Letter from the Superintendent

Change is in the air as we move from one season to another, the earth warms, and life outside begins to stir and bloom. So too at Minidoka; change is in the air and new opportunities and possibilities will help the Park to bloom and grow now and into the future.

I have had the honor and pleasure to talk with and personally meet many of you in my six months at the Park. I cannot thank you enough for your warm welcome, assistance, and support. My career with the National Park Service (NPS) has, and continues to be, one of commitment and passion. I have worked at many different sites across the United States these last twenty years, but there have always been two constants: my desire to both preserve and protect the special places entrusted to the NPS while providing for the education and enjoyment of current and future generations; and the people who have shared that desire with me. Sites such as Minidoka serve as reminders of who we are, as a people, and where we want to go as a community.

With my personal interests and academic background, I have been repeatedly drawn to sites of commemoration and social justice, including Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site and Preservation District, the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, the USS Arizona Memorial, and Minidoka National Historic Site. Whether working with Mrs. Coretta Scott King, meeting with Congressman John Lewis and other “foot soldiers” of the Civil Rights Movement, or developing education programs with survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor, it is those partners, like you, who make the work of the National Park Service not only possible, but so enriching and fulfilling. No matter what my position, I have had the opportunity to work with incredible partners and I know that I will have the same experience here!

Below are just a few of the recent preservation and education projects we are working on at the Park:

- Wayside exhibits interpreting the history, people, conditions, injustice, and community of Minidoka have been finalized with the NPS’ Harpers Ferry Interpretive Design Center and are being fabricated. We are pushing for delivery in time for this year’s Pilgrimage.

- Bill Vaughn produced drawings of the historic Honor Roll which are being reviewed by NPS specialists to determine the best materials and methods for construction at the site.

- In March park staff and experts from our regional office met to develop a 7-year implementation plan to prioritize action items, identify research and planning needs, target funding sources, and identify new partnership opportunities to help us reach the desired future condition outlined in the General Management Plan (GMP).

- This winter we submitted a funding proposal to complete an amendment to the park’s GMP. The amendment will identify management strategies and actions necessary to provide for the protection of lands added to the historic site in May 2008, including the new Bainbridge Island Unit.

- I had a heart-warming and educational visit to Seattle and Bainbridge Island in February and met with many wonderful partners to discuss our shared vision for the Park and future projects and programs.

- We have received early notice that the park will have funding next year to complete a Long-Range Interpretive Plan. This plan will develop strategies for the interpretation and education program at the park for the next 7-10 years.

- Park Ranger Patrick Taylor, a graduate student at Boise State University, has located, identified, and studied approximately 20 Minidoka barracks and 2 residential block mess halls. We are working to determine the best structures to be returned to the historic site and are seeking funding to re-establish Block 22, as identified in the GMP.

- The Park received notification that in the recently approved federal budget, funding has been designated to purchase both the Herrmann and Robison properties from The Conservation Fund, which has been holding them in trust for us. These additions to the Park will offer the opportunity to interpret important components of the Minidoka story.

- Planning is proceeding for the Minidoka Pilgrimage and Civil Liberties Symposium. An important component of the Symposium will be the introduction of new education curriculum developed in partnership with Densho. This curriculum will provide teachers valuable lesson plans and other materials to help students understand this important chapter in American history and its relevance today.

As we look forward to this year’s Pilgrimage, it’s an opportune time to honor the past, celebrate the present, and create the future. I want to thank all of you for your passion and commitment to the preservation of our shared heritage and engaging the public in the appreciation and understanding of this special place. All of us at the Park look forward to creating the future with you!

-Wendy Janssen, Superintendent of Minidoka National Historic Site and Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument
Welcome New Board Members!

FoM would like to thank outgoing board members Jerry Arai, Jim Azumano, Dr. Robert Sims, Maya Hata Lemmon and Kim Ima for their support and work in the past years. This year FoM welcomes five talented and experienced individuals to the Board of Directors.

**Ryan Kozu  Seattle, WA**

Ryan works in the Registration Office at the University of Washington and also tutors student-athletes in the Athletic Department. He graduated from the University of Washington in 2007 with a BA in American Ethnic Studies, concentrating in Asian American Studies and a BS in Economics with a Minor in Diversity. He has served on the Minidoka Pilgrimage Committee since 2004. Ryan is an active member of the Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church where he is a Youth Group leader and the leader of their College Ministry.

**Hanako Wakatsuki  Boise, ID**

Hanako works at the Idaho State Historical Museum and is a student at Boise State University, earning her BA in History and BS degree in Political Science with an emphasis in International Relations and Minor in Japanese Studies. For the last three years, Hanako has been working with the Consulate General of Japan in Portland and is President of the Boise State Japan Club. Using her political science background, she is helping FoM create a plan for outreach to the Idaho Delegation. She is on the FoM Membership Committee.

**Dale Watanabe  Everett, WA**

Dale works as the International Student Advisor and Advisor to the Japanese Student Association at Seattle University. Dale volunteers as a recruiter for the Japan Exchange & Teaching Program (JET) through the Consulate-General of Japan at Seattle. He taught English in Japan for 3 years with the JET program. He earned a BA in Asian American and International Studies from the University of Washington and graduated from Asian Pacific Islander Leadership Foundation Community Leaders Program. He taught English as a Second Language at Edmonds Community College, worked with the Consulate General of Japan in Seattle and served as United Methodist Church PNW Annual Conference delegate. Dale joined the Pilgrimage Planning Committee in 2007. This year, Dale was elected FoM Vice Chair. Dale also chairs the FoM Membership Committee.

**Mari Watanabe  Portland, OR**

As Executive Director of the Oregon Nikkei Endowment, Mari manages the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center. She earned her BA from Washington State University and studied at Nihon University in Tokyo. Mari graduated from the Seattle Executive Development Institute. She serves as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington DC and as Chairperson and Program Director of the Executive Development Institute in Portland. Mari is on the board of Portland Taiko and formerly volunteered for Nikkei Concerns’ Development Group. Mari has extensive program management experience and serves on the FoM Membership Committee.

**Curtis Yasutake  Sammamish, WA**

Curtis graduated last spring from Seattle University with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration, Finance. He is especially interested in helping the Friends of Minidoka in our financial health and sits on the Finance Committee. Curtis has interned at Russell Investment Group, currently works at Morgan Stanley as a personal portfolio consultant.
Reflections on the Day of Remembrance

by Dale Watanabe

By way of this article, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Dale H. Watanabe and I am a Sansei from Seattle, WA. Two years ago I participated in the annual Pilgrimage to the site of the Minidoka Internment Camp in Idaho. This experience touched me deeply and led to my involvement in the Pilgrimage Planning Committee and my new position as board member and Vice Chair of the Friends of Minidoka (FoM). I am also proud to serve as the Membership Chair for FoM and am excited about building a strong membership base. We’ve created a Tri-State Membership Team with representatives in Oregon - Mari Watanabe, Idaho - Hanako Wakatsuki, and Washington – Dale Watanabe. It’s an exciting time to be involved with the Friends of Minidoka with all the developments happening at the site in Idaho. There are many positive steps that are being taken to develop it and we must work together to ensure this chapter of U.S. history is never forgotten.

With my second pilgrimage to Idaho last June, I was struck by the different stories that I learned through that experience. In many ways it was more significant because I could build upon the stories I had learned in the previous year. It was because of this that I made a commitment to attend every Pilgrimage as a way to honor the experience of the internees and to help carry their stories forward.

As part of this new commitment, I looked at ways I could make a difference at home in Seattle too. I currently work at Seattle University, a Jesuit University just east of downtown Seattle. Much of the land that is a part of the campus was once part of the Japanese American community. As a way to honor this, a committee came together and built the Japanese American Remembrance Garden. This garden was dedicated on campus in April of 2006. The following year, there was a Day of Remembrance program which attracted a small audience. Last year, in 2008, I waited for a program but none materialized.

This year, thanks in large part to Chanda Ishisaka, a new graduate student from California, we worked together to create a Day of Remembrance program at Seattle University. We called our program “Northwest Voices: The Japanese American Internment Experience.” The aim of our program was to recognize the Japanese American Remembrance Garden on campus, provide stories from internees to drive home the “living history,” and ended with a “call to action” by providing updates on projects such as the Japanese American Memorial in Bainbridge Island, WA and the Minidoka National Historic Site in Jerome County, Idaho.

For the program, we partnered with a local storytellers group, the Omoide Project, to provide the stories from camp. They provided two speakers and a series of panels that depicted various stories from camp along with original artwork. We also featured a panel, moderated by the Chair of the History Department, and included former internees, including Yosh Nakagawa who was on the original planning team for the SU Japanese American Remembrance Garden, and May Namba, board member of FoM and Pilgrimage Planning Committee. Our program concluded with Dr. Frank Kitamoto, FoM board member and Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial representative, and Ms. Anna Tamura of the National Parks Service who provided an update on the Minidoka site. In addition, we provided information on the upcoming June pilgrimage as a way for people to act on the experience of learning. The event was very well received by the campus and the community. We had the support of five different offices on campus, and had an attendance of about 65 individuals on the evening of Thursday, February 26, 2009.

Fueled by the power of this event, my commitment now extends to make every effort to have an annual Day of Remembrance at SU. The Remembrance Garden should not be overlooked, and the reason behind its creation should never be forgotten. The event was a tribute to the heroic Japanese who lived through the experience and their stories need to be told. Education serves as a strategy to never let such a mass evacuation and incarceration happen again. In addition to the event at Seattle University, there were other Day of Remembrance events held at the University of Washington and South Seattle Community College.

We are at a unique point in history. Now is the time to get involved and work together to preserve our history to make sure the struggles of our parents, grandparents, great grandparents, uncles and aunts are remembered and honored. While some would rather these stories disappear forever, that is the sure way to allow such a tragedy to occur again. We all need to work with our friends and neighbors and make sure to support projects like the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial, the Minidoka National Historic Site, Friends of Minidoka, and the other internment camp sites. Together we can ensure the stories will never die and we can be a part of preserving history and making sure the mistakes of the past are not repeated.

Now is the time to get involved and work together to preserve our history to make sure the struggles of our parents, grandparents, great grandparents, uncles and aunts are remembered and honored.
**Issei Memorial Update**

by Alan Momohara

With the new Superintendent in place at Minidoka, the National Parks Service is moving forward with planning for the implementation of the General Management Plan. A number of National Parks Service (NPS) officials met in March to undertake this task. The Friends of Minidoka (FoM) is pleased that the NPS has included the Issei Memorial as a priority for the next five years.

The next step in the process is to present the Issei Memorial design concept to NPS regional officials at a regional meeting on April 27, 2009. The design concept will be evaluated and reviewed. FoM’s Issei Memorial design team will assess and incorporate any potential comments or suggestions from this review process. Once the design concept is approved, NPS will begin the historic compliance process, and the FoM design team will finalize the design, prepare construction plans and propose a construction schedule.

FoM will also begin its fund raising efforts in earnest. For more information on the Issei Memorial, please visit the FoM website at www.minidoka.org.

**Minidoka Honor Roll**

There has been some very exciting news regarding the Minidoka Honor Roll Project. The Honor Roll is currently undergoing a materials study to determine the most cost effective materials to use on the construction of the structure. The materials must stand up to harsh weather conditions and still be cost effective. Once the materials study has been completed, a budget will be set for the project. The construction of the Honor Roll sign can begin after the fore mentioned steps are complete.

The Honor Roll has been listed in the NPS priority list as one that will take place in their creation of priority “bands”. The NPS has created these “bands” to span a period of seven years. The Honor Roll is currently listed in the 1st Band—1 to 2 year plan. A special thank you must go to Bill Vaughn, our FoM Board Member from Pocatello, ID. The project would not have been able to move as quickly had Bill not done the research and drawn the plans.

Some modifications may occur as the project is reviewed. The Honor Roll Committee will continue to provide updates as information becomes available. A special thanks to Anna Tamura and Wendy K. Janssen from NPS for all their hard work on the Honor Roll Project.

**Questions?** Contact Keith Yamaguchi (206) 767-0914 or kyamaguchi@yahoo.com

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**Bainbridge Island WWII Nikkei Exclusion Memorial, *Nidoto Nai Yoni***

by Frank Kitamoto

With Exclusion Order # 1, Bainbridge Island became the first community in the United States where Americans of Japanese ancestry were forcibly removed to America’s concentration camps during WWII. 227 people of the 276 residence of Japanese ancestry who lived on the Island left from this site on March 30, 1942 with 6 days notice. Thirteen men had already been removed from the Island by the FBI, 6 men were already in the U.S. Army, 3 families were able to leave the Island in a two day window before it was closed, a few were in college out of the exclusion zone, and several were trapped in Japan. The Memorial is on a 5 acre site that has been approved as a satellite of the National Park’s Minidoka National Monument.

Roadways, pathways, gateways, foot bridges, bus drop off areas and a Kiosk building are already in place. The construction of a 276 ft. (a foot for each resident) Memorial Wall will begin this Spring, with ground breaking ceremonies planned for March 30th, our 67th year anniversary. Funds are still being raised to build an interpretive center, an educational building, and a 150 ft. pier (a foot for each person who returned) which represents the Eagle Harbor dock that we were “herded” down by armed U.S. Army soldiers with fixed bayonettes to board the waiting ferry “Kehloken” on a special run.

The Wall will be a stone base and wooden structure to represent the rural farming nature of our community. It will include the pioneering aspects (1883) of settlers of Japanese descent on the Island as well as the names, ages, and occupations of those excluded. It will have a break in the wall that will represent our exiled years from the Island. We will be capturing the human aspects and the “emotional” feel of that period through the use of pictures, quotes, and sayings, of those leaving, of our friends and neighbors who supported us and didn’t, and the soldiers who had a duty to perform, even with tears in their eyes.

Although personal stories will be told through the Bainbridge Island experience, these stories will represent what happened to 120,000 Americans of Japanese descent with similar stories, and will be at a site with historical significance, close to a large metropolitan area that is easily accessible to many people both near and far.

We hope to capture the multiculturalness that makes our country, the USA, so special and to overcome “fear” so “Nidoto Nai Yoni”, “Never Let It Happen Again” becomes a reality. For more info on the Bainbridge Island experience visit our web site bijac.org.
Fourth Annual Civil Liberties Symposium:
“Color and the Constitution” June 25-26

The Minidoka Internment National Monument, the Friends of Minidoka, and the College of Southern Idaho are presenting the fourth summer Civil Liberties Symposium June 25-26, on the campus of the College of Southern Idaho.

This year the Symposium will focus on “Color and the Constitution”. Using the Japanese American experience during World War II as an example, the Symposium speakers will evaluate the history of the Constitution as it relates to minorities during times of conflict and change. The event promises to offer a stimulating analysis of important historical issues that shaped U.S. politics and culture, past and present. A specialized workshop for teachers will introduce and evaluate a new curriculum for teaching about Japanese Internment. There will also be a Thursday evening social at the historic Turf Club with music and dancing.

Registration cost: $60. Two meals each day are included. Students and teachers attending for credit may register for $30. To register, contact Laurie Watkins at CSI (208) 732-6850 or Janet Keegan with FoM (208) 734-5806.

College credit is available from CSI, Treasure Valley Community College, Boise State University, and the University of Idaho. This is separate from and in addition to the regular registration fee. Consult the online schedules of each school for more information.

For more information, visit the CSI online at www.csi.com or contact Dr. Russ Tremayne at (208) 732-6885.

Speakers:
Dr. David Adler, Idaho State University, Political Scientist
Raquel Arenz, Professor of Bilingual Education, CSI
Jared Baker, Historian
Raymond Cross, Professor of Law, University of Montana
Dr. Lane Hirabayashi, Chair of the Asian American Studies Department, UCLA
Tom Ikeda, Executive Director, Densho (a Japanese American legacy project preserving history and promoting education)
Mark Johnson, President, The Gallatin Group
Joe McNeil, Former Major General, Airforce Reserves
Dr. Dan Prinzing, Director, Idaho Human Rights Education Center
Dr. Robert Sims, Emeritus Historian, Boise State University
Raul Sanchez, Director, Center for Human Rights, Washington State University
Alton Takiyama-Chung, Storyteller
John Tateishi, Japanese American Citizens League
Lynn Winmill, Federal Judge

2009 Minidoka Pilgrimage
June 26-28, 2009

To commemorate the internment of people of Japanese ancestry during WWII, the Seattle Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, the Nisei Veterans Committee, and the Friends of Minidoka invite you to join the annual Minidoka Pilgrimage to the former Minidoka Internment Camp from June 26-28, 2009.

Minidoka served as an active concentration camp for over three years. Even today the site evokes a mixture of poignant memories and strong emotions: including feelings of denial, distrust, shame and joy. Those on the Pilgrimage will revisit the site and reflect on memories shared in a supportive environment with family, friends and National Park Service officials. “Our purpose is to honor all those who were incarcerated and suffered disrupted lives due to the rampant racism of the times and to pledge anew that ‘never again’ will this be tolerated,” explains Gloria Shigeno, Co-Chair Minidoka Pilgrimage Planning Committee.

Today, most of the 33,000 acres that once were a part of Minidoka have been taken over by farms. In 2001, 73 acres near the entrance to Minidoka were designated a National Monument. Participants will have the opportunity to visit the grounds of the National Historic Site during guided tours as well as a concluding memorial service to honor former internees. Throughout the event, there will be ample opportunity to share memories and reflect on the impact of the incarceration.

Registration
To register, please fill out and mail in the enclosed registration form. The “Seattle Package” includes transportation by bus from Seattle to Twin Falls, meals, and all related programming fees. The “Twin Falls Package” is available for those who choose to meet the Pilgrimage group in Twin Falls (includes all meals). Several area hotels have special Minidoka Pilgrimage rates (must be arranged by May 15, 2009). Lodging costs are in addition to all pilgrimage packages. Registration is due by June 10, 2009.

Questions? Please contact Keith Yamaguchi at: (206) 767-0914, or minidokapilgrimage@comcast.net.
MINIDOKA PILGRIMAGE
June 26 - 28, 2009
Registration Form

Seattle Package
- Transportation to/from Seattle to Idaho; all meals included. $ 250.00
- Children (12 and under) and Seniors (75 and older) $ 200.00

Twin Falls Package  (Arrive via your own transportation)
- Local transportation to pilgrimage venues; all meals included $ 100.00
- Children (12 and under) and Seniors (75 and older) $ 85.00

NAME: ____________________________________________________________ $ _______
ADDRESS: _______________________________________________________
CITY / STATE / ZIP: ________________________________ _______________________
PHONE: ________________________________ E-MAIL: _______________________

To avoid $20.00 late fee per person, registrations must be postmarked by June 10, 2009!

Additional people in your party:

NAME: ____________________________________________________________ $ _______
ADDRESS: _______________________________________________________________________
CITY / STATE / ZIP: ________________________________ _______________________
PHONE: ________________________________ E-MAIL: _______________________

NAME: ____________________________________________________________ $ _______
ADDRESS: _______________________________________________________________________
CITY / STATE / ZIP: ________________________________ _______________________
PHONE: ________________________________ E-MAIL: _______________________

FoM Member Discount*:
Total amount enclosed: $ _______

*Friends of Minidoka members receive $10.00 off normal registration fees.

Make checks payable to: MINIDOKA PILGRIMAGE and mail registration forms and check
to: May Namba 2324 NW 94th Seattle, WA 98117 206-784-3824

A $20.00 cancellation fee will be charged per person if cancellation occurs after June
13, 2009

www.minidokapilgrimage.org
Join the Friends of Minidoka

As an all-volunteer, membership based organization your support and membership are vital to the work FoM is doing.

Since its creation in 2002 the Friends of Minidoka (FoM) successfully:

- Co-sponsors the annual Minidoka Pilgrimage
- Co-sponsors the Civil Liberties Symposium at the College of Southern Idaho
- Actively engages in legal issues to protect Minidoka
- Worked closely with The Conservation Fund to purchase land to expand Minidoka to include block 22 and the historic Farm-In-A-Day site
- Reprinted the Minidoka Interlude
- Assists educational groups to have first hand experiences at Minidoka
- Builds local and national support to protect national camp sites like Minidoka

Join us today and support the vision for this historic site!

Thank you to our recent members and donors!

Akada, JoAnn
Akagi, Kenji J.
Azuano, George and Nobuko
Azuano, James and Lois
Bellus, Barbara
Bobb, Eleanor
Boise State University
Boise Valley JACL
Brigman, Douglas “Bif”
Carl, Richard L.
Creed, Brenda and Dennis
Daniels, Roger
Dogen, Hinko
Doi, Arthur and Osame
Doi, Susan
Dozo, Sho & Loen
Eguchi, Teri
Endo, Kay
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Goto Dental Laboratory, Inc.
Griggs, Michael
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Mayeno, Nancy A.
Minagi, Misao
Minami, Dale
Minidoka Pilgrimage Committee
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Momohara, Emily
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Moore, Michael
Moore, Robert T.
Murao, Mutuko
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Naito, Samuel T. and Mary K. Foundation
Namba, May Y.
National Trust for Historic Preservation
North Wind, Inc.

Make checks payable to “Friends of Minidoka”

Thank you to our recent members and donors!

The Friends of Minidoka would also like to thank all those who have supported FoM’s mission through the purchase of merchandise, attended the Civil Liberties Symposium and Pilgrimage as well as those who have donated to past projects.

Join the Friends of Minidoka

Benefits of your membership include:

- Discounted registration fee for Minidoka Pilgrimage
- Access to timely information on Minidoka National Historic Site (MNHS) and FoM activities and projects
- Invitations to upcoming Members Only events
- Publications: FoM bi-annual newsletter, informational and educational bulletins, future email updates
- Ensure your voice is present in the plans for MNHS

Please mail this form with your check to:
Friends of Minidoka
PO Box 1085
Twin Falls, ID 83303-1085

Friends of Minidoka is a nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law.

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City: ____________________________ State: ___________ Zip: _______
Phone: ( ______ ) Email: ________________

Student/Senior 75 & older $ 25 $ __________
Individual Membership $ 50 $ __________
Family Membership $ 100 $ __________
Corporate Membership $ 500 $ __________
Additional donation $ __________

Total $ __________

☐ New Member  ☐ Renewal

☐ Please let me know about volunteer opportunities with Friends of Minidoka

☐ I am interested in including Friends of Minidoka in my will

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Judicial Review, Feedlot at Minidoka

by Emily Hanako Momohara

Big Sky Dairy and South View Dairy currently have a permit to construct and operate a 13,000 animal Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) located on property 1.2 miles from the Minidoka National Historic Site. A feedlot of this magnitude would be a considerable detriment to the function of Minidoka as a safe public park and endanger its historic assets.

The Friends of Minidoka has joined a coalition to challenge the permit. The Friends of Minidoka, Preservation Idaho, the National Parks Conservation Association, the Japanese American Citizens League, Idaho Concerned Area Residents for the Environment (ICARE), Diamond and Sloan families, Minidoka’s neighbors, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation have banded together to legally oppose the permit process. The Western Environmental Law Center and two local counselors are representing us in requesting a judicial review of the permit process. We ask that the Jerome County Commissioners look at the information previously presented, allow all neighbors of the proposed CAFO to have a voice, and also review new EPA standards for CAFO’s.

We also are working with specialists on an environmental air impact study. This study should be completed by the fall and will be additional information for the Commissioners to consider.

The Friends of Minidoka supports agriculture and our neighbors who are part of the farming community. However, this specific feedlot location is damaging to the safety of Minidoka. The Minidoka National Historic Site tells American history which is deeply important to our country. The Friends of Minidoka is doing all we can legally to keep the CAFO from polluting Minidoka.

For more information on the CAFO plans, the coalition, or to donate to our legal fees go to www.minidoka.org/ cafo.htm

Learn more by visiting us at www.minidoka.org

Questions? Corrections? Please contact Lisa Ferrier at littleferrier@hotmail.com

Friends of Minidoka

PO box 1085
Twin Falls, ID 83303-1085