**Northern California Time of Remembrance**
**By the Rev. Canon Julie Wakelee**

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This Thursday, February 19, is the anniversary of Executive Act 9066, which required the incarceration of anyone with "one drop" of Japanese blood living on the West Coast.

Gathering to reflect on this, a sellout crowd gathered Saturday at the Sacramento's California Museum for the Northern California Time of Remembrance (NCTOR). A dozen members of our diocese were among the several hundred gathered to hear from two scholars on their work related to the incarceration of people of Japanese heritage during WWII.

Naomi Oswald Kawamura directs a Seattle-based nonprofit called Densho (**www.densho.org**) that holds a vast digital archive which "preserves and shares the history of Japanese American wartime incarceration to promote equity and justice today." She spoke passionately about the importance of helping people be seen and heard, so that the suffering of Japanese Americans is never visited on another group of our citizens.

Duncan Ryuken Williams, a USC-based professor of religion and Buddhist priest, spoke of his great work of love, the **Irechō Project** — a huge book of over 125,000 names of those of Japanese ancestry incarcerated during WWII. The book is currently traveling the U.S. and at each stop survivors, family members, and loved ones make appointments to see the book, find the names of family and friends, and place a stamp mark, in essence, witnessing to that person. The hope is that eventually every name will have a witness.

It was a beautiful, powerful gathering. The Ireicho book is at the California Museum this week.

A permanent exhibit there, **"Uprooted"** tells the story of Japanese and Japanese American incarceration.

**The California Museum** is in downtown Sacramento and is open Tuesday - Sunday.

The Commission on Intercultural Ministries has created a beautiful page on our website about the history of Japanese Incarceration here. **You can find that here**. We have also created a video about our diocesan pilgrimage, **available here**. More information will be added to our website soon!