

APS, Amache, and the National Parks

The Amache Preservation Society reports that both Colorado senators, Republican Cory Gardner and Democrat Michael Bennett, visited the internment camp site and museum this past summer to support the designation of Amache as part of the national park system. Senator Bennett stated that he would join Senator Gardner and the National Park Service Committee in a bipartisan effort.

Currently, the APS is working through Senator Gardner's office. John Hopper, who has lead high school students in a preservation effort for years, is also coordinating meetings of the Granada City Council with the senator's office. Cathy Garcia, who is employed in that office, has been a helpful liaison in drafting the bill to add Amache to the national park system.

A citywide meeting was held two months ago so that ordinary citizens could express their opinions. Although the City of Granada presently owns the Amache site, the Friends of Amache and the APS negotiated a 99-year historical preservation lease on the land involved. Changing Amache's status to that of a national park, however, would require a conservation group to purchase the land from the city and donate it to the national park system. Granada citizens will vote on the sale of land, if Amache is designated as a national park, in April 2018.

Amache Website Update

The Amache.org website is back up and running! Unfortunately, the original web server provider was problematic, and changes that had to be made meant that operation was suspended for most of the past summer. The members of the website group, Kirsten Leong, Mitch Homma, and Dana Shew would like to thank Colorado Preservation Inc. for tracking down the archived files so that Amache Historical Society II could once again host the website. We have now established a new account with GoDaddy and are linked to the Amache Preservation Society website. Additional updates, in addition to those already made to the timeline, are in the works now that AHSII is in full control of the website.

Amache Historical Society II (AHS II) Newsletter, FALL 2017

AHS II's mission is to:

- preserve the Amache site (Granada, CO)
- teach Amache's history and legacy by reporting survivors' stories
- communicate via the amache.org website
- support John Hopper and his Granada High students, known as the Amache Preservation Society, with maintenance of the Amache site and museum

11-F Recreation Building Project



11-F Rec Building in the town of Granada, CO

The original 11-F recreation building at Amache will be moved from its present location at the Granada City Park back to its original foundation. Analyzing the foundation for the purposes of this move are Dr. Bonnie Clark at Denver University and Barbara Darden at Scheuber & Darden Architects. Also participating are compliance manager Edward Jakaitis at History Colorado, Section 106 and architect Tom Keoha and archaeologist Skylar Blue at the National Park Service. Before the move can take place, Amache Preservation Society students must remove all the sagebrush around the barracks foundation without disturbing the archeological integrity of the site.

With respect to project funding, the Colorado State Historical Fund awarded a grant to Colorado Preservation Inc. on August 1 to match a grant that had already been awarded by the National Park Service. Additionally, the Gates Family Foundation has encouraged Colorado Preservation Inc. to reapply for funds for the full restoration of the rec building, which is not intact, after it is back on site. Present funding will be used to draw up planning documents and to restore the rec hall foundation. A moving plan is due to be reviewed by the organizations cited above. The project team hopes that, weather permitting, the rec building will be moved back to its original foundation in the spring.

Be Part of DU Amache!

The University of Denver will be returning to conduct research at Amache and the Amache museum in Granada, Colorado from June 12 through July 12, 2018. Our mornings will be spent doing archaeological research at the camp, while our afternoons will be devoted to the Amache museum collections. We are excited about continuing to work with the Amache Preservation Society on the new Amache Research Facility, a space that houses additional collections and serves as a research facility for visitors and archaeology crews.



Conversations in the reconstructed barrack at Amache during the Open House Day, 2016. Photograph by volunteer, Greg Kitajima

So how can you be a part of this important work?

- We welcome volunteers! If you can commit a week or so to our research, we invite you to join us. You'll work alongside high school interns, college students, volunteers, and staff. Your interests and energy may influence how you spend your time.
- We invite you to our community open house day on Friday, July 6, 2018, for activities that include seeing archaeologists at work, individualized tours of the camp, checking out the museum, socializing with other Amacheans, and a group dinner.
- April Kamp-Whittaker, a DU alumna and current Ph.D. student at Arizona State University, is collecting additional data for her research on community structure and social interaction at Amache. Using both archaeological and archival data, she is working to expand our understanding of how Amacheans created an integrated community. If you have insight into this topic, or memorabilia and photographs documenting camp communal structures or activities, we would like to hear from you!

Please contact project director, Dr. Bonnie Clark, by email at bclark@du.edu, or phone: 303-871-2875. You can follow our progress on Facebook! We will be posting regularly during the month we spend in the field on: <https://www.facebook.com/DUAmacheResearchProject/>

Colorado Preservation, Inc Hosts Saving Places Conference, 2018

Colorado Preservation, Inc. has begun making plans for the Saving Places Conference that is scheduled for January 31 – February 3, 2018 at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver. An annual event, the conference presents sessions on a wide range of topics such as historic site preservation, recording history technology, financial support, educational research presentations, speaker motivation, conducting tours of preservation sites, and networking with colleagues and government officials.

This year's theme, "The Power of Place: From the Mountains to the Plains," celebrates Colorado's diverse history, spotlights underrepresented sites and communities, and gives voice to the stories of Coloradans that have not yet been told. Among the subjects to be explored regarding diversity are the connection between people and places, the role of heritage in forming a community identity, and incentives for the reuse of historic places in our communities.

The Friends of Amache will be hosting a session that is scheduled on Thursday, February 1, from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. Panel speakers include Marge Taniwaki, Dr. Bonnie Clark, John Tonai, and Mitch Homma.

Film Screenings at JANM by Sumiko Higashi

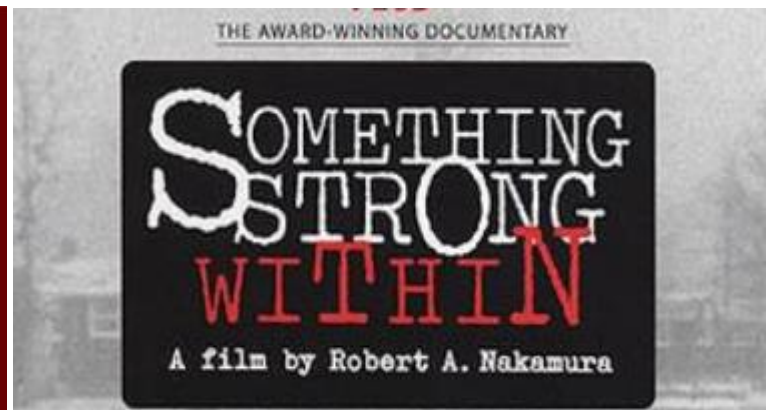
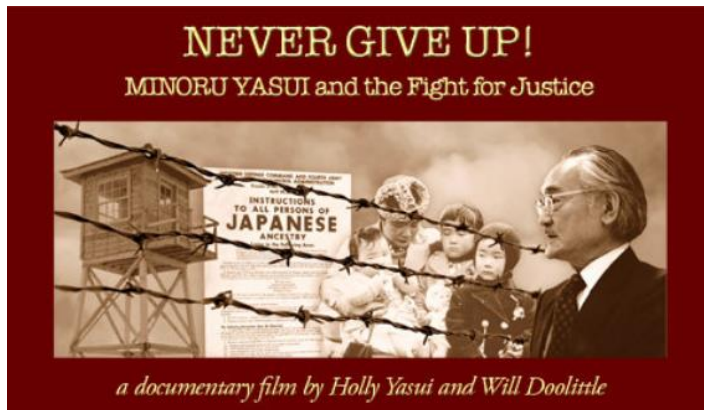
Never Give Up! Minoru Yasui and the Fight for Justice, Part I

At the end of July, Holly Yasui, filmmaker and daughter of the civil rights activist, and Will Doolittle, a noted documentarian, screened the first part of *Never Give Up!* at the Japanese American National Museum in L.A. A moving tribute to Minoru Yasui, with footage of photos, news headlines, interviews, and speeches and narration by actor George Takei, the film focuses on intersecting personal, regional, and national histories before, during, and after World War II.

Masuo and Shidzuo Yasui settled in Oregon's Hood River valley in the 1910s and, until World War II intervened, were an exemplary American success story. Challenging the legitimacy of the curfew law that was enacted after hostilities began, their indomitable son Minoru Yasui provoked arrest and spent months in solitary confinement. Although the JACL disagreed with his tactics at first, it later supported his case. After unsuccessful court proceedings, Yasui was confined at Minidoka and became an advisor regarding the controversial issue of the draft. Several enterprising siblings had evaded imprisonment or were able to secure an early release to pursue their education.

After the war, Yasui raised a family in Denver with True Shibata, who had been interned at Amache, and was tireless in securing civil rights for marginalized peoples. Although he spearheaded the redress movement, he died before its realization. Also pending was the outcome of re-litigating cases regarding the constitutionality of internment that involved Yasui, Gordon Hirabayashi, and Fred Korematsu.

Currently, Holly Yasui is completing the first part of the film, which has been well-received at screenings in Oregon, Utah, and Texas, and won the 2017 Multicultural Film Award of the National Association for Multicultural Education. She plans to add a second part on redress and re-litigated cases. Additional information is available at minoruyasuifilm.org. The Yasui story is also related in Lauren Kessler's *Stubborn Twig: Three Generations in the Life of a Japanese American Family*.



Recent film screenings at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, CA

Something Strong Within

Screening at JANM on a continuous basis is Robert Nakamura's *Something Strong Within*, a film that was initially part of an exhibit titled "America's Concentration Camps" in 1994-1995. Unfortunately, the museum does not provide seating in front of the screen so that patrons walk by a very interesting film. A stylistic contrast to *Never Give Up!* Nakamura's work does not rely on conventional montage and an authoritative voice-of-God narration on the soundtrack, but uses occasional titles and music. The film consists of edited sequences of revealing home movies shot by internees, at times surreptitiously, at various camp sites. What emerges are scenes of daily activities like dining in mess halls, Japanese rituals including *obon*, and American rites such as playing football, parades with majorettes and a drum and bugle corps, couples on the dance floor, ice skating, and Christmas festivities. As stated in the film, an attempt was made to reconstruct the life that was lost. And that is what gives the film such pathos.



Granada High Amache Preservation students at the Amache museum

PLEASE REMEMBER AMACHE IN YOUR HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING

As the year-end holidays approach, shoppers are reminded to contribute to helpful organizations by Salvation Army bell ringers at shopping malls, numerous mailings stuffed in our mailboxes, and telephone calls made by volunteers and robo systems.

John Hopper recently had to repair a leaky pipe in the museum that sent volunteers to use the sink of the gasoline station next door. Please put Amache on your list and write a check, in any amount, to **Amache Preservation Society, PO Box 258, Granada CO 81041-0259.**

All donations are tax deductions as APS has a tax-exempt status. Please be generous!

Amache Silk Screen Shop facts:

- The shop was organized on June 1, 1943, at the request of the US Navy, to create posters and prints like the one of the guard tower on this newsletter, and was equipped with a dark room for two individuals with cameras, generally prohibited.
- Members purchased their own materials and worked on their own projects during the evenings and Saturday afternoons.
- Work at the Silk Screen Shop had to be stopped during destructive Amache dust storms as dust would splice the silk and stick to the surface of the wet prints.

Historic Photo:



Amache High School Honor Society Members, 5/1943
WRA Photographer: Joe McClelland

Pilgrimages Project

Kimiko Marr and Marissa Fujimoto are creating a website that will show all ten WRA internment camps and pilgrimage information. The website will include videos of the relocation sites and oral history interviews filmed during pilgrimages. Marr and Fujimoto hope to encourage former internees and their families to participate in pilgrimages and to share their stories. Marr herself traveled to Granada, Colorado, in 2017 to become a part of the Amache pilgrimage and to conduct interviews. The website is currently in development and may be fully operative during the pilgrimage season next year. For additional information, please contact Kimiko Marr at Kimiko.Marr@gmail.com

Volunteer Staff:

Rewrite Editor: Sumiko Higashi
Design and Layout: Mitch Homma
Distribution: Kirsten Leong, Frances Palmer

Contributors:

Amache Preservation Society students
Dr. Bonnie Clark
Dr. Sumiko Higashi
Mitch Homma
Kirsten Leong
Kimiko Marr