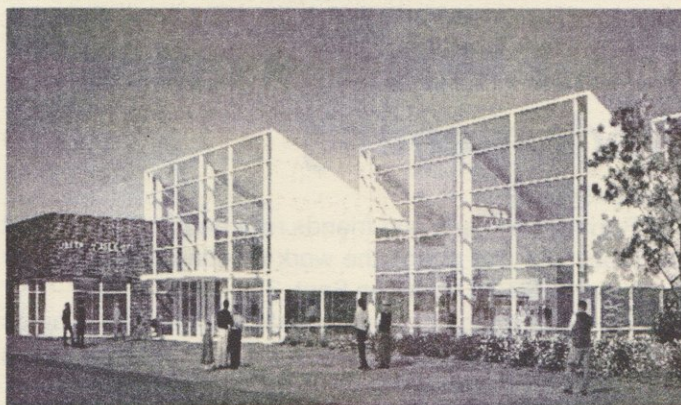


TOPAZ TIMES THE CITY

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

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Topaz plans to be shown in the Bay Area

A series of meetings will be held in January and February in the Bay Area to unveil the design of the proposed Topaz Museum, which will be built in Delta, Utah. Anyone who has an interest in the history of Topaz is invited to attend. The Topaz Museum Board welcomes comments on this phase of the design.

The first meeting will be in San Francisco at JCCCNC, 1840 Sutter, at 10:00 a.m. on Jan. 23.

The architect, Alan Kawasaki of Shah Kawasaki, and the exhibit designer with West Office Exhibition Design, will show their drawings for the museum. Both of these firms are located in Oakland. Kawasaki's mother and her family were in Topaz during the war.

The second meeting on Jan. 23 will be in Redwood City at the San Mateo County History Museum, 2200 Broadway, at 1:00 p.m. The San Mateo JACL generously made the arrangements for this session.

On Sunday, Jan. 24 another meeting will be held in El Cerrito, but the venue for that meeting has not been solidified at press time. Please go to the website at topaz-museum.org to check on the date, time and place for more information.

When February rolls around, the first meeting will be on Feb. 21 at the Berkeley Methodist United Church at 1:00 p.m.

Another set of meetings will be held on Feb. 27-28. The Eden Japanese Community Center, 710 Elgin, San Lorenzo will be the venue on Feb. 27 at 1:00 p.m.

Again, the other meetings for that weekend have not

been determined. Please check the website for more information as it becomes available.

The plans for the design of the museum are online at the Topaz Museum website.

Information about Topaz can also be found on Facebook at Topaz Japanese American Internment Camp.

Events leading to the museum complex project

Four years ago Delta City and the Topaz and Great Basin Museums began planning for a new museum complex on Delta's Main Street, to be located diagonally across from the City Park.

After the property was purchased, the Millard West chapter of the DUP joined the effort and all four entities began meeting with consultants to discuss the needs of each museum. The steering committee for the groups is called the West Millard Museums and Community Center or WM-MCC.

Each party contributed money as a match for a grant that Delta City received to hire an architect. WMMCC hired Shaw Kawasaki Architects to design the building with Alan Kawasaki as lead designer.

The drawing in this newsletter show the first draft of the design. The Topaz Museum Board will be in California in January and February to unveil the plans and solicit suggestions about the design and interpretation.

Phase Two will be the fundraising effort. Money will come from donations and grants from various groups. The cost for the building is still being determined, but will be somewhere around \$200 per sq. foot for the 27,000 sq. ft. facility, plus an endowment for operating expenses.

The Topaz Museum's portion of the building will be about 5,000 sq. ft. West Office Exhibition Design has completed a preliminary plan to tell the story of Topaz, which will cost \$3 million to design, manufacture, and install the exhibits. The museum will also raise an endowment for operation.

Phase Three will be the actual construction of the building that will tell the history of Topaz and the Delta area. It will also have space for receptions and other community gatherings.

<http://topazmuseum.org>

Highlights of major Topaz board projects

The Topaz Museum Board had its genesis in 1994 when Jane Beckwith organized the Topaz Recreation Hall Restoration project. A mailing to the Topaz Reunion Committee in the SF Bay area produced \$18,500 in donations from former Topaz internees to restore a recreation hall that had been donated by a Delta family. When the restoration was completed people were able to walk in it and experience what it must have been like to live in such badly-made barracks.

Over the past 15 years, the Board has completed many preservation and educational projects. One of the largest, was reprinting Leonard Arrington's "The Price of Prejudice" and giving a copy to every school in Utah and the San Francisco Bay area. That was done through a \$25,000 grant from the 1996 Civil Liberties Public Education program.

The annual Topaz workshop for teachers has been completely funded by the Utah Department of Education, enabling Utah teachers to develop lesson plans to teach their students about internment and Topaz. The teachers who are enrolled take a field trip to Topaz, hear presentations from former internees and receive a nice bundle of books for their own use.

The Board completed nine in-depth video interviews of Topaz internees, that are now available on the Densho website. Grants were received from the CCLEP and the Utah Humanities Council. Those grants and \$14,000 from Topaz ensured that personal histories would be available in the future.

The Board has always been working on two long-term goals: 1) preservation of the Topaz camp site, and 2) building a permanent museum in Delta, Utah.

In 1997 the Board voted to purchase 417 acres of the camp site. Over the past several years, the Board has received grants totaling \$81,461 from The Conservation Fund and private donations of \$41,665 from long-time supporters, mostly former internees. We are proud that we now own 626 acres of the original 640 acres which comprised the living areas of the camp. The preservation efforts were honored in 2007 when the US Department of the Interior approved our application for designation as a National Historic Landmark.

The property on Delta's Main Street has been purchased with funds from Topaz donations as well as a large donation from the owner of the property, Greg Stuart. His generous donation made the museum site possible.

The Board is now ready to embark on its biggest project, the Topaz Museum. In a joint effort with the Great Basin Museum, a chapter of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers and Delta City, open land on Delta's Main Street has been purchased, an architect has been retained and concept drawings of the building have been rendered.

In 2009 the Board received a Federal Internment Preservation matching grant of \$48,000 to help pay for the initial planning of the Topaz Museum exhibits and interpretation. A professional exhibit design firm has completed a general layout and concept drawings of the proposed exhibits.

The museum will be a place where visitors can learn about the causes of internment and the harsh conditions endured by the internees. In addition, the museum will recognize the strength and courage of over 11,000 internees held in Topaz and deprived of their constitutional rights by being incarcerated for 3 ½ years.

The Board believes that the new museum will attract people to Central Utah and will become a significant resource for students, teachers, researchers and others who want to know more about Topaz.



Topaz Museum holds work meeting

By Susan Stefanoff

Former internees and friends returned to Delta to visit the Topaz site and attend the work meeting sponsored by the Topaz Museum Board on Sept. 27.

We were happy to have guests from as far away as New York and California as well as JACL Chapter members from Utah. Local Delta residents were also in attendance.

Alan Kawasaki of the firm Shah Kawasaki in Oakland, California unveiled his architectural renderings for the proposed museum complex on Delta, Utah's Main Street. Those present were greeted by Delta City's Mayor Gayle Bunker.

Topaz Museum Board president Jane Beckwith and others led the group through a presentation highlighting the hard work the board has been doing for many years to prepare for the construction of a museum for Topaz. Those attending enjoyed a light luncheon and enthusiastic discussion about the architectural designs.

Reconvening after lunch, the group was shown a power point presentation of the proposed exhibit design for the museum. The West Office Exhibition team, headed by Andy Kramer, also from Oakland, prepared booklets of the design for each person in attendance. Every page of script, artifact display, and the Topaz story timeline were discussed. Notes were taken so that the TMB will review the suggestions.

Anyone can review the design on the museum's website at <http://topazmuseum.org>.

Milo Yoshino, who drove from a meeting in Reno, Nevada to attend the event, was excited to put pen to paper and get the fundraising off to a good start. There were several in the group who put their heads together to start planning fundraising events.

Everyone who attended was treated to a delicious dinner after the meeting. Those who came to the work meeting left with an excitement for this new project and with the determination to help make it happen.

Topaz Museum Board Members: Jane Beckwith, president; Rick Okabe, secretary; Steve Koga, treasurer; Lance Atkinson, Scott Bassett, Lorlei Draper, Susan Stefanoff and Bill Sugaya.

Topaz Museum architectural plans coming to a venue near you... if you live in the Bay Area

We have been talking, thinking and yes, dreaming of a Topaz Museum to display and preserve artifacts and tell the full history of Topaz. It is now time to build a facility that will tell the history and educate people about Topaz internment.

Currently we are renting a small space from a local museum in Delta. We need our own space to ensure that Topaz will not be forgotten.

To that end, the Topaz Museum has combined efforts with the City of Delta, the Great Basin Museum and a chapter of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers to build a beautiful complex on Delta, Utah's Main Street. We have hired an architect, Shah Kawasaki Architects, and an exhibit planner, West Office Exhibition Design, to create initial designs for the fundraising phase of the project.

Those designs will be on display and fundraising plans will be discussed at a variety of meetings in the San Francisco Bay Area during January and February. There are seven meetings currently scheduled throughout the area. You, your family and friends are invited to join us at any of the meetings. This is your opportunity to gain insight and provide input for your Topaz Museum project. You can be a part of making this happen in the very near future!

- **San Francisco:** Saturday, January 23 at 10:00 AM at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California located at 1840 Sutter Street.
- **Redwood City:** Saturday, January 23 at 1:00 PM at the San Mateo County History Museum located at 2200 Broadway.
- **El Cerrito:** Sunday, January 24 at 1:00 PM at the East Bay Free Methodist Church located at 5395 Potrero Ave.
- **Berkeley:** Sunday, February 21 at 12:30 PM at the Berkeley Methodist United Church located at 1710 Carleton Street in Berkeley.
- **San Francisco:** Saturday, February 27 at 10:00 AM at Pine Methodist Church located at 426 33rd Avenue in San Francisco.
- **San Lorenzo:** Saturday, February 27 at 1:00 PM at the Eden Japanese Community Center located at 701 Elgin Street.
- **Alameda:** Sunday, February 28, at 1:00 PM at the Buena Vista United Methodist Church located at 2311 Buena Vista Avenue.

Special thanks to the San Mateo JACL and the San Mateo County History Museum, Milo Yoshino, Tim Koide, Michiko Uchida, and Eugene Tomine for setting up the venues.

For additional information please call Jane Beckwith at (435) 864-2098 or e-mail topazmuseum@frontiernet.net

The Topaz Museum Board thanks State Senator Dennis Stowell and State Representative Brad Winn for their work in seeing that the following joint resolution was passed in the 2006 Utah Legislature.

Topaz Museum Board Resolution from the 2006 Utah Legislature

Whereas, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, authorizing the evacuation of 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry from their homes in portions of Hawaii, California, Oregon, Washington and Arizona to ten remote internment camps in Arkansas, Colorado, Arizona, California, Idaho, Wyoming and Utah;

Whereas, one of those camps, Topaz, near Delta, Utah, housed over 8,300 men women and children from September 11, 1942 until October 31, 1945 and was Utah's fifth largest city;

Whereas, over 25,000 Japanese Americans, many from Topaz, served in the United States military during WWII and incurred tremendous casualties while their families were confined in the internment camps;

Whereas, President Ronald Reagan signed into law the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, and President George H.W. Bush issued a letter of apology and redress payments to the survivors of internment;

Whereas, the Topaz camp site must be preserved and protected as part of the nation's commitment to equal justice for all;

Whereas, the Topaz Museum Board, a non-profit agency, has raised money to purchase 614 of the 640 acres of the site, has sponsored pilgrimages, teachers' workshops and Topaz Day for fourth graders in Millard County, has restored a recreation hall from the camp, and collected artifacts in order to raise awareness regarding the history of internment;

Whereas, the Topaz site was declared a "Save America's Treasures" Project in 1999;

Whereas, the 2006 United States Congress passed HB 1492 and SB 1719, which will authorize the Secretary of the Interior to create a program within the National Park Service to further protect and provide funding for the ten internment camp sites and other significant related areas is waiting to be signed by President George W. Bush;

Whereas, Congressmen Chris Cannon and Jim Matheson were co-sponsors of HB 1492 along with 114 other Congressmen;

Whereas, Senator Daniel Inouye introduced S1719 as a companion bill to HB 1492, along with five co-sponsors, including Senator Bob Bennett and Senator Orrin Hatch;

Whereas, the National Park Service has accepted an application for the Topaz site to become a National Historic Landmark;

Therefore, the Utah Legislature supports the Topaz Museum Board's effort to build a conservation center and learning museum in Delta, Utah to help protect the site, house artifacts and research material, and educate all citizens about Topaz and its history.

Support the Topaz Museum

By Jean Hibino

October 12, 1998 was the day after my mother made her first visit back to Topaz since she was interned there with her family in 1942, Block 26-3-B. It was also the day she died in a car accident in Salt Lake City. She was 77. It's hard for me to believe that 11 years have come and gone already. I never had past regrets, only future ones, the things in my life that my mother missed out on. It makes me think about all the times we say we're going to do something but in our busy lives somehow never get around to it.

I've heard that the average age of the Nisei at the time of their internment was just 17 years old. That was 67 years ago. Once the Nisei generation passes, the real and direct connections we'll have to the internment will be gone forever. The only way future generations and the general public will learn about what happened will come from history books. There is a sense of urgency that the "real live" stories and experiences are documented.

Which is where the "getting around to doing something" and "remembering the past" come together. The dream and vision for the TOPAZ MUSEUM is becoming a reality. In late September I had the privilege of attending the public unveiling of the architectural rendering of the proposed museum in Delta, Utah as well as the plan for the exhibition space. They were incredible. I was thinking "I wish Ma were here to see these." The hard part now is fundraising. I have no doubt the museum will be built but how long it takes, what compromises, if any, have to be made, and what ends up inside it are up to us. For the project to succeed, for the legacy we want to leave, for the lessons to be learned, your help and support are critical.

"The Price of Prejudice" to be digitized

Leonard Arrington's history of Topaz will be digitized by Utah State University's library and will soon be available online.

Arrington was an economist and historian who taught at USU. The text of the book was given as a faculty honor lecture in 1962 and was probably the first history of Topaz.

He served on the Topaz Museum Board and granted the Museum permission to reprint his manuscript and add photos. A copy of the book was given to all schools in Utah and in the San Francisco area as part of a CCLEP grant.

Once the digital copy is ready it will be available at the Topaz website at topazmuseum.org.



Mine' Okubo art donated to Museum

The Topaz Museum recently received a very large donation of artwork created by Mine' Okubo while she was at Tanforan and Topaz. The anonymous donors gave

the Museum a stunning collection of some of Okubo's best work.

Five of the pieces are originals of drawings from Okubo's book "Citizen 13660," which was first printed in 1946 and has been in print continuously since.

The Topaz Museum now owns 50 pieces of art from camp, including four by Chiura Obata and one by Suiko Mikami. That painting was donated by Muriel Matzkin Shapp's children. Matzkin was a high school teacher at Topaz.

With the Okubo donation were two photos of her and one of a guard tower. These photos were taken by Kameo Kido in 1944.

Some of the new pieces will be on display at Brigham Young University from Jan. 20 to Feb. 15. Another art show will be held in the Springville Art Museum in Springville, Utah from July to October 2010.

Topaz teams with BYU

The Brigham Young University Theater Department will perform "A Thousand Cranes" in February. It is the story of Sadako, an 11-year old girl who suffers from the effects of the Hiroshima atomic bomb. She believes if she folds 1000 cranes, her health will be restored.

Since the Topaz Museum possesses 123,000 cranes that were folded for a project spearheaded by two girls from Minnesota (see accompanying story), we offered to loan the cranes to BYU for their production.

The cranes were given to BYU student volunteers who strung them, making them ready for display in January when a Topaz Art Show is mounted in the Harris Fine Arts Center of the BYU campus.

BYU's underlying message for both the play and the connection to Topaz, is to focus on the effects of war on children and to promote peace.

On February 4, BYU will sponsor an Open House to introduce a wider audience to the art created in Topaz; art that hasn't been seen in Utah since Topaz closed.

The Topaz Museum now has a Facebook page at Topaz Japanese American Internment Camp. Facebook is a social network that is popular with those who use internet. Please join with us on the site for networking and group discussions.

We are also trying to collect as many e-mail addresses as possible. If you would be willing to send us your e-mail address go to <http://topazmuseum.org> and click on Contact us.

Topaz partners with Densho complete video interviews

By Rick Okabe

The Topaz Museum recently completed its Topaz internee interview project with Densho. Nine in-depth interviews were conducted and after editing and transcribing, they were made available on the Internet in early 2009.

Two hour interviews were conducted with former Topaz internees Alice Hirai, Grace Oshita and Ted Nagata of Utah, Bob Utsumi, Chiyoko Yano, Norman Hirose of Northern California and Helen Christ, of Seattle.

Also interviewed was Nelson Akagi, a veteran of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and Jun Kurumada who was president of the Salt Lake JACL during the War.

The Museum Board felt that partnering with Densho would be the best way to produce professional quality interviews. Densho has conducted over 250 video interviews which are available on their website at www.densho.org.

DVD duplication, labeling and distribution were completed in February 2009. The \$30k project was funded by grants from the Utah Humanities Council, California Civil Liberties Education Program, donations to the Topaz Museum and an in-kind donation from Densho.

DVD copies and transcripts have been distributed to the California Civil Liberties Education Program (CCLPEP), the Utah Humanities Council, the Utah State History Dept., and the Special Collections Department of the University of Utah Marriott Library.

Girls fold 123,000 cranes

Two seventh grade Minnesota girls, Michelle Reed and Carly Gutzmann, who were working on a National History Fair project on Topaz art, were so moved by internment stories that they decided to fold a crane for every person interned! After doing some research they came up with the figure of 123,000, and promptly began folding.



Of course, rather quickly they knew that they needed help and began recruiting other students and friends to fold, too. And then they began to think about how much space they would need to hold all of the cranes.

After enlisting reporters to spread the word about the origami project, thousands of cranes poured in. Some had names of former internees written on them. Some were done by first graders. Some were made of gold foil.

Once the goal was reached, the girls donated all of the cranes to the Topaz Museum where they will be displayed in the new museum.

Right now the cranes are on loan to Brigham Young University for their production of "A Thousand Cranes," a play about Sadako, who was a victim of the Hiroshima bomb. The play runs from Feb. 2-13 on the Provo, Utah campus.

Topaz Museum

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