

October 2015

## From Executive Director Tom Ikeda

Dear Friend,

I vividly remember a moment that took place about five years ago at Densho's Sushi & Sake Fest. Just before we opened up the sushi stations to about 100 excited people milling around the entrance, I walked over to the sake stations and saw Deems Tsutakawa banging out jazz tunes on a keyboard, a dozen people laughing and talking around him, and in the background, people scurrying about looking for silent auction bargains. It brought a smile to my face and sparked a warmth in my heart to be in the midst of such a vibrant community.

It's moments like this that inspire me to keep hosting the Sushi & Sake Fest year after year. Yes, the event is an important fundraiser for Densho, but it's really so much more. It's a rare opportunity to connect with the people who form our community and to celebrate the strength of that community. The Japanese term *tsudoi*--a gathering of people who are close and share common interests--perfectly describes the community spirit behind Sushi & Sake.

We designed this annual reception-style event to encourage conversation, discussion, and friendship--all things we need more of in our world today. We hope you'll join us for sushi, sake, and community on November 4th at MOHAI.

Sincerely,

Tom Ikeda

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### Sushi & Sake Fest 2015

Please join us **Wednesday, November 4** at the [Museum of History & Industry](#) for this once-a-year chance to enjoy some of the region's finest sushi and premium sake—all while supporting an important community organization and learning about some of the exciting developments on our horizon.

Entertainment will be provided by acclaimed jazz pianist, [Deems Tsutakawa](#).

Individual tickets are \$100 and can be purchased through [Brown Paper Tickets](#) or by downloading [this form](#) and mailing it to Densho along with a check.

Visit [www.densho.org/sushisake](http://www.densho.org/sushisake) for more information.



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**Community Luncheon at the  
Wing Luke Museum**

Earlier this week we held a luncheon for some local members of the Densho community. As we approach our 20th anniversary, this was an important opportunity to invite input about what our next 20 years ought to look like.

The input we received was quite diverse, but one thing was clear: the work we're doing to document Japanese American history is indispensable, but we need to find more ways to educate students and the general public. We also heard that our community wants us to do more to make the WWII incarceration story relevant to contemporary struggles for social justice and racial equity.

We sincerely thank all those who were able to attend and give us this thoughtful feedback!

*\*Support from [4Culture](#) and the [Seattle Office of Arts & Culture](#) made this community luncheon possible.*



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## Names Registry Database

In September, we unveiled the [Names Registry Database](#)--a new digital resource that will help individuals and researchers discover information about the 120,000 individuals who were incarcerated during WWII.

It compiles information gathered from several sources, including census data taken at the beginning and end of the WWII incarceration period. The individual data collected as the camps were closing, known as the Final Accountability Rosters (FAR), is being made available online for the first time.

Search the database for information about your own family and friends: [ddr.densho.org/names](http://ddr.densho.org/names)

*\*This project was supported, in part, by a grant from the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, [Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program](#).*



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## New Digitization Project Interns

Densho recently welcomed a new set of interns on board. Between now and January 2016, they will be corresponding with our oral history narrators and their families to identify and collect materials (newspapers, photographs, documents, etc.), digitizing those materials, editing and performing quality control on digital images, transcribing documents, cataloging, and data management in digital repository software. We're happy to have them on board!

The new interns are pictured here, from left to right:

**Sara Beckman**, BS in History from Indiana State University; MLIS from the University of Washington

**Alaria Sacco**, BA in Museum Studies, minor in Anthropology from Appalachian State University



**Odetta Allen**, BFA in Printmaking and Painting from Cornish College of the Arts and MA in Archives and Records Management from Western Washington University

*\*The internships are supported, in part, by a grant from [4Culture](#).*



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## Oral History Spotlight

Robert Mizukami, originally from Fife, Washington, was sent to the Minidoka concentration camp, Idaho, during World War II. Soon after arriving in camp, he went out with a group on temporary agricultural leave to help local Idaho farmers harvest potatoes and sugar beets. In this clip, he talks about his early impressions of camp.

[View the October Oral History Spotlight](#)



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## On the Blog: Intersections between Hispanic and Japanese American History

While the incarceration of people of Japanese descent throughout Latin America has been the focus of a number of studies, little has been written about interactions between Hispanic and Japanese American communities in the United States during World War II. In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, we present a brief history of wartime intersections between Hispanic and Japanese Americans, examining both the lived experiences of individuals and how they were represented in popular culture.

[Read more.](#)



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## Call for Temporary Loan of Family Photos and Documents

Have you or a family member been interviewed by Densho for our oral history archive? If so, we ask that you consider temporarily loaning us photographs and documents related to the Japanese American experience before, during, and after World War II so that we can digitally preserve them. Your items will become part of one of the largest and most diverse online educational collections about the Japanese American experience.

We're looking for: artwork; scrapbooks; personal photographs; letters and diaries; government documents; audio/visual recordings; newspapers (complete issues) and magazines.

To find out more about loaning materials, please contact Caitlin Oiye, Photo and Document



Collections Manager: [collections@den sho.org](mailto:collections@den sho.org) /  
(206) 320-0095.

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