



VIA EMAIL

November 12, 2021

Dear Topaz Museum Board President Jane Beckwith and Board Members Lance Atkinson, Scott Bassett, Lorelei Draper, Rick Okabe, Hisashi Bill Sugaya, and Teresa Thompson:

Thank you for your letter dated November 3, 2021. We welcome the progress reflected in your letter towards achieving the six goals we set out in our September 7 letter to you as a path to healing and ensuring that the Wakasa Monument and site are properly preserved, commemorated and curated.

On November 5, we sent you a note agreeing to send Wakasa Memorial Committee (WMC) representatives to be present when National Park Service (NPS) officials assess the condition of the Wakasa Monument and site. To assist the NPS' work to assess the condition of the Wakasa memorial, we expect that all your video and photographic records and recordings of the July 27, 2021 excavation will be provided to NPS staff well in advance of their visit. These recordings provide critical information about the stone's condition before and after extraction, and are an essential part of the assessment. Given your expressed concern that the July 27 recordings may be edited in a manner unfavorable to the Board, an option that would preclude editing and show transparency and accountability, is posting the unedited recordings on the Topaz Museum website.

Prior to the NPS assessment, we plan to hold a solemn ceremony to honor and mourn James Wakasa, and reflect on his life, his unjust death and the heroic efforts of Issei at Topaz to ensure that Mr. Wakasa would not be forgotten. This will be our first chance in 78 years to hold such a ceremony and we hope you will empathize with our desire to consecrate the site where Mr. Wakasa died.

We appreciate the Board's assurance in the November 3 letter that it formally recognizes the WMC and pledges to engage in regular, direct communications with the WMC. However, to be frank, there is a lack of trust on both sides, so more than assurances of good faith is required. In moving forward, we seek mutual agreement on guidelines that will outline how we communicate, interact and make decisions. Such an agreement, known as a Memorandum of

Agreement (MOA), protects both sides' interests; offering accountability and discouraging unilateral actions or making false and unsubstantiated claims.

With respect to your Board's "inability" to agree to an MOA, we suggest the Board is able to enter into an MOA with the WMC just as it enters into agreements and contracts with vendors, employees and others. We note that the National Trust for Historic Preservation's September 15, 2021 letter to you expressly recommended that the WMC and the Topaz Museum agree to an MOA. It is difficult for us to envision a workable ongoing cooperative relationship with the Board absent an agreement such as an MOA.

We ask you to consider the merits of a formal mutual agreement such as an MOA to establish a framework for mutual understanding and problem-solving. Perhaps this is an issue that can be resolved with mediation. We continue to support mediation as a valuable tool that can help resolve disputes and heal deeply held grievances on both sides.

In closing, as we said in our November 5 letter, we welcome the Board's decision that WMC representatives should be present when National Park Service officials assess the Wakasa Monument and site. This was an important step toward transparency and accountability. We hope that the Board will continue on this path. As stated in the Standards of Ethics for Utah's Nonprofits, "[N]onprofits embrace the values of accountability and transparency as a matter of ethical leadership, as well as legal compliance. . . Nonprofits that are both transparent and accountable are more likely to act with integrity and to learn from mistakes." We look forward to working with the Topaz Museum to properly preserve, commemorate and curate the Wakasa Monument and site.

Sincerely,

Wakasa Memorial Committee

WakasaMemorial@gmail.com

<https://wakasamemorial.org>

Kiyoshi Ina, Topaz Survivor

Toru Saito, Topaz Survivor

Hiroshi Shimizu, Topaz, Tule Lake, Crystal City Survivor; father, Iwao Shimizu, member of 1943 Wakasa Committee

Akemi Yamane, Topaz Survivor; born at Topaz the day after Wakasa was killed

Lauren Araki, Topaz Descendant

Midori Hogg, Topaz Descendant

Patti Iiyama, Topaz Descendant

Claudia Katayanagi, Topaz Descendant

Kimiko Marr, Topaz Descendant

Mari Matsumoto, Topaz and Poston Descendant

Martha Nakagawa, Topaz, Tule Lake and Leupp Descendant
Gail Nanbu, Topaz descendant
Diana Emiko Tsuchida, Topaz Descendant
Nancy Ukai, Topaz Descendant
Bif Brigman, historian, Minidoka Pilgrimage former co-chair
Karen Kiyo Lowhurst, Heart Mountain Descendant
Chizu Omori, Poston Survivor
Emiko Omori, Poston Survivor
John Ota, Descendant of so-called “voluntary evacuees”
Barbara Takei, Tule Lake Descendant
Paul Tomita, Minidoka survivor

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