



www.wakasamemorial.org

wakasamemorial@gmail.com

March 29, 2022

Dear Montpelier Descendants Committee,

As allies and Japanese American survivors and descendants of the World War II United States concentration camps, we felt deep pain and anguish after reading about the recent Montpelier Foundation Board's vote altering the original co-stewardship agreement concerning equitable representation on the Montpelier Board.

We first learned of the James Madison's Montpelier Descendants Community from the Rubric, shared by Robert Nieweg of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in our ongoing efforts to recenter the Japanese American community narrative in our ongoing dealings with a White-dominated museum that claims stewardship over our history.

The Rubric was a valuable tool helping us to consider strategies to challenge the racially biased interpretation that defined the forced mass removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans as an overwhelmingly positive experience that benefited us, the "model minority."

The Rubric and the leadership of the Descendants Committee in challenging White-centered narratives, has been an inspiration, helping to guide our own preservation and interpretation efforts. We are grateful for your work.

In considering the recent unconscionable action of the Montpelier Board, rejecting the equity and social justice work of the past years, we want to support the Descendant community and help amplify your voices.

We have signed onto the [change.org](https://www.change.org) petition and are encouraging others in our community to do the same. Please inform us if there are other ways we might express our support for your valuable work to reclaim the narratives of people of color whose labors and sacrifices built the wealth and power of White America.

Yours in Solidarity,

Wakasa Memorial Committee

Barbara Takei
Emiko Omori
Nancy Ukai
Satsuki Ina
Diana Emiko Tsuchida

Kiyoshi Ina
Masako Takahashi
Mary Urashima
John Ota
Akemi Yamane Ina

Kimiko Marr
Martha Nakagawa
Claudia Katayanagi
Donald Teruo Hata
Mari Matsumoto
Bif Brigman