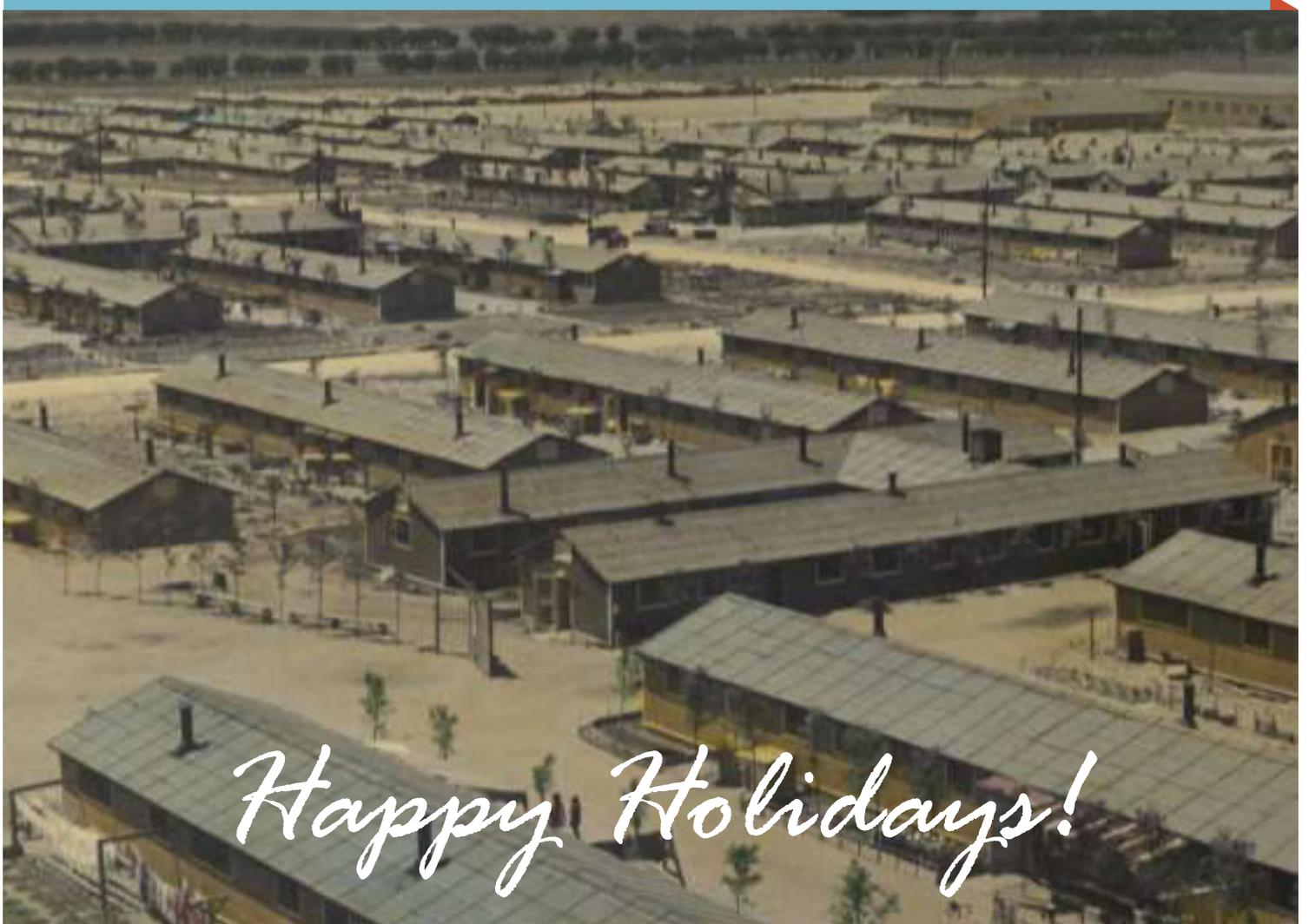


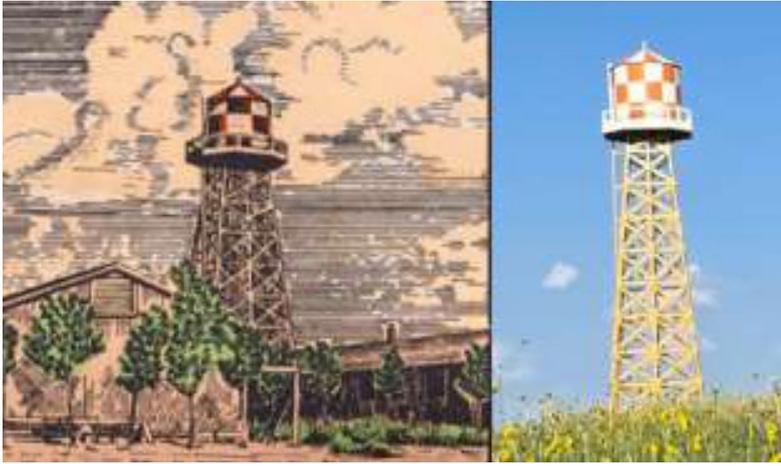


# AMACHE ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

五水  
AMACHE

Winter 2022





The Amache Alliance mission is to:

1. Preserve and interpret the Granada War Relocation Center (Amache) National Historic Landmark;
2. Educate all Americans about the forced evacuation and internment of Japanese Americans by preserving Amache's historic structures, artifacts, and stories;
3. Collaborate with other organizations to stress the relevance of Japanese American confinement in preserving the civil rights of all Americans today.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS REFLECTIONS

BY MITCH HOMMA

Happy Holiday season from the Amache Alliance Board of Directors and special advisors. It is the time of year for remembrance and reflection. The Amache Alliance Board wants to recognize the life and contributions of Mr. Ken Kitajima. We were fortunate to have him as a Special Advisor, friend, and mentor. His dream of witnessing the Amache National Historic Site Act pass in Congress and signed by President Biden this past March came true. The Alliance would also like to express our gratitude for the support of the Amache survivors and families who have responded to our requests for help and support.

As we reflect on this year, we are thankful for all the first time and repeat visitors. We are also preparing for a memorable upcoming year as we progress towards establishing the Amache National Historic Site. With sincere and heartfelt thankfulness, the Amache Alliance Board of Directors recognizes the preservation and education work by many organizations and Amache supporters. We stand upon the foundations laid before us and will continue to honor the legacy of the pioneer preservationists.



Greg and his uncle, Ken Kitajima, at the DU Amache Field School.

## Amache National Historic Site (ANHS) Establishment Status:

The National Park Service (NPS) Land Resources Division is working on the donation of the land transfer from the Town of Granada. The Amache Alliance and stakeholders participated in a Nov. 28th meeting with the Land Resources Division and heard about their activities. Upcoming tasks include ground water sampling around the historic dump and possible Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) around the motor pool area. The NPS is interested in seeing photos of the gas station and motor pool area near the entrance. We successfully provided information about the Co-Op Dry Cleaning Service that helped resolve some questions.

As work on establishing Amache as a new site occurs, a Park Planning team is developing a

foundation document which is created for all units in the national park system. It captures what is most important about the park and what efforts are needed to protect and preserve its resources. Foundation documents describe a national park unit's core purpose and significance, its most important resources and values, and the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park. They also identify key issues to be addressed for future planning and funding priorities. The NPS has invited stakeholders to be involved in developing content for the foundation document. After a January development meeting, the National Park Service will complete a draft of the foundation document and share it for public review. During that time, comments and feedback will be requested online, in writing, or in-person at one of the NPS public scoping meetings that will be scheduled.

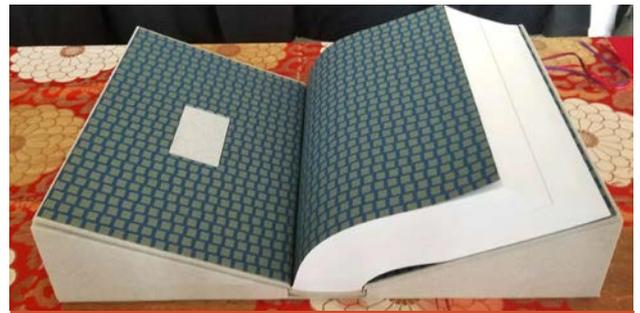
# THE IREI MONUMENT

**The Irei: National Monument for the WWII Japanese American Incarceration is a multi-faceted project that seeks to memorializing individuals of Japanese ancestry who experienced wartime incarceration. This project has three distinct, interlinking elements: a sacred book of names as a monument (Ireichō), a website as a monument (Ireizō), and light sculptures as monuments (Ireihi). The project is funded by the Mellon Foundation and led by Duncan Ryuken Williams, chair of the USC School of Religion, and director of the USC Shinso Ito Center for Japanese Religions and Culture, and project Creative Director, Sunyoung Lee.**

The Ireichō contains the first comprehensive listing of over 125,000 persons of Japanese ancestry who were incarcerated in US Army, Department of Justice, Wartime Civil Control Administration, and War Relocation Authority sites. Embedded into the materiality of the Ireichō are special ceramic pieces made from soil collected from the seventy-five incarceration sites from Alaska to Hawaii, Arkansas to California, and from almost every other region of the United States. The ceramic pieces were made by Amache descendant John Hasegawa, head of the Ceramics Department at Mt. Hood Community College. See the video of creating the ceramic tiles with soil from all 75 incarceration sites: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nC5dOs6DM0o>.

The idea of a book as a monument is inspired by the Japanese tradition of Kakochō (literally, “The Book of the Past”), a book of names typically placed on a temple altar for memorial services.

A ceremonial installation of the Ireichō book was held on September 24, 2022, at the Japanese American National Museum (JANM). The ceremony procession was led by the Amache contingent. Representing Amache were the following: Minoru Tonai (Amache survivor/Amache Historical Society), John Tonai



The 1,000 page Ireichō monument book containing the names of people of Japanese descent with the front cover ceramic inset.

(Amache descendant/Productions Coordinator, JANM), Ann E. Danis (Director of Field Programs, DU Amache Field School/Cal Poly Pomona Assistant Professor), Kara Miyagishima (Acting Superintendent, Amache National Historic Site & JACS Program Manager), Rev. Andy Quient (American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles, Southwest, and Hawaii). The Amache soil sample for the project was from around the cemetery area.

The Ireichō monument will be on display at JANM for a year. The public is invited to view and acknowledge the names in the Ireichō by placing a special hanko (stamp) mark underneath the name of each individual in the book. If the goal of honoring the 125,000+ names is not reached by the end of the year-long campaign, the Ireichō may be displayed at other locations until every single individual is acknowledged.

Stamping of the Ireichō will require a reservation. All visitors are welcome to stamp the Ireichō. You do not have to be a former incarcerated, a relative, or a descendant of a former incarcerated to stamp the book. Please see the reservation page for stamping instructions and to book a visit: <https://www.janm.org/exhibits/ireicho/stamping>. Camp survivors and those with special circumstances can contact the Development Office at 213.830.5646 or email [development@janm.org](mailto:development@janm.org) to arrange a time to stamp names.

The Ireizō lists those names online at <https://ireizo.com/>. Visitors can search for the person’s name by name, birth year, or site. Ireizō is a collaboration with Densho and funding is supplemented by support from the Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) Grant Program.



Amache representatives leading the Ireicho opening ceremony procession at the Japanese American National Museum.



THE WWII ERA FLAG

Dr. Bonnie Clark and Survivor Carlene Tanigoshi Tinker with two Granada High APS students who were "guards" of the flag during the open house day.

# MUCH MORE THAN DIGGING

BY ARLENE MAKITA-ACUNA, 2022 Amache Field School Volunteer

This was the year of extraordinary! Not only because of commemorating the 80th anniversary of Executive Order 9066 that paved the way for the mass evacuation and relocation of all those of Japanese descent from the West Coast, but the additional highlights of Amache and the Denver University Amache Project Field School:

- 1) The Granada Relocation Center, better known as Amache to survivors and descendants, was granted federal approval to be managed under the auspices of the National Park Service.
- 2) A 48-star WWII era flag, number 6, arrived in time for Amache survivors to sign. This gesture to honor those incarcerated was initiated by Judge Johnny Gogo of Santa Clara County, California. The flags are

traveling to the camps, churches, and specific places where there are gatherings that can include camp survivors. Eventually, a signed flag will settle at the National Japanese American Museum in Los Angeles. The others are yet to be designated "homes".

3) The work embodied the usual digging, meticulous measuring, packing sand samples, and screening for possible artifacts. But, earlier, during the annual Amache reunion on site, Bonnie stumbled upon another new discovery! Amache roses planted 80 years ago, hidden amidst the desert shrubs, blooming quietly next to the floor slab of a mess hall.

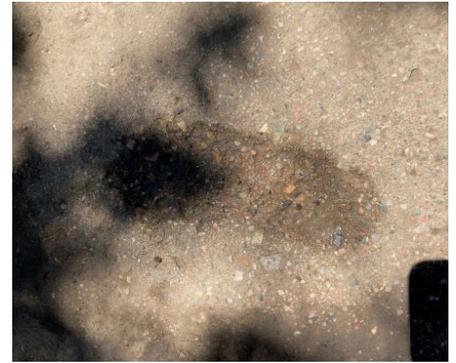
Astounding! We could see the little rose bushes, but the flowers had already bloomed by late June.

4) The morning following an evening downpour of rain, our excavation site had experienced some rinsing off! Lo and behold, a child's footprint on a mess hall step near the screening area was now visible! Who was that child who "broke the rules"!

This was my second time participating as a volunteer. I fully expected to dig, carry pails of sand and screen. But, by day 2, I was asked to join the master artist to sketch a pond undergoing excavation on the other side of the mess hall at Block 12F. So, there I was, standing with a drawing board and sketching in the growing morning heat, most days reaching 90 degrees by the time we left for lunch.



Artists sketching and documenting the excavation.



Top: Visiting the Amache rose bushes.

Bottom: A child's footprint left in the cement

As I focused on each rock, each piece of concrete that emerged, often erasing as I sketched, I found myself drawn into the pond more and more and by the end of the third day when it was time to say goodbye, I felt a bond with a spot that I came to realize gave solace and beauty to those who would stop to meditate, ponder, or even have a smoke after a meal at the adjacent mess hall.



The 12F Mess Hall Pond excavated during the DU Amache Field School.

This took me closer to what it must have been like to be there 80 years ago...and I came away with deeper appreciation, not only as to how much my parents and grandparents' generation endured, but how they lived in a forced community behind barbed wire, under the watch of guard towers and searchlights, and yet gave it their all to create as much beauty as they could.



Flowers bloom under the summer sky as the water tower stands tall in the distance.

# AMACHE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

## DONATION NEEDS

The Amache Preservation Society (APS) maintains the physical site of Amache and is instrumental in its preservation. APS is raising funds for new projects such as furnishing the restored barrack and continued work on the 11-F Rec Hall building. Donate online by visiting the [amache.org](https://amache.org/giving_opportunities/) donation page here: [https://amache.org/giving\\_opportunities/](https://amache.org/giving_opportunities/)

Mail checks to:

Amache Preservation Society  
PO Box 259  
Granada, CO 81041-0259



Amache children ready for the holiday program. Courtesy of the Homma & Wada families.



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS AMACHE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS!



**Singing with spirit!**

Children's Christmas presentation at 7-F.  
Photo courtesy of Amache Preservation Society, George Ochikubo collection.



**Ho ho ho! A visit from Santa.**

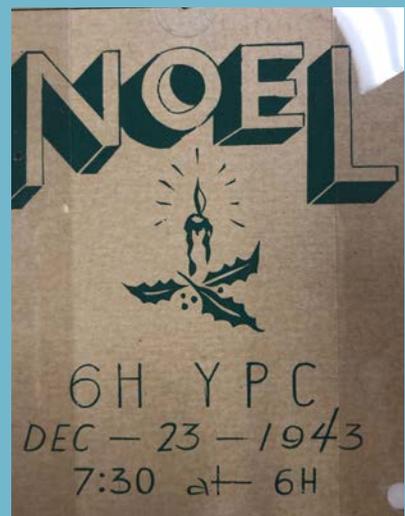
Chief Steward Matsumoto of Block 7-H at the Granada Relocation Center dons some red pajamas and a Santa Claus mask to make Christmas real for the children.

## PRINTING HOLIDAY JOY!

The Amache Silk Screen Shop printed holiday cards, party invitations, calendars, and more to help Amacheans celebrate the holidays.



A Christmas Card printed by the Amache Silk Screen Shop; Homma & Wada family collection.



A silk screened invitation to a holiday event at the 6H recreation hall.



December 24, 1943. There aren't any Christmas trees for the barracks room of these children in Amache. A Granada merchant, a former evacuee, provided each mess hall with a tree. These children have made paper trimmings for the block community tree. Churches all over the country sent toys and gifts and some of these will be under this tree to make Christmas real for these children.

**DECK THE HALLS!**

Children decorate a donated Christmas tree.



A choral group of 200 volunteer voices practicing for a Christmas carolling program. On Christmas Eve, the group divided into four sections. Each section assembled at the four corners of the site and slowly converged, singing carols, toward a central point. At the central point a Christmas Eve party consisting of community singing was held. The front cover photo is also from the choir practice.

**FA LA LA LA LA!**

Christmas carolers practice in a mess hall.



# AMACHE ALLIANCE CHARITY DONATION OPTIONS



The Amache Alliance relies on the support of donors to advance our mission to provide support and projects, including interpretive and preservation projects. Join us in preserving our history, so that we can share its lessons in the future.

Visit the Amache Alliance webpage at <https://www.amachealliance.org/donate> to donate online or checks can be mailed to 1502 Avenida La Posta, Encinitas, CA 92024.

## CONTRIBUTE TO PRESERVING AMACHE

Consider supporting the Amache Alliance through planned gift giving from a wide range of asset types such as IRA gifts, Qualified Charitable Distributions, Required Minimum Distributions, stocks and non-traditional assets. Contact your financial planning professional advisor for various gift-giving vehicles.

Amache Alliance has a nonprofit corporate financial account with Fidelity Investments and supported by advisors from The Burns-Blackburn Group, Financial Planning Specialists. Your donation will help sustain our mission to preserve the Amache site and its history for generations to come.

## DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS: SIMPLIFY CHARITABLE GIVING

Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs) are the fastest-growing giving method and a tax-efficient way to manage your charitable donations. They allow donors to make a contribution and receive an immediate tax deduction. The Donate Page DAF Direct Widget makes it easy to give through a Fidelity Charitable, Schwab Charitable or BNY Mellon Charitable account. After selecting the

institution that manages your donor-advised fund, simply enter the dollar amount you want to donate to NPCA and click “next.” You will then be directed to an external website to complete your gift. If you don’t already have a DAF, contact your financial advisor to learn how to set up a donor-advised fund.

## GIVE WHILE YOU SHOP!

Select national retailers will donate a portion of a purchase to the nonprofit organization of your choice, including Amazon Smile and iGive.com. Please consider directing your donations to the Amache Alliance.

If more information is desired on charitable giving options, feel free to contact us at [AmacheAlliance@gmail.com](mailto:AmacheAlliance@gmail.com) or Mitch at [mhomma@gmail.com](mailto:mhomma@gmail.com)



<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/86-3227139>



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# AMACHE ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

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If you are not on our email/newsletter list yet, contact us at AmacheAlliance@gmail.com or fill out the contact form on the Amache Alliance website at <https://www.amachealliance.org/contact>



### Find us on Facebook!

Keep up to date with Amache related news and events by joining the All Things Amache Facebook Group here:

**ALL THINGS AMACHE**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/809799359625587>



### Cover Photos:

- Amache site in color, Amache Preservation Society, Kobata Collection
- A choral group of 200 volunteer voices practicing for a Christmas Carol and program, photo from Tom Parker, NARA
- 442nd Christmas Card printed by the Amache Silk Screen Shop, Murakami Collection