceration site. Photo courtesy of LA Conservation Corps.

A small camera crew prepares to interview Lillian Mukai (seated at left). Photo by Stan Honda, courtesy of New York Japanese American Oral History Project.



Jane Kurahara speaks to teachers at a workshop held in Honolulu at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i. Photo courtesy of National Japanese American Historical Society.

Extras from Chicago's Japanese American community prepare for the film's final scene. Photo by Alessandra Giordano, courtesy of *The Orange Story.*

Hiroshi Shimizu (right) and Sharon Yamato (left), of the Tule Lake Committee, lead a tour of the Tule Lake site as part of the 2018 pilgrimage. Photo courtesy of National Park Service.

Historic barrack from Poston incarceration site in Arizona. Photo courtesy of Barbara Darden, Scheuber + Darden Architects.

Minoru Tonai leaving Block 9L during the 2018 Amache Pilgrimage. Photo by John Tonai.

Satsuki Ina, former Tule Lake incarceree, participates in an on-site memorial service for Japanese Americans who died there. Photo courtesy of Konrad Aderer/*Resistance at Tule Lake*.

Koji Lau-Ozawa testing an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) in preparation for remote survey of the Gila River incarceration site in collaboration with GRIC-CRMP. Photo by Dylan Bergersen.

Manzanar Pilgrimage, 2019. Photo courtesy of National Park Service.