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For Immediate Release

2014 TULE LAKE PILGRIMAGE July 4 through 7, 2014

Public Invited to Selected Pilgrimage Events

The Tule Lake Pilgrimage Committee has scheduled its 20th biennial pilgrimage for July 4 through 7, 2014. This year a number of events are open to the public, free of charge, to welcome and encourage local residents to attend and learn about the Tule Lake story and to hear from individuals who survived the wartime injustice.

"Our pilgrims come from all over the U.S. and the world, and we are grateful for the local people who respect our history and care about the social justice issues that are part of Tule Lake's history," reflected Hiroshi Shimizu, who chairs the pilgrimage committee. Shimizu was a pre-school child when imprisoned with his parents at Tule Lake.

"We hope to create the opportunity for people living in the local community and the Japanese American's on the pilgrimage to have some people-to-people connections, to help foster greater mutual understanding," Shimizu explained.

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To encourage such connections, the Tule Lake Committee invites the public to attend a number of events on Saturday afternoon, July 5th. At 2 PM at the Tulelake-Butte Valley Fairgrounds Museum, several Tule Lake survivors will be there to share their life experience with basin residents. Sacramento Methodist minister, Rev. George Nishikawa will moderate and lead discussion that will include revered San Francisco writer, playwright, poet, and actor, Hiroshi Kashiwagi and his spouse, Sadako Kashiwagi. Hiroshi Kashiwagi will read excerpts from his recently published book, "Starting from Loomis and Other Stories," and from other works. His wife, Sadako Kashiwagi will share her childhood memories of exile to Tule Lake and the aftermath.

For the more musically inclined, Taiko musicians from all over the U.S. have gathered and will demonstrate and offer workshops for those interested in learning more about this dynamic art. Plan to join in on the Japanese folk dancing that often spontaneously happens. There is no charge for admission to these events at the Tulelake Butte Valley Fairgrounds on Saturday, July 5.

On Sunday, July 6 at 7 PM, the public is invited to the Ross Ragland Theater in Klamath Falls to attend the Pilgrimage Cultural performance. Performed by multi-talented pilgrims, the performance at the Ross Ragland is a celebration of and the culminating event of the Tule Lake pilgrimage. Friends and supporters are welcomed to join us.

The Pilgrimage honors the memory of those incarcerated in the maximum-security Tule Lake Segregation Center during World War II. The event includes a round-trip bus journey to the site, a day of organized tours to the Tule Lake site, a morning of intergenerational discussion groups, afternoon of workshops and discussions groups, a memorial service to honor the memory of those incarcerated at Tule Lake, and an evening cultural performance in Klamath Falls. Approximately 400 people are expected.

The Tule Lake Committee was created in 1978 as an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that organizes biennial pilgrimages to the Tule Lake site. Its mission is to educate the public and to preserve the history of the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans, and specifically, that of the Tule Lake site, a maximum-security segregation center that imprisoned 12,000 Japanese Americans who resisted their incarceration and were unjustly deemed disloyal.

For more information about the Tule Lake Committee, please visit our website at www.tulelake.org.

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