



TOPAZ TIMES THE CITY

December 2014

Published by the Topaz Museum Board



The construction of the Topaz Museum generates enthusiasm from everyone who sees it.

Photo by Brian Buroker

Topaz Museum building completed in May 2014

We are happy to announce that the Topaz Museum building is finished and soon will be telling the rich, complex, and tragic history of Topaz. The building has been attracting visitors even though it has not been open to the public. People stop by or call for appointments to go inside even without the exhibits. Everyone likes the unusual space and sleek architecture that will house the artifacts and history of Topaz.

In fact, in August the entire high school from Silverton, Colorado came to Delta to visit the museum. True, the school is pretty small, only 16 students grades 9-12, but by visiting the museum they began their year-long study of Topaz.

Westland Construction finished the building in May 2014. The 8,000 sq. ft. structure has an education room, an office, library, curatorial area, and almost 4,000 sq. ft. of exhibit space. Westland brought the museum in on budget.

Topaz housed over 11,000 people of Japanese ancestry during World War II in poorly constructed barracks divided into three small rooms. Inside the museum exhibit area is a re-created barrack like that that housed Frank Kami, his sister Yaeko, and two other siblings. Both Frank and Yaeko were consultants in designing the interior of

the room. Their memories included the type of curtains their mother made out of used rice sacks, the arrangement of furniture, the bedspread that covered the closet, and other details. They recalled that they hung a blanket from the ceiling to divide the room for the boys and girls.

(The Topaz Museum is still looking for a typical 1940 blanket and bedspread. If you have something that might work, please contact the museum.)

Behind the museum is half of the restored recreation hall that has been part of the Topaz Museum tour for many years. It is now resting on a concrete foundation and has a new roof and tarpaper. That building is open to the public and gives an accurate idea of what it would have been like to live at Topaz.

The building originally was half of the Boy Scout meeting hall on Block 42 and will eventually hold an exhibit that talks about the uses of the recreation halls at Topaz.

The Topaz Museum Board is very grateful to everyone who has contributed to the capital campaign to make the museum possible. We are still asking for donations for the matching money needed for the JACS grant we received in June. Your continued support is necessary to make sure that the public learns about the history of Topaz. Please donate today.

When Words Weren't Enough: Works on Paper from Topaz, 1942-1945

The first exhibit in the new Topaz Museum will be an art show consisting of works from the museum's collection of 95 pieces of art painted at Topaz. Through a remarkably varied selection of works on paper, this exhibition showcases the talent of artists such as Miné Okubo, Chiura Obata, Charles Erabu Suiko Mikami, and Setsu Nagata Kanehara. The show will run from January 13, 2015 until September 2015.

The art with its wide-ranging styles, subjects, and forms, provides fascinating insight into the diverse voices and talents of the artists at Topaz. In spite of unimaginable circumstances, an art school with nearly 600 students was started by Chiura Obata, who prior to the war had been an instructor at UC Berkeley. Sixteen other artists served as instructors for classes in drawing figures and portraits, freehand brush, line design, landscape, sculpture, history of western art, elementary classes,



Miné Okubo's works will be on display during the art show. Her artistic techniques included pastels, charcoal, and gouache.

leather crafts, and fly tying.

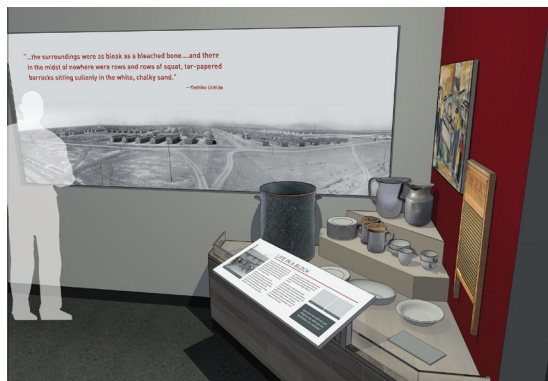
The Topaz Museum collection includes 30 pieces of art by Miné Okubo and ten pieces by Chiura Obata. If you have art created at Topaz, please consider donating it to the museum's outstanding collection.

Large NPS grant awarded for the Topaz exhibits

For the third time, the Topaz Museum has received a major grant from the National Park Service's Japanese American Confinement Sites program (JACS). On June 12 the announcement was made by Jonathan B. Jarvis, Director, National Park Service, confirming that the Topaz Museum qualified for \$497,000 to help manufacture and install the museum exhibits, making it possible to open the museum. The grant requires continued fund raising for the matching money.

Topaz is significant to Americans because of the grave injustice that forced 120,000 Japanese Americans to leave their homes and businesses on the false premise of military necessity by ignoring Constitutional protections, all due to "race prejudice, war hysteria and lack of political leadership."

The exhibits will explore a wide range of subjects associated with Topaz and Japanese American confinement as well as telling a brief history of JAs in Utah. The Wakasa killing, Supreme Court cases especially the Fred Korematsu and Mitsuye Endo cases, Dave Tatsuno's movie,



the Topaz Art School, and Constitutional issues will all be discussed in the exhibits.

Part of the museum space is set aside for an art gallery. The Topaz Museum owns over 100 pieces of art, 95 painted at Topaz, and the collection continues to grow. Artists represented in the collection include Chiura Obata, Miné Okubo, and Charles Erabu Suiko Mikami.

The museum also owns a lovely collection of handcrafted jewelry, toys, birds, and other crafts. Tsuzuris, or Japanese style inkwells made from shale, gathered outside of Topaz at Antelope Springs are part of the artifacts that will be displayed in the museum.

The loyalty questionnaire, military service, and other aspects of life in Topaz will detail for the visitors the complexity of the history and the Constitutional issues violated.

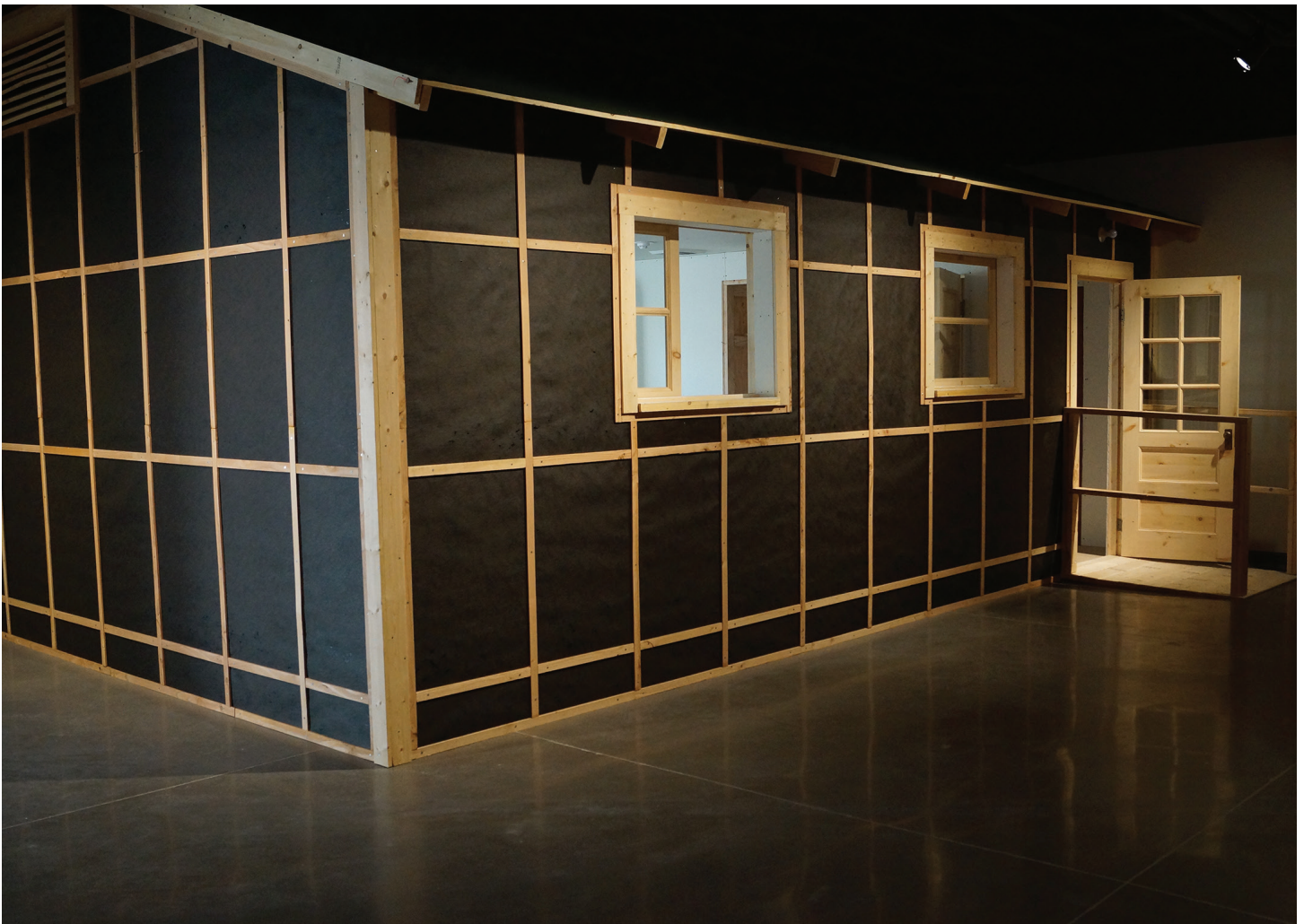
The Board is working with four highly esteemed advisors: Dr. Franklin Odo, Dr. Greg Robinson, Nancy Araki, and Dr. Cherstin Lyon as consultants for the Topaz Museum exhibits.

Be a part of this great project by contributing today.

Items needed for the museum

Inside the museum will be a replica of a 20' x 20' barrack room, complete with a potbelly stove, four cots, mattresses, Army blankets, and a table and chairs made at Topaz by Dr. Frank Kami when he was 17 years old. He and his three siblings shared a room like this one at Topaz. Frank and his sister, Yaeko Yedlosky, consulted with the museum's exhibit designer West Office Exhibition Design telling them what the Kami family's quarters looked like. Then they drew up the designs for the construction company to follow.

We have compiled a list of some of the items that need to be added to the room: cotton sheets for their cots, four pillows, a 1942-45 radio, coal bucket, a blanket to be used as a curtain, and a bedspread to cover their closet. If anyone has these period items and would be willing to donate them to the museum, please contact us at topazmuseum@frontiernet.net.



The Kami family lived in two adjoining rooms during Topaz.

National Park Service and the Topaz Museum Collaboration and Partnership

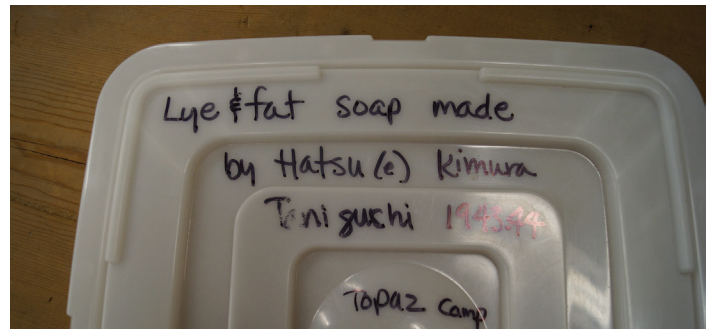
Since the beginning of the Japanese American Confinement Sites program (JACS), the Topaz Museum Board of Directors has maintained a close and effective relationship with the National Park Service. When the JACS program was initiated, a journey began that would culminate in a significant investment by the NPS in 2012 to construct the new Topaz Museum and Education Center in Delta, Utah. This major contribution helped launch an effort to raise the funds necessary to construct the new building. Additional funds have been donated by over a thousand others to make this project a reality.

Congress established the JACS grant program for the preservation and interpretation of U.S. confinement sites where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II. The law authorized up to \$38 million for the entire life of the grant program to identify, research, evaluate,

interpret, protect, restore, repair, and acquire historic confinement sites in order that present and future generations may learn and gain inspiration from the past. These sites will demonstrate the nation's commitment to equal justice under the law.

Topaz has received three grants from the JACS program. One was to do a preliminary design of the museum exhibits. Another helped to complete the building, and the latest one will help manufacture and install the exhibits. Major grants have also supported the work at camps such as Rohwer and Heart Mountain.

In addition to its financial support, the NPS staff has offered an invaluable partnership and collaboration to assist the Topaz Museum Board in its goal to create a new museum to honor the lives of those who suffered the injustice of confinement during World War II.



The most unusual artifacts donated to the museum this summer were two trays of soap made at Topaz by Sue Sakai McClure's grandmother, Hatsu Taniguchi. The soap was taken back to California after the war and stored in family homes until this summer when Sue and her husband, Jim, brought it to Delta.



Artist renderings of future exhibits at the Topaz Museum.

Thanks to those who have supported the Topaz Museum

Since 1991 the Topaz Museum has been raising money to preserve the history of Topaz. The donations have been used to restore half of the recreation hall that was on Block 42, purchase 634 acres of the site, carry out pilgrimages, print newsletters, and construct the new building that will house the artifacts and exhibits of the permanent museum.

This list below represents all those who have donated at least \$500 toward the goal of finishing the museum and providing on-going funding to make sure that many generations of Americans will learn the history of Topaz.

The Topaz Museum will have a large donor wall to

Kaz and Jean Abey
Lily Abiko
Hatsuro and Amey Aizawa
Seiji and Vivian Aizawa
Robert Akaki
Robert M. Akamatsu
Robert R. Akamatsu
Minoru Akiyoshi
American Express
Anne and James T. Aoki
Susan and Tom Aoki
Anonymous
Nancy Araki
John and Ana Asahara
Katsuko Asahara
Masao Ashizawa
Steve and Lois Baar
Scott and Claudia Bassett
Jane Beckwith
Paul Bell
Craig Bjorklund
California Bank and Trust
State of California
Carey and Co.
Alice Ross Carey
Marlene Caroselli
Dr. Todd Chikaraishi
Children of Topaz Class Reunion,
1996
LoaBelle Clawson
Comcast
Jill, James and Miranda Cornell
Jack Dairiki
Gene and Arlene Tatsuno Damron
Klancy and Noel DeNevers
Jane Diamond
Ann and Paul Dion
Lynne and Richard Doi
Carvin T. Dowke

Ron and Lorelei Draper
Rob and Jill Droubay
Susan Beckwith Dutsen
Jane Dusselier
George S. and Dolores Dore'
Eccles Foundation
Ferol and Martha Oshima Egan
Takako and Takeshi Endo
Elaine Englehardt
Hana Enomoto
Mae Ferral
Susan Fleming
James and Margene Fudenna-
Seff
Hayami and Phyllis Fujii
Paul Fujii
Teruko and Osamu Fujikawa
Hiroshi and Misako Fujisaki
Ichiro Fukunaga
Lilly and Ichiro Fukutome
Joe Goodman
Allison Goodson
George Goto
Great Basin Heritage Area
Keyko Tsuchiya Hall
Bette Hamachi
Craig and Susan Hamada
George Hanzawa
Robert and Iris Harris
Grace and John Hattori
Fumi and Tad Hayashi
Patrick Hayashi
Ruth Y. Hayashi
Sherrie Hayashi
Warren Hayashi
Dr. Frances Hayashida
Dr. Michihiko Hayashida
Susan Hellerud
Rod Henmi

thank and honor those who have given generously. We will be unveiling the design of the wall in early spring. Watch for the announcement that will describe the way that you can be a part of the museum in perpetuity.

Our sincere and hearty thanks to those who have donated in the past, and we ask for your continued support.

If your name is spelled wrong or you would like to include the name of your spouse, or you would like to confirm the amount of your combined donations, please contact us by e-mail david@mightypenguinconsulting.com or call 801-556-2775.

Ann Nobu and Yosh Hibino
Diane Hibino
Don Hibino
Jean Hibino
Thomas and Mary Ann Hibino
Tomiko Hino
Alice Hirai
Richard Hirayama
Jack Hirose
William and May Hirose
Carl Hirota
Harry Hiruo

Cherie Kazuko Hishida
Hitachi High Technologies
Ken and Yoshiko Ho
Garry and Misty Holloway
Henry Honda
Jun Honda
Saburo and Lillian "Anne" Hori
Fred Hoshiyama
Tom and Gaylene Hoshiyama
Dean and Kathleen Hughes
Eddie and Lucenda Ichioka

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The doors of the chifonier made at Topaz were decorated with an ink drawing by Chiura Obata. The artifact was donated by Shigeru Morita from El Cerrito.

Chizu and Ernest Iiyama	Mari Kobayashi	Phil and Tonya Morrison	Kazuko Yasuda Rowe
Vivian Ikeda	Sumiko Kobayashi	Cliff and Elizabeth Moser	Toru Saito
Sueko Imagawa	Yutaka Kobayashi	Sasako Mune	Bill Sakai
Joe and Nan Inatome	Edward and Tama Koda	Shin Mune	Robert and Alicia Sakai
Akio Inouye	Kei and Susan Kodani	Carol Murakami	George and Doris Sasaki
Chikateru Inouye	Lilian Yuri and Eugene Kodani	George and Betty Murakami	Richard and Irene Sasaki
Mark Inouye	Steve Koga	Wayne Murakami	James and Fumie Satake
Intermountain Power Service	Jimmy Koide	Yoshio Murakawa	Ellen Sawamura and Howard Kline
Phil and Marilyn Isenberg	Soichi Kojima	Joan Myers	Deb Sawyer
Sodatsu and Kikuko Ishida	Chuck Kubokawa	Ted and Yeiko Nagata	Emil and Eleanor Gerard Sekerak
Kazue Ishigaki	Eiji Edward Kubokawa	Terrell T. and Leah Nagata	Lillian Sekino
Edward and Yuriko Ishii	Kiyochi Kumekawa	Donald Nakahata	Shizuko and Thomas Sera
Myra F. Ishii	Ryozo Glenn and Yoshiko Kumekawa	Robert Nakaji	Dr. Steve and Bonnie Shamo
Takako Ishizaki	Eiichi Kunihara	Ruth Nakamura	Richard Shapp
Steven and Liz Isono	George Kunimoto	Kei and Dale Nakano	Masakazu Shiba
Dwight Israelsen	Kimi Kunimoto	Allyn Nakashima	Fumi Shimada
Masashi Itano	Tammara Kuramoto	Tim Nakatsuka	Hiko Shimamoto
Naoko and T. Peter Ito	Ayako Kurihara	Edwin Narahara	Masayo and Gentoku Shimamoto
Michio Iwashashi	Haruki Kuroiwa	National Japanese American Historical Society	Tom and Junko Shimizu
JACL	Kenneth Kuroiwa	National Park Service, JACS Program	John Shinkai
JACL Credit Union	Bruce Kusada	National Trust for Historic Preservation	Yoshiko and Fred Shinoda
JACL, Intermountain District	Iwao Kuwano	Teruko Neuwalder	Paul Shiramizu Graphic Design
JA's in Utah	LeVerne Koga Kyed	Ninomiya-Koda Foundation	Linda Shoji
Jeffery Family	Louise and Derrick Lue	Frank Nishioka	Yayeko Shoji
Duane and Kaye Jeffery	Jean S. Lundstedt	Ken Nodzu	S.J. Quinney College of Law Class
Mark Jenkins and Arlene Imagawa	Ron Mano	Hank Obayashi	Harris and Amanda Simmons
Florence H. Jeong	Materion	Timothy Ogawa	Gibbs Smith
Fay T. and Ken Kadowaki	Matsumoto Family	Rick and Karen Okabe	Elizabeth and Teresa Eggertsen Solomon
Hisashi and Akiko Kagami	Sachi Fujii Matsumoto	Sakaye and Setsuko Okamura	Rey and Edith Sonoda
Tadashi Kagami	Valerie Matsumoto	Kinge Okauchi	Taka Sonoda
Fred Kajiwara	Steve Matsumura	Miné Okubo	Springville Museum of Art
Arthur Kaku	Stephen McAvoy	Shigeru Omori	Susan and Dennis Stefanoff
Dr. Frank and Miyo Kami	Jim and Susan Sakai McClure	Bill Oshima	Ellen and Errol Stevens
Dr. Saburo and Joyce Kami	James McIlwain	Jim and Hide Oshima	Craig and Laura Imagawa Stone
Randy and Susan Kamm	Larry McKown	Jon and Laura Oshima	Marilee and Dennis Stowell
Mitsugi Kasai	Kiyoshi Robert and Kumeko Midzuno	Grace and Ben Oshita	Don Stromquist
Hideyoshi Kashima	Millard County	Kenji and Emiko "Amy" Ota	Hisashi "Bill" Sugaya
David and Vicky Katayama	Millard County Tourism	Julie Otsuka	Anna E. Sundwell
Takeo and Margaret Kato	Millard School District	Koji and Betty Ozawa	Toyo Suyemoto
Toshie and Tadashi Kato	Harue Minamoto	C.N. Pace	Frank Suzuki
Kiyoshi and Irene Emiko Katsumoto	Toshino Minamoto	Tom Panas	Namiko Suzuki
Joe Kawakami	Wataru and Bruce Miura	Winifred and Charles Payne	Nancy and Seiji Suzuki
Janis Imada Kawamura	Masaru and Aurora Miyamura	Howard and Martha Iseyama- Holden Perdue	Chikara Takaha
Alan and Elaine Kawasaki	Marcia Miyoshi	Judith "Tsukie" Peterson	Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Foundation
Dr. Kengo and Yumiko Kawashima	Ron Miyoshi	Donald and Ruth Pullan	Jere Takahashi
Ken Kenmotsu	Albert Mizuhara	Quality Market	George and Joanne Takata
Richard Kenmotsu	Howard Mizuhara	James and Bonnie Quigley	Paul Takata
May Kimura	Joseph and Emma Mori	Susan Richardson	Tetsuo Takayanagi
Hisayo and Harry Kiyomura	Aiko Morimoto	Yuki Rikimaru	Sachio Sally Takeda
Kerrily Kitano	Sara Morishige	Mike and Elaine Rose	Frank Takeuchi
Kimiko Fujii and Ray Kitayama	Shigeru Morita		John Takeuchi
	Haruko Moriyasu		

Mark Takeuchi
 Roy Takeuchi
 Don and Suzanne Ah-Tye Tamaki
 Jeanie and Yut Tanaka
 Sam and Carol Nagata Tanaka
 Dr. Shin Tanaka
 Ian Tanamachi
 Christine Tani
 Paul Tani
 Tanner Charitable Trust
 Mitzie Tarver
 Dave and Alice Tatsuno
 Tatsuno Family Trust
 Kazuko Terasawa
 Tucker Thomson
 Joanne Kiyoko Tohei
 Madeline Tom

Doris Uyeda Tono
 Topaz Class of 1944
 Topaz Class of 1945
 Topaz Reunion Committee
 Topaz Reunion Cruise 1998
 Ben Tsuchida
 Ann and Masuo Tsuda
 Dr. Himeo and Lumi Tsumori
 Theodore and Keiko Tsuyuki
 Aiji and Mary Uchiyama
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 Yae and John Wada
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 Foundation
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 Dick Yamagami
 Ted and Jennifer Yamagishi
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 Arthur Yamasaki
 Ken Yamashita

Mas Yamashita
 Brad Yamauchi
 Dr. Paul and Helen Yamauchi
 Dorothy and Motoichi Yanagi
 Samuel Tsuguo Yanagisawa
 Chiyoko and James Isao Yano
 Yuriko Sugihara Yokota
 Harry Yonemura
 Akira Yoshida
 Ken and Kay Yoshida
 Ron Yoshida
 Shigeru Yoshida
 Violet and Tak Yoshida
 Gordon Yoshikawa
 Kiyo Yoshimura
 Zions Bancorporation

Why the Topaz Museum matters

By Dana Ogo Shew

During a recent visit to a museum outside of Seattle, my great-aunt talked with a docent about the WWII evacuation experience of Japanese in the Seattle area. She brought up her personal story, saying that her family was uprooted from their home and sent to Topaz.

Rather than attempting to learn more about her experience, the docent defended evacuation saying, "Can you blame us? Your people bombed the Philippines." My aunt didn't expect such blatant disrespect and ignorance.

This was an opposite encounter in comparison to her visit to Delta, where she toured the site of Topaz and got a sneak peek of the new Topaz Museum with her family. Although the museum was still under construction they were given tours of the building, first by the contractor, who treated my aunt like a celebrity, even asking to take a picture with her. Then by Jane, who described the exhibits and where they will be located. Despite the museum's unfinished state my aunt was amazed and impressed by the building which was beautiful, and its existence made her understand how the important story will be told.

The exchange with the docent in Seattle was the perfect reality check. For most of us the injustices of WWII Japanese internment are obvious. Civil rights were violated, lives uprooted, liberties denied, and identities questioned. To us these are facts that no longer need to be argued. But the docent's opinion clearly illustrates that this is sadly not yet the case. Although the tireless work of scholars and academics, teachers and students, former internees and descendants has made immeasur-

able progress toward the goal of accurately sharing this important part of American history, there is still much to do.

The Topaz Museum provides exactly what is needed toward education and preservation. Its critical role is to educate the public about the historical facts and to function as a place that gives voice to multiple perspectives and varying reactions.

The museum highlights the unique place and time that was Topaz, retelling a collective experience while also acknowledging the myriad reactions of individuals. It will be a place where knowledge and understanding are exchanged, where former internees, descendants, scholars, community members, and the general public can learn more. And there is always more to learn.



Former Topaz resident, Toshie Kato, visiting the Topaz Museum, April 2014

Event held in Berkeley draws large crowd

Once again the supporters of the Topaz Museum have sponsored an event to inform people of the Topaz Museum's progress. Last year a program was held in San Francisco at the historic Buchanan Street YMCA. This year's program was held in conjunction with the J-Sei community organization. The hall of the Berkeley United Methodist Church on Carleton Street was filled with well-wishers and those who have been supporting the Topaz Museum for years.

Ann Tamaki Dion welcomed the group and introduced the speakers, Patrick Hayashi, who was born in Topaz, Kimi Kodani Hill granddaughter of Chiura and Haruko Obata, and Jane Beckwith, president of the Topaz Museum Board.

Patrick's speech was an impassioned account of the significance of Topaz to him and his family. Kimi showed

photos of a recent visit she and family members made to see the new museum and to tour the Topaz site. She also showed copies of sketches of scenery in the Delta area that her grandfather, Chiura Obata, made while he was in Topaz. Kimi donated one of Obata's sketches of Oak City Canyon located about 30 miles from the Topaz site.

During the program she showed photos of the Topaz Museum and also played a video taken by Evan Kodani, her nephew, during their trip to Topaz in October.

Jane confirmed that the construction of the Topaz Museum is finished and that the first exhibit in the new space will be a temporary show of artwork painted at Topaz. "When Words Weren't Enough: Works on Paper from Topaz, 1942-1945" will display art in the new museum space. The show will open on Jan. 13, 2015 and run through September 2015.



Topaz Museum
P.O. Box 241
Delta, Utah 84624