



Group Outing

YOUNG-AT-HEART TO EXPERIENCE STORIES OF INCARCERATION, SURVIVAL, AND SUCCESS Wednesday, October 30th, 2:00 pm

On Wednesday, October 30th, Young-At-Heart explorers will be embarking on an educational journey into a tragic chapter of American history while visiting the exhibit "I am an American: Japanese Incarceration in a Time of Fear" at the Muzeo Museum and Cultural Center, 241 S. Anaheim Blvd., Anaheim.

In February of 1942, after the outbreak of World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which directed the Secretary of State and military commanders to "prescribe military areas" within the United States "from which any or all persons may be excluded." Approximately 120,000 Japanese-born residents and Japanese Americans were forced from their homes and relocated to incarceration camps in some of the most desolate areas of the United States. Ten official incarceration camps were built, including the largest one in Poston, Arizona, which detained most of the Japanese Americans living in Anaheim and Orange County.

The Muzeo exhibition chronicles the years of incarceration and sheds a rare light on what life was like at Poston War Relocation Center, a hot, dry, and dusty place. It was comprised of three groups of barracks, coined by the residents: "Roastin'", "Toastin'", and "Dustin'". A life-sized, 26' by 25' barrack has been recreated in the galleries, to demonstrate the cramped living quarters and lack of privacy in the camps. At its peak, Poston held about 18,000 Japanese Americans.

Family stories of incarcerated Anaheim families are a core part of this remarkable Anaheim exhibit. About a dozen oral histories from survivors have been captured on video, and they play on touch screens located throughout the 5,000-square foot exhibit. Surrounding the videos are descriptions and memorabilia from the survivors' families; old suitcases, blankets, and an antique typewriter are displayed, as well as games, sculptures, and watercolor paintings made by the residents. Dozens of black and white photographs reflect what Poston looked like at the time.

Before internment, Anaheim was home for nearly 100 Japanese American households. After the camps were closed a few months after the end of World War II, many Japanese Americans returned to find they had lost their homes, farms, and property because of theft, and many were not allowed to own real estate in this country. The exhibition also recounts the lives of Japanese American Anaheim residents in the years after incarceration. Many have lived successful lives, contributing to public service, education, the aerospace industry, the Space Shuttle program, journalism, and religious life.

Because parking is limited near the Muzeo Cultural Center, FPCGG Young-At-Heart folks plan to meet in the church parking lot on Wednesday, October 30th, and then carpool to the Museum; thereby limiting parking fees. If you wish to be a part of this carpooling group, please let Wayne or Sharon Wolfe know (714-540-2746 or wayashar@aol.com) so that we will not leave the church parking lot at 1:30 pm without you! (You could also just plan to meet us at the Museum at 2:00 pm if that better fits your schedule.) Attendees should plan to pay their individual entry fees upon entering the exhibit. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors.

Invite a friend to share this history lesson with your church family!