From the Director: Tom Ikeda

Please consider joining us on November 10th for the Densho Sushi & Sake Gala. This is our once-a-year opportunity to celebrate with our supporters, talk a little bit about what we are doing, raise some money, and have a lot of fun! We expect an even more relaxed and fun crowd this year as the evening of Thursday, November 10th is the beginning of a three day weekend for many of us. It would be especially wonderful if you brought friends who don't know about Densho and the story of the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans. Our common goal should be to share the Japanese American incarceration story, and it starts with our friends! Read the blurb below for more information about the Sushi & Sake Gala and feel free to contact me at tom.ikeda@densho.org if you have any questions.

Archive Spotlight

Atsumi Ozawa: A Japanese Peruvian's Story

During World War II, Atsumi Ozawa, a Japanese Peruvian, was removed with her family from her hometown of Huancayo, Peru, and taken to the Crystal City internment camp, Texas. Her father had been arrested and taken beforehand, and in this clip, Atsumi describes a difficult train ride with her mother and sisters on their way to reunite with her father on the ship to the United States. This interview was conducted in partnership with the Chicago Japanese American Historical Society and was funded by a grant from the Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

>> View the interview excerpt
>> Register for the free Densho Digital Archive

Densho News

Buy Your Early-Bird Ticket to the Sushi & Sake Gala

The 2011 Sushi & Sake Gala will be held on Thursday, November 10, at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Early bird tickets are available online for $125 until October 14, 2011. After October 14th the price is $175. Our reception features fresh sushi prepared by fabulous local chefs and premium sake and Japanese beer. Following the reception is a benefit sit-down dinner. We are also looking for fun and motivated volunteers for the event day. If you are interested, please fill out a volunteer form.

>> For more information
>> To purchase tickets
>> To volunteer
Tom Ikeda Named a Finalist for Microsoft Alumni Award

The Microsoft Alumni Foundation named Densho Executive Director Tom Ikeda as one of six finalists for the 2011 Integral Fellows Awards. Winners will be named on November 16th at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and will receive a $25,000 unrestricted grant for their organizations. Good luck, Tom!

>> For more information

National News and Events

Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony in Washington DC

The United States Senate and Members of Congress will hold a Congressional Gold Medal ceremony on November 2, 2011, in the Capitol to honor Japanese American soldiers of the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, as well as veterans of the Military Intelligence Service. All three units are being recognized for dedicated service during World War II.

>> For more information


Listen to a book reading by Japanese Americans who lived in Tacoma, Washington; Portland, Oregon; and various parts of California prior to WWII. Hear their stories about post-war resettlement and reflect upon the experience of returning home.

- Friday, October 7th, 7:30 pm, Blaine United Methodist Church, Seattle, WA
- Saturday, October 8th, 5:00 pm, Elliott Bay Book Company, Seattle, WA
- Sunday, October 9th, 2:00 pm, Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, Portland, OR

>> For more information about the book

Support the Distribution of the Film, Prisoners & Patriots: The Untold Story of Japanese Internment in Santa Fe

Support the DVD distribution to schools of the new film, Prisoners & Patriots: The Untold Story of Japanese Internment in Santa Fe. Based on 20 hours of exclusive interviews with former Santa Fe survivors and their families, declassified government documents and private photographs, this film tells a story that, in many cases, fathers never told their own children after the war.

>> For more information