VENICE JAPANESE AMERICAN MEMORIAL MONUMENT DEDICATION

Thursday, April 27, 2017
Venice, California
From Generation to Generation...
Building a New Landmark to Share
and Preserve the Stories of Our
Amazing Community. Please Join Us!

Venice Heritage Foundation
PO Box 1116, Venice, CA 90294
VeniceHeritageMuseum@Gmail.com
www.VeniceHeritageMuseum.org
Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument

DEDICATION CEREMONY

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2017
Northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards

Master of Ceremonies: Phyllis Hayashibara
VJAMM Committee

Jim Smith
Former Free Venice Beachhead Collective

Ruth Galanter
Retired Los Angeles City Councilmember, District 6

Joel Jacinto
Commissioner, Board of Public Works

Zev Yaroslovsky
Los Angeles County Supervisor, District 5 (retired)

Rachel Zaiden
Senior Field Deputy for Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl

Len Nguyen
Senior Field Deputy for Los Angeles City Councilmember Mike Bonin

Kevin McKeown
Councilmember and former Mayor, City of Santa Monica

Jeff Burton
National Park Service, Manzanar National Historic Site

Dr. Jimmy Hara
Born in Gila River WRA Camp in Arizona

Dr. Thomas Yoshikawa
Former incarceree at Manzanar WRA Camp in California

Keynote Speaker: Warren Furutani
Community Activist and Manzanar Pilgrimage Pioneer

Introduction of Quotes - Brian Maeda
VJAMM Committee

VJAMM Text - Nikki Gilbert
VJAMM Committee

VJAMM Design - Emily Winters
VJAMM Committee & VAC

Education & Maintenance - Suzanne Thompson
VJAMM Committee & VAC

Announcements:
- VJAMM Fundraiser today at noon and tonight at Hama Sushi
- 48th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, Saturday, April 29, 2017
April 27, 2017

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the Dedication of the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of President Roosevelt’s signing of Executive Order 9066 which forced the removal of 120,000 Japanese and American citizens of Japanese ancestry on the West Coast. This monument is an important tribute to the 1,000 persons of Japanese ancestry who were forcibly removed from Venice, Santa Monica, and Malibu.

In today’s political climate, Americans must be mindful of the progress we have made since 1942 and we must work to defend and protect the rights of our most vulnerable populations. It’s important that we honor and recognize what happened to our Japanese American citizens in 1942 in order to bring about a better future.

I send my very best for a successful event!

Sincerely,

Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor, Third District
April 27, 2017

Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument Committee
P.O. Box 993
Venice, CA 90294

Dear Friends:

We come together to celebrate completion of the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument (VJAMM). This special monument marks the spot where some 1,000 persons of Japanese ancestry from the City of Los Angeles’ Westside assembled before their forced relocation to Manzanar War Relocation Center in the wake of anti-Japanese sentiment during World War II.

Today’s dedication is the culmination of a grassroots effort that began eight years ago with students from the New Media Academy at Venice High School, who were inspired by an article in the Venice Beachhead and made a presentation before the Los Angeles City Council. Their teacher, Phyllis Hayashibara, took up the cause and formed the VJAMM Committee. I congratulate the students, donors, and members of the VJAMM Committee who have worked so hard to make this day possible.

As we commemorate the 75th anniversary of internment, VJAMM is a prescient reminder for us, as a people, to be vigilant about defending our rights—including those of our friends and neighbors. Let us remember the internees who are no longer with us by dedicating this monument today in their honor. Let us remember their sacrifice by heeding the words etched on this monument “that the powers of government shall never again perpetrate an injustice against any group based solely on ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, race or religion.”

Regards,

Mike Bonin
Councilmember, Eleventh District

MB:In
Ruth Galanter

Retired Los Angeles City Councilmember, District 6: Author of ordinance giving the site of Manzanar camp for preservation as a monument.

Dr. Jimmy Hara

Family Medicine Residency Director Emeritus, Kaiser Permanente; Professor at UCLA School of Medicine and at Charles Drew University College of Medicine. Born in Gila River War Relocation Authority Camp in Arizona.

Zev Yaroslavsky

Los Angeles County Supervisor, District 3 (retired); Director of the Los Angeles Initiative, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs.

Joel Jacinto

Commissioner, Board of Public Works, City of Los Angeles.
In December 2016, the Rafu Shimpo re-printed the influential “101 Ways to Tell You’re Japanese American,” by Jenni Kuida and Tony Osumi, originally published in The Rafu Shimpo in March 1996. Their original introduction seems as pertinent today as it was twenty years ago:

“Although written in good fun, understanding what it means to be JA helps define who we are as a community and the issues we face. More importantly, as we further study Japanese/Asian American history, we might begin to see current issues like immigrant-bashing, attacks on civil rights/affirmative action and the growing concentration of wealth and resources upward to a select few, in new ways.”

After “1. You know that Camp doesn’t mean a cabin in the woods,” and right before “30. You’ve been to the Manzanar Pilgrimage and danced the ‘Tanko Bushi,’” the list reads, “29. You’ve heard Warren Furutani speak at least once, somewhere.”

Today, Thursday, April 27, 2017, we are all Japanese Americans, privileged to hear Warren Furutani deliver the Keynote address on the Dedication of the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument. In addition to his grass-roots community activism, Furutani has held numerous elected and appointed political offices. He became the first Asian American/Pacific Islander to be elected to the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education in 1987, and while on the Board, became the first to secure belated high school diplomas for Nisei who left their high schools for camps. He won election to the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees in 1999, and election to the California State Assembly to represent the 55th District in 2007. He authored two bills signed into California law: AB 37 conferred honorary college degrees to Nisei who had been incarcerated in the camps, and AB 1775 made California the first state to declare January 30 the Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution.

In 1969, Furutani joined his community activism and civil rights advocacy into the first organized pilgrimage to Manzanar with some 150 other volunteers. Warren Furutani and Sue Kunitomi Embrey co-founded the Manzanar Committee in 1970, dedicated to educating the general public about the World War II imprisonment of Japanese Americans in United States concentration camps. Warren will be a featured speaker at the 48th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage taking place on Saturday, April 29, 2017, which marks the 75th anniversary of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s signing Executive Order 9066.
Len Nguyen

Senior Field Deputy, Mar Vista and West Los Angeles, Office of Los Angeles City Councilmember Mike Bonin, District 11

Jeff Burton

Cultural Resources Program Manager/Archeologist, National Park Service, Manzanar National Historic Site

Rachel Zaiden

Senior Field Deputy, Metropolitan/West Los Angeles, Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, District 3
When I moved to Venice in 1968, I had never heard that Japanese Americans who lived here during World War II had been taken to concentration camps. I knew vaguely that Japanese people had been interned during the war. But it wasn’t until 2001, when I saw a photo of hundreds of people at Lincoln and Venice Boulevards being taken away, that it hit home.

How could such a thing happen? And how could most Venetians not know about it? I spoke to my friends and neighbors at the next meeting of our local Peace and Freedom chapter, and we resolved that there should be a marker or monument at the site.

The incarceration was part of the dark side of American history just as was McCarthyism, today’s massive prison system housing mostly people of color, the Patriot Act, and mass surveillance. The monument will be a continuous reminder of the internment of 120,000 innocent Japanese Americans, and a reminder that we must always be vigilant or we will lose our democratic liberties.

Hundreds of people signed our petition asking our city councilmember to take action. Everyone agreed it should be done.

None of us expected it to take 16 years for a monument to be erected. It never would have succeeded without articles in the Free Venice Beachhead newspaper, Venice High students getting involved, and their teacher, Phyllis Hayashibara, coordinating the effort, and of course, the many wonderful people in the Venice arts community and in the local Japanese American community.

Jim Smith worked tirelessly with the Free Venice Beachhead Collective from 2002 to 2012, composing poetry, writing articles and editorials, publishing the monthly underground periodical, and digitizing every issue of this “last underground newspaper still alive and kickin’ from the Sixties.” Smith’s legacy includes “lighting a spark of remembrance that will. I’m sure, result in a permanent memorial to the shameful treatment our Japanese American neighbors were subjected to during World War II.”
Congratulations to the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument Committee for marking this important historical event.

Joe & Dianne Kujubu Belli
Los Angeles
2017
May 20, 2014: U.S. Congressmember Ted Lieu (CD 33), formerly California State Senator (SD 28), presents the VJAMM Committee with his $5,000 donation.

Current VJAMM Committee members

Kay Brown: Artist, Printmaker, Venice Arts Council
Phyllis Hayashibara: retired Social Studies teacher at Venice High School, Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Buddhist Women’s Association (Fujinkai)
Mae Kakehashi: former Manzanar internee, medical secretary, Reach to Recovery
Arnold Maeda: former surgical orderly at Manzanar Base Hospital, Senior Class President Manzanar High School Class of 1944, chick sexor, technical illustrator, insurance agent
Brian Maeda: born in Manzanar, filmmaker and director, Manzanar Committee
Alice Stek: OB GYN, Venice Peace and Freedom Party, Free Venice Beachhead
Suzanne Thompson: Venice Arts Council co-founder, Endangered Arts Fund Chair
Yosh Tomita: former Manzanar internee, aerospace engineer
Emily Winters: Venice activist, artist, muralist, Venice Arts Council co-founder

Past VJAMM Committee members

Don Geagan: Free Venice Beachhead, Venice Peace and Freedom Party
Fred Hoshiyama: YMCA, Japanese American National Museum, Venice Culver JACL
Marc Salvatierra: web manager, Venice Historical Society, archivist, researcher, fact checker
Jim Smith: journalist, writer, poet, political activist, Free Venice Beachhead
The Venice Japanese American Memorial Marker (VJAMM) Committee, an ad hoc group comprised of former internees and concerned citizens, has been working together since 2010. The Committee’s goal: to build a permanent memorial to honor the Americans of Japanese descent forcibly removed from Venice, Santa Monica, and Malibu and incarcerated at the War Relocation Authority camp at Manzanar for the duration of World War II. The inspiration for this project goes back to the attacks against the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon in Virginia, and one that crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania on September 11, 2001. Hate crimes against persons perceived to be Middle Easterners or Muslims flared, amid calls for their removal and imprisonment. Artists and activists of Venice drew comparisons with this prejudice and that which followed Imperial Japan’s attack on the U. S. naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941. They sought to remind people that what happened to persons of Japanese ancestry in 1942 should never happen again to any minority group solely based on ethnicity or religion.

In April, 2009, the Free Venice Beachhead published a commemorative article on the Japanese American internment and printed a 1942 photo of Japanese Americans lined up on Venice Boulevard just west of Lincoln Boulevard, for transport to Manzanar. Students in Mrs. Phyllis Hayashibara’s U. S. History classes in the New Media Academy at Venice High School heeded the Beachhead’s urgent plea to urge 11th District Los Angeles City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl to support the installation of a permanent marker at the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards. Then-Councilmember Rosendahl invited the students to make a presentation before the Los Angeles City Council at City Hall in May 2009, and enthusiastically pledged his support.

The ad hoc Venice Japanese American Memorial Marker Committee met for the first time in March 2010. Activists in the Venice community and the Japanese American community came together after reading the students’ emails and names printed in the June and July 2009 issues of the Free Venice Beachhead. These activists included members of the Venice Arts Council, Free Venice Beachhead Collective, Venice Peace and Freedom Party, Venice Historical Society, Venice High School, Manzanar Committee, and former internees of the War Relocation Center at Manzanar. Students, churches, community organizations, and other elected officials pledged support for an enduring reminder of what had happened at this intersection in 1942, so that such an injustice would never happen again.

In June, 2016, the VJAMM Committee agreed to change its name from Marker to Monument, in recognition of the VJAMM obelisk’s 9 foot 6 inch height and its 3 foot by 3 foot base. The solid black granite VJAMM obelisk echoes the shape of the iconic white obelisk erected in 1943 for the cemetery at the War Relocation Authority camp at Manzanar.

The VJAMM Committee works in partnership with the Venice Arts Council, P. O. Box 993, Venice, CA 90294 (www.veniceartscouncil.org) where tax-deductible donations payable to VCHC/VJAMM may be sent, and whose fiscal sponsor is the Venice Community Housing Corporation, a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, EIN 95-4200761, 720 Rose Avenue, Venice, CA 90291 (310-399-4100) (www.vchcorp.org). Please visit www.venicejamm.org.
As a sixteen-year-old I didn't realize the injustice fully, but in time we learned how our rights as citizens were ignored. Thanks to the strength and resilience of our Issei parents, we were able to survive.

Brian Tadashi Maeda
born in Manzanar

Instead of being worried about where we were going, I was obsessed with the fact that I had parted with my constant companion, my pet dog, Boy. For a fifteen-year-old, that was unforgettable traumatic.

Arnold Tadao Maeda
from Santa Monica

When the camp closed, we were given twenty-five dollars and told to leave. But we had nothing when we left camp - no home, no jobs, no prospects. It was very hard on all of us.

Mae Kageyama Kakehashi
from Venice

As a sixteen-year-old I didn't realize the injustice fully, but in time we learned how our rights as citizens were ignored. Thanks to the strength and resilience of our Issei parents, we were able to survive.

Amy Takahashi Ioki
from Malibu

I was only five years old when we were imprisoned in Manzanar. I feel so grateful to the many Nisei and Sansei who worked successfully for redress and reparations with the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. I feel extremely grateful also to all the people in the community who came together to make the VJAMM a reality.

Yoshinori Tomita
from Venice
In Memoriam

Fred Hoshiyama, December 7, 1914 - December 30, 2015

The VJAMM Committee thanks you, Fred, for your early encouragement and guidance as we first embarked on our journey to creating the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument.

Fred Hoshiyama with photo of VJAMM model on December 7, 2012

Yoshinori Tomita, July 12, 1936 - January 19, 2017

The VJAMM Committee thanks you, Yosh, for suggesting we return to the obelisk originally proposed by Emily Winters, and for expressing such gratitude in your quote for the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument.

Scott Pine, Bill Rosendahl, Yosh Tomita, Arnold Maeda, Emily Winters, Phyllis Hayashibara at Venice Neighborhood Council meeting on June 15, 2010
in gratitude
AADAP, Inc applauds the Dedication of the VENICE JAPANESE AMERICAN MEMORIAL MONUMENT

Asian American Drug Abuse Program, Inc.
2900 Crenshaw Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90016
T 323.293.6284
F 323.295.4075

www.aadapinc.org

YES, WE SUPPORT THE VENICE JAPANESE AMERICAN MEMORIAL MARKER, TO BE INSTALLED ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF VENICE AND LINCOLN BOULEVARDS, WHERE SOME 1,000 PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY, FORCIBLY REMOVED FROM VENICE, SANTA MONICA AND MALIBU, LINED UP FOR TRANSPORT TO THE AMERICAN CONCENTRATION CAMP AT MANZANAR IN APRIL, 1942

Name__________________________
Street Address__________________
City, State, Zip__________________
Phone__________________________
Email Address__________________

Please make check payable to “VCHC/VJAMM.”
The Venice Community Housing Corporation (VCHC) is the fiscal sponsor of the Venice Arts Council and the Venice Japanese American Memorial Marker.

Much-appreciated, tax-deductible donations may be sent to:
VENICE ARTS COUNCIL/VJAMM
PO BOX 993, Venice, CA 90294

www.venicejamm.org
Honor  Respect
In April 1942, during World War II, more than a thousand American men, women, and children of Japanese ancestry in Venice, Santa Monica, and Malibu reported to the corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards. They were allowed to bring with them only what they could carry. The Western Defense Command and Fourth Army issued civilian exclusion orders to 80,000 Japanese Americans only days to dispose of their property and businesses in their possession. This was directly to the American Concentration Camp at Manzanar in Inyo County, where many interned were incarcerated for more than three years.

JAPAN'S DECEMBER 7, 1941 ATTACK ON THE U.S. NAVAL BASE AT PEARL HARBOR IN HAWAII PULLED THE UNITED STATES INTO WORLD WAR II. WITHIN DAYS, THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PUBLICIZED AMERICAN COMMUNITY LEADERS INTO DETENTION CENTERS FOR THE UNEMPLOYED EAST OF COLLUSION WITH THE EMPIRE OF JAPAN. ON FEBRUARY 9, 1942, PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT ANNOUNCED EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066, WHICH EMPowered THE U.S. ARMY TO DECLARE AREAS OF WASHINGTON, OREGON, AND CALIFORNIA MILITARILY SENSITIVE. 100,000 FORCED THE RESIDENCE OF JERSEY JAPANESE AND AMERICAN CITIZENS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY FROM THE WEST COAST TO BE IMPOSED IN TEMPORARY ASSEMBLY CENTERS AT FAIRGROUNDS AND RACETACKS. MONTHS LATER, THEY WERE TAKEN TO THE AMERICAN CONCENTRATION CAMPS UNDER THE WAR RELocation AUTHORITY, WHICH FORCED REMOVAL AND DEPORTATION, WITHOUT ANY RELATED TO DUE PROCESS OR THE RIGHT OF HABITABLE COURTS, VIOLATING THEIR RIGHTS UNDER THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

May this Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument remind us to be forever vigilant about defending our constitutional rights. The powers of government must never again perpetrate an injustice against any group based solely on ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, race, or religion.

VENICE JAPANESE AMERICAN MEMORIAL MONUMENT

My family reported to this very corner before being sent to Manzanar concentration camp with only what they could carry. They, and many other families, lost everything: their homes, their businesses, their liberties.

Brian Takashi Morita
Human Services

Instead of being worried about where we were going, I was obsessed with the fact that I had parted with my constant companion, my pet dog, Boy. For a fifteen-year-old, that was unforgivably traumatic.

Arnold Sadao Morita
Jour of Santa Monica

When the camp closed, we were given twenty-five dollars and told to leave. We had nothing when we left camp - no homes, no jobs, no prospects. It was very hard on all of us.

Mae Kanayama Kobayashi
from Venice

As a sixteen-year-old I didn't realize the injustice fully, but in time we learned how our rights as citizens were ignored. Thanks to the strength and resilience of our Nisei parents, we were able to survive.

Amy Kobayashi Todd
from Malibu

I was only five years old when we were imprisoned in Manzanar. I feel so grateful to the many Nisei and Sunsets who worked successfully for redress and reparations with the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. I feel extremely grateful also to all the people in the community who came together to make the VHJAMM a reality.

Yoshinori Fuku
from Venice
THE VENICE JAPANESE AMERICAN MEMORIAL MONUMENT COMMITTEE GRATUFLY ACKNOWLEDGES THESE MAJOR DONORS

JAPANESE AMERICAN CONFINEMENT SITES GRANT PROGRAM NATIONAL PARK SERVICE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

JUNG & ESTHER CHAING HAMA SUSHI RESTAURANT VENICE, CALIFORNIA

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MIKE BONIN, 11TH DISTRICT LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY, 3RD DISTRICT LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SHEILA KUEHL, 3RD DISTRICT LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS, 2ND DISTRICT LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DON KNABE, 4TH DISTRICT LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

TED LIEU, 28TH DISTRICT CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE

SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

ARNOLD T. MAEDA AND BRIAN T. MAEDA IN MEMORY OF OUR PARENTS NORMAN TOYOSIGE AND SASAMI TAKEDA MAEDA

ALICE STEK VENICE PEACE AND FREEDOM PARTY

MALIBU CITY COUNCIL

MANZANAR WAR RELLOCATION AUTHORITY CAMP INCARCERATED MORE THAN 10,000 PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY

FIRST OF TEN WAR RELLOCATION AUTHORITY CAMPS COMPLETED

ROUTE TO MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DEDICATED APRIL 2017
Venice Community Housing’s Executive Directors Steve Clare (retired in 2016) and Becky Dennison, and Controller Priscilla Smith for your support, your guidance, and fiscal sponsorship of the VJAMM Committee.

Esther Chaing of Hama Sushi Restaurant in Venice, for hosting the annual VJAMM Fundraisers and for donating 100% of the special lunch bento profits and 10% of dinner sales to the VJAMM Committee for the past six years, beginning in 2011. Thank you to managers Naoko Matsumura and Tony Kim, too.

The Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program of the National Park Service, for the 2-to-1 reimbursable grant that has made the VJAMM possible.
VJAMM Supporters include:

Abbott Kinney Festival Association
Alice Stek, Venice Peace and Freedom Party
Arnold T. Maeda and Brian T. Maeda
Asian American Drug Abuse Program
Betsy Butler, former California Assembly Member
Beyond Baroque
Bill Rosendahl, former LA City Councilmember, District 11
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Venice High School New Media Academy
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Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
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Venice Neighborhood Council
Venice Peace and Freedom Party
Venice Town Council
Voice of the Canals
Warren Furutani
West Los Angeles JACL
West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple
West Los Angeles United Methodist Church
Zev Yaroslavsky, former LAC BOS, District 3
In Memory of our Parents

Dr. Thomas Yoshikawa’s family in Manzanar

Back row: Osame Yusa, Shiro Yoshikawa, Haruo Yoshikawa, Toyo Yoshikawa, Isao Yoshikawa (Dr. Thomas’ father)
Front row: Thomas (Toyokazu) Yoshikawa, Tsuta Yusa, Kiyako Yoshikawa (Dr. Thomas’ mother), Emiko Yoshikawa, Alice Yoshikawa (Dr. Thomas’ sister)

Photo and War Ration Book reprinted with permission of Dr. Thomas Yoshikawa

Arnold & Brian Maeda’s Family in Santa Monica

Norman Toyoshige Maeda, Sasami Takeda Maeda, Arnold Tadao Maeda, Boy, the German Shepherd, Baby Brian Tadashi Maeda
Through April 2017, the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument Committee has raised nearly $150,000 to install and maintain a memorial monument on the northwest corner of Lincoln and Venice Boulevards.

Thank you to all for helping to reach our goal!

$50,000
Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program
National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior

$15,000
Jung and Esther Chaing
Hama Sushi Restaurant, Venice, California

$5,000
Bill Rosendahl, 11th District, Los Angeles City Council
Mike Bonin, 11th District, Los Angeles City Council
Zev Yaroslavsky, 3rd District, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Sheila Kuehl, 3rd District, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Mark Ridley-Thomas, 2nd District, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Don Knabe, 4th District, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Ted Lieu, 28th District, California State Senate
Santa Monica City Council
Arnold T. Maeda and Brian T. Maeda, in memory of our parents,
Norman Toyoshige and Sasami Takeda Maeda
Alice Stek, Venice Peace and Freedom Party
Malibu City Council

$1,000 - $4,999
Abbot Kinney Festival Association
Anonymous
Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles
Nikki Gilbert, Sushi Girl®
Eugene & Phyllis Hayashibara
Amy & Jeff Shimizu, in memory of his parents, Florence & Robert Shimizu
Jim Smith
Sandra N. Toshiyuki and Frank Soracco
Venice Neighborhood Council
West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple
Thomas Yoshikawa

For a complete list of donors, please visit www.venicejamm.org
The City of Santa Monica honors the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument Committee for the dedication of this new monument, marking the 75th anniversary of the forced relocation and internment of local Japanese Americans.

Let this monument serve as a reminder to cherish diversity and practice compassion.
2017 April 27: VJAMM Committee dedicates the VJAMM in the 75th anniversary year of EO 9066
2016 November 22: Los Angeles City contracted to transport, build the foundation, install the VJAMM
2016 November 9: CalTrans grants VJAMM Encroachment Permit extension
2016 December 9: City of Los Angeles, Board of Public Works, grants VJAMM Permit extension
2016 June 21: VJAMM Committee changes its name from Marker to Monument, and edits VJAMM text
2016 April 25: Hama Sushi Restaurant in Venice hosts fifth annual Bento lunch and dinner fundraiser for VJAMM. Proprietor Esther Chaing’s donations over five years total $14,536.43
2016 March 15: David Williams of Williams Monument Company in Arvin receives deposit check for fabrication of VJAMM obelisk in India and engraving in Arvin
2016 January 14: CalTrans grants VJAMM encroachment permit after Los Angeles City signs CalTrans Maintenance Agreement, and after CRC Enterprises completes corrected C-1 Design Plan with solid granite obelisk
2015 March 25: City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works approves recommendation of Office of Community Beautification to permit the installation of the VJAMM on public right of way
2015 February 24: City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering approves structural design as revised by Sullaway Engineering from original structural calculations of 2014 for solid granite obelisk
2014 August 21: City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Commission grants conceptual and final approval of the VJAMM
2014 May 20: VJAMM raises over $100,000
2013 November 20: Ralph Stone and Company completes geotechnical analysis of soil and concludes the proposed memorial obelisk is feasible
2012 November 15: California Coastal Commission grants waiver for 9 foot 6 inch tall VJAMM obelisk
2012 April 25: Rothman Engineering completes C-1 Design Plan with obelisk of concrete covered with granite slabs, for CalTrans encroachment permit application
2012 March 22: Japanese Confinement Sites Grant Program of the National Park Service grants the VJAMM Committee a 2:1 matching grant of $50,000 when VJAMM Committee raises $25,000
2012 February 24: Joe Belli and Eric Schmid build a full-scale model of the VJAMM on steel frame on casters, of black painted plywood, for display
2011 October 29: VJAMM Benefit at Beyond Baroque in Venice raises $10,000
2011 April 6: California Assemblymember Betsy Butler and California State Senator Ted Lieu co-sponsor Assembly Concurrent Resolution 46, requesting the California Department of Transportation issue encroachment permit for placement of VJAMM in public right of way at northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards
2011 September 11: Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple hosts community meeting to discuss the design and scope of the proposed memorial marker
2010 July 16: Los Angeles City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl introduces a motion before the City Council in support of a memorial marker commemorating the forced removal of 1,000 persons of Japanese ancestry from Venice, Santa Monica, and Malibu, and their incarceration at Manzanar for the duration of World War II
2009 May 29: Venice High School students in Mrs. Hayashibara’s New Media Academy U.S. History class accept Los Angeles Councilmember Bill Rosendahl’s invitation to make a presentation before the City Council, urging support of a permanent marker before people completely forget what happened on Venice and Lincoln in April 1942.

2009 April 9: Venice High School junior Scott Pine brings the April 2009 issue of the Free Venice Beachhead to his U.S. History class at Venice High School for a current events discussion. The Beachhead prints the long, pink 1942 photo of Japanese Americans lined up along Venice Boulevard with their bundles and suitcases, awaiting transport to what would turn out to be the camp at Manzanar, and urges readers to email Los Angeles City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl to support a permanent memorial to commemorate this violation of Constitutional principles.
Youth Group Maintenance Plan

The VJAMM Committee would like to invite community youth groups with at least one adult chaperone to help maintain the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument on a rotating, intermittent basis. The VJAMM Committee will provide non-toxic cleaning supplies, gloves, rags, and long-handed mops so no ladder climbing will be necessary. Brooms and garbage bags will also be provided to sweep up accumulated trash and debris on the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards. In appreciation, the VJAMM Committee would like to offer lunch refreshments for the youth volunteers and their chaperones, as well as written credit for community service hours. The VJAMM Committee would like to partner with neighborhood eateries that would be willing to donate lunches and beverages to the youth.
In its budget for the Japanese Confinement Sites Grant of the National Park Service, the VJAMM Committee included stipends to teachers who attended the Constitution Day Conferences at the Ronald Reagan Library, and workshops such as “Teaching the Constitution: Of Civil Rights and Wrongs: The Fred Korematsu Story,” by Karen Korematsu of the Fred T. Korematsu Institute for Civil Rights and Education; “Japanese Americans & WWII Incarceration: Histories and Controversies” by Professor Lane Hirabayashi, Asian American Studies, UCLA; and “Stand Up for Justice: The Ralph Lazo Story,” by Kathy Masaoka, Janice Iwanaga Yen, Suzy Katsuda, and Patty Nagano of Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress. Teachers who attended the NCRR workshop received one of the following DVDs provided by the NPS JACS grant courtesy of the VJAMM Committee, to screen in their secondary classrooms: “Farewell to Manzanar,” “Music Man of Manzanar (the Lou Frizell story),” or “Days of Waiting (the Estelle Ishigo story).”

In 2016, the Abbot Kinney Festival Association awarded the VJAMM Committee a community grant to develop and distribute curricula for 5th, 8th, 11th, and 12th grades that address the forced removal and incarceration of persons of Japanese ancestry and this violation of Constitutional rights “without any regard to due process or the writ of habeas corpus.” Both the Abbott Kinney Festival Association grant and the NPS JACS grant will help the VJAMM Committee to develop lesson plans that incorporate the historical text of the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument, and its enduring message that “the powers of government must never again perpetrate an injustice again any group based solely on ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, race, or religion.”
24 & 48 PERSON LUNCH OR DINNER COMBO

- Hawaiian BBQ Chicken
- Kalua Pork
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- White Rice
- Macaroni Salad or Green Salad
- Buttered & Grilled Hawaiian Sweet Rolls

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This VJAMM Dedication souvenir program is made possible in part by a grant from the City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs, and with the support of Community Partners.
We Said No! No! No!
A Story of Civil Disobedience
Directed by Brian Maeda

"...as soon as the "disloyals" were put into a separate center, they began to behave like genuine democrats, choosing a body of representatives, staging a demonstration, and demanding an alleviation of their grievances. To these phenomena the authorities had responded with a policy of suppression, going so far as to arrest and confine American citizens without charge and without trial."

Rosalie Wax, Anthropologist at Tule Lake, 1944-1945

We Said No! No! No! is a story of civil disobedience set against the backdrop of the Tule Lake Segregation Camp from 1943-46. It follows a group of disloyal "No, No's" as they fight for their freedom, their dignity and their families in an America that had forsaken them.

Please visit www.WeSaidNoNo.com to find out how you can support this film.
Venice Community Housing congratulates VJAMM on the dedication of the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument.

May we continue to work together to defend our civil liberties and ensure that our America remains an inclusive society which truly offers liberty and justice for all.

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Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner • Pies
Fundraising • Banquets*
Congratulations!

To the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument Committee on the Dedication of the VJAMM on Thursday, April 27, 2017!

Sincere appreciation to VJAMM Committee members

Kay Brown
Nikki Gilbert
Phyllis Hayashibara
Mae Kakehashi
Arnold Maeda
Brian Maeda
Alice Stek
Suzanne Thompson
the late Yosh Tomita
Emily Winters

From the Hayashibara and Kimura Families
Special thanks to the following, whose expertise made possible the Dedication of the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument:

- Len Nguyen, Senior Deputy, Los Angeles City Council District 11
- Lance Oishi, Bureau of Street Services, City of Los Angeles
- Paul Racs, Gerry Valido, and Salyna Cun of the Office of Community Beautification, City of Los Angeles
- Youssef Pishdadian, Senior Transportation Engineer, CalTrans District 7
- The Staff at Fast Signs in Culver City
- Rolly Rothman, Rothman Engineering in Agua Dulce
- Ron Koester and Michael O’Toole, CRC Enterprises in Santa Clarita
- James Rowland, Ralph Stone and Company, Inc. in Santa Monica
- Mike Sullaway, Sullaway Engineering in San Diego
- John Bowman and Adam Cowling, Public Counsel
- David Williams, Williams Monument Company in Arvin
- David Perka and Thomas Bylard, GSD Construction Forces Division, City of Los Angeles
- Thomas Larsen, United Riggers & Erectors, Inc. in Walnut
- Robin Doyno, Photographer
- Global Voices for Justice
FEAST FROM THE EAST
IS A PROUD SUPPORTER OF
VJAMM & THE VJAMM COMMITTEE

WE SEND YOU OUR BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL DEDICATION CEREMONY!
The Manzanar Committee extends its warmest congratulations on the dedication of the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument. This monument will serve as an important reminder that we must learn from our past to preserve and strengthen democratic rights for all people.

— The Manzanar Committee —

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