

January 2026: *Entering the New Year Together*

In this issue: New 2026 Board Officers, ED Letter, Remembrance Day Community Crafts, Free Financial Workshop, Volunteers Wanted, & More



Nikkei Manor residents enjoying the Christmas Party last month.

Photo by Eugene Tagawa

Happy New Year! Akemashite omedetō gozaimasu.

With the arrival of the new year comes a welcome opportunity for reflection. In the spirit of the Year of the Horse, a time synonymous with endurance and vitality, we celebrate the enduring bonds that unite us.

We extend our deepest thanks to our residents, volunteers, and partners for your steadfast support. It is through your trust and dedication that we are able to provide a community rooted in compassion and care. May the coming months bring you and your loved ones peace, vitality, and many moments of shared happiness.



John Matsumoto, Board Chair

Board Leadership Update

As we begin the year, we are pleased to share updates to Keiro Northwest's Board leadership.

John Matsumoto will step into the role of Board Chair, transitioning from his service as Treasurer, a position he has held for the past two years. John joined the Board in 2023 and has been a steady presence since.

Originally from Hawaii, John moved to Seattle in 1993 and has long-standing ties to the Japanese American community. He previously served as Treasurer on the board of Asian Counseling and Referral Service (ACRS) and remains actively engaged in community service, including volunteering at the University of Washington Food Bank and working as a bus driver for Seattle Public Schools.

John's connection to Keiro Northwest is both professional and personal. Through his father's affiliation with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, he has relationships with several Seattle Japanese American families, some of whom have called Nikkei Manor home. When asked why he chose to serve on the Board, John shared simply, "I feel a sense of duty to be here."

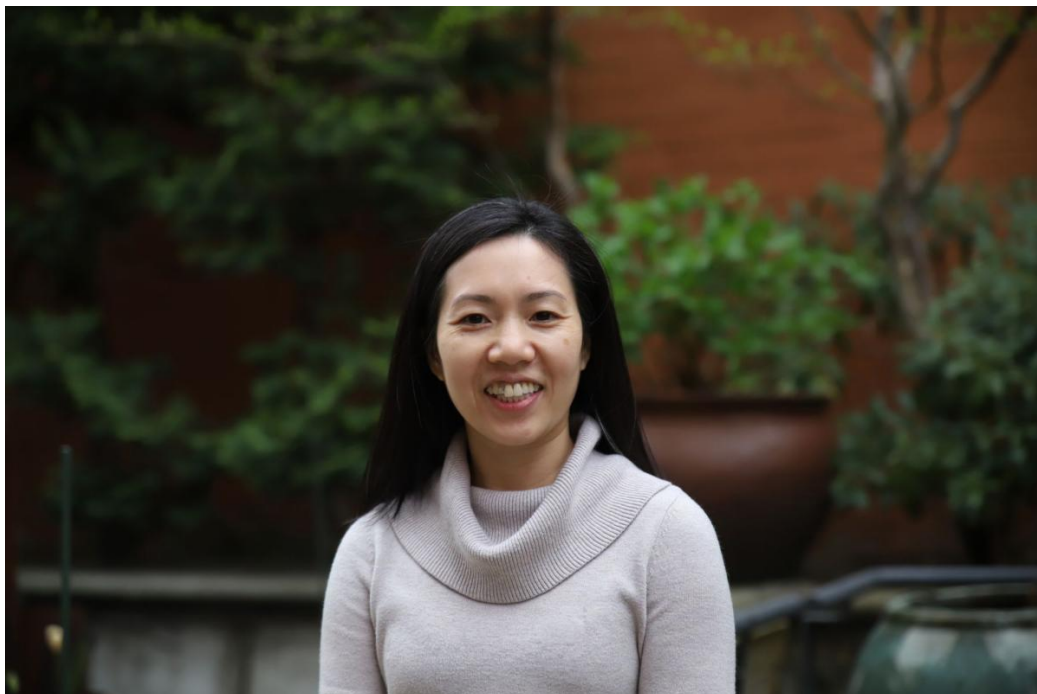
We also extend our sincere thanks to Dave Cullen for his dedicated service as Chair over the past two years.

We are also pleased to welcome **Miles Goda** as Treasurer. In addition, **Alicia Eng** will continue in her second year as Secretary, and **Susan Okamoto Lane** will serve her second year as Vice Chair.

We are grateful for the continued dedication of our Board officers and look forward to the year ahead under their leadership.



From the Desk of Nikkei Manor's Executive Director



Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and is finding time to ring in the New Year with positive goals and meaningful resolutions whether personal, professional, or both as we look ahead to making the coming year a great one.

At Nikkei Manor, we enjoyed a very festive holiday season. On Christmas Eve, we hosted our annual Christmas luncheon, bringing together most of our residents along with several family members to share a meal and celebrate together. The afternoon was made even more special by performances from the family of one of our former residents, which brought back fond memories and lots of smiles. Santa

even made a surprise visit, spreading cheer and handing out treats to all the residents.

As we welcome the New Year, we continue our cultural traditions with a New Year's Eve *toshikoshi* *soba* tasting, symbolizing longevity and a fresh start. On New Year's Day, residents enjoyed *osechi* cuisine, honoring traditional Japanese New Year customs. In January, we will also host mochi-making activities, which are always a favorite and a wonderful way for residents to stay engaged and connected to tradition.

If you're looking for ways to stay connected with our community, we are currently seeking volunteers to help with activities and drivers for our Ride-Only outings. These outings give residents the opportunity to enjoy a simple, relaxing drive around the neighborhood, take in familiar sights, and spend time outside the community. Your time and support make a meaningful difference in their quality of life. Please reach out to **Mariko Ueno** mueno@keironw.org 206-726-6481 for more details.

Thank you for being part of the Nikkei Manor community, and we look forward to a joyful and fulfilling year ahead.

Best Wishes,
Amy Nguyen
Nikkei Manor Executive Director



Remembrance: Felt Flowers Honoring World War II Incarcerees

Our residents recently participated in a hands-on workshop, “Remembrance: Felt Flowers Honoring World War II Incarcerees,” led by Vashon-based artist Miya Sukune in partnership with MOHAI. During the session, residents learned to create delicate felt flowers that will become part of a hanachōzu inspired display of floral offerings traditionally seen at Japanese temples.

Each flower crafted carries intention and care, contributing to a community offering that honors the Japanese Americans impacted by World War II incarceration. The residents’ work will be featured in the upcoming exhibition, ***Tadaima: Bringing Seattle’s Boys’ and Girls’ Day Dolls Home***, opening February 14, 2026, ahead of Day of Remembrance on February 19, 2026 at MOHAI.

The workshop was a meaningful blend of creativity, cultural reflection, and remembrance.



Felt flowers made by Nikkei Manor residents during the workshop.
Photo by Mariko Ueno



Legacy Education Series

Planning with Purpose: A Values-Based Financial Workshop for 2026

Presented by Bo Lee, Senior Wealth Advisor at Beacon Pointe

Friday Jan. 23, 2026
1:30-3:30 PM

Nikkei Manor
700 6th Ave S.
Seattle, WA 98104

Free Workshop! [Register](#) to attend.



Scan to RSVP



Planning with Purpose: A Values-Based Financial Workshop for 2026

Start 2026 with clarity, confidence, and purpose at this hands-on workshop.

Join us for an interactive **Legacy Education Series workshop** with Bo Lee, Wealth Advisor at Beacon Pointe, focused on helping individuals and families set intentional financial priorities for the year ahead.

Rather than short-lived New Year's resolutions, this workshop centers on aligning your personal values with practical financial decision-making. Through guided reflection and discussion, participants will explore how values can inform financial, estate, tax, and charitable planning strategies in meaningful and realistic ways. This session is designed to help you turn what matters most into actionable priorities you can apply directly to your financial decisions in 2026.

You'll walk away with practical tools, including:

- Ways to align your finances with your values and priorities
- Tips for organizing important financial and legal documents
- Planning approaches to support confident financial decisions throughout the year

This workshop is ideal for individuals and families who want a thoughtful, approachable way to plan ahead and feel more confident about their financial direction.

All are welcome. We hope you'll join us for this engaging and practical workshop!

Date: Jan 23, 1:30-3:30 PM

Location: Nikkei Manor

700 6th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98104



Volunteer Opportunities Available

Kokoro Kai adult day program
& Nikkei Manor assisted living
need volunteers.

Volunteer Help Needed: Audio Equipment Support

We are seeking a volunteer with experience in audio or AV equipment to help us test and assess our current sound system. The goal is to identify what equipment is working well and what may need repair or replacement to better events and programs. *Volunteer does not need to fix the equipment.*

If you have experience with microphones, speakers, mixers, or general audio setup and are willing to lend your expertise we would greatly appreciate your help.

If you're interested or would like more information, please contact **Amy Nguyen** at anguyen@keironw.org or 206.726.6473.

Activities & Ride-Only Resident Outings

If you're looking for ways to stay connected with our community, we are currently seeking volunteers to assist with activities and serve as drivers for our Ride-Only outings. These outings offer residents a simple, relaxing drive around the neighborhood, the chance to enjoy familiar sights, and time spent outside the community.

Your time and support make a meaningful difference in our residents' quality of life.

For more information or to get involved, please contact **Mariko Ueno** at mueno@keironw.org or 206-726-6481.



Volunteers posing for a photo after helping with Nikkei Manor resident Christmas party and BINGO.
Photo by Eugene Tagawa

December's Highlights

12-6 Christmas caroling from NAWMBA

12-10 Felt flower making instructed by Miya Sukune, MOHAI

12-14 Christmas caroling from Eikoh Christian Church in Kirkland

12/15 Echo Chorus Christmas concert

12/19 Sumi-e workshop

12/22 Christmas party

12-24 Christmas Luncheon with special performance

12-31 Toshikoshi Soba tasting



Nikkei Manor residents enjoy Echo Chorus' Christmas performance.

Photo by Mariko Ueno

January: Upcoming Activities & Events

1-7 Oshiruko (Red bean mochi soup) tasting

1-14 New Years Bingo

1-16 Outing to West Seattle's Alki beach

1-19 Kokoro Kai shuji (caligraphy)

1-20 Mochi making and tasting

1-21 New Years craft

1-28 Watercolor class

We are able to continue offering art classes by Seniors Creating Art this year thanks to a generous family donation.

Full Calendars: [Kokoro Kai Activities](#), [Resident Activities at Nikkei Manor](#)



Nikkei Manor staff with Santa at the staff Christmas Party

Years of Service

January Staff Anniversaries

01/3: Linh Khuu 3 years

01/03: Ahlan Mohamed 1 year

01/08: Juan D. 8 years

01/17: Liezel Calamaan: 11 years

01/31: Nora Arciaga: 4 years

Thank you for making every day the BEST day for our residents and participants.



Thank You to Our 2025 Donors

We want to extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who supported Keiro Northwest in 2025. Even without a formal year-end campaign, the generosity of our

community was remarkable and deeply meaningful.

Your gifts, given throughout the year are a powerful reminder that our mission continues to resonate. Because of your support, we are able to provide culturally responsive care, meaningful programs, and a sense of belonging for the elders and families we serve.

We are truly grateful for each donor who chooses to stand with us year after year. Your continued trust and commitment strengthen our work and sustain our community. Thank you for being an essential part of Keiro Northwest's mission!

A Gift from Amazon

Looking for a simple way to support our residents and program participants? You can help by purchasing an item from our Amazon Wish List! From activity supplies to everyday essentials, each donation enhances the quality of life at Nikkei Manor and Kokoro Kai.

[Amazon Wish List](#)



A moment from Kokoro Kai's Genki Program, Sumi-e workshop.
Photo by Tomoko Faasuumalie

最後に、ありがとうございました。



Our Mission Statement: Honoring the past and preserving Japanese American heritage, we provide uniquely-tailored care to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs for elders to thrive.

www.keironw.org



Keiro Northwest | 700 6th Ave S. | Seattle, WA 98122-5640 US

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