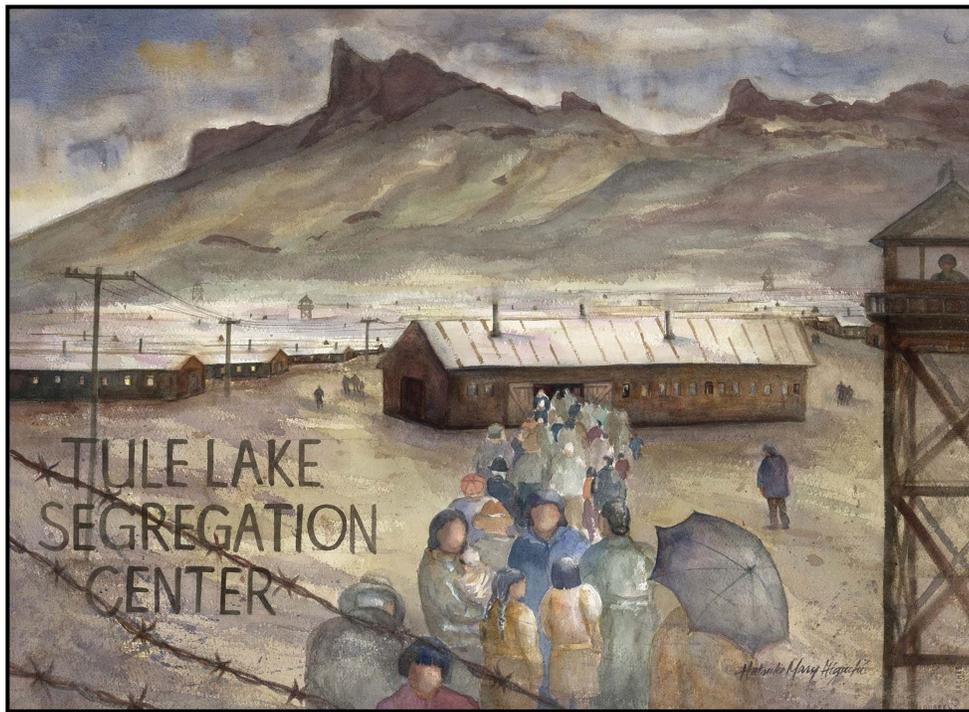


# T U L E L A K E

## P R E S E R V A T I O N

DECEMBER, 2016

### N E W S L E T T E R



Painting: Hatsuko Mary Higuchi

### PRESERVATION

The presidential election of 2016 has been deeply troubling to many of us, with the rising clamor to round up and incarcerate immigrants, and threats to denationalize others who dare to exercise their First Amendment rights. The rise of xenophobia and nativism makes our work to remember and preserve Tule Lake's story more important than ever. "Never again," we say -- but we are reminded daily of the fragility of our democratic institutions.

As we write, the National Park Service (NPS) is conducting meet-ings up and down the West Coast,

seeking public comments about what sort of place the public wants Tule Lake to become. At meetings in Northern and Southern California, participants expressed support for the NPS' preferred Alternative C. However, repeated over and over was the refrain, "it doesn't go far enough." People want access to the main part of the concentration camp site, to be able to go to "the barracks, that's where we lived."

We urge all our supporters and past pilgrims to let the National Park Service hear from you. Please let the NPS know that pre-

serving and interpreting the Tule Lake Unit of the National Monument is important to us. For those who did not attend one of the public meetings, you can access the plan and make comments at the NPS Tule Lake GMP website: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/TuleLakeGMP>

You can also use the NPS' public comment form we included in this newsletter to write in your thoughts and concerns, and then mail the form to the NPS. Your views are important, and the NPS wants to hear from each of you.



Tule Lake Resisters Hiroshi Kashiwagi, Bill Nishimura and Hank Naito telling their stories of dissent at Pilgrimage 2004

## Preservation History

The roots of honoring Tule Lake's story began in the late 1960s when student social-justice and civil rights activists began making pilgrimages to the site. By early 2000, pilgrimage organizers decided the time had come to recognize and honor Tule Lake's no-no/renunciant past and work to ensure that this difficult and often traumatic aspect of the wartime incarceration would not be forgotten.

The Tule Lake Pilgrimage became a place to recover the stories of dissent that had been eliminated from the Japanese American narrative. Pilgrimage programs focused on this important, yet marginalized history, seeking to erase the stigma surrounding those who dared protest during the wartime incarceration. Pilgrimages allowed survivors to openly discuss their untold stories, and honored them for the courage it took to dissent. It became clear that we needed to do more to preserve what was left of this unique and special civil rights site. So, we began preservation efforts to ensure Tule Lake's stories of protest and government abuse would be remembered.

The current NPS' Tule Lake General Management Plan reminds us how far we've come from that meeting a week after the 2000 pilgrimage, when members of the Tule Lake Committee met with the California Office of Historic Preser-

vation, then the NPS, beginning the journey to make sure the lessons of Tule Lake would not be forgotten. At the time, Manzanar was a primitive, undeveloped site, and our goal to create a place that honored the memory of those imprisoned at Tule Lake seemed remote. Few people talked about Tule Lake's unique history as a maximum-security segregation center. Even fewer appreciated the civil rights significance of how the government demonized people who peacefully protested the injustice of the wartime incarceration. They were stripped of their rights and subjected to a lifetime of stigma created by wartime propaganda.

The first major validation of Tule Lake's significance and our efforts to preserve it came in 2006 when Tule Lake was designated as a National Historic Landmark (NHL). NHL status is the highest level of recognition our Nation grants to a historic site. Two and a half years later, in December 2008, the Antiquities Act was used by President Bush to bring Tule Lake into the National Park Service as the Tule Lake Unit of the WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument. Tule Lake is now recognized as a significant part of our nation's history, revealing a story of government-sanctioned abuse that bears special relevance today.

Designation of the Tule Lake Segregation Center, as an NHL and as

a National Monument, sends a powerful message: that dissent is an important American value. Inclusion of Tule Lake Segregation Center as one of America's most important places has helped lift the taint of shame that wartime protesters carried for most of their lifetimes.

Over the past decade, the Tule Lake Committee has done educational advocacy to engage State and Federal level policy-makers and has raised funds to accelerate the preservation of historic structures on the concentration camp site. Through State and Federal grant programs, the Tule Lake Committee raised nearly \$1 million to finance the restoration of the Carpenter Shed (the first structure built at Tule Lake); to assist the NPS' efforts to make structures at the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) facility, known as Camp Tulelake, accessible to the public; and to shepherd efforts around the iconic jail from the planning stages to "shovel-ready" status for repair and restoration. Your donations helped provide the matching funds required by these grants.

Thanks to your generosity, the fundraising for the architectural planning for the jail is complete, and the architectural firm working on the Jail Phase 2 architectural plans report that the documents are 100% complete. The Tule Lake Committee will work with the NPS to find a way to complete the

construction and restoration work on the jail before survivors of imprisonment in Tule Lake's isolation camps are all gone.

## Protecting the Tule Lake historic site

Since we last reported in January 2016, not much has changed in the stakeholder discussions over the future of the Tulelake airstrip. The conflict resolution process managed by the government sponsored Udall Foundation will wrap up in mid-2017.

These stakeholder meetings include representatives from the FAA, NPS, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, CalTrans, California Office of Historic Preservation, Modoc County, Siskiyou County, JACL, Tule Lake Committee, the Modoc of Oklahoma, the Klamath Tribes, and Tulelake homesteader organizations, including Macy's Flying Service, the Tulelake Irrigation District, Tulelake's Mayor, and Tulelake Growers Association.

We had hoped that through the

stakeholder discussions, the parties could examine strategies to provide survivors and descendants of those imprisoned at Tule Lake access to this sacred historic site. However, resistance to exploring options, such as moving the airport or allowing NPS personnel to escort visitors on tours to areas on the airport grounds, remains an obstacle. There is little expectation that the final meeting will resolve the matter of having an incompatible use, i.e. the Tulelake airport, occupying and closing off major areas of a significant historic civil rights site.

During these stakeholder discussions, the Modoc County judge granted a stay of the Tule Lake Committee's 2014 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lawsuit so that parties could, in good faith, seek common ground. The lawsuit challenges Modoc County to do mandatory environmental, historic, cultural and archeological review before undertaking a project that could cause destruction to the Tule Lake concentration camp site, which the FAA recognizes as eligible for listing on the National

Register of Historic Places.

Due to FAA requirements tied to obtaining grant funds, Modoc County developed a plan to increase the length and width of the Tulelake airport runway, to move and improve the airport hangers, and to surround the entire airport property with a three-mile long, 8 to 10-foot-high fence topped with three strands of barbed-wire. This destructive airport improvement plan would be paid for by the FAA, with funding matches from Modoc County and the State of California.

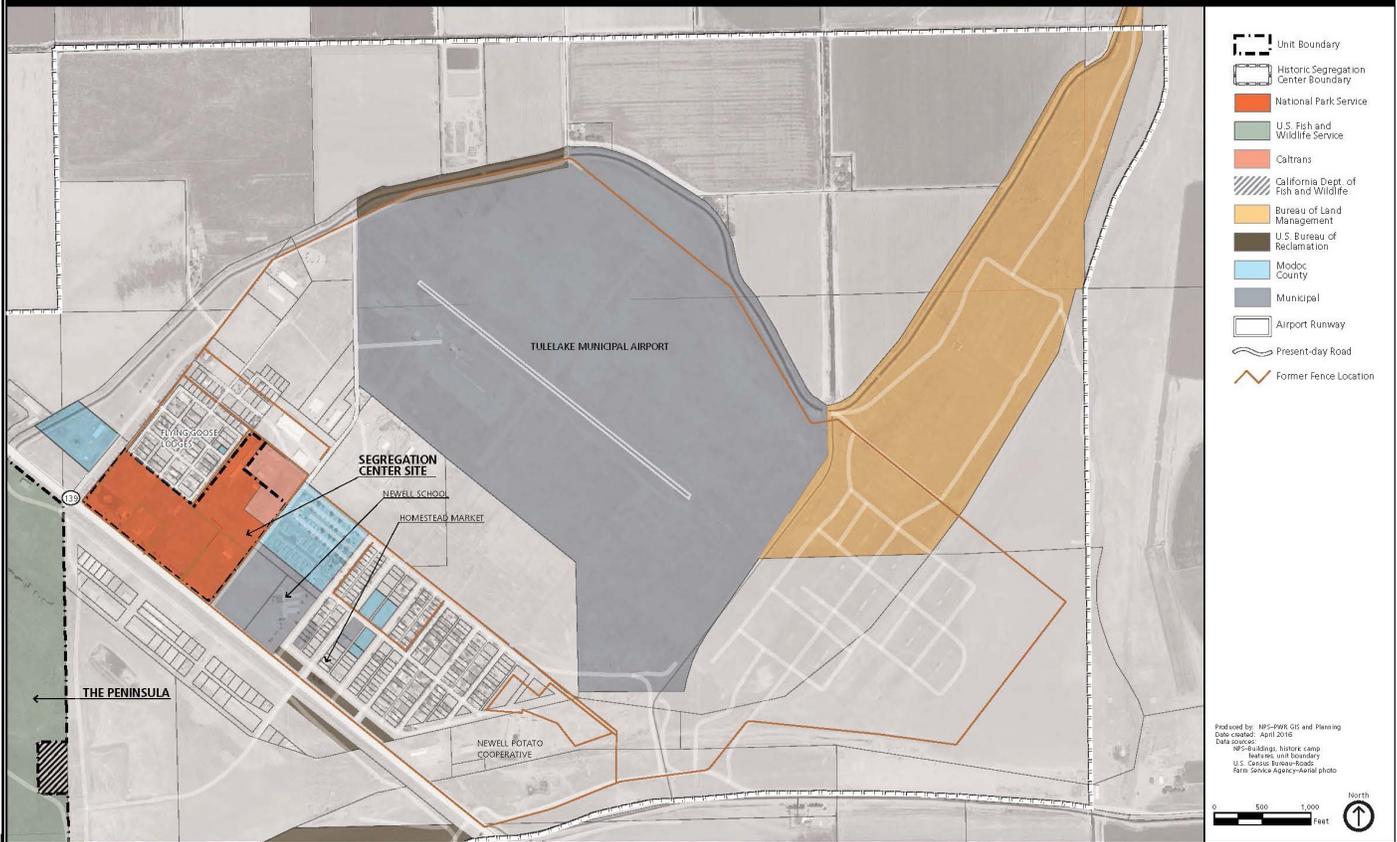
Given the resistance of the Tulelake airport operator to explore options that would provide access to the historic site, we are uncertain how the problem of an incompatible airport located on the concentration camp site can be addressed. Nevertheless, the Tule Lake Committee remains committed to our primary objectives: preserving the integrity of the Segregation Center site and preventing further destruction to the fabric of the land, a place that is hallowed ground.

—Barbara Takei



**Protest and Resistance at Tule Lake.** Edward Miyakawa, Motomu Akashi, Jimi Yamaichi, Joe Yamakido and Arthur Hansen, moderator. Panel Discussion Tule Lake Pilgrimage 2004

**Figure 13: Landownership—Newell**  
Tule Lake Unit, WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument GMP/EA



The Tule Lake airport cuts through the center of the historic Tule Lake Segregation Center on the main fire-break road, and is used by a crop dusting business that serves the local farmers. In January 2014, Modoc County approved a \$3.5 million dollar plan to enlarge the footprint of the runway and hangers, and to surround the airport with a three-mile long, 8 to 10-foot-high barbed-wire topped fence embedded in a four-foot wide concrete base. The TLC believes such construction will destroy the integrity of this irreplaceable historic site that we are working to preserve and protect, and a fence will prevent our community's access

Winter in Tule Lake



Painting by Charles Erabu Mikami

# Tule Lake Survivors 2016



Photo by Kiyoshi Ina

83 persons who were incarcerated in Tule Lake attended the Pilgrimage, not all are in the photo.

## Tule Lake Pilgrimage 2016 – “Our Hallowed Ground”

Once again, the Tule Lake Committee was flooded with registrations for our biennial Pilgrimage just days after the opening of the application process. Due to the overwhelming numbers, the Committee made the decision to accept 100 additional registrants, totaling a record number of 450 pilgrims. A similar response is expected for Pilgrimage 2018.

The large majority of attendees included first-timers, with more than half who were over the age of 60. Ten attendees were over 90 and Mr. Masato Matsui, 97 years old, put us “youngsters” to shame as he made it to the top of Castle Rock.

Highlights included opening remarks by Barbara Takei who thanked and recognized four elders whose courage in making public, the untold story of Tule Lake resistance opened the way for so many others to share their stories and begin a profound healing process. Jimi Yamaichi, Hiroshi Kashiwagi, Jim Tanimoto and Bill

Nishimura received a standing ovation of appreciation.

Recently appointed National Park Service, superintendent of the Tule Lake Unit, Larry Whalon announced the near completion of the General Management Plan for the Tule Lake Unit. We urge everybody to attend the community meetings to show your support and to express your concerns regarding the future of the Tule Lake site.

The Inter-Faith Memorial Service was held in front of the historic jail with Revs. Ronald Kobata, Jay Shinseki and Saburo Masada officiating. Japanese Consul General, Jun Yamada addressed the audience affirming the importance of preserving the story of Tule Lake stating that “...it holds universal value for all of humankind”.

Celebrity and spokesperson, George Takei (Mr. Sulu of Star Trek fame) served as master of ceremony for the Tule Lake cultural program held at the

Ross Ragland Theater where pilgrims were joined by many members of the local community.

It was with great shock and sadness when we learned of Mr. Henry Nonaka’s passing just hours after he had participated in the group photo of all the pilgrims in attendance who were born at Tule Lake. He had succumbed to a prior heart condition while touring the Lava Beds site near the former Tule Lake campsite. Many people participated in folding paper cranes late into the night in Mr. Nonaka’s memory and as an offering of condolence to his family.

This newsletter is dedicated to his memory.

— Satsuki Ina



Ron Sundergill, Barbara Takei and George Takei



Rev. Ronald Kobata, Rev. Jay Shinseki and Rev. Saburo Masada



Henry Nonaka

Photos by Kiyoshi Ina

## FUND RAISING SUMMARY 2016

The Tule Lake Committee thanks the 130 generous friends and families who made donations to our preservation fund this year. In 2016, we received \$44,014 in contributions. This amount, coupled with donations received in 2014 and 2015, allowed us to reach our matching share of \$96,233 for the Jail Restoration Project. The total Phase II grant was \$288,700. The architectural study and design phases are now complete and the next step, Phase III, will include the restoration and rehabilitation of the Jail and related site work. Discussions are on-going regarding the funding for this phase.

Our focus will also be on the preservation of the larger Tule Lake site, the area once contained within the barbed wire fences housing the barracks and blocks. Now, an airport cuts through the old barrack grounds, with plans for an 8'-10' high fence to be built around it. Future funding will be used in our efforts to prevent such barriers from destroying the historic fabric of the site, which is Our Hallowed Ground.

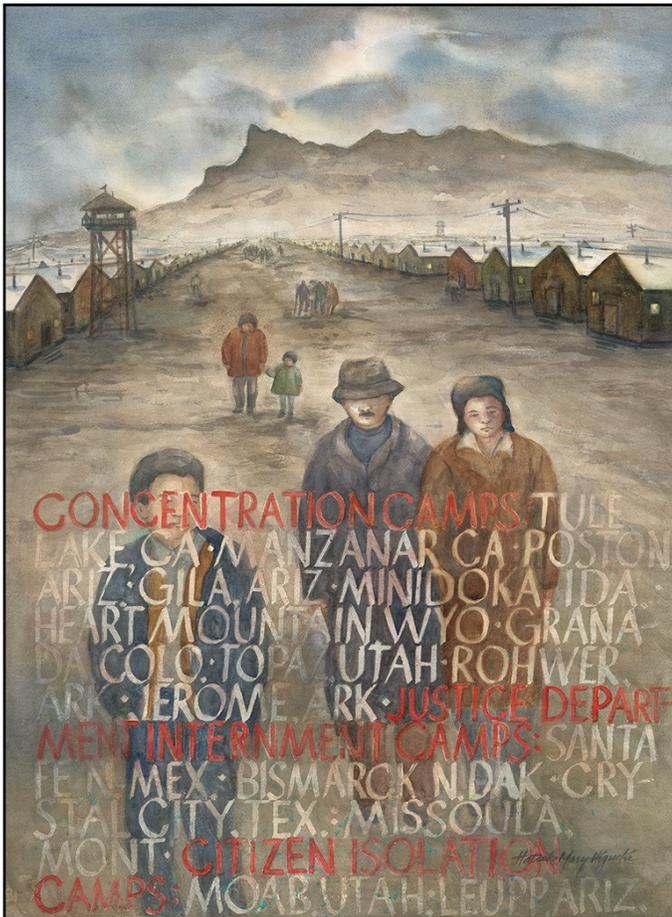
Thank you for making our work possible!

## FINANCIAL REPORT

The Tule Lake Committee's finances are in good shape thanks to a decade of fundraising and careful shepherding of resources.

The pilgrimage reserve is \$98,074.54, a sum that enables us to comfortably make deposits and payments for expenses related to putting on the four-day pilgrimage. It provides the ability to keep our fees as low as possible for pilgrims without jeopardizing our financial stability for future pilgrimages.

The preservation fund is \$163,121.48, pending final invoices of approximately \$40,000 to cover billings by the architectural firm doing the planning to restore the historic jail. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous pilgrim, the Tule Lake Committee was able to establish a \$100,000 reserve fund. This fund has enabled us to manage State and Federal grants that require an organization to pay out expenses, and then to seek reimbursement. Our reserve made it possible for us to cover expenditures for grant project work, for which we are grateful.



Painting: Hatsuko Mary Higuchi



Painting: Hatsuko Mary Higuchi

**“The proximate cause of the renunciations by the plaintiffs was governmental duress, a duress initiated by a military commander, ignored by the congress, supported by executive agencies and sustained by the courts in complete defiance of the letter and spirit of the Constitution.” —Wayne Mortimer Collins**