

Kiyoko Yoshida

By Isaac Danielson, Kaylee Radford, and Nick Zuckerman

Background/family life

Kiyoko Yoshida was born on August 15th of 1927.¹ She lived in a house of seven on Vashon Island: her father, mother, three older sisters, and her younger brother, Sachio.¹ They were a Free Methodist family, Tomi the mother along with the three oldest sisters worked on a farm, Toyokichi Yoshida their father who was a clerk at a jewelers.¹ She was a freshman at Vashon Island High School involved in the honor roll. She and her family were removed in May of 1942. A special ferry transported the Japanese-Americans from the north end of Vashon Island to Coleman Dock in Seattle. They then boarded a train to Pinedale Relocation Center in Southern California.⁶

Camps

The Yoshidas were originally sent to the Pinedale Assembly Center, in Fresno, California via a train. At Pinedale they thought the conditions were harsh, but were slightly better than they thought they'd be. They were given beds and the rooms they were given were separated by family.⁶ Then they were moved to Tule Lake in California for less than a year, then to Topaz Lake in Utah for two years.² They were moved from Tule Lake after because they declared their loyalty to the United States in a loyalty questionnaire given to all those interned. The climate at Topaz Lake was extreme with the temperatures ranging from the 90s to the low 20s. They were released from Topaz lake on September 4th of 1945.⁴

Personal life at camp

At the Pinedale assembly center in California, the Yoshida family lived in a 437 sq ft room. They slept on army cots and mattresses. Temperatures were extreme at Pinedale in the summer of 1942, with one day reaching 108°F. There were also frequent dust storms. The kitchen for the mess hall was still being set up when they arrived, and Haruko Yoshida, Kiyoko Yoshida's older sister, mentioned that the food was "improving". Jobs were offered in the camp which paid either 8, 12, or 16 dollars per month. The lowest wages of 8 dollars per month were only 3 cents per hour (50 cents per hour in 2022 dollars). The jobs available to those interned included positions such as timekeepers, warehouse workers, supervisors, and postmen.⁶

After internment

After having her internment terminated on September 4th, 1945, Kiyoko was given a relocation grant to move to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with her parents, older sister, Shigeko, and younger brother Sachio.⁴ Kiyoko then traveled to Salisbury, Wiltshire, England where she married Albert Richard Charles Govier in 1961.⁷ Her last known address in the United States was in New York City, at 166 East 22nd Street. Shortly after getting married, Kiyoko flew back to New York City on Pan Am Flight #1 for unstated travel reasons. Kiyoko and Albert gave birth to a female child named Annette Kimiko Govier in 1963. Kiyoko passed away due to breast cancer in 1970.³

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4. Ancestry.com. *U.S., Final Accountability Rosters of Evacuees at Relocation Centers, 1942-1946* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2013.
5. Ancestry.com. *U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2014.
6. "Japanese Presence Project." Vashon Maury Island Heritage Museum, n.d. Accessed February 7, 2022
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7. *Online publication - Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc, 2010. Original data - General Register Office. England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes. London, England: General Register Office. © Crown copyright. Published by permission of the Contr*
8. "Joy and Heartache Vashon's 120 Year Japanese Legacy." Vashon Maury Island Heritage Museum, n.d. Accessed February 9, 2022

Ancestry.com. *U.S., Final Accountability Rosters of Evacuees at Relocation Centers, 1942-1946* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2013.
Sachio

Sachio Yoshida

By Isaac Danielson, Kaylee Radford, and Nick Zuckerman

Sachio Yoshida was born on December 3rd of 1933. He lived in a house of six on Vashon Island: his father, mother, four older sisters. They were a Free Methodist family. Tomi, the mother, and the three oldest sisters worked on a farm, Toyokichi Yoshida their father, was a clerk at a jeweler. Sachio was eight years old at the time of internment.¹ He and his family were removed in May of 1942. A special ferry transported the Japanese-Americans from the north end of Vashon Island to Coleman Dock in Seattle. They then boarded a train to Pinedale Relocation Center in Fresno, California⁸.

At the Pinedale assembly center in California, the Yoshida family lived in a 437 sq ft room. They slept on army cots and mattresses. Temperatures were extreme at Pinedale in the summer of 1942, with one day reaching 108°F. There were also frequent dust storms. The kitchen for the mess hall was still being set up when they arrived, and Haruko Yoshida, Kiyoko Yoshida's older sister, mentioned that the food was "improving". Jobs were offered in the camp which paid either 8, 12, or 16 dollars per month. The lowest wages of 8 dollars per month were only 3 cents per hour (50 cents per hour in 2022 dollars). The jobs available to those interned included positions such as timekeepers, warehouse workers, supervisors, and postmen.⁶

After having his internment terminated on September 4th, 1945, Sachio was given a relocation grant to move to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with his parents, older sister, Shigeko, and sister, Kiyoko.⁴

