



From the Desk of Roundtable President Charles Holt

August 2021 Newsletter www.WWIIroundtable.com

WOW! If you missed Dr. Ian Ona Johnson's presentation on his book, entitled *Faustian Bargain*, last month, then you must get his book. Ian came down from Notre Dame, to explain how the German and Russian military elites, secretly created the weapons and tactics for WWII deep inside Russia, between the wars. What an epiphany! Our in person dinner program attendees continue to grow, so come join us; if unable, then Zoom the program. Our long-serving audio-visual servant, Charlie Russell, has turned his duties over to a new group of volunteers. Thanks, so much, Charlie, for your great dedication. I can't wait to hear the stories of the WWII internee Hiratas on the 23rd . . . Marlene has been working for two years to make this come true.

See you then!

Charles Holt, D.O.

August 23, 2021, 7:00 PM In-Person & Zoom

Dinner 6-7:00 at North Side Social! 7:00 Greetings & 7:10
Ozzie's History Report on "Slovakia" read by Janice Kleinbub

PROGRAM

In-person Featured Speakers:

Ken & Chiyo Hirata

Japanese-Americans Interned During WWII

Moderated by Marlene Mendonsa

August 23 2021 06:45 PM Log-In available

Meeting Starts 7:00 PM Use Zoom link below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85842279926?pwd=QSS1ZDA2ZDFoZFkrTFIvbXRYekRMUT09>

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Dues Reminder

Accepting checks now for 2021, payable to:
WWII Roundtable, Inc.
P.O. Box 1965
Noblesville, IN 46061
Or, go to our website to pay
online: wwiiroundtable.com
- Veteran \$20
- Non-Veteran \$25
- **WWII Veterans free**

Join us in person if you are able! Even more of our members attended in July and it was great to see so many friends once again. Remember, if you are in person and paying for a meal, you help support the Northside Service Club. They need our business. Be sure to send your RSVP to Karl Kleinbub ASAP: knj1002@myinestar.net or phone 317- 607- 6948. A head count for Northside Social is very important. Also, please have exact change \$11 ++ tip for your meal.

After multiple dues reminders, non-dues payers have been dropped from membership as of August 1

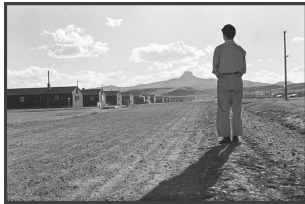
WW II TRIVIA FOR AUGUST 2021



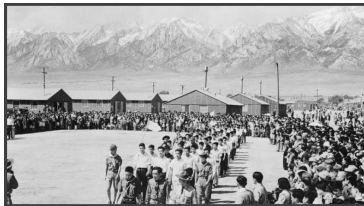
- There were Thirteen Relocation Camps for Ethnic Japanese: Amache (CO), Central Utah (UT), Colorado River (AZ), Gila River (AZ), Heart Mountain (WY), Jerome & Rohwer (AR), Leupp Citizens Isolation (AZ), Manzanar (CA), Minidoka (ID), Moab (UT), Ft Ontario (NY), Ft Reno (OK), Tule Lake (CA)
- **Camp Amache:** Only camp in Colorado and the smallest in the system. It housed 8000 residents beginning in September 1942 who came from Sonoma Valley and Merced in California. The residents drilled wells to irrigate nearby fields for crops, thus farmers could continue to ply their trade. (See recent news articles about Amache on the next page)

- **Gila River Relocation Camp** located three miles west of Sacaton on land belonging to the Gila River Indian Reservation. SE of Phoenix, AZ. The camp comprised two compounds a few miles apart and was designed to hold 15,000 people. It opened in July 1942 and operated until November 1946. At its peak it held 13,348 residents.

- **Heart Mountain Relocation Camp** also built in 1942: This camp reached maximum population of 11,000 residents largely from the Los Angeles area. This number steadily declined as residents left the camp for various reasons: 903 left and relocated to Camp Tule (a camp for trouble makers and renunciants), Over 100 men left in early 1944 to join the US Army's 442nd Regimental Combat Group [to become the most decorated military unit in WW2]. Residents worked in agriculture during the season and in hotels, restaurants, on road gangs and the railroads in other times. The camp is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



- **Manzanar Relocation Camp** located 50 miles south of Bishop (CA) was one of two reception centers to receive and assist ethnic Japanese evacuating the West Coast during the short-lived and ill-fated voluntary relocation program. Initially operated by the US Army Western Defense Command (WCCA), it was transferred to the War Relocation Authority (WRA) and converted into a relocation camp designed to hold 10,000 people. The residents worked in agriculture. A farm nearby grew natural rubber as the main supply had been lost when the Japanese invaded SE Asia. In 1943 Ansel Adams visited the camp and took hundreds of photos which are the best photographic records of the camp.



- **Minidoka Relocation Camp** (Hunt Relocation Center) was located 15 miles NE of Twin Falls, Idaho. It was designed to hold 10,000 people. It operated from August 1942 to October 1945. Most of the residents here came from Washington and Oregon, via the Portland (OR) and Puyallup (WA) Assembly Centers.



- **Tule Lake Relocation Camp** was originally built for 16,000 people. By 1943, all trouble-makers from other camps were sent to Tule Lake, the original residents had been moved to other camps. Tule Lake became the most prison-like of all the camps and the largest with 18,000 residents. The US Army took over control from the WRA until Jan. 1944 because here individuals openly displayed their

loyalty to Emperor Hirohito, sang patriotic Japanese songs, and some "longed for the day they could return to Japan and join the Japanese armed forces. Some internees renounced citizenship became enemy aliens. The mood would change when Japan surrendered in August 1945; some internees had second thoughts and became more cooperative, those who did not cooperate were sent to Japan. **Finally**, in January 1945 the WRA announced that all ethnic Japanese could leave the camps.

MORE TRIVIA NEXT MONTH . . .

DENVER POST (May 2021)

Read more about The Amache internment camp, as told by Japanese American survivors and descendants “Being relocated and incarcerated changed the whole family history” “I was only 11 years old in May 1942, when my family was ordered to leave our home and 20-acre combination fruit and vegetable farm in Yuba City, California. The time-frame given to us was less than one week. We were told to report to the local train depot with only what we could carry. No destination given, no reason given, except too vague words: military necessity.” —Bob Fuchigami in 2016.

Go to: <https://www.denverpost.com/2021/05/20/amache-internment-camp-colorado-stories/>



Also, check out the Amache.org website which is chock full of fascinating information and history!



Indianapolis Star News (Aug 2021)

As reported by Colorado Springs Gazette

Amache national historic site bill passes US House

Esteban Candelaria
Colorado Springs Gazette
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Camp Amache, a Japanese American incarceration camp that imprisoned over 7,000 in southeast Colorado, took one step closer to becoming a national park last week.

The Amache National Historic Site Act, a bipartisan effort to preserve and learn from the legacy of the notorious incarceration camp, was overwhelmingly passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday. The bill will now go on to the Senate, where its sponsors hope for swift passage.

The bill was led by Colorado Reps. Joe Neguse and Ken Buck, who introduced the bill three months ago.

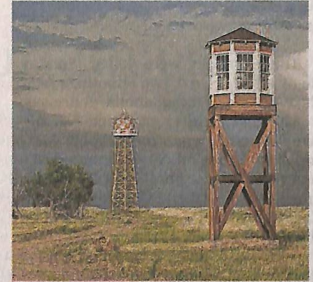
“Our nation is better today because of the lessons we have learned from our past,” Buck said. “The Amache National Historic Site Act is important because it recognizes the horrible injustices committed against Japanese Americans and preserves the site for people throughout Colorado and the United States.”

“The landscapes, cultural places and stories we choose to protect reflect our values as a nation. And the story of Amache is an important one,” Neguse said. “Designation of Amache as a national historic site will help us to honor and preserve the stories of many survivors who lived through this dark moment in our nation’s history, and provide education and healing for future generations.”

The House’s passage of the bill was commended by Colorado Sens. Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper, who introduced a similar bill to the U.S. House of Representatives a week after Neguse and Buck.

“We’re one step closer to making Amache a National Historic Site,” Hickenlooper said. “Preserving Amache is about what we choose to remember and what we commit ourselves to prevent. The ball is now in the Senate’s court.”

A product of one of the largest forced



The Amache National Historic Site Act was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives. PROVIDED BY MAX MCCOY

imprisonments in the history of the United States, the Granada Relocation Center, also known as Camp Amache, was once one of the 10 remote prison camps 120,000 Japanese Americans were sent to by an executive order signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

During the time of its operation, at least 7,000 people were imprisoned in Amache, and more than 10,000 spent time there at some point.

Amache also had the most Japanese Americans volunteer to enlist in the military.

Gov. Jared Polis has been among those that have voiced support for the incarceration site to be entered into the National Park system. In May, Polis sent a letter to the National Park Service asking for their support in turning the site into a national park.

But passage of the bill means most to those most impacted by Camp Amache — namely, its survivors.

“Today’s passage of the Amache National Historic Site Act in the U.S. House of Representatives brings me hope, and I thank Congressman Neguse and Congressman Buck,” said Amache survivor Bob Fuchigami. “I now urge the Senate to pass this bill. The time is not only right, it is long overdue.”

Guest Speakers will be Ken & Chiyo Hirata

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after February 17, 1897 and on or before December 31, 1921)	
SERIAL NUMBER 1. 112	ORDER NUMBER 70501
NAME (Print) Ataye Hirata	
PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) 1116 Bx 325, Stockton Calif	
MAILING ADDRESS (Print) 1116 Bx 325, Stockton Calif	
AGE IN YEARS 44	PLACE OF BIRTH Japan
DATE OF BIRTH Aug. 4, 1897	CITY (Print) Miyama
NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Chiyo Hirata	
EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Mitsui Bussan Kaisha	
PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT (Print) Branch, Camp	
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE	
D. S. S. FORM 1 (Revised 1-1-42)	

Father Ataye Hirata's WW2 registration card (left) and post-war parents with son, Ken



This World War II photograph shows a Japanese American family at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center, north of Cody, Wyoming, one of the camps where the United States government imprisoned West Coast Japanese immigrants and Japanese Americans. More than ten thousand people were imprisoned at Heart Mountain, where the barracks were roughly built and poorly insulated and the landscape was barren. Most of Oregon's Japanese and Japanese American population were held at the Minidoka Relocation Center in southern Idaho, while others went to the Tule Lake Relocation Center in northern California.

After Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the U.S. government declared that immigrant Japanese—*Issei*—were “enemy aliens” and many *Issei* men were detained by the FBI. On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, authorizing the U.S. Army to remove *Issei* and American-born Japanese who were citizens—called *Nisei*—from the West Coast.

The order devastated Oregon's Japanese community, as people were forced to sell their property at below-market prices and to abandon their businesses. The army first took internees to assembly centers, where they lived for months before being transported to permanent camps.

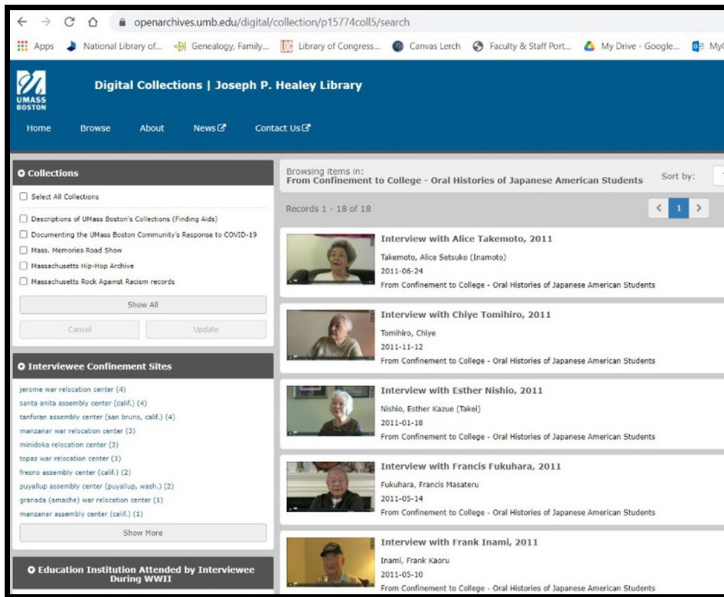
Further Reading:

Azuma, Eiichiro. “A History of Oregon's *Issei*, 1880-1952.” *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 94, 1993-4: 315-67.

Olmstead, Timothy. “*Nikkei* Internment: The Perspective of Two Oregon Weekly Newspapers.” *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 85, 1984: 5-32.

Burton, J., M. Farrell, F. Lord, and R. Lord. “Confinement and Ethnicity: An Overview of World War II Japanese American Relocation Sites.” *Western Archeological and Conservation Center National Park Service Publications in Anthropology* 74, 1999. Written by Kathy Tucker, Oregon Historical Society, 2002; revised 2021. Source: <https://www.oregonhistoryproject.org/articles/historical-records/heart-mountain-relocation-camp/>

Listen to oral history interviews regarding Japanese-American experiences during WW2. This is an exceptional resource based on personal experiences. See **Digital Collections** at the University of Massachusetts: **From Confinement to College: Video Oral Histories of Japanese American Students in World War II** <https://openarchives.umb.edu/digital/collection/p15774coll5/search>



Watch video oral histories with Japanese Americans who were students during World War II and their first-hand accounts of being incarcerated and leaving internment camps to attend college. These interviews also document the impact that these students' wartime experiences had on their later commitments to certain causes and organizations such as the NSRCF (Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund).

Interviews were conducted by the Institute for Asian American Studies at UMass Boston, and the resulting material is based upon work assisted by a grant from the Department of the Interior, National Parks Service. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of the Interior.

It is even possible to find information on specific relocation sites. For example: [santa anita assembly center \(calif.\) \(4\)](#)

REMINDER: The Board of the WW2 Roundtable is very excited about our August speakers . . . Did you know, too, that some of our members and their family members also have some incredible stories to share? The Board would like to encourage you to contact board members or **Kathryn Lerch** (klerch@parktudor.org) if you would like to share a story or two!

SHARE YOUR STORIES WITH THE WW2 ROUND TABLE!

Kathryn can help with scanning photos, documents, and putting together a PowerPoint for a presentation. You may make an appointment for a time slot before one of our monthly dinners, or at another time by special arrangement: **5:00-5:30** or **5:30-6:00**. Just let us know how we may help!

We would love to have a Fall or Winter meeting featuring some of our members' best stories—highlighting especially accounts from WWII—from any branch of service, including also civilian stories, and stories from any nation! Let's document and save your family history.

This "service" is related to the Legacy Initiative Project at Park Tudor School. For more information on this project go to: www.parktudor.org/legacy

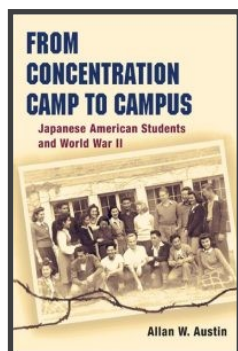


READING SUGGESTIONS PRIOR TO AND FOLLOWING August 23rd PROGRAM

Book Recommendations (some initially suggested July 2020)

If you wish to read ahead on the topic of incarceration of ethnic Japanese in the United States, here is a link to fifteen suggestions for books during WWII: https://www.oregonlive.com/books/2017/02/15_books_for_learning_about_ja.html

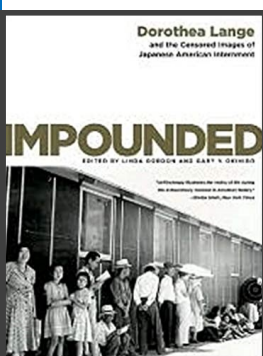
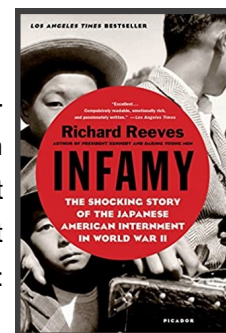
In particular, we recommend two outstanding ones: *Farewell to Manzanar* and *Snow Falling on Cedars*. There were “exceptions” to internment, in particular Japanese American students who went to college and Nisei from Hawaii who joined the famous 442 Infantry—the most decorated of any American unit in WWII.



Also, see Allan W. Austin's “**From Concentration Camp to Campus: Japanese American Students and World War II**”. Exploring racism and multiculturalism in WWII-era Japanese American student resettlement. In the aftermath of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor and the systematic exile and incarceration of thousands of Japanese Americans, the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council was born. Created to facilitate the movement of Japanese American college students from concentration camps to colleges away from the West Coast, this privately organized and funded agency helped more than 4000 incarcerated students pursue higher education during World War II.

Allan W. Austin examines the council's work and the challenges it faced in an atmosphere of pervasive wartime racism. He also reveals the voices of students as they worked to construct their own meaning for wartime experiences under pressure of forced and total assimilation. Austin argues that the resettled students succeeded in reintegrating themselves into the wider American society without sacrificing their connections to community and their Japanese cultural heritage. See also this link:

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5406/j.ctt3fh4vz>



Additional books which may be of interest is Richard Reeves, *Infamy: The Shocking Story of the Japanese American Internment in World War II* (20—) Linda Gordon, ed., *Impounded: Dorothea Lange and the Censored Images of Japanese American Internment* (2008) “Censored by the U.S. Army, Dorothea Lange's unseen photographs are the extraordinary photographic record of the Japanese American internment saga. This indelible work of visual and social history confirms Dorothea Lange's stature as one of the twentieth century's greatest American photographers. Presenting 119 images originally censored by the U.S. Army—the majority of which have never been published—*Impounded* evokes the horror of a community uprooted in the early 1940s and the stark reality of the internment camps.”

Additional Online Resources!

There is an important connection between the Nisei soldiers and Gen. Mark Clark. Please check out the link to the famous 442nd Combat Regiment and also watch the two-minute video clip about an event in July 1944: https://www.criticalpast.com/video/65675072897_Japanese-American-soldiers_Italian-Campaign_General-Mark-Clark_34th-Infantry-Division Clark's words of praise were also seconded by President Harry Truman: “You fought not only the enemy, but you fought prejudice — and you won.”

- For more information on the 442nd, go to: ‘Go For Broke’ (442nd RCT): http://www.goforbroke.org/learn/history/military_units/442nd.php

“The 442nd Regimental Combat Team was the most decorated unit for its size and length of service, in the entire history of the US Military. In total, about 18,000 men served, ultimately earning 9,486 Purple Hearts, 21 Medals of Honor and an unprecedented seven Presidential Unit Citations and a Congressional Gold Medal.” See also Nisei Veterans Legacy: <https://www.nvlchawaii.org/nisei-war-europe-100th-and-442nd>

Hope you Enjoyed some Earlier Lectures “Guam & Wake Islands”

Dr. John Shively’s Lectures are available on YouTube

Historian/author and WWII Round Table member John Shively has presented a series of GoTo webinar lectures during this winter and spring. If you wish to be on his email list, please contact John Shively at indjcs@aol.com or 765-491-7010 or go to WWII RT webpage for information. His programs have been recorded and are available also via these links. John has revised Guadalcanal: Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ed1WAsJB2oU> Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0A8TQTZh80> Part 3: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46OBY_2Ji7o Part 4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UN9tfONINeQ> and Part 5: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f23mKxOvp6c> I am now working on a lecture - or two - on the battle of Okinawa provisionally titled *Okinawa: The Last Battle*. Sometime I also will make a virtual tour of Okinawa as I did for Guadalcanal. This will be based mostly on the photos I have taken on my previous visits to Okinawa. I am not sure how long this lecture will be but anticipate it will not be anywhere near as long as the series on Guadalcanal. But... The plan after I finish Okinawa is to return to the battle of Guadalcanal and make a slideshow/lecture on the naval battles of Guadalcanal.

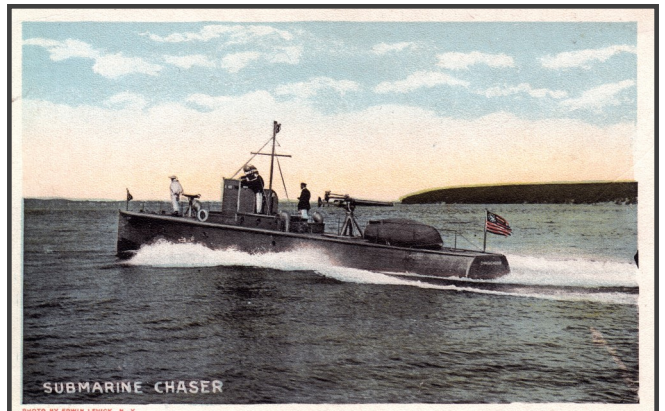
One of these days I hope to have my own website dedicated to the Pacific war with all of these lectures on one site rather than scattered on [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com). Hope you enjoy these lectures and are learning something. They should put you in good stead if you plan to go with me to Guadalcanal or Okinawa in the future. This concludes the lectures on the land battles of Guadalcanal. I am now going to make one on the battle of Okinawa. When that is complete I will make one on the naval battles of Guadalcanal. As always, all critical comments are welcome. I want to get the history right. Also, comments on the cosmetic appearance are welcome. Cactus guide, John

The Legacy Initiative’s newest book has arrived! This book will be the program topic at the September 27th WWII RT dinner meeting. *US Submarine Chaser 38 in WWI*, honors late Round Table member, **Ray Featherstone, Jr.** and his father’s WWI sub-chaser war service. Learn more about this wartime service, how Ray (junior’s) story took shape, and evolved to include the stories of other men on his boat.



Ray Featherstone, Sr.

Dick Osborne wrote the following for the book: “My friend, Ray Featherstone, Jr., and I were neighborhood buddies, high school classmates, and had a lot of mutual friends. Ray liked history and was proud of his service his father performed in WWI. He was an active member of the Indianapolis WWII Round Table and the War Years Discussion Group and on occasion lectured to those groups on historical subjects. One of his lectures was on his father’s service aboard Subchaser 38.”



A limited number of books have been published and will be available for purchase at Round Table dinners. If you wish the book mailed to you: Retail: \$29.95 media mail & handling: \$5.00 Please make your check to *Park Tudor School*, with “Legacy Initiative” on memo line. Mail to Kathryn Lerch, 711 E. 58th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46220 for prompt response.

If you wish to pick up at our dinners, please send me an email to **reserve one or more copies**. A book signing opportunity will follow the September program. The WW2RT will receive a small donation for each book sold at our meetings.

The book pairs well with our earlier publication, *Major John G. Emery in World War I Early Leader of the American Legion* (2020), which will also be available at the WWII RT dinners. Kathryn Lerch, editor of both books.