

December 2018

From Executive Director Tom Ikeda

Dear Friends,

A couple of weeks ago, I was reminiscing with my 91-year-old parents about the time we helped build the house they still live in after 50 years. To save money, the seven members of our family would visit the emerging house every day, do odd jobs, and clean-up the site. I remember as a 12-year-old, working with my parents and siblings to dig ditches, haul buckets of sand, pre-stain outside siding, build terraced rockeries, paint interior walls, and build a tool shed from scrap lumber.

I remember how good it felt when we finally moved in to lie on the newly installed carpet and smell the freshly painted walls. As I walk through the house 50 years later, I am still proud of the work we did. I also have the insight that — more important than the finished house — our family worked together for months on a shared goal. This experience created a trust and understanding that still exists today.

Every day at Densho, I am excited as we come together to build a state-of-the-art digital collection and educational platform on the WWII Japanese American incarceration. I am even more excited about the relationships we are building with Densho's team and dozens of partnering organizations, educators, artists, and activists — working together with the shared goal of promoting equity and justice by keeping the Japanese American story alive. These relationships, more than anything physically built, are the real legacy of Densho.

Have a Happy Holiday Season!

Tom

Still time to give in 2018!



Happy holidays from all of us at Densho! We are grateful to do the work that we do: preserving and sharing the history of Japanese Americans unjustly incarcerated during WWII and promoting equity and justice today.

If you value this work, please consider making a tax-deductible, financial contribution by December 31. Your gift will support the growth and maintenance of our free online resources and help us to share and engage with people all over the world.

Densho is excited for what is to come in 2019 — as we expand our digital archive of oral histories, photographs, newspapers, diaries and more; collaborate on digitization projects with community and institutional partners across the country; and grow outreach efforts that will connect inter-generational audiences. However, we can't do this work without your support.

Please visit densho.org/give for information on how to give online or directly contact danielle.higa@densho.org. Densho is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Tax ID/EIN# 91-2164150.

Donate \$125 or more by December 31st and select one premium gift; donate \$250 or more and we'll send you both!

[DONATE](#)



Oral History Spotlight: Receiving Christmas Gifts in Camp

Kara Kondo, originally from Wapato, Washington, was held at the Heart Mountain concentration camp during WWII. In this clip, she describes the poignant memory of Christmas gifts she received in camp, and how those acts of kindness sustained her through the dark days of WWII incarceration.

>> [Watch now.](#)

Archives Spotlight: Konishi Family Collection

This new collection in the Densho Digital Repository features



photographs of the Konishi Family during their incarceration at Heart Mountain.

>> [View the collection.](#)

STAY CONNECTED:



www.densho.org

[Subscribe to Densho eNewsletter](#) | [Donate](#)