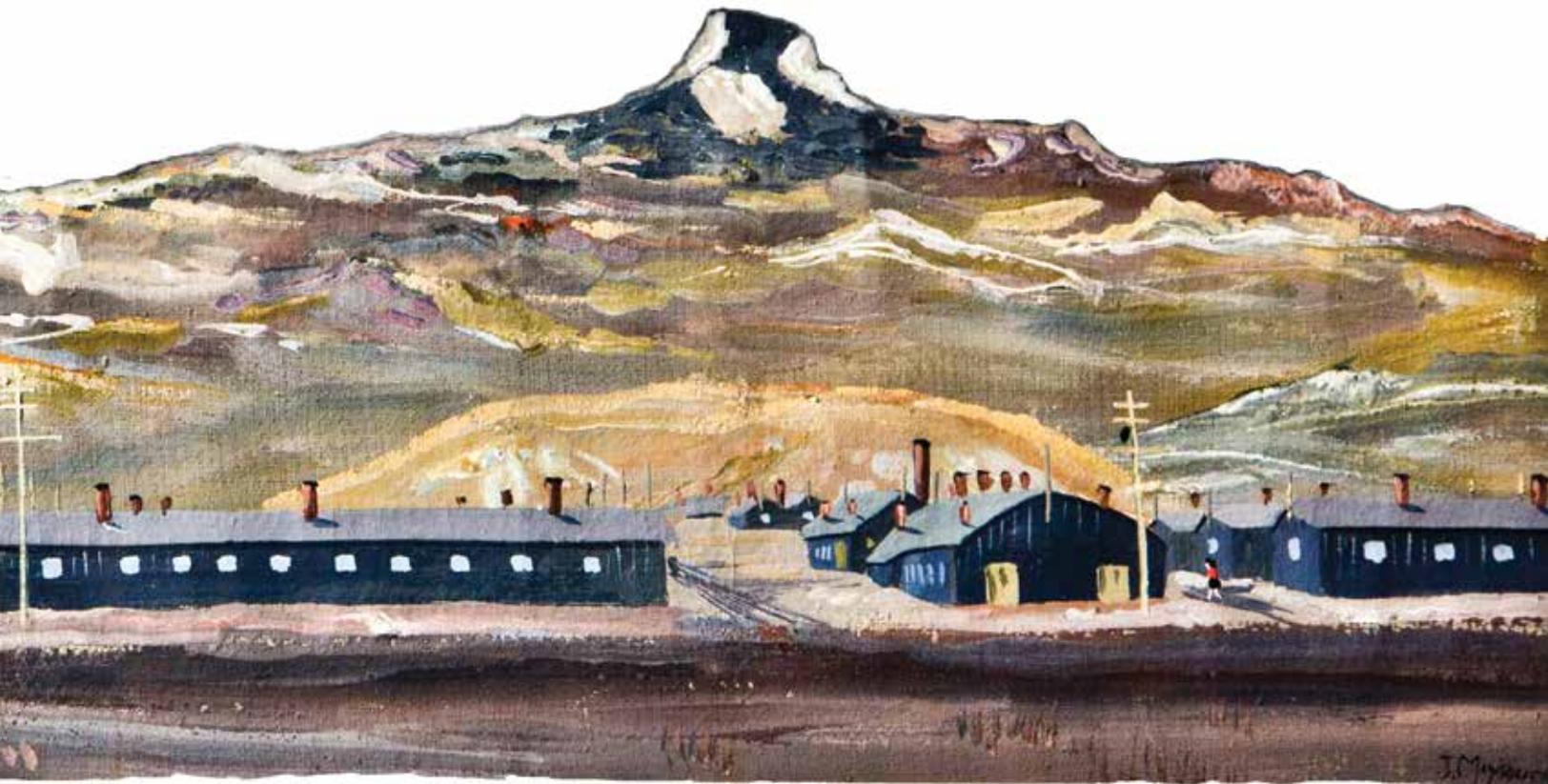


# 2016 HEART MOUNTAIN PILGRIMAGE

July 29-30, 2016 || Cody & Powell, Wyoming

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**CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS**  
**HEART MOUNTAIN INTERPRETIVE CENTER**

1539 Road 19, Powell, WY || 307.754.8000 || [www.heartmountain.org](http://www.heartmountain.org)

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Time	Description
<b>Friday, July 29</b>	
<b>10:00am–3:30pm</b>	<b>Registration &amp; Silent Auction</b> (Taggart Room, Holiday Inn, Cody) • Heart Mountain staff will be available to receive artifact and archive donations
<b>1:30-3:30pm</b>	<b>Multi-generational Forum</b> (Northwest College Cody Center) • Bus leaves Holiday Inn at 1:15 pm. Address: 1501 Stampede Ave., connected to library.
<b>5:00-5:30pm</b>	Cocktails (Main Ballroom, Holiday Inn, Cody)
<b>5:30–7:30pm</b>	<b>Evening Banquet</b> (Main Ballroom, Holiday Inn, Cody) • Welcome by HMWF Executive Director Brian Liesinger • Introduction by HMWF Chair Shirley Ann Higuchi • Screening of Digital Storytelling Films with Jeff MacIntyre
<b>7:30–9:00pm</b>	<b>Dessert Reception &amp; Close of the Silent Auction</b> (Taggart Room, Holiday Inn, Cody)
<b>Saturday, July 30</b>	
<b>9:00am</b>	Bus leaves Holiday Inn for Heart Mountain Interpretive Center
<b>10:00-11:30am</b>	<b>Opening Ceremony</b> (Heart Mountain Interpretive Center) • Pledge of Allegiance and Flag Ceremony • Welcome by HMWF Executive Director Brian Liesinger • Introduction & Recognition of Distinguished Guests by HMWF Chair Shirley Ann Higuchi and Vice Chair Douglas Nelson • Honored Presenters: U.S. Senator Alan K. Simpson (Ret.) & Former Secretary Norman Y. Mineta • Keynote Address by Luis Valdez (followed by Q and A with Mr. Valdez)
<b>11:30am-12:30pm</b>	<b>Explore the Heart Mountain site and exhibits</b>
<b>12:30–1:30pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b> (under the big tent)
<b>1:30pm</b>	• Minecraft Presentation in Ford Foundation Theater • Bus to Honor Roll Memorial for walking trail tour
<b>2:30pm</b>	• Repeat of Minecraft Presentation in Ford Foundation Theater • Second Bus to Honor Roll Memorial for walking trail tour
<b>3:30pm</b>	Closing Remarks (under the big tent)
<b>4:00pm</b>	Bus back to Holiday Inn, Cody
<b>6:00-8:00pm</b>	<b>Memory &amp; Justice Endowment Reception</b> (under the big tent) (Invitation Only: for all endowment donors )

## A message from Tom Brokaw: Five Years Later

*Tom Brokaw spoke at the Grand Opening of the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center in 2011. He sends the following message in recognition of the Fifth Anniversary of the Center.*



Heart Mountain is an American landmark of shame and resilience, an enduring reminder that when paranoia overruns reason it takes uncommon courage to resist the worst consequences.

And so it was with the internment of law abiding American Japanese citizens in a remote, barren piece of Wyoming landscape, the rule of law was crushed but not the spirit of these fellow Americans.

They never gave up their dedication to America even though their country betrayed their rights.

**All these years later, I am in awe of their courage and optimism.**

I am proud to be one of their fellow citizens, and I draw from them the resolve to resist any efforts in the future to replicate the shameful act.

–**Tom Brokaw**,  
former anchor and managing editor of *NBC Nightly News*,  
broadcast journalism legend and author.

## Welcome: HMWF Chair Shirley Ann Higuchi, Esq.



Welcome to our 2016 Pilgrimage marking the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center's fifth anniversary! We will spend the next two days exploring the generational impact of the incarceration, discussing connections between the Japanese and Mexican American communities during the war with renowned playwright Luis Valdez and his work "Valley of the Heart," and reflecting on the Center's milestones in honoring those incarcerated behind barbed wire at Heart Mountain.

We opened our doors five years ago on Saturday, August 20, 2011, with a ceremony attended by more than 1,500 people and highlighted by speeches from the great Senator Daniel K. Inouye and legendary journalist Tom Brokaw as well as a congratulatory video message from former President Jimmy Carter. Three years later, we honored Senator Inouye's passing by dedicating the Heart Mountain Honor Roll to him.

Our leadership has accomplished much over the last five years. We collaborated with filmmakers Jeff MacIntyre and David Ono to produce the Emmy Award-winning documentary *The Legacy of Heart Mountain*. Later in 2014, our Center hosted the 26th Annual Conference of the National Consortium of Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts where more than 200 judges, lawyers, and scholars learned about the Heart Mountain experience. We're the only

confinement site that has hosted a legal conference of this magnitude and our relationship has spun off other events within court systems nationwide. That's why I'm thrilled that newly elected Judge Margaret Fujioka, a Sansei Heart Mountain legacy and former California mayor, will speak Friday night. Through our strong relationship with the Japanese government, Denver Consul General of Japan Makoto Ito will also attend the Friday evening banquet.

Our staff's hard work continues to pay dividends, including the rescue of an original Heart Mountain barrack from demolition and its return to the Center. We hosted the first All Camps Consortium meeting at our Pilgrimage last summer and served as lead convener of a second meeting this past May in Washington, D.C., during which representatives of all 10 War Relocation Authority camps participated: Amache, Gila River, Heart Mountain, Jerome, Manzanar, Minidoka, Poston, Rohwer, Topaz, and Tule Lake. We were joined by stakeholder organizations including Densho, the Fred T. Korematsu Institute, Go For Broke National Education Center, the Japanese American Citizens League, the Japanese American National Museum, the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF), and the National Park Service to expand the discussion to help all participating groups better preserve, protect, and interpret the sites, artifacts, and stories from the Japanese American incarceration experience. Just as Heart Mountain has a rich and distinctive history, so does each camp, and I hope the Consortium we're creating will serve to promote even greater collaboration, inclusiveness, and teamwork.

Our nationwide legion of supporters have ensured the success and sustainability of our Center. I thank all of them, especially the Walk family—some of whom have joined us this weekend. Special thanks goes to the HMWF Board and Advisory Council for their steadfast commitment, engagement, and volunteer service. You'll notice them this weekend as they wear artisanal fabric rose pins created by staff. Please talk with them, particularly at our Multigenerational Forum Friday afternoon where you can join us to discuss how the camp experience still affects us 74 years later.

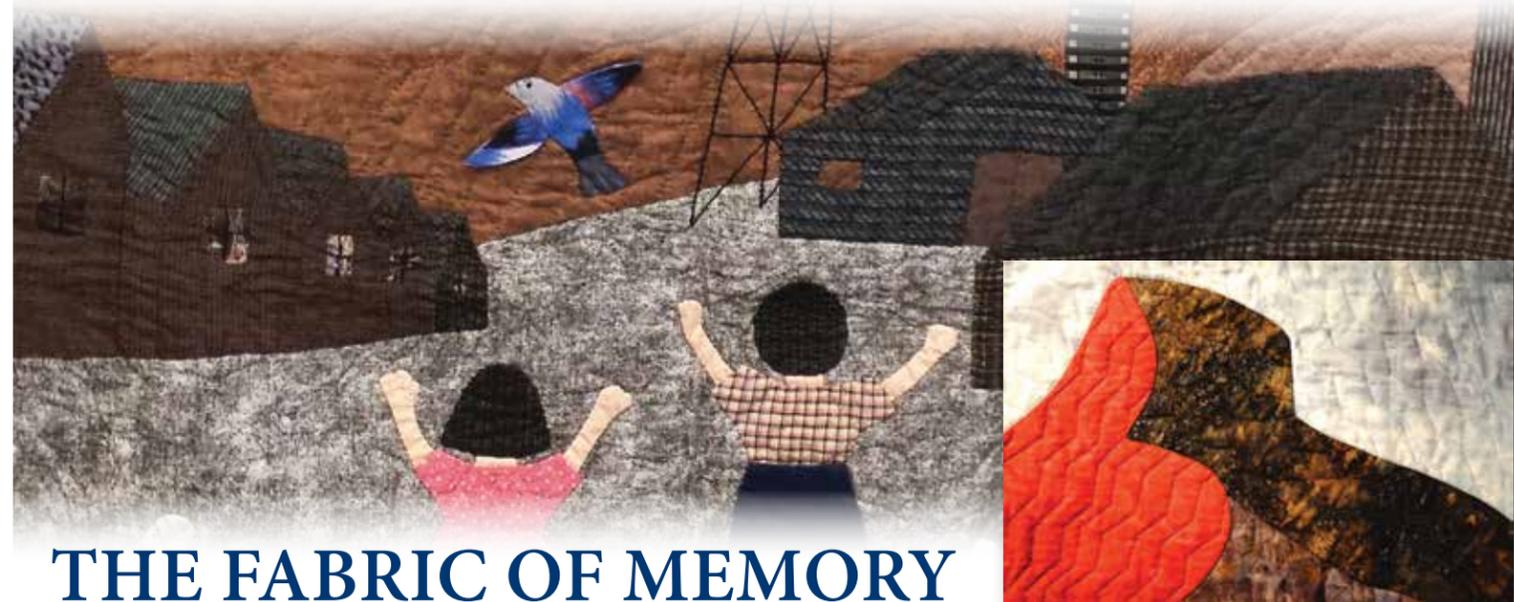
On Thursday and Friday, NJAMF Chair Cal Shintani and students will participate in a digital storytelling workshop. Their short films on the Japanese American incarceration experience will be showcased Friday evening. Following those stories will be an introduction to Luis Valdez's play "Valley of the Heart" on Saturday morning, which explores the romance between two immigrant families and the important connections between the Japanese and Mexican cultures both before and after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Heart Mountain can also be found in the virtual world, as fifteen-year-old Gabriel Tajima-Peña will showcase "Heart Mountain 3.0." A Yonsei Heart Mountain legacy, he was inspired to build this game after attending our Grand Opening. He's here to unveil an interactive world to teach others about civil liberties and democracy. Once again, we are also graced by our dear friends and advisers, Secretary Norman Y. Mineta and Senator Alan K. Simpson, who show their constant support by attending our events each year.

We've accomplished so much. Let's keep sharing our stories, honoring our ancestors, and reflecting on how our experience remains a great lesson to all Americans. By honoring what has happened here and using that knowledge to teach others, I hope we gain a deeper understanding of who we are. Thank you again for coming to our Pilgrimage and experiencing our award-winning Interpretive Center.

Shirley Ann Higuchi

# SPECIAL EXHIBITS



## THE FABRIC OF MEMORY

In 2015, the Textile Artists of the Greater Yellowstone (TAGY) visited the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center seeking inspiration for their creative talents in fabric arts. The result is *The Fabric of Memory*, a collection of 23 textile works that weave pieces of fabric with recollections, emotions and stories. The exhibit also features the story quilt of Naoko Yoshimura Ito, a Japanese American who was forcibly removed from her home in 1942 and incarcerated at Heart Mountain with her family. Her quilt, sewn in 1990, stands as a meditation on her past and a way for her to make peace with it. The quilt is called "Letting Go." The exhibit will be displayed in the Ford Foundation Theater.

## THE POWER OF PLACE

This exhibit celebrates a number of anniversaries for the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation: 20 years since the founding of the HMWF; 10 years since the designation of the site as a National Historic Landmark; and five years since the opening of the Interpretive Center. The exhibit highlights just a few of the many meaningful steps representing the historic site's evolution. The exhibit uncovers the more recent marks left by the HMWF, which have helped change the once forsaken landscape into what it is today—a place of education, community building, and healing. Follow along with the history of the site—from the building of the camp, to its closure and demolition, to the erecting of memorials, to the creation of modern structures and governing bodies, to the preservation of the old as a means of paving the way for new understanding. The exhibit will be displayed in the Ford Foundation Special Exhibition Area.



# Distinguished Speakers & Champions of Heart Mountain

**NORMAN Y. MINETA'S** distinguished career includes more than 20 years of service in the U.S. Congress and cabinet appointments from two presidents. As a youth, he was incarcerated along with his family at the Heart Mountain Concentration Camp during World War II. He graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, and quickly emerged as a local political leader in Northern

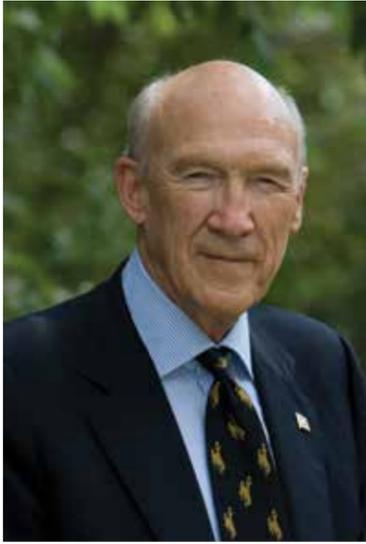


California. He served on the San Jose City Council and was elected Mayor in 1971, becoming the nation's first Asian American mayor of a major city. He was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1974, where he served from 1975 to 1995. Along with Rep. Robert Matsui he personally advocated for the passage of the redress bill before the House of Representatives on September 17, 1987, the 200th anniversary of the Constitution.

Secretary Mineta became the first Asian American to serve in a cabinet post when President Bill Clinton nominated him as Secretary of Commerce in 2000. He was then asked to serve as Secretary of Transportation by President George W. Bush in 2001, where he remained until 2006—making him the longest-serving Transportation Secretary in the department's history. Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack, he guided the creation of the Transportation Security Administration, the largest mobilization of a new federal agency since World War II.

Among his numerous accomplishments, Secretary Mineta is the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, and the Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy, awarded for significant public service of enduring value to aviation in the United States. While in Congress, he was co-founder of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

**ALAN K. SIMPSON** was born September 2, 1931 and is a native of Cody, Wyoming. He attended the University of Wyoming and received a Bachelor of Science in Law in 1954. After graduation, he joined the Army and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. He served overseas in the 5th Infantry Division and in the 2nd Armored Division (Hell on Wheels) in the final months of the Army's Occupation in Germany.



In 1956, Al returned to the University of Wyoming and earned his J.D. in 1958. After a short time as Wyoming Assistant Attorney General, he joined his father, Milward L. Simpson, and later Charles G. Kepler, in the law firm of Simpson, Kepler and Simpson for the next 18 years. He also served 11 years as City Attorney. Al was elected to the Wyoming State Legislature as a Park County representative in 1964. During his 13 years in the Wyoming House of Representatives, he held the offices of Majority Whip, Majority Floor Leader and Speaker Pro-Tem. In 1978, Al was elected to the U.S. Senate. He was re-elected in 1984 and 1990, and served as Assistant Majority Leader from 1984 to 1994.

Al has taught at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and at the University of Wyoming. He is a partner in the firm of Simpson, Kepler and Edwards—the Cody division of Burg, Simpson, Eldredge, Hersh & Jardine. His book, *Right in the Old Gazoo: A Lifetime of Scrapping with the Press*, chronicles his personal experiences with the media. A biography, *Shooting from the Lip: The Life of Senator Al Simpson*, was published in 2011. He was a member of the Iraq Study Group, and co-chaired the Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform with Erskine Bowles.

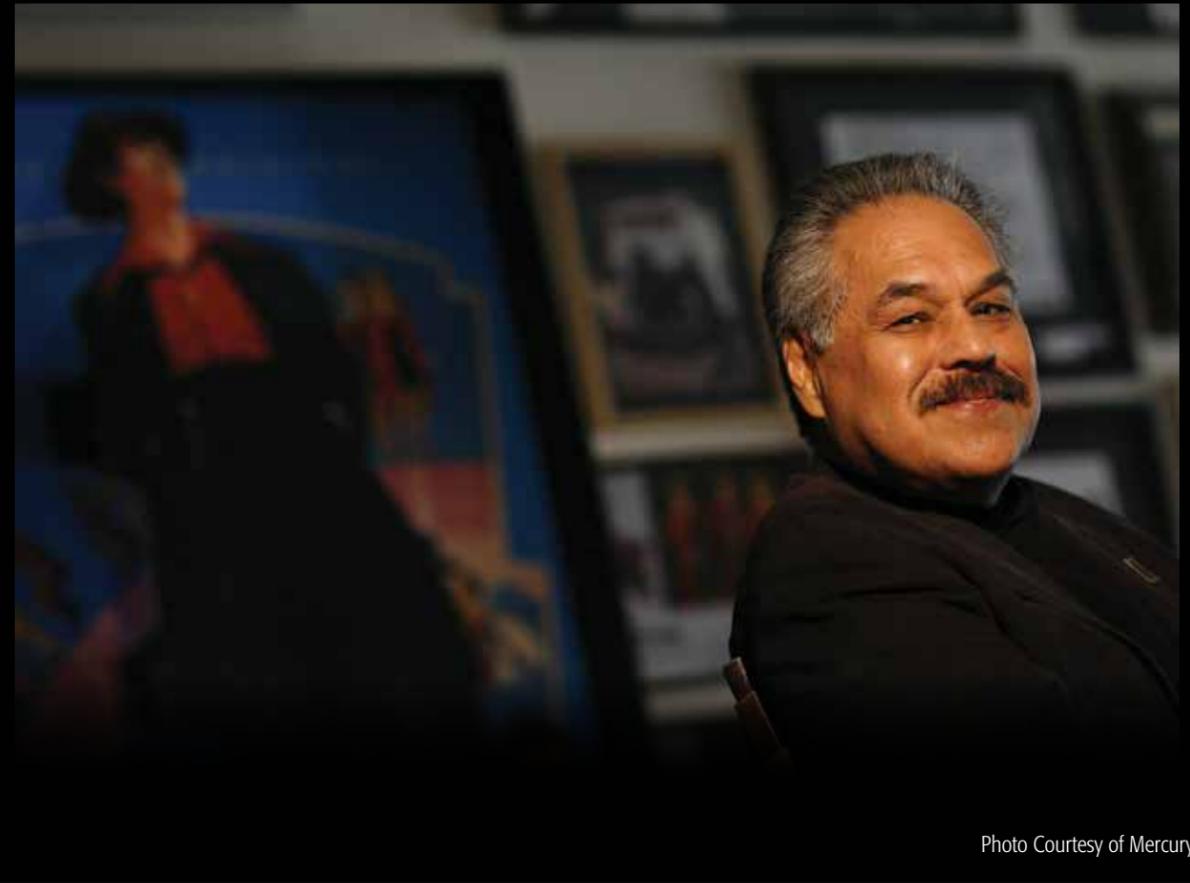


Photo Courtesy of Mercury News

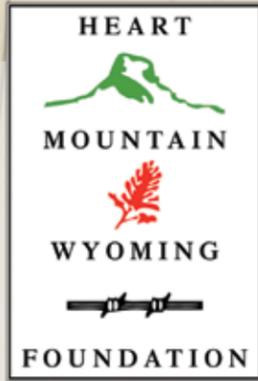
## LUIS VALDEZ Keynote Speaker

Born in Delano, California, and raised by his parents who were migrant farm workers, Luis Valdez is widely considered the father of Chicano theater in the United States. He was a pioneer in the Chicano Movement, broadening the scope of theater and arts in the Chicano community in the 1960s. Through his farm worker's troupe, *El Teatro Campesino*, he led groups to tour migrant camps on the West Coast with their productions, educating and informing the public about the experiences of farm workers. Valdez is also well-known for his work in film, including the directing of *Zoot Suit* and *La Bamba*. He is the recipient of several honorary doctorates, was inducted into the College of Fellows of the American Theatre at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and has been awarded a Rockefeller Fellowship. He has taught at the university level and authored numerous articles and books.

His most recent play, *Valley of the Heart*, addresses the immigrant and migrant labor experience, but this time, through the eyes of Japanese and Mexican American families during World War II, set in both California and at Heart Mountain, Wyoming. The tale is personal to Valdez, but also broadly relevant to this period in American history and even today's political climate.

Valdez remains a continued advocate for the power of theater in education, and his renowned work in the industry has captured the hearts and minds of a diverse audience, allowing him to tell the poignant and important stories of struggle and resilience in the lives of migrant, immigrant and farm laborers in a way that touches us all.

# Evolution of the Heart Mountain Historic Site:



The HMWF receives 501(c)(3) status and a Board of Directors with 14 members is elected.

**1996** **1997**

The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation is formed from members of previous organizations, former incarcerated, and locals vested in the future of telling the story of Heart Mountain.



**2001** **2003**

Fifty acres of the former relocation camp are purchased and designated as the site for the Interpretive Center, and it receives designation as a Wyoming State Historical Site.

The Bureau of Reclamation completes stabilization work of the original hospital buildings.

An Interpretive Planning Concept Committee is formed to help design the Interpretive Center's exhibits, and a timetable for the completion of the Center is confirmed. In July, an Honor Roll dedication ceremony is held for the memorial's newly replaced signboard.

**2005** **2006**

The HMWF holds a dedication ceremony for the completed Setsuko Saito Higuchi Memorial Walking Tour.



The National Park Service designates the site as a National Historical Landmark.

**2011** **2012**

In July, architects complete construction of the Interpretive Center and the HMWF celebrates its Grand Opening in August.



The Center receives an Excellence in Exhibitions Award from the American Association of Museums and an Interior Exhibit Award from the National Association of Interpretation.

The Memory and Justice Endowment Fund is established and the James O. Ito Memorial Garden project also begins.

**2013** **2014**

The repair and stabilization of the boiler house chimney is completed, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in July.

The local Jolovich family pledges to donate the Heart Mountain root cellar.

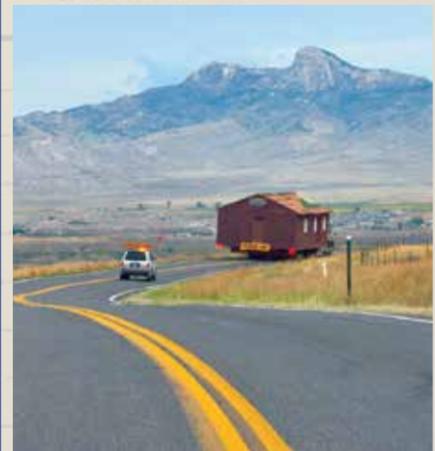
HMWF receives a grant to hire its first archivist.



The HMWF receives two grants: to preserve the root cellar and to develop an All Camps Consortium.

**2015** **2016**

An original barrack, located in Shell, Wyoming, is saved from demolition and transported back to Heart Mountain.



The HMWF receives a Leadership in History award from the American Association for State and Local History for the 2015 barrack rescue project.

The HMWF conducts archaeological excavation on the land containing the root cellar.

NOTES:  
 1. PARKING SPACE REQUIREMENTS EXCEED THOSE REQUIRED BY THE PARK COUNTY REGULATIONS.  
 2. LAND OUTSIDE OF HEART MOUNTAIN FOUNDATION LANDSCAPE AREA IS TO BE USED FOR AGRICULTURE.  
 3. ALL ARCHITECTURAL FINISHING DIMENSIONS ARE TO FACE UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.  
 4. ALL DRAINAGE SHALL POSITIVELY FLOW TO THE BUILDING AND POSITIVELY FLOW TO EAST & NORTH OF NEW PAVEMENT DRIVEWAY & PARKING LOT.  
 5. USE THE FOLLOWING SIGNS PER MUTCS CODE IN FUTURE CONSTRUCTION:  
 1. R7-6. NO PARKING LOADING ZONE  
 2. R7-8. HANDICAP RESERVED PARKING  
 3. R7-8a. VAN ACCESSIBLE  
 6. ENCASE TREATMENT BACK TO 10 FT. EACH SIDE AND ADJACENT ACCORDANCE

NOTES:  
 1. ONLY DRAINAGE SWALE GRADING TO BE COMPLETED IN THIS CONTRACT.  
 2. BASE GRADING, CONCRETE, FLATWORK, AND ASPHALT PAVING IS NOT INCLUDED IN THIS CONTRACT.



BOUNDARY OF LAND TO BE USED BY HEART MOUNTAIN INTERPRETIVE LEARNING CENTER FOR FUTURE LANDSCAPING

## — Honor Roll Memorial —

In 1999, the Honor Roll was one of the only artifacts still standing in its original position at Heart Mountain. On it, although weathered and worn, were the names of those from Heart Mountain who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during WWII. That year, the HMWF, in collaboration with the Heart Mountain Committee of Southern California, began plans to restore the memorial and compile a list of missing names to include: anyone who volunteered or was inducted while at Heart Mountain, anyone already in service prior to WWII and whose relatives were incarcerated at Heart Mountain, and/or anyone relocated from the camp and soon after volunteered. Previously, in 1986, the Heart Mountain Class of 1947 dedicated the memorial and project leader, Bacon Sakatani, began gathering names to add. Through a fundraising drive, the HMWF raised money to install a replica of the original, in addition to a new flagpole and interpretive signs to explain the history and purpose of the structure. The Honor Roll was constructed and hand painted by incarceratedees in August 1944. A formal re-dedication ceremony was held on July 5, 2003 for the replica Honor Roll with a final count of 799 names. In 2014, the Honor Roll's surrounding stone wall and steps were restored with new masonry to match the original. Further repairs were made to loose stones and mortar. Names continue to be added sporadically as more veterans are identified.



## — Root Cellar —

North of the Heart Mountain Relocation Center, the incarceratedees cultivated more than 1750 acres of farmland during their three years in camp. Plots stretched across the highway to the south and southwest as far as the Shoshone



River near the Corbett Bridge. The excess from their harvests—corn, peas, celery, radishes, daikon, cabbage, potatoes, and melons—were stored in root cellars constructed by incarceratedees. The remaining root cellar (the only one left out of three) was a gift from Rudy and Dawn Jolovich. Rudy's father, Rudolph, had been a farmer on the property near Heart Mountain that included the root cellars. He and his wife, Doris, continued to use it to store their grains and produce. The Jolovichs, thus, kept the root cellar and its wooden venting system intact for almost 70 years. A preservation effort is now underway to stabilize the structure.

## — Memorial Walking Tour —

Plans for a walking tour at the Heart Mountain site began in the early 2000s with discussions with the National Park Service and others about developing interpretive signs to be placed near the Honor Roll Memorial. In the spring 2003, the plans were approved by the Board of Directors and would feature 1000 feet of smooth surface to lead visitors to eight stations and a three-panel kiosk that gives an overview of incarceration at the “Heart Mountain Relocation Center” with photographs from the camp. The dedication ceremony for the Setsuko Saito Higuchi Memorial Walking Tour was held on June 25, 2005—in honor of Setsuko's service to the HMWF as a Board Member from 1998–2005. The text was compiled from the National Archives, the HMWF archives, and first-hand accounts from former incarceratedees.



## — Barrack —

Within the past year, recent visitors to the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center have driven up the Center's driveway, passing a 120-foot-long building set off from the road. That building is an original barrack that was moved back to the site in August 2015, following a successful fundraising campaign. The barrack had been located in Shell, Wyoming, where it had been used for over 50 years as a field station for Iowa State University geology field studies. The university had plans to demolish the building to make way for a new complex, before the HMWF discovered its existence and proposed saving the building from destruction by relocating it back to Heart Mountain. It was a rare find, with the structure being complete and in stable enough condition for a move. Many of the barracks were dismantled or modified after they were moved from the site. The barrack traveled nearly 80 miles to return “home” and was placed on a permanent foundation not far from the Interpretive Center.



## — Hospital & Chimney —



The Heart Mountain hospital's boiler house chimney is one of the most iconic structures marking the land. The Heart Mountain hospital complex opened on August 27, 1942, and could care for 150 patients in its 17 wings. The hospital was self-contained with steam heat, laundry, and kitchen facilities. The structures now sit on Bureau of Reclamation Land, and the HMWF works closely with them for oversight and preservation. The work to preserve them began in 2000 with the installation of new roofing and clear Plexiglas or wooden boards to windows and doors. Over the next several years, funds from the Park County Historical Society, Mary and Chester Blackburn, and a Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant helped the HMWF

and the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office undertake an assessment, stabilization, and restoration project to address the deteriorating, cracking, and tilting chimney. There was a ribbon cutting ceremony for the completed repairs on July 20, 2013. Although the chimney will always lean slightly, the work that was completed ensures that the chimney will remain standing for many more years to come.

## — Interpretive Center —

With a newly elected Board of Directors in 1997, the HMWF began moving toward the goal of developing and safeguarding the site through the creation of an interpretive center. In 2001, 50 acres where the camp's administrative Military Police facilities had been located were purchased to establish the Interpretive Center. A committee was formed to oversee interpretation and former incarceratedees discussed their experiences. Shutz Foss Architects completed drawings in 2008 and contractors broke ground that fall. On August 20, 2011, the Center opened its doors to the public where visitors find a world-class facility equipped with a theater, temporary gallery space, and a permanent exhibit. The award-winning exhibits, designed by Split Rock Studios, take visitors from pre-war life on the West Coast through the upheaval caused by Executive Order 9066 to daily life at Heart Mountain. Included are interactive displays, art, artifacts, recreated barrack rooms, and a reflection room. Outside, visitors can take a walk to a replicated guard tower or visit the historic James O. Ito Memorial Garden.



# Heart Mountain Heroes: Carrying the Legacy

## Bacon Sakatani

HMWF Advisory Council Member

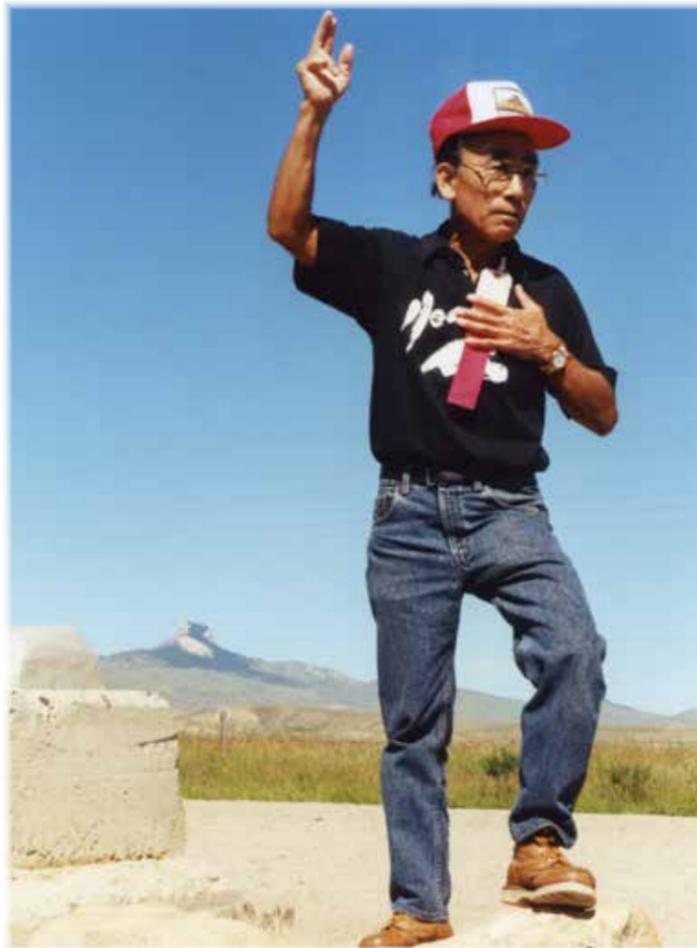
Immediately after being released, Bacon Sakatani didn't give his three years of life at the "Heart Mountain Relocation Center" much thought. At the time of his incarceration, Sakatani had just turned 13 years old. He was a teenager obeying what his government told him to do. In observance of the Japanese culture he learned from his family, he knew the importance of avoiding confrontation, of cooperating, and of recognizing social roles. So when the U.S. Army announced in May 1942 that his family would be forced from their home and sent to a confinement camp, he accepted it. He remembers being told that as a Japanese American, he was expected to contribute to the war effort. "Relocation" was a necessary step.

His family left Heart Mountain in June 1945 and moved to Idaho where his father worked as a farm hand. Prior to incarceration, his father had been a successful vegetable farmer in California's San Gabriel Valley. After six months in Idaho, the family moved back to this valley, where Sakatani has lived since. Heart Mountain remained a distant memory until almost 40 years later. In 1982, Sakatani was contacted by a group of former Heart Mountain internees interested in organizing the camp's first reunion. Sakatani joined the reunion committee and was part of the inaugural event, in which over 800 former internees converged in Los Angeles in April that year.

Sakatani was tasked with creating a slideshow and small exhibit about the history of Heart Mountain, and in researching for the slideshow, Sakatani revisited his teenage years. In the library, Sakatani read about the politics surrounding the camps and the illegality of what was done to the Japanese Americans. "It was completely surprising," he said. "I had never studied this afterwards, never really thought about it. But it was wrong. We should never have been forced into those camps." He felt an overwhelming compassion for his parents' sacrifices. "My father was 44 years old when we were incarcerated," he said. "He could have prospered." Incited by what he found, Sakatani devoted himself to advocating for former internees and their history. His involvement with the first Heart Mountain reunion would become his legacy—he's attended every reunion since, brandishing a camera, inexhaustible energy and a wide smile.

He's been involved in and spearheaded a number of important projects both before and after the formation of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation—accomplishments which have helped solidify and bring attention to Heart Mountain's presence in Wyoming and the nation. In 1985, he contacted his former 1947 Heart Mountain High School classmates to erect a memorial plaque at the site, honoring the internees from Heart Mountain who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II and the 15 Japanese American Nisei soldiers who were killed in action.

The Class of 1947 also reprinted Estelle Ishigo's book, *Lone Heart Mountain*, in 1989. Sakatani found Ishigo living alone



Bacon Sakatani at one of many Heart Mountain reunions.

in extreme poverty in her basement apartment in California. Steven Okazaki would produce a documentary about Ishigo's art and life, called *Days of Waiting*.

In 1994, Sakatani was instrumental in coordinating the move of a piece of original Heart Mountain barrack to the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) in Los Angeles. The barrack fragment was dismantled and transported to the JANM galleries, where it remains a centerpiece of the JANM exhibits today.

Sakatani has continued to organize reunions, serve on committees and was a member of the HMWF's first Board of Directors. He continues to serve on the Advisory Council and has visited the site almost every year. Without argument, he rightfully earned the name he was given at the 2002 Heart Mountain reunion by Chairman Raymond Uno: "Mr. Heart Mountain."

It's hard to find someone who has served Heart Mountain for longer than Sakatani—who was witness to almost all of the early organizations, movements and actions of support that led the HMWF to where it stands today—physically, politically and culturally.

"We've accomplished a lot," he says. "We really have put Heart Mountain on the map."

## LaDonna Zall

HMWF Board Member Emerita

Artifacts age, decay, and deteriorate. Museums exist to preserve and protect against these ill-effects of time. However, their value as they age is less in the materials themselves and more in the stories they allow us to tell.

LaDonna Zall, Heart Mountain's first adventitious acting curator, is no stranger to the value of age. For 20 years, Zall has been the local heartbeat of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation.

The story of her involvement is often prefaced with Zall as a 10-year-old, watching the final train of internees pull away in 1945. But what many don't know is why Zall felt compelled to do what she's done—guided thousands of visitors and students through the historic site, stewarded hundreds of irreplaceable artifacts, and given presentations across the state about the important history of Japanese American incarceration.

For as long as she can remember, she was interested in history—an interest passed on from her father—and this has usually explained her tireless and zealous work. As a young girl, her family took trips: to Gettysburg, where she and her sister picked Minié balls from trees, and to the missions outside of Tucson, where they plucked shards of old pottery from the desert. The habit of collection and treasuring history prevailed into her dedicated work for the HMWF as acting curator.

At 82, Zall can recall her past with striking detail and youthful wit. But the best thing is that she's put years of thought behind her memories. She confessed a recent realization about her unyielding generosity and passionate commitment to the plight of the Japanese Americans. Beyond her love of history, it was a sense of kinship that took hold of her, a kinship rooted in a childhood as the

daughter of a pipeliner.

"I think my primary interest in the Japanese Americans and their situation was the fact

that I was a transient kid," she said. "I was always shunted aside. My teachers and peers didn't think I was very bright because I changed schools all the time. I was not taken care of."

Zall was born in southeastern Kansas, and lived in 38 states, Mexico, and Canada before she was 10 years old. The year before her family moved to Powell, she and her sister changed schools 12 times.

"When we moved to Powell, my mom decided this was where we were going to stay," Zall said. But that feeling of moving constantly as a child led her to acquire a careful consideration for people like her—transient and uprooted.

"These people were dropped here, were shunted aside and damned and

everything else, so I sort of felt a kinship with them," she said. "I can imagine how the Japanese felt coming to this place."

She has stated time and again: "It was a terrible thing to do to people, and I hope it never happens again."

Zall continues her devotion to the historic site and the people it represents through constant volunteerism—both as an HMWF Board Member and as a regular volunteer on projects in the archives at the Interpretive Center.

While Zall is admittedly proud of the HMWF's rising notoriety, she thinks "the most important thing you've got to remember are the people," she said. "The internees. Because we are working on their foundation. They were the ones who were wronged, and they are still around, and we have to honor them above all."



Zall delivers a presentation to a local school group in front of a Heart Mountain exhibit at the Homesteader Museum in Powell. Prior to the construction of the Interpretive Center, Zall would travel extensively in the region to educate the public about Heart Mountain.

*The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation  
would like to thank the generous donors,  
organizations, and presenters who made this  
historic 2016 Pilgrimage possible.*



**FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS:**

Textile Artists of the Greater Yellowstone  
Mrs. Naoko Yoshimura Ito  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

**FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO PILGRIMAGE PROGRAMS:**

Luis Valdez  
Norman Y. Mineta  
Alan K. Simpson  
Renee and Gabriel Tajima-Peña  
National Japanese American Memorial Foundation  
Northwest College  
Jeff MacIntyre  
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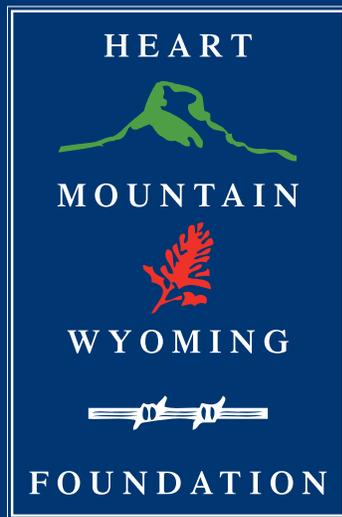
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