

2024 Tule Lake Pilgrimage

Reframing The Narrative

July 5 - 8, 2024

Klamath Falls, OR / Newell & Tulelake, CA



にせんにじゅうよねん

二千二十四年

ツールレーキじゅんれい

鶴嶺湖巡礼

れきしかなお

歴史を書き直す

にせんにじゅうよねん しちがついつか

二千二十四年七月五日ー八日

ようか

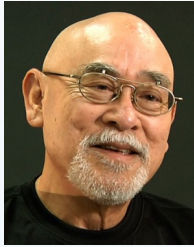
しゅう

オレゴン州クラマスフォールズ・加州ニューウエル・トゥールレイク

かしゅう

Welcome

よくいらっしゃいました



Welcome to our 23rd official Pilgrimage to Tule Lake. It has been six years since we last gathered in person. We continue our commitment to “Reframe the Narrative” about the people, places and events at Tule Lake by carrying on a legacy articulated by Michi Nishiura Weglyn.

We have been busy supporting education, activism, publications, historic preservation, research, and legal struggles around Tule Lake. We uncovered new information about the 1944 murder of James Okamoto at Tule Lake, and about a second stockade in addition to the more well-documented one. And we mounted yet another campaign to “Stop the Fence” at the Tule Lake airfield, an area of approximately 359 acres within the footprint of the original camp site where our elders would have walked.

Many of you are joining us for the first time: a record 63% of participants. We have enclosed information about Tule Lake in this booklet that we hope you will find useful. This year’s group of Pilgrimage Docents is a cohort of Tule Lake descendants and advocates that has been trained for four full years about this history. We hope you will be able to connect with them if you have questions.

Our pilgrimage workshops and sessions contain a rich variety of offerings for people new to Tule Lake as well as those who have returned. Frank Abe, Satsuki Ina, Kyoko Oda, and George Takei will talk about their recently published books that focus on Tule Lake history. And we are welcoming several other wonderful new offerings to the schedule.

In this booklet we look back to Michi Nishiura Weglyn’s preface to *Second Kinenhi*, which was published in 2000. Issues that she mentions there are still relevant for our Tule Lake community today: Japanese Latin American redress, detention and deportation of refugees, and reparations for African Americans.

On the “In Memoriam” page of this booklet, we honor and mourn several important people related to Tule Lake history: Florence and Mas Hongo, Hiroshi Kashiwagi, Rev. Saburo Masada, Edward Miyakawa, Martha Nakagawa, Henry Nonaka, and Eiko Yamaichi.

With each passing year the story of Tule Lake continues to unfold and with it, new challenges emerge even as older ones continue. Please stay in touch with us via our website, email, and our active community on our Facebook group (Tule Lake Pilgrimage). We need everyone’s help to preserve the site for future generations, to continue learning about the story of Tule Lake, and to keep “revising the narrative.”

We appreciate your support and look forward to this rich and rewarding time together.

Michi Nishiura Weglyn

2024 Tule Lake Pilgrimage

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*Booklet by Tamiko Nimura & James Okumura, with the Tule Lake Pilgrimage Planning Committee.
Special thanks to Go Sasaki & Emma Ishida for their 日本語 review, and Sharon Nakamura for print and distribution support.*

Front Cover: "My Family" by Ernie Jane Masako Nishii (Courtesy Matthew Nishii)

"Satsuki Ina's *The Poet and the Silk Girl* is a revelation."

—BRANDON SHIMODA

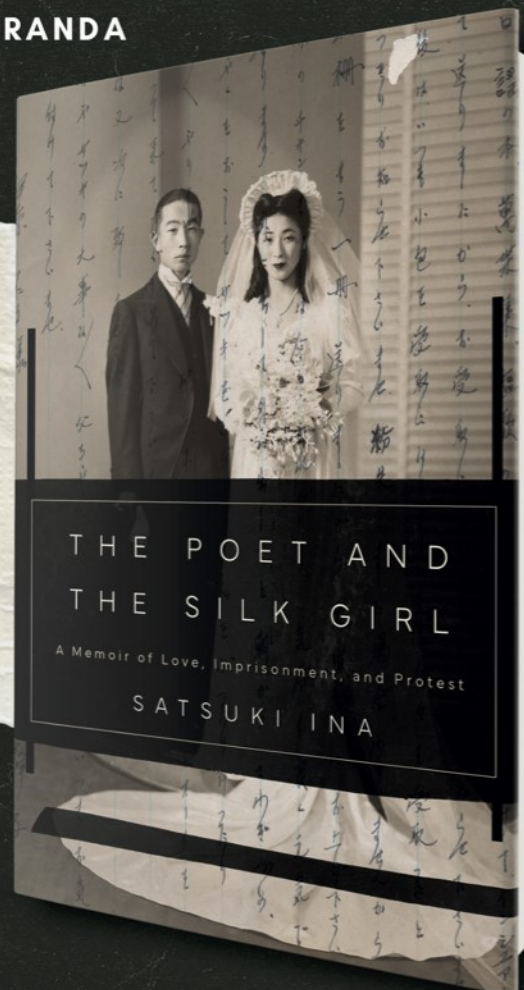
"A seminal, beautifully rendered intergenerational narrative of a courageous young couple who spoke truth to power."

—BARBARA TAKEI

"Storytelling as activism at its finest."

—DEBORAH MIRANDA

**SATSUKI INA TRACES THE HARROWING
JOURNEY OF HER FAMILY'S LIFE INSIDE THE US'
WWII CONCENTRATION CAMPS AND THE
ECHOES OF TRAUMA ACROSS
THE GENERATIONS.**



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Preface – 序文 (じょぶん)

Reprinted from “Second Kinenhi” courtesy of the Tule Lake Committee

[The following was received in June 1998 from Michi Weglyn induced by an invitation to attend the '98 Pilgrimage. It was read by Grace Shimizu at Michi's suggestion, July 2, 1998.]

OPENING CEREMONY – TULE LAKE PILGRIMAGE

On the occasion of the Pilgrimage to the site of the Tule Lake Camp, on the weekend of July the fourth, nineteen ninety eight.

As you may know, concern for the cause of railroad and mine workers and Japanese Latin Americans has been, for me, an all consuming passion. But I cannot tell you how long I have agonized over the injustice sweepingly imposed on Tuleans – meaning the cruel stereotype of “disloyalty” case on those of you who were consigned to Tule Lake, after it had been turned into a maximum security “segregation center.”

A similar sense of lingering shame appear to be shared by many who were made to languish in jails, penitentiaries, in various military forts and in Justice Department lock-ups. Lordsburg, Fort Bliss, Missoula, Crystal City, are the ones more familiar to us. As happens under totalitarian regimes, all too many of the inmates in these holding pens had been seized, stigmatized and made to suffer only because of their leadership potential – it was a time when it paid to be an idiot!

I have also wondered again and again why the emphasis, to this day, is placed on the largely so-called “war relocation centers.” As though the dozen or more other camps and lock-ups were in some way more justified to restrain those with a pro-Axis tilt. Have we been effectively brainwashed by the Big Lie?

It is curious that rarely, if ever, do I run into anyone who volunteers the information that “I am from Tule Lake.” It has led me to wonder if my attempts to vindicate Tuleans in *Years of Infamy* may have been interpreted by former inmates as exposing too hurtful and abhorred a period in Nikkei history. I had experienced such a high writing about Tule Lake; I recall how it had my blood racing. I marveled at the courage of Tuleans who showed their solidarity by standing tall to counter the outrageous illegalities being perpetrated by their overlords, where entire blocks participated in such resistance.

I have tried through the years to have others share my pride in Tuleans who fought back, who refused to be silenced. But there are times when I felt I was speaking into the wind.

Nowadays, I always suggest that people begin to read *Years of Infamy* starting with the section on Tule Lake – even though this is in the middle of the book. Then you will cut through to the central theme of arrogance of those entrusted with wartime power, the cynical maneuvering, the thrashing of our Constitution – in short, all the “banality of evil” will be instantly illuminated. For those who know what happened at Tule Lake will have what is necessary to discern the truth to the larger story.

Let us also remember that we, who know the face of tyranny, have an obligation to recognize and condemn the existence of such inactions affecting others who are simply marginalized, scapegoated, shamed and silenced.

Today, it seems especially appropriate to begin this task with the case of Japanese Latin Americans, who have been placed on a lesser scale of humanity in terms of redress. Tuleans should recognize that these people suffered the same sort of duplicity and bureaucratic maneuvering around issues of their citizenship, of their expendability as democracy's rejects to be dumped on a starving Japan.

Let us honor the memory of all who were made to endure these and other monstrous wrongs, by continuing our struggle together for final vindication.

Michi Nishiura Weglyn
New York, New York

In Memoriam — 記憶に (きおくに)



Masanori "Mas" Hongo

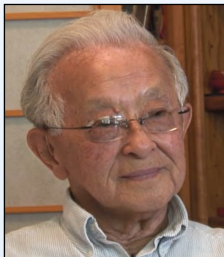
April 7, 1920 - March 1, 2023

Tule Lake/Topaz, MIS

Hiroshi Kashiwagi

November 8, 1922—October 29, 2019

Tule Lake



Rev. Saburo Masada

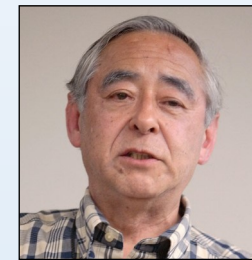
April 1, 1930 - July 20, 2020

Jerome/Rohwer

Edward Takeshi Miyakawa

August 29, 1934 - May 6, 2022

Tule Lake



Stephanie Kazuko Miyashiro

May 20, 1949—June 26, 2023

Martha Miiko Nakagawa

July 16, 1967—July 28, 2023



Henry Hideo Nonaka

March 18, 1943 - July 2, 2016

Tule Lake

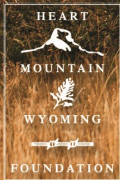
Eiko Yamaichi

October 25, 1924 – December 26, 2023

Tule Lake



The HEART MOUNTAIN
WYOMING FOUNDATION is
proud to support the
2024 TULE LAKE
PILGRIMAGE!



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Thank you for
“Reframing the Narrative”

The Manzanar Committee
manzanarcommittee.org

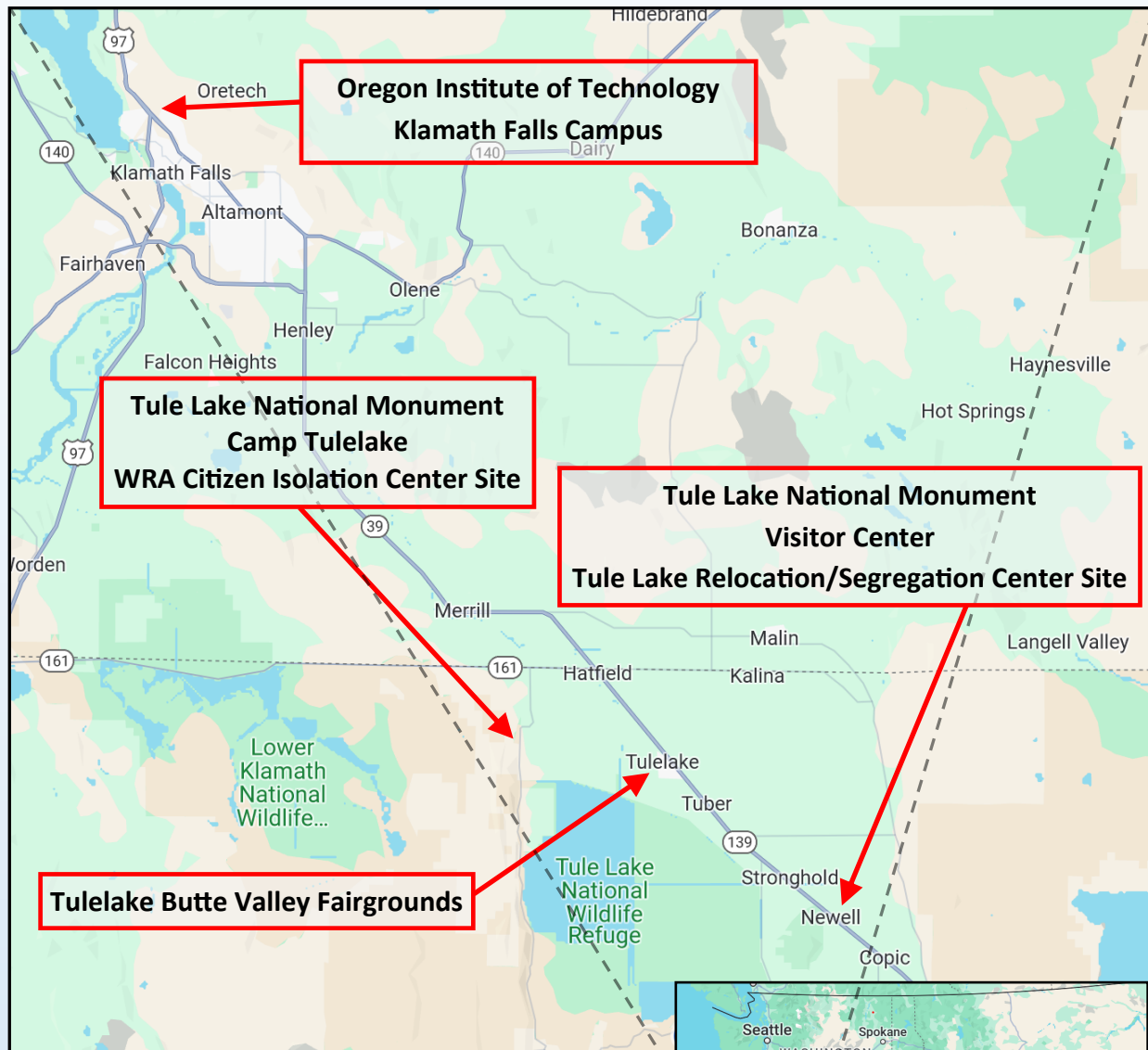
Pilgrimage Policies

巡礼者へのお願い (じゅんれいしゃへのお願い)

To ensure an enjoyable trip for all, we ask for your cooperation in the following areas:

- 1) For many, this may be a highly emotional experience. Embracing openness, appreciation, and support for each Pilgrimage attendee, whatever their perspective or experience, will maximize the benefits to all on this Pilgrimage.
- 2) Listen to and cooperate with all the Bus Monitors and Docents. The Bus Monitors, Docents, and Pilgrimage Planning Team Members can be identified by their red happi coats with the Tule Lake Pilgrimage logo.
- 3) Stay with your group or a buddy. Make sure someone knows where you are and where you are going at all times.
- 4) Kitchenettes in the dorms and Village Apartments can be used; however, all kitchenettes must be cleaned before departure. Failure to comply will result in a \$50 cleaning fee.
- 5) Obey all regulations of the bus company and the Oregon Institute of Technology. We are guests at this campus and would like to maintain our relationship with OIT.
- 6) OIT is a tobacco-free campus (including e-cigarettes). Smoking is prohibited on all buses and the Castle Rock hike. No candles may be burned in any place on campus.
- 7) No drugs, weapons, or firearms are allowed.
- 8) Alcohol, non-prescription and recreational drugs are not allowed.
- 9) We expect many people on the Pilgrimage to take personal photos and videos and post them online. We cannot control the content of what people record and post online, but we ask everyone to respect your fellow pilgrims' privacy.
- 10) **Please remember: *WE keep us safe.*** We have a responsibility to ourselves and those who are most vulnerable in our community (the very young, the very old, the immuno-compromised) to tend to our collective health and well-being. Our commitment to our COVID-19 protocol helps us to hold a Pilgrimage where all participants can be safe.
- 11) We will have participants who are 80 years of age or older. Please give them priority when lining up for meals and the elevators, allow them seating and shade when assembling outdoors, and provide them with assistance when boarding and exiting the bus.

Klamath Falls, OR / Newell & Tulelake, CA Area Map



Tule Lake National Monument Visitor Center

44340 Hwy 139, Tulelake, CA 96134

Tulelake Butte Valley Fairgrounds

800 South Main St., Tulelake, CA 96134

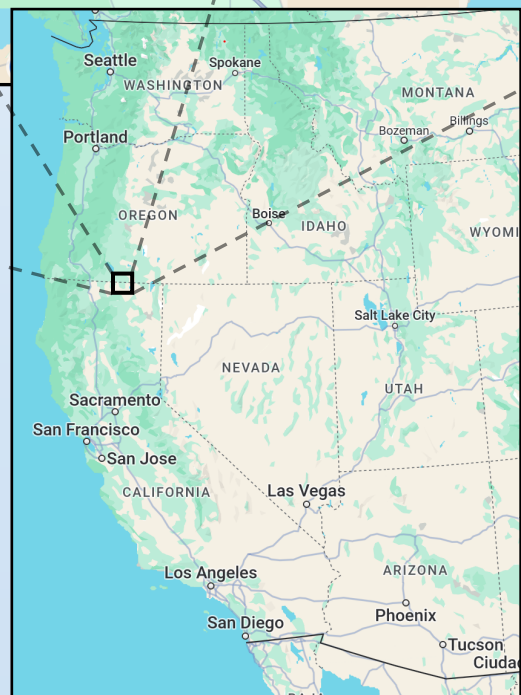
DISTANCES

OIT — Newell: 37.2 miles

Newell — Tulelake: 7.6 miles

Tulelake — Camp Tulelake: 6.2 miles

Camp Tulelake — OIT: 27.6 miles



OIT Campus Map, People, Telephone Numbers



Bus Monitors & Docents

BERKELEY

Satsuki Ina
Kiyoshi Ina
Akemi Ina
Harriet Fukushima
Chizu Omori

SAN FRANCISCO JAPANTOWN

Hiroshi Shimizu
Cary Matsumura
Brandon Quan
Go Sasaki

SAN JOSE

Sharon Nakamura
Will Kaku

SACRAMENTO AIRPORT

Barbara Takei
Kyoko Nancy Oda
Terry Takeda

SACRAMENTO BETSUIN A

Lorna Fong
Holly Fong – Korach
James Okumura

SACRAMENTO BETSUIN B

Aki Oshiro
Karen Young
Richard Katsuda
Caity Bishop

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Stan Shikuma
Frank Abe
Yuko Yano
Ken Nomiya

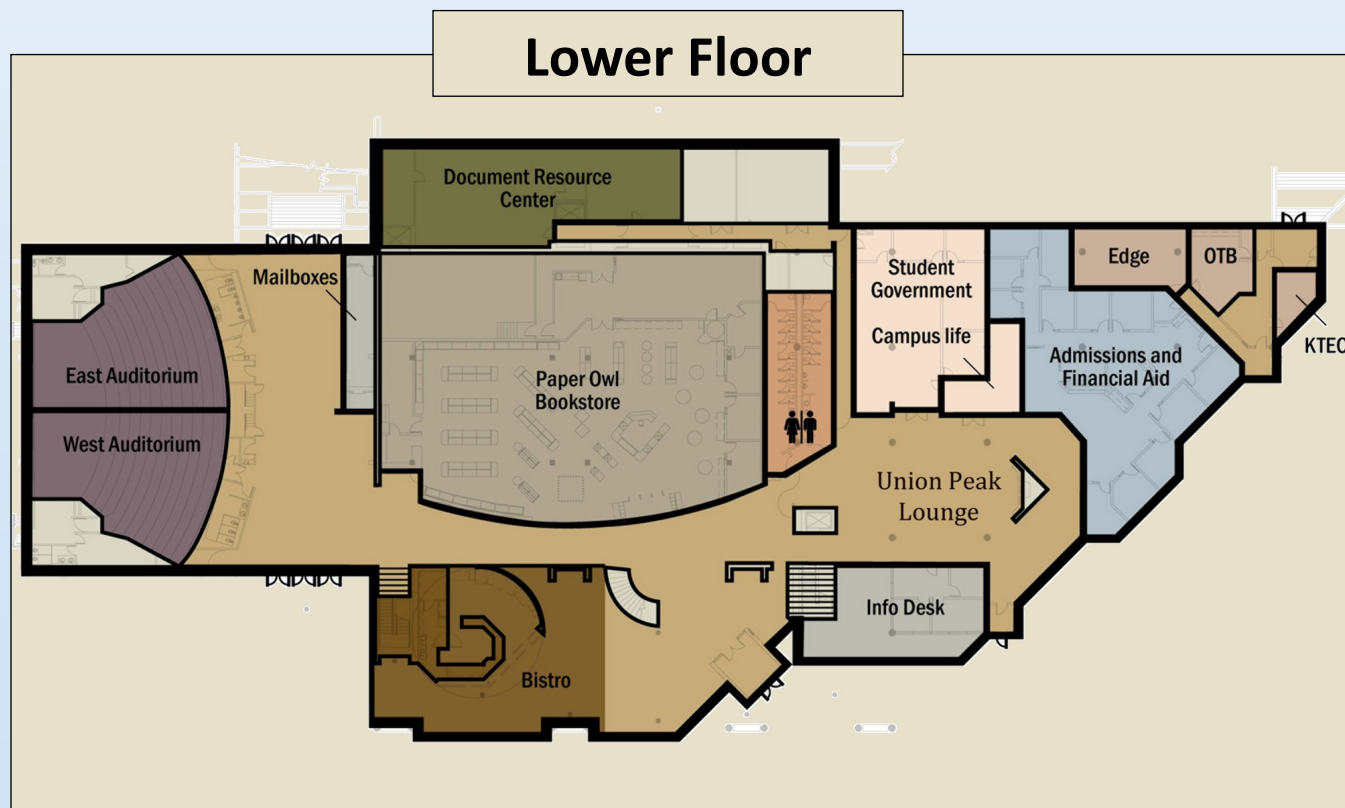
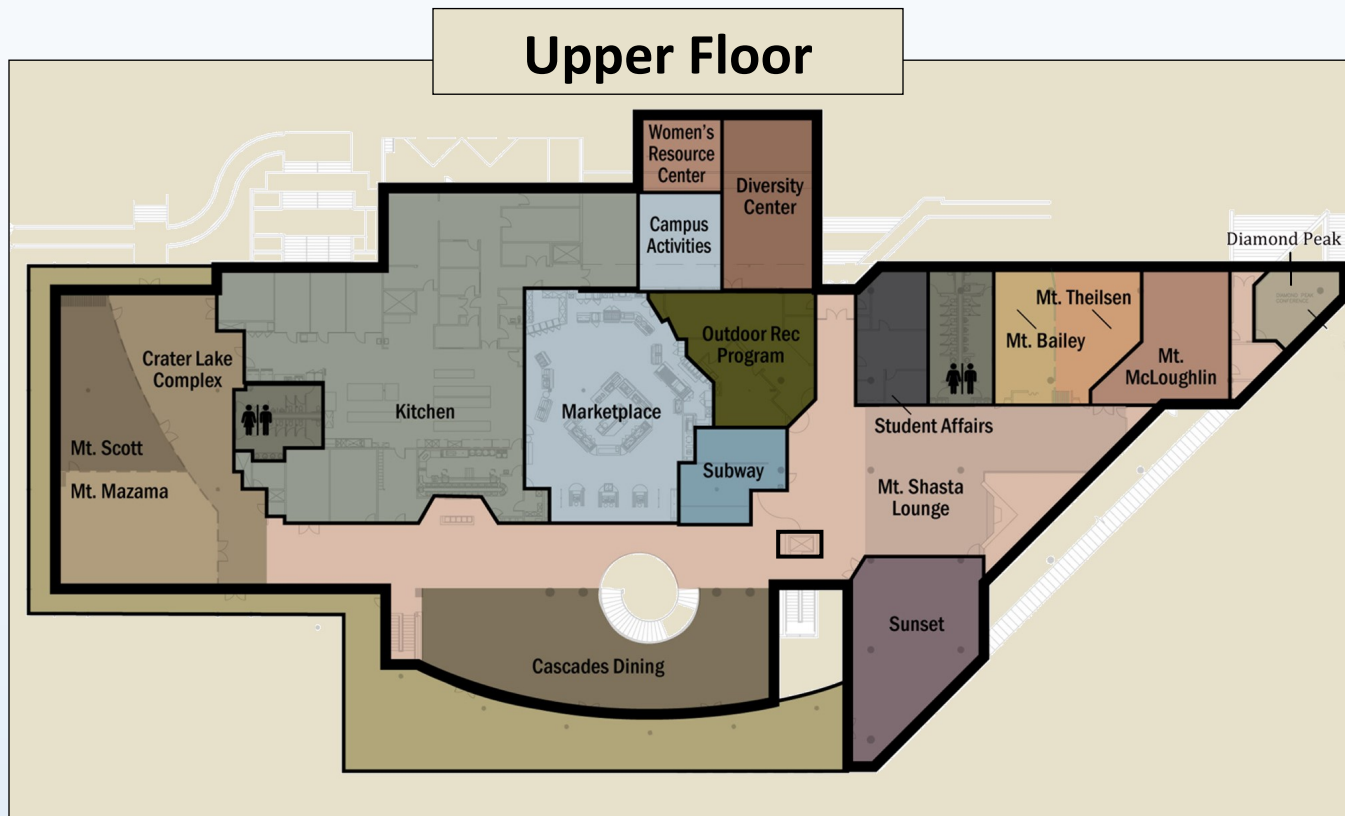
HEALTH TEAM

Stan Shikuma, RN. (206) 919-1465
Paula Fujiwara, MD (646) 919-0989
Yuko Yano, MD. (206) 708-4815

OREGON INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

OIT and Klamath Falls Ambulance, Police, or Fire emergencies 911
Tule Lake site emergencies (Day 2 only) (530) 842-3515
OIT Non-Emergency Number (541) 885-1111
OIT Housing Office Number (541) 885-1094
OIT Campus Safety Number (541) 885-1117

OIT College Union Map



ONLY THE OAKS REMAIN

TUNA CANYON DETENTION STATION TRAVELING EXHIBIT

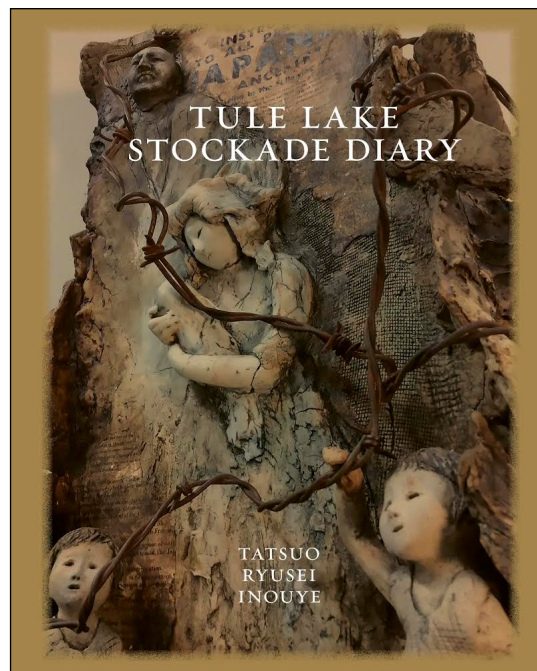
Tells the true stories of those targeted as dangerous enemy aliens and imprisoned at Tuna Canyon, located fourteen miles from the Los Angeles City Hall, during World War II.

Photo images, letters, diaries, and poems bring the experiences of imprisoned Japanese, German, and Italian aliens and Japanese Peruvians to life.

www.tunacanyon.org



Guard Tower & Barrack, Tulelake-Butte Valley
Fairgrounds Museum (Courtesy Kiyoshi Ina)



Over a three-month long struggle, Tatsuo Inouye's rare wartime diary records his fight for dignity in the high-security Tule Lake Stockade.

He was imprisoned without cause in the Stockade under freezing and chaotic conditions.

tulelakestockadediary.com

Tule Lake Segregation Center Jail



Tule Lake Segregation Center Jail, Post Restoration 2023 (Courtesy James Okumura)

The Tule Lake jail is the most iconic structure of the WWII Japanese American incarceration. Constructed by the War Relocation Authority using inmate labor, the jail was completed in February 1945.

The jail's sole use was for an almost unknown denationalization program enabled by Congress in July 1944 and implemented by the Department of Justice (DOJ) to deport so-called "troublemakers" to Japan. This government program led to 5,461 Japanese Americans at Tule Lake to renounce their U.S. citizenship, and enabled the DOJ to legally intern them as "enemy aliens" among the majority of 1,518 Tule Lake dissidents sent to internment camps in Bismarck, ND, Santa Fe, NM, and Crystal City, TX.

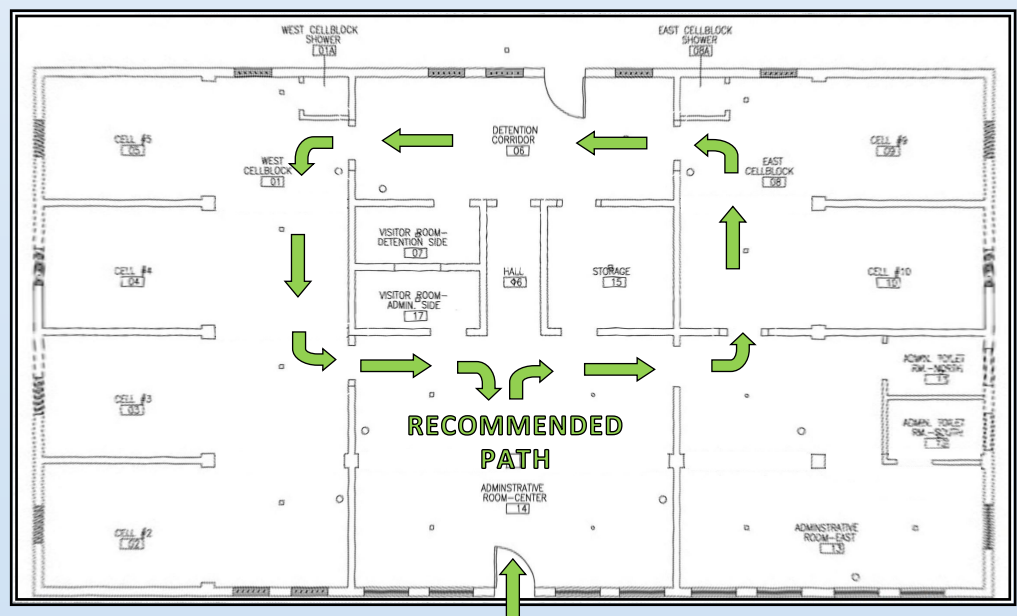
The renunciation and denationalization program was a shocking abuse of power, erased by a Japanese American narrative based on wartime government propaganda that interpreted peaceful protest against injustice as "disloyalty."

The following images show details of jail wall graffiti photographs taken by Don Tateishi, photographer, Historic American Buildings Survey (Library of Congress), except where noted.

Jail Layout & Recommended Path

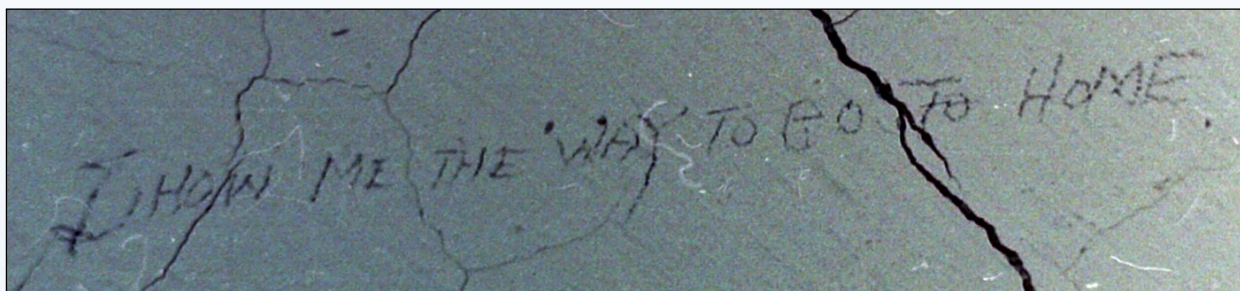


(above)
だいにっぽんていこく
大日本帝国 -
(Empire of Japan)



Entrance / Exit

Tule Lake Segregation Center Jail



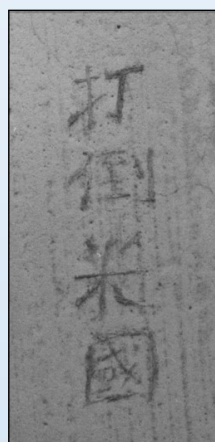
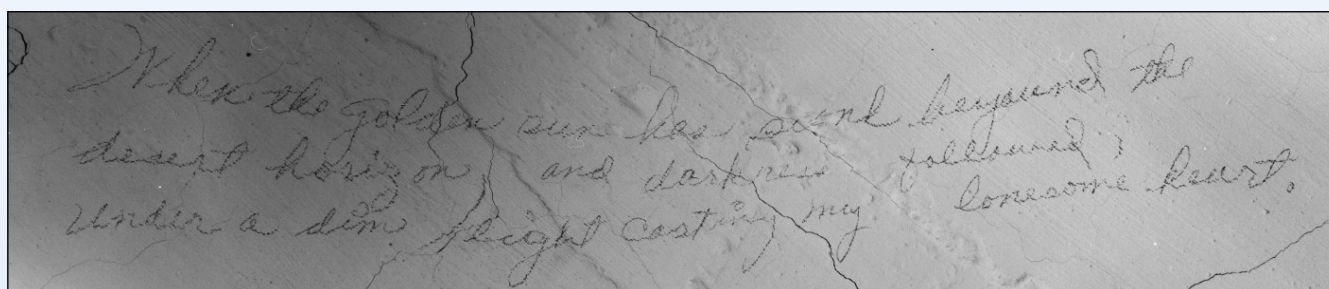
(above)

SHOW ME THE WAY TO GO HOME

(Courtesy Hiroshi Shimizu)

(below)

**When the golden sunset has sunk beyond the
desert horizon and the darkness followed,
under a dim light casting my lonesome heart.**

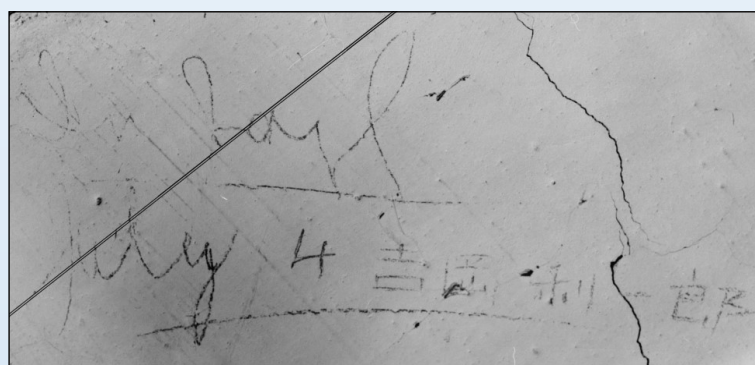


(left)

だとうべいこく

打倒米国

(Down with America)



(above right)

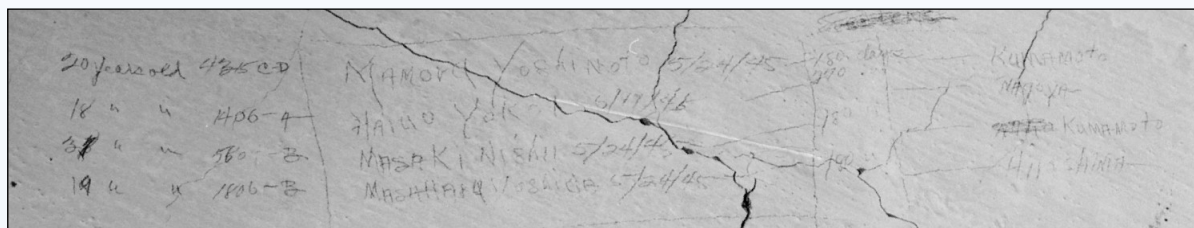
よしおかりいろう

In Jail July 4 吉岡利一郎 - In Jail July 4 (Yoshioka Riichiro)

Riichiro Yoshioka was born in San Diego, California in 1922 and was a child of the Terminal Island fishing community with ancestral origins in Wakayama ken. Like other Terminal Island Fishermen, the FBI arrested and detained Riichiro's father, Rikimatsu, at the Tuna Canyon Detention Center. Both **Riichiro** and his brother, Koji, began their WWII incarceration with the Nikkei residents of Solano Beach, California and were directly incarcerated at the WRA's concentration camp at Poston, Arizona in May 1942. After segregation both **Riichiro** and Koji were sent to the WRA's Tule Lake Segregation Center and renounced their US Citizenship. Koji expatriated from Portland, Oregon to Uruga, Japan aboard the USS General Gordon in December 1945. **Riichiro** was sent to Crystal City, Texas after Tule Lake closed in March 1946.

Sources: DSS-1, 1930 & 1940 US Census, Manifest of Alien Passengers for the United States Immigration Officer at Port of Arrival, WRA Final Accountability Record (Colorado River & Tule Lake), Detainee Names – Tuna Canyon Detention Center, Civilian Exclusion Order 59.

Tule Lake Segregation Center Jail



20 years old – 4315 C-D Mamoru Yoshimoto 5/24/45 – 180 days – Kumamoto
 18 " " [years old] – 1406-A Haruo Yokoi 6/17/45 – 270 days – Nagoya
 31 " " [years old] – 5604-B Masaki Nishii 5/24/45 – 180 days – Kumamoto
 19 " " [years old] – 1806-B Masaharu Yoshida 5/24/45 – 180 days – Hiroshima

Edward **Mamoru Yoshimoto** was born in Santa Clara, California in 1924. **Mamoru**, his parents and three siblings were directly incarcerated from their farm in Santa Clara to the WRA's Tule Lake Concentration Camp in July 1942. Of the family's children, only **Mamoru** renounced his US Citizenship. The Yoshimoto family returned to the Santa Clara area in late 1945. **Mamoru** joined them after his release in March 1946 when Tule Lake closed.

Sources: DSS-1, 1940 US Census, WRA Final Accountability Record (Tule Lake).

Haruo Yokoi, born in 1927 in the East Los Angeles, CA area, began his incarceration with his parents and sisters at the Pomona detention center in May 1942. The Yokoi family was incarcerated at the WRA's concentration camp at Heart Mountain, Wyoming in August 1942, then segregated to the WRA's Tule Lake Segregation Center in September 1943. All the Yokoi children renounced their US Citizenship, except the youngest (still a minor), and re/expatriated from Portland, Oregon to Uraga, Japan aboard the USS General Gordon in December 1945.

Sources: 1940 US Census, WRA Final Accountability Record (Heart Mountain & Tule Lake), Civilian Exclusion Order 56.

Masaki Edward Nishi was born in 1908 in Kauai, Territory of Hawai'i. The US government suspected **Masaki's** occupation as a longshoreman a potential threat, so arrested and detained him at US Army's Sand Island Internment Camp on Oahu Island in December 1942. Later that month, he was transferred with his wife and family to the WRA's concentration camp in Jerome, Arkansas. The authorities considered the Nishi family "disloyal" and segregated them at the WRA's Tule Lake Segregation Center in September 1943. **Masaki** renounced his US Citizenship, was arrested by the FBI in June 1945, and imprisoned at the Department of Justice's Internment Camp in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The Nishi family returned to Hawai'i after the war, enlarged with the addition of a child born at Tule Lake.

Sources: DSS-1, 1940 US Census, WRA Final Accountability Record (Jerome & Tule Lake), Hawai'i Internee Directory - Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i

Masaharu Yoshida was born in 1926 in Westminster, Orange County, California. The Yoshida family were farming land in Garden Grove, California when they were directly incarcerated at the WRA's Poston, Arizona Concentration Camp in May 1942. While at Poston, **Masaharu's** oldest brother died in a drowning accident in August 1942. The camp authorities segregated the Yoshida family at the WRA's Tule Lake Segregation Center in October 1943. **Masaharu** and his remaining brother renounced their US Citizenship (their sister was a child at the time and did not renounce). The FBI arrested **Masaharu's** brother and imprisoned him at the Department of Justice's Internment Camp in Fort Lincoln, North Dakota in February 1945. The entire Yoshida family re/expatriated from Portland, Oregon to Uraga, Japan aboard the USS General Gordon in December 1945.

Sources: DSS-1, INS - USA Petition for Naturalization, Arizona Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, WRA Final Accountability Record (Colorado River & Tule Lake). US Department of Justice INS Deportation Lists.



Minidoka Pilgrimage Planning Committee
Congratulates
Tule Lake Committee
On Another Successful Pilgrimage!



Please support
the Tule Lake Committee

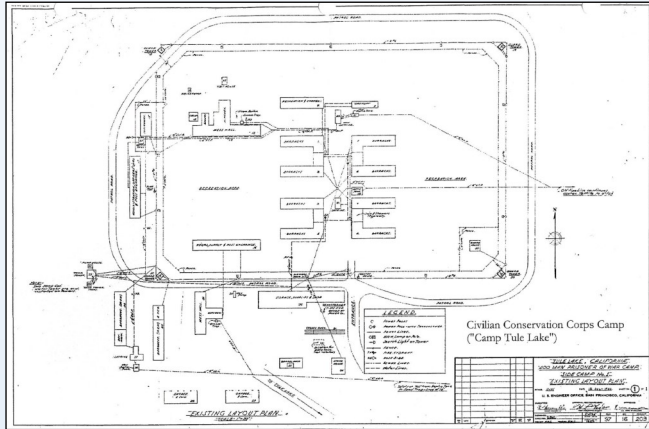


For your contribution,
scan the QR code
or go directly to
<http://www.tulelake.org/donations>
and click on the Donate tab.

Thank You!

Camp Tulelake

WRA Citizen Isolation Center



*Photos: Barracks 3 & 4
Don Tateishi, photographer, Historic American
Buildings Survey (Courtesy Library of Congress)
Map: Camp Tule Lake (Courtesy NARA)*

Located on Hill Road approximately thirteen miles northwest of the Tule Lake Concentration Camp site, Civilian Conservation Corps workers built this complex of buildings in the 1930s as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal work relief program. It is now part of the Tule Lake National Monument.

Tule Lake's WRA Administration imprisoned 32 Loyalty Questionnaire protesters from Block 42 here between February and April 1943 for refusing to register. Originally sent to county jails in Alturas and Klamath Falls, county jailers determined they could not hold prisoners without criminal charges, as refusing to answer a questionnaire was not a criminal offense. County jailers then returned the protesters to WRA custody, where Tule Lake Segregation Center Director Raymond Best imprisoned them in the newly created Citizen Isolation Center. Prior to his Tule Lake assignment, Mr. Best served as Director of the WRA Citizen Isolation Center at Moab, Utah. Of the ten WRA concentration camps, only Tule Lake maintained its own Citizen Isolation Center. The two other Citizen Isolation Centers were located at Moab, Utah and Leupp, Arizona.

In Fall 1943, Director Best housed 234 "loyal" incarcerated strikebreakers, mainly from Poston and Topaz, at Camp Tulelake to harvest crops during the Tule Lake agricultural workers' strike. The strike was in protest of dangerous working conditions after Tatsuo Kashima died in a truck accident caused by poor equipment and unsafe practices. A total of 29 were injured, 5 seriously, from the overturned truck. Some strikebreakers refused to work after learning the true cause of the Tule Lake agricultural workers' strike.

In May 1944, the site was converted into a US Army internment camp for POWs. It briefly imprisoned Italian POWs, but by June 1944 German POWs began arriving. Their numbers climbed to 800 by October. Local farmers hired them to harvest crops for \$1.25 a day, more than twice the earnings of a Japanese American doctor in the Tule Lake Concentration Camp. In the perverse logic of racism, local farmers preferred the Nazi soldiers as farm labor – allowing them to travel freely amongst the population and work in their fields – rather than fellow American citizens with Japanese faces imprisoned in the nearby concentration camp.

Sources: Densho, Tule Lake Committee

Index by Block Number & Key Site Tour Locations

Sources: *Tule Lake: An Issei Memoir by Noboru Shirai,*
Hiroshi Shimizu, Tule Lake Committee

CHURCHES

- 14 - Buddhist Church
- 39 - Buddhist Church
- 32 - Buddhist Church
- 11 - Buddhist Church
- 41 - Buddhist Church
- 54 - Buddhist Church
- 70 - Buddhist Church
- 47 - Buddhist Church Main Office
- 19 - Catholic Church
- 30 - Union Church
- 26 - Zenshu Church
- 24 - Seventh Day Adventist

STORES

- 7 - Cooperative Administration Office
- 7 - Canteen, Beauty Shop
- 23 - Canteen
- 27 - Canteen
- 41 - Canteen, Shoemaker
- 6 - Watch Repair Shop
- 13 - Shoe Repair Shop

SCHOOLS

- 5 - Japanese (Kokumin) No.1
- 26 - Japanese (Kokumin) No.2
- 35 - Japanese (Kokumin) No.3
- 20 - Japanese (Kokumin) No.4
- 44 - Japanese (Kokumin) No.5
- 49 - Japanese (Kokumin) No.6

SCHOOLS (cont.)

- 71 - Japanese (Kokumin) No.7
- 77 - Japanese (Kokumin) No.8
- 25 - Japanese (Full Time)
- 46 - Center for Japanese Education
- 78 - Shasta View School (Public School)

LIBRARIES AND LITERARY OFFICES

- 10 - Tessaku
- 46 - Tule Lake Library
- 71 - Reading Group
- 51 - Library (Children & Adult)
- 48 - Library (English)

SPORTS

- 7 - Judo Dojo
- 37 - Judo Dojo
- 42 - Judo Dojo
- 83 - Judo Dojo

CIVIC GROUPS

- 16 - Civic Organization Office
(Block Managers Organization)
- 18 - Internal Security Office
(Japanese Wardens)
- 78 - Social Welfare Service
- 18 - Social Welfare Service
- 18 - Legal Office
- 12 - Placement Office
- 9 - Community Activities Office

CIVIC GROUPS (cont.)

- 18 - City Council Office
- 18 - Planning Board Office
- 21 - Tule Lake Youth Headquarters

HEALTH

- 17 - Medical Clinic
- 17 - Camp Dispensary
- 9 - Medical Block

MISCELLANEOUS

- 16 - Tulean Dispatch Office
- 54 - Hoshi Dan Headquarters
- 30 - Red Cross
- 3 - Funeral Parlor



Pre-Segregation Gate (Okamoto Shooting Site)



Segregation Era Gate



Area B: Original Stockade & Bull Pen



Area 99: 2nd Stockade Location & Jail



Morgue and Cemetery



California State Historical Marker

NARA <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/27814022>
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Glossary of Relevant Terms for Tule Lake

Compiled and adapted by Tamiko Nimura from *Tule Lake Revisited* by Barbara Takei and Judy Tachibana (Second Edition), used with permission.

Abalone Mountain – An eroded volcanic crater named by inmates for its resemblance to that marine mollusk, a favored delicacy in Japanese cuisine. Local residents know it as Horse Mountain or Horse Collar Mountain. (pg. 27)

Alaska Area – The southernmost part of the campsite. (pg. 27)

Bull pen – A smaller area within the stockade [see below] made up of unseated tents pitched on the frozen ground, an area where guards corralled prisoners they wished to punish. (pg. 32)

Camp Tulelake CCC Camp – Camp Tulelake was first used in March 1943, serving as an Army “guardhouse” to imprison 130 men who refused to answer the infamously ambiguous loyalty questions 27 and 28. Within this group were approximately three dozen draft age men from Block 42 who, en masse, refused to answer the loyalty questionnaire were removed to county jails... Camp Tulelake was again put to use after Tule Lake was converted into the Segregation Center...[To break a strike,] Director Best summoned 243 “loyal” inmates from the Poston and Central Utah concentration camps to bring in the harvest. The Nikkei strike-breakers were housed at Camp Tulelake...In May 1944 the camp was converted to a POW camp, briefly internment Italian POWs, German POWs began arriving in June 1944. (pg. 45)

Castle Rock – The most easily identifiable landmark in the Tule Lake area is an 800-foot-high bluff to the west of the concentration camp site; the Tule Lake inmates called it “Castle Rock.” Known to the locals as “the Peninsula,” this land mass is composed primarily of volcanic matter called basalt. (pg. 43)

Daihyo Sha Kai – In the aftermath of a farm truck accident in October 1943 that resulted in 29 injured... inmates banded to gather to focus on grievances and on improving camp living and working conditions. They elected one member from each block and formed the Daihyo Sha Kai, or representative body. That group selected seven men to act as a negotiating committee. (pg. 10)

Deportation – See Renunciation/renunciants, below.

Hoshi Dan (also known as Sokuji Kikoku Hoshi Dan, Hokoku Hoshi Dan, Hokoku Seinen Dan for younger men, Sokoku Joshi Seinen Dan for younger women) – In this claustrophobic community [under segregation] racked with divisions imposed by the government’s loyal/disloyal paradigm, there was no escaping intense social pressure to set aside one’s ambivalence and take sides. Branded as disloyal cowards by the government and the Japanese American Citizens League, those segregated at Tule Lake caught in a situation where Japanese nationalism offered a positive alternative...

Several pro-Japan factions emerged from this radicalizing prison environment [including the Hoshi dan]. By Fall 1944, group militaristic drills became a conspicuous activity, and many Tule Lake inmates remembered the sound of blaring bugles and chants of “washoi, washoi” early in the morning. Those who participated in the early morning marches and exercises recalled the group camaraderie and the shared activity that offered disillusioned young men and women a deeper sense of purpose and self-worth.

For many imprisoned in the maximum-security segregation center, imagining a future in America seemed pointless. Thousands of inmates devoted themselves to preparing for a new life in Japan, attending Japanese language schools and immersing themselves in Japanese history and culture. Camp administrators seemed unwilling to curtail the growing influence of Japanese nationalism, even providing space for a Hokoku Hoshi dan office. (pg. 12-13)

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Inu – Anyone suspected of collaborating or even sympathizing with the goals of the white authorities was viewed with contempt and labeled “inu” (a dog, a collaborator with the administration, an unprincipled ‘snitch’ who could not be trusted). To be called “inu” bore humiliating stigma. Someone labeled “inu” might walk into a room, and those present would stop talking and move away. (pg. 12)

Jail (Tule Lake) – Inmates who resisted the authority of their keepers were imprisoned here without charges, hearings, sentences or respite from cruel and unusual punishment. The jail was designed for 20 prisoners; however, up to 100 were incarcerated under maximum security conditions for indeterminate lengths of time, and at the complete discretion of camp authorities. (pg. 31)

Loyalty questionnaire – To identify potential [military] volunteers over the age of 17 and eligible to serve, the War Department developed a questionnaire. The WRA decided to use the same questionnaire to identify inmates who might be released from captivity early. As a method to separate the loyal from the disloyal, the questionnaire asked two clumsily worded questions. The questions, number 27 and 28 [see below], caused sharp conflicts and division within each camp, and led to agonizing turmoil within many families. This questionnaire, which became known as the loyalty review program, caused the most wrenching crisis of the entire incarceration, and led to the creation of the high-security, conflict-ridden Tule Lake Segregation Center [see Segregation below]...

Prisoners at other camps were allowed time to discuss the loyalty questionnaire at administration-sponsored workshops and given opportunities for their questions to be answered... In contrast, registration at Tule Lake was handled in a manner that generated misunderstanding and antagonism. (pg. 7-8)

Martial law – [After Director Best called in the army after a tense negotiation meeting with the Daihyo Sha Kai,] when inmates prepared to go to work, they were tear gassed and greeted with a show of military force that included tanks and jeeps mounted with guns. Tule Lake became an armed camp with a prisoner curfew, barrack-to-barrack searches, and a near complete cessation of normal daily activities. The declaration of martial law was precipitated by an Army-WRA assembly scheduled on November 14. At that time, Col. Verne Austin expected to address the entire imprisoned Nikkei population. Not a single inmate appeared. The Army responded by declaring martial law and taking over administration of the camp. (pg. 11)

Okamoto murder – Shoichi James Okamoto, a 30-year-old Nisei, was shot and killed on May 24, 1944. The problem arose, according to the Modoc County Coroner’s report, because Okamoto was “sarcastic.” A sentry, Private Bernard Goe, was described in the report as being in a disagreeable mood when he ordered Okamoto out of his truck, struck him with a rifle butt, then stepped back and shot Okamoto at close range. This unprovoked attack resulted in an acquittal for Private Goe. (pg. 36)

Questions 27 and 28 (see Loyalty questionnaire, above) –

27. Are you willing to serve in the armed forces of the United States on combat duty, wherever ordered?

28. Will you swear unqualified allegiance to the United States of America and faithfully defend the United States from any and all attack by foreign or domestic forces, and forswear any form of allegiance or obedience to the Japanese emperor, or any other foreign government, power or organization? (pg. 7)

Renunciation, renunciants – Public law 78-405, known as the Renunciation Act of 1944, paved the way for disaffected American-born Nisei to voluntarily relinquish their citizenship. Without their citizenship, they could be legally interned in [Department of Justice] camps as “enemy aliens.” (pg. 13)

Glossary of Relevant Terms for Tule Lake

Renunciation, renunciants (cont.) – [On] December 17, 1944, the WRA announced that the incarceration would end, and the camps would close within a year....Army personnel began asking inmates if they planned to renounce [their birthright American citizenship] and remain in Tule Lake. This query sent a message that renunciation would allow a family to remain safe in Tule Lake until the war was over. ...With little idea of the consequences, 5,461 Nisei and Kibei at Tule Lake renounced... Within a few months it became clear to most renunciants that rejection of their American citizenship was a mistake. Stripped of their citizenship, they became “enemy aliens.” When the war ended, the DOJ [Department of Justice] prepared to deport them—as “disloyals” and “troublemakers”—to a devastated Japan. (pg. 14)

Segregation – On July 15, 1943, Tule Lake - which, of the 10 WRA camps imprisoned the largest number of inmates categorized as “disloyal” - was named the segregation center for those who refused to register or answered the loyalty questions “no-no”. Security at Tule Lake was increased with a battalion of military police. Tanks rolled in, and an eight-foot-high double “man-proof” fence was constructed around the maximum-security facility. (pg. 9)

Stockade – The open field in front of the jail was the site of the infamous military prison known as “the stockade.” ...During its use as the Army prison, the stockade’s captives were the democratically elected leaders within the imprisoned population and community advocates whose leadership roles earned them anti-administration reputations. Angry and disillusioned inmates who had little hope for a future in America also were imprisoned in the stockade. The Army used the stockade as a makeshift prison after the Army occupation of the camp on November 4, 1943. Over the following eight months, nearly 400 inmates were picked up and crowded into an area meant for fewer than 100... It remained in use through August 12, 1944, and was finally shut down following a series of prisoner hunger strikes. (pg. 32-33)

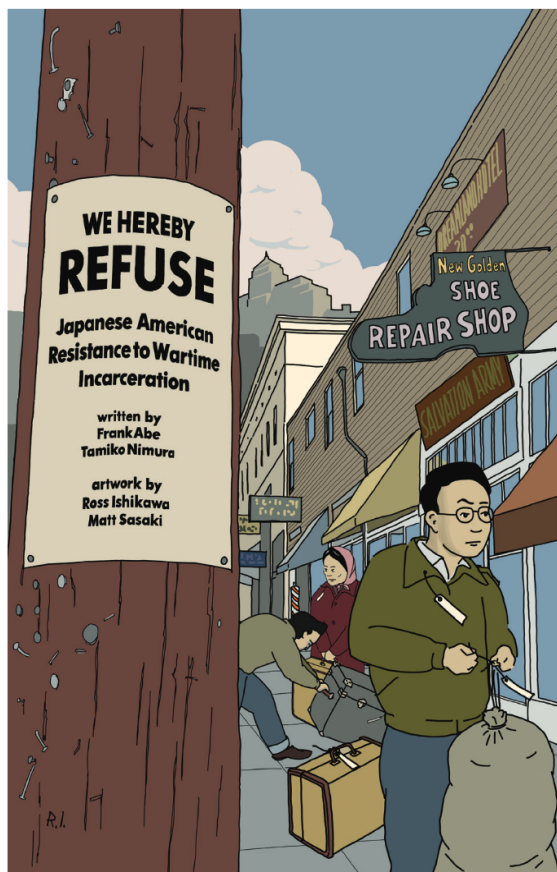
See also

Terminology Guide, Densho <https://densho.org/terminology/>

The Power of Words Handbook, Japanese American Citizens League (also available at the Densho Terminology Guide page, above)



Attorney Wayne Mortimer Collins in his San Francisco office, ca. 1942.
(Courtesy Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley)



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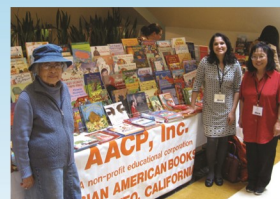


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Key Historical Dates and Time Periods

This list of key events only covers the duration of Tule Lake Concentration Camp's operation from opening to closing and is not intended to be all-inclusive. Its intent is to capture the currents of major actions during this time.

—compiled by James Okumura

1941

December 7: The United States entered World War Two after the Japanese Imperial Navy attacked US Military bases and facilities in the territories of Hawaii, Guam, Wake Island, and the Philippines.

1942

February 19: President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 authorizing War Secretary Stimson and his designees “to prescribe military areas...from which any or all persons may be excluded” which set the stage for the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans.

April 15: WRA began phase one construction of the Tule Lake Relocation Center.

May 27: First incarcerated arrived at Tule Lake Relocation Center under Civilian Exclusion Orders 87-91 primarily from coastal Washington and Oregon counties outside the Seattle and Portland areas west of the Cascade Divide.

1943

February – March: US Army & WRA maladministered their hastily constructed Loyalty Questionnaires for a poorly considered US Army recruitment and civilian release programs. The US Army's arrest of Block 42 inmates at gunpoint for refusing to complete the questionnaires was one of several major reasons for Tule Lake's low “Yes - Yes” response rate.

July 15: WRA designated Tule Lake as a Segregation Center for allegedly “disloyals” to separate them from “loyals” in all WRA concentration camps.

August – October: WRA ineptly segregated incarcerated by moving all “disloyals” from the other nine WRA concentration camps to Tule Lake, while partially moving only some “loyals” from Tule Lake. The combination of “loyals” and “disloyals” at Tule Lake caused ongoing friction between the groups and discontent amongst all at Tule Lake.

October 15: A truck driven by 16-year-old Harry Maruno overturned while transporting farm workers. Seventeen of them suffered minor injuries and were released. Of the twelve hospitalized, five were seriously injured. One of them, Tatsuo Kashima, died of his injuries.

October 16: Tule Lake farm workers began their strike and refused to work until adequate compensation for anyone injured was provided and safeguards against further accidents were made.

November 4: “The Tule Lake Incident” or “The Riot” – Reports of staff smuggling food out of camp resulted in physical confrontations and some disorder, acts of vandalism, and the roughing up of Dr. Reece Pedicord – pretexts for the Army's taking control of the concentration camp from the WRA .

November 5: The WRA established the original Stockade centered in the Military Police Area adjacent to the Hospital grounds. Guards referred to the tents enclosed by barb wire fencing as the “Bull Pen.” Eventually, camp authorities brought in barracks to expand the stockade and in 1944 moved it to “Area 99” adjacent to the jail.

November 4 – 13: Strike: coal, garbage, and warehouse crews at Tule Lake began their strike in response to Army proposals to drastically cut crews, employing only “cleared” workers.

Key Historical Dates and Time Periods

November 13: The US Army took control of Tule Lake under Martial law after the camp administration's consistently poor camp operations caused civil disobedience and unrest.

December 13: Spanish Consul, diplomatic representative of Japan's Imperial Government, visited Tule Lake Camp about the treatment of US resident Japanese civilian citizens – the Issei.

1944

May 3: Without knowing one another, 27 incarcerated were drafted by the US Army and refused induction. US Marshals arrested and jailed them in Eureka, California.

May 24 – 25: A surly US Army Sentry, Pvt. Bernard Goe, murdered Shoichi James Okamoto by shooting him "point blank" through the stomach for being "sarcastic" at the pre-Segregation Main Gate. Pvt. Goe stopped Mr. Okamoto while he was returning to the camp transporting lumber. Mr. Okamoto's work required him to periodically drive outside the fenced concentration camp area, but within the concentration camp site.

July 1: President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Denaturalization Act of 1944 (Public Law 78-405) permitting US Citizens to renounce their citizenship in time of war. This act set the stage for disaffected American-born Nisei and Kibei to voluntarily relinquish their citizenship and enabled the country to rid itself of its "Japanese Problem" by deportation.

July 10 - 12: Ernest Besig visited Tule Lake to investigate conditions and learned of eighteen men held in the stockade without charges or given due process. Mr. Besig enlisted Attorney Wayne Collins to secure the stockade detainees' release.

July 22: US District Court Judge, Louis E. Goodman, Northern California District ruled in favor of the 27 draft resisters (see May 3 above) in *US v. Kuwabara*. Referring to the 1940 Selective Service and Training Act that "in a free society the obligations and privileges of military training and service should be shared generally in accordance with a fair and just system of selective...service." the 27 men were determined to not be free and therefore could not be drafted.

August 19: Wayne Collins informed the WRA he would pursue habeas corpus proceedings to release the stockade detainees.

December 17: The Roosevelt Administration rescinded the exclusion orders and WRA announced they would close all ten concentration camps within a year. To provide political cover, the US Supreme Court leaked to the Roosevelt Administration that the court's upcoming *Ex parte Mitsuye Endo* ruling would require the War Department to lift the exclusion orders.

December 18: The US Supreme Court delivered its unanimous *Ex parte Mitsuye Endo* ruling, requiring rescission of the exclusion orders and opening the WRA's ten concentration camps.

December: After the WRA's announcement to close the concentration camps, camp authorities began asking inmates if they planned to renounce their US Citizenship and remain in Tule Lake. Their questioning inferred that families could remain safely in Tule Lake until the war ended. Placed under threat of being dumped into hostile communities and subject to assault and murder, Nisei and Kibei renounced their US Citizenship en masse. Of the 5,461 Nisei and Kibei who renounced at Tule Lake, the vast majority did so during December 1944.

December 27: The Department of Justice arrested 70 Hoshi/Hokoku Dan leaders and sent them to the Santa Fe, New Mexico Internment Camp. These arrests began the dismantling of these organizations. Arrests and internments continued through summer 1945. In total the FBI arrested and imprisoned 1,519 Issei and renunciants in Department of Justice internment camps.

Key Historical Dates and Time Periods

1945

January 26: The Department of Justice arrested 171 Hoshi/Hokoku Dan leaders and members and sent them to the Santa Fe, New Mexico Internment Camp.

February 11: The Department of Justice arrested 650 Hoshi/Hokoku Dan leaders and members and sent them to the Fort Lincoln, Bismarck, North Dakota, Internment Camp, and raided the Hoshi/Hokoku Dan headquarters.

March 4: The Department of Justice arrested 125 Hoshi/Hokoku Dan leaders and members and sent them to the Santa Fe, New Mexico, Internment Camp.

June – July: The Department of Justice arrested approximately 500 Hoshi/Hokoku Dan leaders and members and sent them to the Ft. Lincoln, Bismarck, North Dakota, and Santa Fe, New Mexico Internment Camps, concluding its dismantling of these organizations.

August 6: The US Army Air Force destroyed the people and city of Hiroshima by dropping the first Atomic Bomb ever used in conflict. Hiroshima ken was a primary point of origin for many Japanese who immigrated to the US. Many incarcerated at Tule Lake had family, relatives & friends in Hiroshima who perished in the atomic bombing.

September 2: Japan formally surrendered to Allied Forces aboard the USS Missouri anchored in Tokyo Bay. World War Two ends.

September: Incarcerated wanting to cancel their US Citizenship Renunciations democratically elected and formed the five member Tule Lake Defense Committee. They enlisted Attorney Wayne Collins to represent them and began the decades long process of individually cancelling the 5,409 renunciations brought forth to Attorney Collins and the Tule Lake Defense Committee. The final case was cleared in March 1968.

November 23: The Department of Justice and Department of State began deportation of re/expatriates from Tule Lake, sending a total of approximately 2,000 re/expatriates from Tule Lake and other Department of Justice camps aboard the USS General Randall docked in Seattle, Washington. Two weeks later they disembarked at Yokohama, Japan.

December 27: The Department of Justice and Department of State continued its deportation program by sending 3,555 re/expatriates from Tule Lake to join 720 others in Department of Justice custody aboard the USS General Gordon docked in Portland, Oregon. Two weeks later they disembarked at Uraga, Japan.

1946

February 19: The Department of Justice and Department of State continued its deportation program by sending 435 re/expatriates from Tule Lake to join 192 others held at the Crystal City, Fort Lincoln, and Santa Fe Department of Justice Camps aboard the USS General Ernst docked in Los Angeles, California. Two weeks later they disembarked at Yokohama, Japan.

March 29: Tule Lake Segregation Center closes. The last remaining incarcerated are sent into US society like most other former incarcerated with a ticket to their US destination of choice and \$25 (< \$430 in April 2024) or are transferred to Department of State camps to await deportation.

Sources: Densho, Second Kinenhi by Tule Lake Committee, Years of Infamy by Michi Nishiura Wehly, Native American Aliens by Donald Collins



*Tule Lake Survivors, 2018 Tule Lake Pilgrimage
Oregon Institute of Technology, Klamath Falls, Oregon (Courtesy Kiyoshi Ina)*



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Jean Kawano

Healing Circles for Change

Satsuki Ina, Developer

Coordinators:

Mike Ishii

Josefina Mora-Cheung

Nora Yasumura

Facilitators:

Julie Abo

Mary Abo

Linda Ando

Shoshana Arai

Becca Asaki

Patti Ayukawa

Rob Buscher

Sophie Dipti Sarkar

Lorna Fong

Chisao Hata

Janis Hirohama

Mike Ishii

Keiko Kubo

Alan Maeda

Trisha Mah

Yuki Mathias

Sean Miura

Grace Morizawa

Judy Nakatomi

Roger Oda

Patty Saito Hecht

Shirley Sanderson

Stan Shikuma

Katie Uemura

Christine Umeda

Jeanne Wong

Nora Yasumura

Kayoko Yokoyama

& Additional Facilitators

Emergency Numbers

HEALTH TEAM

Stan Shikuma, RN (206) 919-1465

Paula Fujiwara, MD (646) 919-0989

Yuko Yano, MD (206) 708-4815

OREGON INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

OIT and Klamath Falls Ambulance, Police, or Fire emergencies 911

Tule Lake site emergencies (Day 2 only) (530) 842-3515

OIT Non-Emergency Number (541) 885-1111

OIT Housing Office Number (541) 885-1094

OIT Campus Safety Number (541) 885-1117

Notes / Signatures

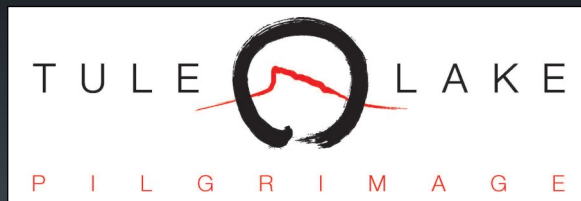
May the souls of those who died
while incarcerated here,
and the souls of those who died
afar while their families were
incarcerated here,
forever rest in peace.



Photos: (background) Hiroshima Industrial Promotion Hall 1945 (Courtesy NARA)

(foreground) Linkville Cemetery, Klamath Falls, Oregon (Courtesy Stan Shikuma)

(back cover) Tule Lake Relocation/Segregation Center, Robert H. Ross, photographer (Courtesy NARA)



Tule Lake Committee
PO Box 170141
San Francisco, CA 94117

E-mail
info@tulelake.org

Web
www.tulelake.org

Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/5857573804/?mibextid=HsNCOg>

*The Tule Lake Committee is an all-volunteer
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