New Exhibition at the Museum: *Japanese American Incarceration in Grand County*

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Date and Time: February 15, 7-9pm for the Member’s exhibit opening, February 17 10am-2pm for the public opening and scan & share event.

*For Immediate Release*

A *Moab Prison Camp: Japanese American Incarceration in Grand County* introduces the local and national story of Japanese American incarceration during WWII. Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 authorizing the wartime incarceration of over 120,000 Japanese Americans, a majority of whom were US Citizens, in detention facilities across the country. The Moab Isolation Center, located north of Moab at Dalton Wells, played a brief but significant role in the web of Japanese American incarceration facilities: a former Civilian Conservation Corps camp was transformed into a temporary prison camp for so-called “troublemakers” from other camps. In this exhibit, a tale of injustice and resilience unfolds via stories and objects, introducing the national context with the Smithsonian’s *Righting a Wrong* poster exhibition and research conducted by Utah State Parks.

This exhibit unpacks the nuanced terminology used during that era and following, inviting visitors to confront the usage of words like "relocation" versus "incarceration" and wrestle with the gravity of terms such as "concentration camp." Through compelling narratives curated collaboratively with descendants and partners, *A Moab Prison Camp* illuminates the resilience and resistance exhibited by those imprisoned in Moab. It offers a broader exploration of the Japanese American experience during this tumultuous period in US history.

Members are invited to join Moab Museum staff & Utah State Parks staff on February 15th at 7 p.m., to mark the opening of this temporary exhibition. Former Utah State Senator Jani Iwamoto, the first Japanese American woman to serve Utahns in the State Senate, will deliver remarks about her work advocating for the preservation of Japanese American history and culture in Utah. Megan Blackwelder, Vice President of the Moab Museum Board of Trustees and Southeast Utah Regional Manager for the Utah Division of State Parks will introduce Iwamoto.

**Public Exhibit Opening & Scan and Share: February 17th, 10-2pm**

The community is invited to join us on Saturday, February 17th for a free public exhibit opening. From 10am-2pm we will be hosting a Scan and Share event in the Museum gallery. Staff from the Utah Historical Society will be here in the Museum’s galleries to help gather stories or artifacts related to the Moab Isolation Center at Dalton Wells where Japanese Americans were incarcerated during WWII.

*Moab Museum’s goal is to inspire and foster an understanding of our region’s natural and cultural history.*