JAPANESE AMERICAN MEMORIAL PILGRIMAGES
JAMP IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NORTHWEST FILM FORUM

Fiscal Sponsor:
Northwest Film Forum

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In 1969, the first pilgrimage to Manzanar brought a group of 150 people out to the former incarceration site to pay homage to their ancestors suffering. Fifty years later, there are regular pilgrimages to eight of the ten campsites. As time passes, we lose more and more of those who experienced being behind barbed wire first hand. These stories must be preserved.

Previous generations have fought to maintain the former campsites and have managed to save many of the sites as landmarks. We will build on their legacy by filming family histories of experiences in the camps and the impact this has had on generations of Japanese Americans. We will bring the younger generations to the fight to keep the history of the unjust incarceration in the American consciousness. It is important for us, as descendants of the camps, and for every American, to make sure that something like this never happens again.

**Pilgrimage**

[pil-gruh-mij]
noun
any long journey, especially undertaken as a quest or for a votive purpose, as to pay homage

**PILGRIMAGE HISTORY**

In 1942, President Roosevelt signs executive order 9066 which initiates the exclusion of all persons of Japanese Ancestry from the western coast of the United States.
OUR PURPOSE

Our purpose is to create a centralized website that promotes and educates people about the WWII Japanese American incarceration camps. As a resource for all the pilgrimages, we will provide pertinent information on traveling including dates, costs, registration and lodging. We will conduct interviews to share the pilgrimage experience in order to encourage the younger generations to attend and learn more about their families’ legacies. The interviews will be presented in short documentaries designed to express the importance of pilgrimage as a way to learn about this piece of America’s history. Our stories will not only focus on survivors, but also how the incarceration continues to impacts their descendants and our society as a whole.

NWFF and JAMP were selected by the National Park Service (NPS) as recipients of a nearly $200,000* grant to increase awareness of the Japanese American Confinement Sites, encourage more pilgrimages, and document the stories of those incarcerated (while there’s still time).

The National Park Service grant is a “match grant” where applicants are required to match the grant award with $1 in non-federal funds or “in-kind” contributions for every $2 in federal money. With a $200,000* in authorized grant we are looking to raise $100,000**. NWFF is a registered 501c non-profit.

2018 JAPANESE AMERICAN CONFINEMENT SITE GRANT

The National Park Service announced in the summer of 2018 more than $1.5 million in Japanese American Confinement Sites grants. The money will fund, restoration, and education projects related to the detainment of Japanese Americans by the U.S. government during World War II. These projects will help tell the story of the more than 120,000 Japanese Americans, two-thirds of whom were U.S. citizens, who were imprisoned by the U.S. government following the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

NORTHWEST FILM FORUM

Northwest Film Forum (NWFF) is a non-profit that incites public dialogue and creative action through collective cinematic experiences. Their vision is to empower people to express themselves and connect with each other through visual storytelling and culture. The Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages (JAMP) has partnered with Northwest Film Forum to share the stories of those who were incarcerated in WWII, bringing awareness so nothing like this happens again and is not forgotten.

Once we raise our required grant funds match, all additional donations will be used to maintain our mission of keeping the stories of the Japanese American incarceration alive.

*$194,101
**$97,050
OUR PLAN

WEBSITE
- Pilgrimages
- Links to pilgrimage websites
- Travel Information
- Mini Documentaries

PILGRIMAGES
- Attend pilgrimages in 2019
  - Jerome/Rohwer
  - Heart Mountain
  - Manzanar
  - Minidoka
  - Poston
- Attend pilgrimages in 2020
  - Amache
  - Topaz
  - Tule Lake

VIDEO PRODUCTION
- Record survivors oral histories at the actual site
- Interview multiple generations
- Producing 16 mini documentaries from 2019-2020 pilgrimages we are attending

SOCIAL MEDIA
- Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Youtube, Vimeo
- Important historical information about Japanese American Incarceration
- Behind the scenes
- Upcoming Pilgrimages

BUDGET - 2019
$241,000
- Traveling to 5 Pilgrimages
- Website
- Document survivors and family stories
- Equipment for capturing stories

BUDGET - 2020
$66,880
- Traveling to 3 Pilgrimages
- Website
- Document survivors and family stories
- Equipment for capturing stories
OUR TEAM

KIMIKO MARR
CO-FOUNDER
Kimiko is hapa yonsei and her mother’s family was incarcerated at Topaz. She has attended pilgrimages to seven confinement sites over the past two years and interviewed Nisei, Sansei and Yonsei. She has visited 13 of the 16 “assembly center” sites and all 10 WRA sites.

She has also presented during the educational sessions during the Minidoka Pilgrimage for the last three years. In 2016 she presented three of her short films about Nisei in Tule Lake, Rohwer, Jerome and Amache.

She is the President of the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL and volunteers at the senior center every week where 90% of the members are Nikkei and 25% of those were incarcerated during WWII.

In April 2018, Kimiko planned a pilgrimage of 94 people to the Jerome and Rohwer camps.

She previously worked in the entertainment industry for 15 years.

MARISSA FUJIMOTO
CO-FOUNDER
Marissa has a Bachelor in Fine Arts from Sanford-Brown College specializing in digital media. As a post production coordinator at Screaming Flea Productions, she worked directly with national networks such as A&E and Discovery. She currently co-owns Slager Fuj Creative Media, LLC and is actively building relationships in the greater Seattle area, producing videos for local businesses.

Her work experience, Japanese heritage and immediate family members who were incarcerated, has guided her to a documentary opportunity. It quickly turned into a passion project where she made fast friends with a Japanese Hollywood production coordinator. Together they have traveled to three of the ten Japanese internment camps where only a select few offer yearly Pilgrimages. The goal of each Pilgrimage and her passion project, is to educate younger generations and preserve the stories of aging survivors who were incarcerated in WWII.

GREG SOMMERS-HERIVEL
PRODUCER
Hailing out of Seattle, Greg combines his background in science and film to create a unique perspective in his productions. He has been producing and directing projects since 2003, and has won several awards, including Best Director, Best Web Series, and Best Pilot, for his recent production, Divine Shadow.

While he’s not filming, he teaches traditional Hayashi-Ha Shito-Ryu karate, with an emphasis on serving those who have experienced trauma.
Since 2016 we have attended 12 pilgrimages and all 16 assembly centers.

2016
Minidoka

2017
Topaz
Amache
Minidoka
Heart Mountain
Manzanar
Tule Lake
Jerome/Rohwer
Angel Island

2018
Amache
Minidoka
Heart Mountain
Manzanar
Tule Lake
Jerome/Rohwer
Angel Island

Our Past

Press

RAFU SHIMPO 2017
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT GAZETTE APRIL 2018
PACIFIC CITIZEN MAY 2018
PACIFIC CITIZEN JUNE 2018
NHK NEWS

Figure 1.1. Sites in the western U.S. associated with the relocation of Japanese Americans during World War II.
Thank You!

JAPANESE AMERICAN MEMORIAL PILGRIMAGES

DONATE NOW!

PAYPAL OR MAIL

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NORTHWEST FILM FORUM
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Make Checks out to:
NORTHWEST FILM FORUM

Write in the Memo:
Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages or JAMP