



VIA EMAIL

January 7, 2022

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

Happy New Year to each of you and thank you for your letter dated December 5, 2021. We in the Wakasa Memorial Committee welcome the opportunity to meet with Topaz Museum Board members. We would like to do so on a range of topics, including how we will work together and with others to engage a broader cross-section of the Japanese American community on issues such as the preservation, interpretation and commemoration of the Wakasa Monument and the Wakasa memorial site, and the upcoming National Park Service report of its assessment of the monument and memorial site.

With this in mind, we propose a meeting via Zoom between the entire Topaz Museum Board and the entire Wakasa Memorial Committee Executive Committee during the week of January 24. Although some of us had brief interactions with a few of your Board members on November 30-December 1, we think it would be beneficial for both sides to meet before discussing the specifics of the 80th anniversary ceremony we proposed.. Because of the large number of potential participants, we suggest that a mutually agreeable meeting moderator help guide the discussion. Let us know if you agree with our proposal, and if so, we can work out the details such as specific date and time, agenda and moderator.

Finally, on the occasion of the New Year, we would like to share with all of you a short film by Emiko Omori called, "Painting with Fire." It showcases artwork crafted by Patrick Hayashi that commemorates James Wakasa's death. Mr. Hayashi was born at the Topaz incarceration camp. Here is the internet link to view the film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T1WsgK3YNXo>

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
Barbara Suyehiro, 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

Advisory Council (partial)

Tetsuden Kashima, Topaz Survivor, Professor Emeritus, American Ethnic Studies Department and Sociology, University of Washington
Masako Takahashi, Topaz Survivor, Takahashi Family Foundation
Satsuki Ina, Topaz Descendant; Tule Lake, Crystal City Survivor
Dr. Karen Korematsu, Topaz descendant, Founder & Executive Director Fred T. Korematsu Institute
Stacey Camp, Archaeologist, Director of the Campus Archaeology Program, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Michigan State University
Roger Daniels, Charles Phelps Taft Professor Emeritus of History, University of Cincinnati
Art Hansen, Professor Emeritus History, Asian American Studies, California State University, Fullerton
Donald Teruo Hata, Gila River survivor, Professor Emeritus of History, CSU Dominguez Hills
Tom Ikeda, Minidoka Descendant, Densho Founding Executive Director
Japanese American Citizens League, Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific District
Michelle G. Magalong, University of Maryland Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow in Historic Preservation, President of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation
Roger Shimomura, Minidoka Survivor, Distinguished Professor Emeritus
Renee Tajima-Peña, Heart Mountain, Tule Lake, Gila River Descendant, UCLA Professor of Asian American Studies, filmmaker
Karen Umemoto, Manzanar Descendant, UCLA Professor of Asian American Studies and Urban Planning

Mary Urashima, Historian, author, Historic Wintersburg
Duncan Ryūken Williams, Buddhist priest and Professor of Religion/American Studies
& Ethnicity, University of Southern California
Jay Xu, Director and CEO, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

CC:

Mike Reynolds, Regional Director, Interior Regions 6,7,8, National Park Service
Lisa P. Davidson, Acting Program Manager, National Historic Landmarks Program,
National Park Service
Justin Henderson, Heritage Partnerships Program, Intermountain Region, NPS
Robert Nieweg, National Trust for Historic Preservation
Jennifer Ortiz, Director, Utah Division of State History
Chris Merritt, Utah State Historic Preservation Office
Carol Kawase, district governor NCWNP, JACL
David Inoue, Executive Director, JACL
Jani Iwamoto, Utah state senator, 4th District