

I make an annual donation to the Topaz Museum because of Jane Beckwith. The Topaz Museum and the preservation of the Topaz site would not exist without her dedication and perseverance. She educated her students about the incarceration of Japanese Americans, a travesty that happened in their own backyard. She did not let this history, something the students' own families might not have talked about, be glossed over. Certainly their history books [and mine] lacked information. Although I inherited from my mother a trove of books on the incarceration, it took many years before my parents talked about it. My own family was incarcerated there and did not talk about it. Most of the Japanese community did not talk about it. Ms. Beckwith, whose family was not personally involved, took action to prevent this sordid history from getting buried. Her years of investment of her personal time and energy has given us the Topaz Museum and the internment site. She inspired an initial group of non-Japanese citizens to make sure the Japanese American experience did not get lost. She deserves recognition and kudos.

Respectfully,  
Carol Murota