

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Museum to Host Reunion of Yakima Valley Japanese Families: Pioneers and their Descendants Will Reunite at Yakima Valley Museum May 25-26, 2013**

(Yakima, April 19, 2013) Before their relocation to an internment camp at Heart Mountain in Wyoming, there were over 1,000 Japanese-Americans living and farming in the Yakima Valley. World War II splintered the once vibrant community. Relatively few returned to the Valley post-war.

The Grand Reunion is the first formal gathering of the Yakima Valley Japanese pioneer families since 1973. This event builds on the legacy of the “Land of Joy and Sorrow,” the Yakima Valley Museum’s historic exhibit which originally opened in October 2010.

“For many, the Grand Reunion will be a chance to return to the Yakima Valley one last time, “ said John Baule, executive director. “Our hope is extended families reunite and the younger generation gains a better understanding of the important role the Japanese have played locally. Ultimately, the reunion will be a time to reconnect and celebrate.”

The two-day celebration begins at 2 p.m., Saturday, May 25 and includes historic presentations, a tour of the Museum’s special exhibit, a banquet, and a memorial service at Tahoma Cemetery. In addition, Museum staff will be available to scan and copy documents and photos for historic preservation. Sunday’s events conclude with a return to Wapato, the town many Japanese pioneers once called home.

For more information, call 509.248.0727 or visit [yakimavalleymuseum.org](http://yakimavalleymuseum.org).

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Founded in 1951, the Yakima Valley Museum is located adjacent to beautiful Franklin Park. This 65,000 SF facility offers historical exhibits on the Yakima Valley—its natural history, American Indian culture, pioneer life, early city life, and the roots and development of the Valley’s fruit industry. The museum also has a superb collection of horse-drawn vehicles, from stagecoach to hearse; a historical exhibit and reconstruction of the Washington D.C. office of former Yakima resident and environmentalist, Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas; and a changing schedule of special exhibitions.

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