WHAT TIME IS IT?  By Mas Hashimoto, Editor

Ye gads, but the other night, I couldn’t sleep. My mind was “wide awake” with thoughts about our upcoming Veterans Day tribute set for Sat., Nov. 10, 2012.

Have we gotten the word out to everyone? How many Nisei veterans are coming? Will young people who need to know about the experiences and sacrifices of our Nisei (now grandfathers) attend? Will we attract non-Nikkei? What if it rains on our outdoor program? Do we have enough refreshments? Will we be able to hook up the DVD film to the projector and sound system? Should I call Police Chief Manny Solano of the Watsonville Police Department, asking his officers to patrol around the hall during our presentation so that cars will not be broken into? What else am I forgetting?

We haven’t received very many responses to our invitations and press releases. I was angry at myself for not having done more. Plus, there were so many “loose ends” to take care of.

When I turned to look at the digital clock on my bed stand, it was:

4:42

442nd?! The 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT) was Mike Masaru Masaoka’s idea. In 1942, at 27 years of age, he was the Executive Secretary of the National JACL. He pushed for the formation of the RCT and was its first volunteer--ahead of his four brothers (Ben was killed in action). He knew the young Nisei would have to shed their blood and to die for this country if we, as a Nikkei nation, were to be accepted after the war. Henry Arao, Shig Kizuka, Harry Madokoro, Henry Izumizaki, Ichiro and Jiro Sugidono, Sam Sakamoto, Ben Umeda and so many other guys and gals thought so too. They answered the call by volunteering from “camp.”

As a Nikkei nation we couldn’t sit out this war and let others--Caucasian Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic Americans, Black Americans, women, and other Asian Americans--do the fighting and dying for us.

True, a minority in the "camps" tried to discourage our guys and gals from enlisting in the military with their name calling and violence. They were most critical of our JACL leaders. Some 70 years later, they continue to hold a grudge that obstructs their ability to understand that war hysteria, racism, and failure of political leadership led to our unjust incarceration.

Others sincerely believed their individual rights as US citizens were denied by our government, and, in that, they were correct. They struggled and fought for their rights and those of their families. They are to be admired.

While in basic training, Mike Masaoka envisioned a memorial to be built after the war’s end to serve as a reminder to this nation the true meaning of patriotism—that the sacrifices and contributions made to this country by the Nikkei were not in vain.

Today, that memorial exists as the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism and is one of the most beautiful and most popular National Park site in Washington, DC. It is located near the Congressional building to serve as a constant reminder that abandoning due process and violating Constitutional rights should never be done to anyone or any group ever again.

The JACL has a proud 83-year history. But, we cannot rest for our work on civil rights and education continues. Twenty-five years ago, our W-SC JACL Chapter worked with others for redress and reparations—the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of August 10, 1988. Many received the apology and $20,000 from the US Government for our unjust wartime incarceration.

Your membership helped to bring the following:
1. The nation’s first Nisei graduation ceremony (1992) of high school graduates who were denied diplomas and/or degrees because of our wartime incarceration;
2. Presented Yukio and Mollie Sumida’s Beyond Barbed Wire film on our incarceration and war efforts to two packed houses at Fox Theater;
3. Assisted with fund-raising for the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism;
4. Of 5 chapters that hosted the National JACL Biennial Convention in Monterey, 2000;
5. Presented in 2002 the “Liberty Lost … Lessons in Loyalty” reenactment of our wartime eviction from our homes;
6. Helped with cultural activities such as the Kayo Club (singing Japanese songs), Watsonville Bonsai, Kokoro no Gakko, Watsonville Taiko, Holiday Traditions in the Plaza, and many others;
7. Brought the Grateful Crane Ensemble’s “Camp Dance: The Music and Memories” to the Mello Center for the enjoyment of all;  
8. Sponsored great films for the Pacific Rim Film Festival such as *Letters of Iwo Jima, 442nd, Tsunami and the Cherry Blossom*; and others;  
9. WW II Nisei Veterans’ Honor Roll with over 200 names of Santa Cruz County Nisei and presenting events that honor our Nikkei veterans;  
10. Actively supported the Congressional Gold Medal for 100th/442nd/MIS soldiers of WW II;  
11. Working with Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans to serve our veterans’ needs;  
12. Supported the commemorative stamp by JAVA for 100th/442nd RCT and MIS;  
13. Advocated a USPS commemorative stamp series for all involved with the Nikkei nation;  
14. Support today the Poston Restoration, National Japanese American History Society of SF, Densho, JCCNC, and other worthy projects and programs;  
15. The Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarship;  
16. Celebrated Fred Korematsu Day in 2011;  
17. Fought against Prop 8—an anti gay legislation;  
18. Fighting racism and bullying in local schools;  
19. Work with the Southern Poverty Law Center, ACLU, People for the American Way, American Friends Society, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and other civil rights oriented organizations;  
20. Presented Jeanne Sakata’s brilliant play, “Hold These Truths,” about Gordon Hirabayashi;  
21. Flowering Cherry Tree planting with the City of Watsonville and the Japanese Consulate SF;  
22. Reaching over 3,000 third graders to university students and beyond annually with our educational program about our incarceration;  
23. Sponsorship of the Senior Center for our elders;  
24. Worked to bring disaster relief during the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, 1995 Pajaro Valley flooding, and 2011 tsunami in Japan;  
25. Carrying on a century-old tradition—the annual community picnic—started by the Issei;  
26. Working with Watsonville Public Library on “An American Story—the stories of the incarceration.”  
27. Publishing this monthly community newsletter to include the activities of the Watsonville Buddhist Temple and Westview Presbyterian Church.

Thank you for we were honored as the JACL Chapter of the Biennium—in Honolulu 2004 and in Chicago 2010.

It is time.  

Time for what?  Time for every person of Japanese ancestry in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley to join our mission. Every JA adult and child should be a Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL member for there is so much more work ahead, and your help is needed.

We welcome gift memberships for family members, relatives and friends who are not presently members.

Grateful to all our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Board of Directors acting in unison and who are so supportive, went back to sleep. When I woke up a few dreams later, I was motivated to move “Onward!”

W-SC JACL VETERANS DAY TRIBUTE  
By Mas Hashimoto, Nov. 10, 2013  
The weather was beautiful on Sat. Nov. 10 at the Pajaro Valley Memorial Park with about 75 in attendance, which was double of what we expected.

Thank you to Master of Ceremonies W-SC JACL President Tosh Tanaka and to David Kadotani, Jeanette Hager and Cindy Mine who read the names of our deceased Japanese American veterans from WW I, WW II, Korean War, Cold War, and Vietnam War buried here at the Pajaro Valley Memorial Park. We are updating this list of deceased JA veterans.

Cindy and Gary Mine, Marcia and I placed over 50 American flags on the JA veterans gravesites.

Patrick Carroll (owner, right) and Richard Pina (center) of the Pajaro Valley Memorial Park cleaned the VFW Nisei VFW Post 9446-Watsonville JACL plaque, and Marcia placed flowers in the vases. Thank you!

Rev. Shousei Hanayama (left) gave a wonderful invocation about Nisei veterans—Buddhaheads and Katonks—of WW II.  
This is my Veterans Day address:

Thank you everyone for coming to our Veterans Day remembrance, and thank you Rev. Hanayama for the invocation—for explaining the meaning behind our Veterans Day. We are grateful for the participation of Post Commander David Ambriz and the Honor Guard of the Veterans of Foreign War, Freedom Post 1716, of bugler Tony Rojas, and support of Patrick Carroll of the Pajaro Valley Memorial Park. Thank you.
We are here to honor all our veterans and their families. We are also here to honor those who have passed on. Thank you, Cindy Hirokawa Mine, David Kadotani, and Jeanette Hager for remembering them.

Our Issei immigrant pioneers put us, their children the Nisei, first with “kodomo no tame ni” -- for the sake of the children. They sacrificed for us and made us believe in this country even though the laws discriminated against them. They are all gone now. I hope they are proud of us as we are of them.

Of our Japanese American reputation, we owe it to the men and women who fought in WW II and in particular, to those of the 100th/442nd RCT and the Military Intelligence Service. An appreciative Congress, a year ago on Nov. 2nd, awarded them the Congressional Gold Medal.

Five weeks before Dec. 7, 1941, at the Presidio of Monterey, Americans participated in every major campaign in the Pacific War. Our George Nakamura was killed while unarmed and trying to get the isolated Japanese soldiers in the Philippines to surrender. Maj. Gen. Charles Willoughby, Chief of Intelligence to General Douglas MacArthur, stated that the men of the Military Intelligence Service—the MIS—shortened the war by two years and saved countless American and Japanese lives. The work of the MIS didn’t finish after Japan’s surrender. They helped to rebuild Japan into our most trusted ally in Asia. That Military Intelligence school today is the Defense Language Institute located at the Presidio of Monterey. Oh, George Nakamura is in their Hall of Fame and a building is named in his honor.

Sgt Kazuo Masuda of the 442nd was killed in Italy in 1944. In Orange County, the family couldn’t get their hero son buried in the cemetery because “no Japs were allowed.” General “Vinegar Joe” Stilwell came to help the family. He was accompanied by a young Captain who stated of the event, “Blood that has soaked into the sands of a beach is all of one color. America stands unique in the world: the only country not founded on race but on a way, of a beach is all of one color. America stands unique in the world.”

President Truman ordered the desegregation of the armed forces of the United States.

President Harry Truman told the 442nd RCT “You fought prejudice and you won. Keep up that fight!” And, that is exactly what we are doing.

We are grateful to all of our nation’s veterans both men and women of the Marines, Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard. Special tribute must be paid to the Tuskegee Airmen, Navajo Code Talkers, Filipino Freedom Fighters, Women’s Airforce Service Pilots, and 100th/442nd/MIS for they fought more than the enemy.

Army Chief of Staff, is today the Secretary of Veterans Affairs—General Eric Shinseki.

Locally, the oldest Japanese American buried here was born in Chiba-ken, Japan, northeast of Tokyo. Dr. Frank Haruyuki Ito, born in 1887, came here to be a houseboy for an admiral in the US Navy, stationed in San Francisco. He graduated from UC Berkeley and Harvard University School of Dentistry. Frank joined the US Army to fight as a “doughboy” in WW I. His reward? Frank received an American citizenship. It was the only way an Issei could become American citizens.

Dr. Frank Ito was a proud charter member of the local American Legion.

During our forced incarceration of WW II, Frank was stripped of his American citizenship. After the war he successfully petitioned to have his American citizenship restored. He never lost faith in his adopted country.

After WW II, the Veterans of Foreign Wars encouraged the Nisei veterans to form their own posts. The VFW Nisei Post 9446 was established on July 8, 1959 by Tak Higuchi and Sam Ichiro Sugidono. We are honored to have Ichiro Sugidono here today. He is to be recognized with the American Legion “Hero of the Year” Award at tomorrow’s Veterans Day ceremony. I hope all of you will attend the service at the Veterans Memorial Building on E. Beach Street.

Now, I want to take you back to another cemetery 149 years ago, in 1863, and on a rather warm November 19th day in Gettysburg, PA.

The Gettysburg committee planned to honor the war dead with a commemoration. As a courtesy, an invitation...
was coming to the forefront. He was serious, devoted, classical, biblical, or legal education he might have had ago …" Something about Lincoln had changed. Whatever most beautifully began with "Four score and seven years

Instead of starting 87 years ago, referring to 1776, he focused.

Physical changes were happening to Lincoln since his election in 1860. The war was taking its toll on his body. He was aging rapidly. He was losing weight. The war had been going badly. He had to change generals 7 times before he came up with US Grant. His wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, was both fastidious and demanding. Several of his Cabinet members thought they should have been President instead of him.

Edward Everett spoke for 2 hours, detailing every inch of the battle. When Lincoln got up to speak, the photographer took his time to set up his camera, and when he got under his "hood," Lincoln was nowhere to be found. The most important photo in American history ever was never snapped.

Lincoln did not have that wonderful, booming baritone voice of Raymond Massey, the Hollywood actor—the voice we've come to love, enjoy and associate as Lincoln's. Lincoln actually had a high-pitched voice that for some was irritating.

Everett congratulated the President for saying more in two minutes than he had in two hours.

So, what did Lincoln say?

Instead of starting 87 years ago, referring to 1776, he most beautifully began with "Four score and seven years ago …" Something about Lincoln had changed. Whatever classical, biblical, or legal education he might have had was coming to the forefront. He was serious, devoted, focused.

It was the greatest speech ever in America, and its message is clear to us today.

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation, so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it,

far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

American flags serve as markers for six Nisei soldiers who lie close together in our Pajaro Valley Memorial Park.

[Editor’s note: On Thursday morning, I went to the PV Memorial Park to plant the American flags, but the ground was so hard—like concrete! It rained that night to soften the ground for Friday’s “planting.” Saturday’s weather was sunny and bright. We are certainly blessed!]

PART II–THE JACL KIZUKA HALL PROGRAM

An overflow crowd of 100+ attended our program at our JACL KIZUKA HALL on Nov. 10th. Many were non-Nikkei supporters of our Watsonville-Santa Cruz community. Thank you to all who came.

President Tosh Tanaka welcomed everyone and introduced both Lawson Sakai, 442nd RCT veteran, and then Burt Takeuchi, filmmaker of “Valor With Honor.”

Lawson Sakai, 89, spoke of his 21st birthday in 1944 which could easily have been his last except that the German soldier who fired at him from a very close range missed! Lawson most assuredly commanded the attention of all, and in particular, those who served in our military.
Burt Takeuchi’s film, *Valor With Honor*, which featured our Henry Arao, Shig Kizuka, and Lawson Sakai; the rescue of the “Texas Lost Battalion”; and the opening of the gates of Dachau, a Holocaust death camp, by members of the 522nd Field Artillery of the 442nd, was shown to an appreciative audience. *Valor With Honor* DVDs would be a great addition to your home library. A single DVD is $25 plus $3 for shipping (includes CA sales tax), 2-3 DVDs $25 each plus $6 for shipping; 4-10 DVDs $25 each plus $12 for shipping. Check made payable to Torasan Films, may be mailed to P. O. Box 640831, San Jose, CA 95164. Or, you may wish to order via Paypals torasanfilms@yahoo.com.

The full day’s program ended with the unveiling of the Henry Sadao Izumizaki Military Exhibit. Featured in it are our WW II KIAs (Killed in Action) Charles S. Fujiki, Victor Katsu Hada, Paul Fumio Horiuchi, Henry Sadao Izumizaki, Harry Fumio Madokoro, and George Ichiro Nakamura. Kongo Nitta suffered a Service Related Death (SRD) in basic training.

Congratulations Tosh Tanaka and Paul Kaneko for an impressive, first class exhibit. And, thank you!

**A MEMORIAL TO NISEI SOLDIERS WHO DIED DURING WW II** by Paul Kaneko

On November 10th, the Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapter of the JACL unveiled a display case honoring seven Nisei soldiers with ties to Santa Cruz County and particularly Watsonville, who lost their lives during World War II. The exhibit referred to as “The Henry Sadao Izumizaki Memorial Exhibit” specifically honors Pvt. Henry Izumizaki and his courageous contributions during the war effort in Europe, and who died during the battle to save the “Texas Lost Battalion.”


The preparation of the exhibit was the result of several years of research by the chapter at the request of the Izumizaki Family and its “Go For Broke Legacy Fund” overseen by Kitako’s son, Mr. Henry Izumizaki, and administered by the San Francisco Community Foundation. We are eternally grateful to the “Fund” and the Izumizaki family for their unwavering support of this effort. We hope that it adequately responds to their request for a “modest memorial” to honor Pvt. Izumizaki and others from the Watsonville area.

For the November 10th event, an informational booklet was prepared and distributed to the 100+ attendees. The now out of print booklet outlined and described each of the seven honorees.

The exhibit can be viewed by appointment or during business hours of Tokushige Kizuka JACL Hall at 150 Blackburn Street, Watsonville, CA 95076.

**WORKING TO HONOR OUR NISEI SOLDIERS**

It is with great honor that Paul Kaneko and I, Tosh Tanaka, present the Henry Sadao Izumizaki Memorial to Japanese American World War II fallen soldiers from Santa Cruz County. This honor is many-fold for me: Through these men’s lives I gained more understanding of the complexities of World War II in our Japanese American community, relative to Santa Cruz and Watsonville.

This project began with a grant from the “Go for Broke Legacy Fund” and James Izumizaki who wanted our JACL chapter to create a modest memorial for fallen Nikkei WWII soldiers from Santa Cruz County. Paul Kaneko and I began working on this project in October 2009 and spent three years discovering as much as we could about the seven young men who volunteered to serve in the U.S. Army while incarcerated. I thought finding their service records would be easy, since I knew they would be held in an archive.

As luck had it, a 1974 fire at the National Personnel Records Center destroyed 80% of U.S. Army records for folks discharged between November 1, 1912 to January 1, 1960. We were able to combine many other sources of information outside the military records. It would have been nice to have their service records for an accurate accounting of all medals and awards. Paul and I spent hours Google-ing and reading, sending one another web links to sources far and wide; it seemed each site added a small piece of information or contained what we already knew. The most concrete source of information was Robert Nelson and his 2010 book, *Remembering Our Own*; a collection of short biographies of every person from Santa Cruz County who died during wartime.

According to the honor roll of names gathered by Shig Kizuka, 133 Japanese Americans from Santa Cruz county served with shared distinction of having volunteered for service after being uprooted from their homes, forcibly removed to Salinas Rodeo Grounds then Poston Incarceration Camp near Parker, Arizona. This group of men who enlisted from inside the barbed wire saw beyond the immediate political and racial turmoil, they answered the call to defend our country. Perhaps they also saw a future where Japanese Americans would be seen more equally in the eyes of the law and society. These seven men: Charles Fujiki, Victor Hada, Paul Horiuchi, Henry Izumizaki, Harry Madokoro, George Nakamura, and Kongo Nitta did not return from their service assignments to witness or participate in changing social attitudes toward Japanese Americans; making our country a more understanding and respectful place. These men’s lives were cut short as so many who gave their lives during the War.
Five of these men died in combat: Victor Hada, Paul Horiuchi, Henry Izumizaki, Harry Madokoro, and George Nakamura. Charles Fujiki died after hostilities were over in a kitchen accident while in Italy. Kongo Nitta died during basic training. Paul and I discussed the addition of the two non-combat related dead with James Izumizaki. We determined that they all ‘died in service’, had they not volunteered they would not have been put in harm’s way.

Paul and I assembled shadow boxes (above) containing a photograph, full sized medals, rank insignia, unit patch, Army coin, and skill insignia depending on the individual. There are five infantrymen, one linguist, and one trainee, there are similarities and differences as is expected with any group of soldiers. It was a distinct honor for me to assemble each of these boxes. I had served in the California National Guard as a linguist/interrogator and can recall meeting very few soldiers who had received the Silver Star, let alone the Distinguished Service Cross (second highest military award after the Congressional Medal of Honor). Handling those medals was a distinct honor made all the more bittersweet knowing the men who earned them, never wore them on their uniforms. In addition to the shadow boxes there is also a booklet containing short biographies of the seven fallen.

On one hand it is miraculous that merely seven of 133 had lost their lives in service. On the other hand, these seven we honor in the exhibit were seven from our community, they are special: they are kin. I am grateful of their service, saddened by their sacrifice, inspired by their example to see beyond tomorrow to the day after, and glad to have gotten to know them if only a little bit.

So, if you have a chance, please come by Kizuka Hall and have a look and let us know what you think!

WATSONVILLE’S ANNUAL TRIBUTE TO VETERANS, SUNDAY, NOV. 11, 2012

by Mas Hashimoto

Each year, Watsonville’s veterans march from St Patrick’s Church on Main Street to the Veterans Memorial Hall (yes, the building from which we were forced to leave our homes 70 years earlier, on April 27, 1942) on East Beach Street. Fewer and fewer guys and gals are able to march. Those ambulatory rode to the hall. A color guard led the way. We welcomed Doug Nakashima on his first march. We marched to “Cadence count, one – two,” and, amazingly, we kept the lyrics clean.

This year, these heroes were honored: The Santa Cruz County Supervisor Greg Caput’s Veteran’s Award was presented posthumously to 442nd RCT Yutaka Bruce Nagasaki of San Diego and Poston. The award read:

“Yutaka Bruce Nagasaki was born on April 12, 1924 in Oxnard, CA. He graduated from Lincoln High School in East Los Angeles. He was a member of the 442nd RCT. After the war, he lived in San Diego and for the last 15 years he resided in Capitola where he passed away two weeks before Veterans Day.”

“Therefore, we honor the memory of Bruce Nagasaki and pay tribute for the sacrifices he has made on behalf of our country.”

In 1992, at age 68, Nagasaki was asked why, in 1944, he joined the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which fought in Europe and became the most decorated unit of the war.

“You figured maybe the next generation would be luckier,” he said. “Maybe they’d get more breaks than we did and be able to blend in better.”

For the past 15 years, he lived quietly in Capitola. He passed away two weeks before the ceremony. Accepting on behalf of the family was Mas Hashimoto. Here, Mas receives a salute from Robert Caput, son of Greg Caput.

The 2012 VFW Freedom Post 1716 Award went to Robert “Bob” W. Fiorilla, who served in the US Navy as a cook aboard ship during WW II. Bob, who lives down the street from me and is a fellow SIR (Sons In Retirement), has seven recipes for cooking Spam which he has promised to give me. Congratulations, Bob!
The CA State Assembly's "Veteran of the Year Award" was presented to Lt. Col. Harry Wiggins, US Army retired. Harry is a Watsonville High School Hall of Famer, a BSA Scoutmaster, and highly respected community activist and servant.

The "Dedication Award" was presented to Tony Rojas, bugler, for his devotion to duty to all the military personnel who have passed away. He’s always there at the military funeral services and ceremonies. We are so fortunate and so grateful to Tony Rojas. Thank you, Tony!

Assemblyman Luis Alejo presented the recognition awards to Lt. Col. Harry Wiggins (center) and Sgt Tony Rojas (right).

American Legion Edward H. Lorenson Post 121's Hero of the Year Award was presented to Sam Ichiro Sugidono of the 100th/442nd RCT by Commander Doug McKinney (right). It read:

In sincere appreciation for giving his best when called upon to serve and protect his country. We praise him for his unselfish service in the continual struggle to preserve our Freedoms, our Safety, and our country’s Heritage.

Sam also received recognition from Assemblyman Luis Alejo and from Watsonville City Mayor Eduardo Montesino. Sam received a standing ovation from the audience of nearly 800. Earlier, shy Sam stated that he would accept the award if he didn’t have to say anything. To everyone’s surprise Sam took the microphone, and with tears in his eyes, thanked everyone and gave a resounding, “Go For Broke!”

‘Way to go, Sam!

Joe Myers Writes of Our History

Assembled and introduced with formal ceremony on November 2, 2011, Mas Hashimoto, local resident, was there in Washington D.C. The Congressional Gold Medal was awarded the U.S. Army's 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regmental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service – all members of the Japanese American Nisei generation. A ribbon at the base of the reverse side states "ACT OF CONGRESS’ 2010." The dates in the upper left field, show "1941 - 1946." On the obverse side, reads "NISEI SOLDIERS OF WORLD WAR II" and "GO FOR BROKE." The latter being the motto of the Regmental Combat Team. This award was for recognition of their dedicated and sacrificial war service.

This was a complex situation which taxed many aspects of the American people. In our Capitol, politicians held that the Japanese population, many of who were American citizens, would become saboteurs and spies. The military in Hawaii had a different view. They said our government was in complete error, and, as a result, only a fraction there were interred in "concentration camps." In the contiguous United States, portions of neighborhoods of Japanese people were rounded up and "sent" to these camps.

Some were given just days before they were arrested, and in some cases, a shorter period of time. Many had to sell their homes, cars and personal belongings, and in many cases to people completely unknown to them who bought useful or valuable items at pennies on the dollar. Many had their property seized as abandoned. Others lost businesses without recompense. They all had the privilege though, to bring suitcases filled with clothes and personal belongings. Funds in banks and elsewhere were either seized or frozen. Some bank accounts just seemed to disappear during their tenure in relocation camps. Some people as well as politicians (above) regarded them as spies, traitors, thieves, etc. They were forced to live in
hastily constructed barrack-style structures. And in most cases, they had to rebuild them to add some comfort to their already downtrodden lives. The concentration areas were usually surrounded with barbed wire with guard dogs and armed soldiers to guard against escaping.

Their American citizen papers were confiscated; they were denied rights that non-Japanese citizens enjoyed. Courts in the United States upheld the right of government to commit these unconstitutional acts against them. In retrospect, no Germans or Italians were subjected to these abominable acts of cruelty and degrading, human behavior and outrage.

Despite being ostracized, and their families being unfairly placed in concentration centers, thousands of Americans of Japanese ancestry volunteered to fight for America and defend their country against realistic, common enemies. Their dedication has and always will be honorable to USA. It is fitting that America and Americans now recognize them for their loyalty and dedication to their Country - THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Joe Myers, a retired US Army veteran who served in the Pacific Theater of Operations during WW II and a W-SC JACLer, writes a column for the Register-Pajaronian about the battles of WW II. Thank you, Joe, for this article.

**Funds for Roy Matsumoto Project**

We are delighted to report that the $30,000 matching funds were met before Nov. 15th deadline! We expect to view the new film on Roy Matsumoto’s life on his 100th birthday in May of 2013! Thank you, Karen Matsumoto, for your hard work and devotion to this important project.

**New US Airforce Regulations**

General Norton Schwartz, US Air Force Chief of Staff, has issued clear rules barring its officers from religious proselytizing.

In 2006, Air Force Academy cadets accused school leaders of pressuring non-Christians to convert to evangelical Christianity, and until August of 2011, the Air Force even had offered a course entitled, *Christian Just War Theory*, according the NBC News.

The *Congressional Prayer Caucus*, led by US Rep. Randy Forbes (R-VA), complained about General Schwartz’s support of *Separation of Church and State*.

But the general also drew praise from Eugene R. Fidell, a professor of military law at Yale Law School, and other legal scholars.

**GA Coach’s Religious Outreach**

According to a complaint filed by the Freedom From Religion Foundation, Mark Mariakis, a coach at Ridgeland High School in Rossville, GA, took his team to churches for meals and proselytizing, led players in prayer, put Bible verses on team clothing and pressured his players to attend Christian football camps during the summer. The complaint asks that Walker County Schools investigate the allegations immediately and take action to stop any future violations of the First Amendment.

Almost instantly after the complaint was made public, a Facebook community page called “Support Coach Mariakis” popped up. Currently there are over 10,000 “likes.” One supporter posted: “I really dont (sic) no (sic) wat (sic) happen from when I went 2 school we had prayer an (sic) sang the Pledge of Alligance (sic) wat (sic) has happen 2 people tryin (sic) 2 stop prayer anywhere God will judge those people.”

**Cheerleaders Use Bible Verses on Banners**

Eighteen varsity cheerleaders of Kountze High School, a Texas public high school 85 miles northeast of Houston, are headed to court after a complaint was filed by the Freedom From Religion Foundation on behalf of a citizen.

The cheerleading squad displayed paper banners with biblical verses on them at games before Kevin Weldon, superintendent of the Kountze Independent School District, put a stop to the practice.

One banner read: “But thanks be to God, which gives us Victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 15:57.” The football team would run through the banners as it took to the field.

*Liberty Institute* of Plano, TX has offered to represent the cheerleaders.

In support, the local branch of Citizens Bank put up a banner “Citizens Bank Supports Our Kids.” The mother of a football player started a Facebook page and has, reportedly, over 44,000 members. The town of Kountze has a population of 2,100.

According to Douglas Laycock, professor of constitutional law at the University of Virginia School of Law, this is clearly unconstitutional: “This was very specifically Christian and clearly sponsored by the school. Cheerleaders are a school activity and the game is a school activity. This is not a random group acting on their own.”

*Freedom From Religion Foundation* receives many complaints each year concerning prayer in public schools during the school day, graduation ceremonies or at school sports events.

*Liberty Institute*’s position is that the U. S. Supreme Court affirmed student-led student speech cannot be censored in a limited public forum such as a school event.

[Editor’s note: We are grateful to the Freedom From Religion Foundation and the Americans United for Separation of Church and State for their tireless efforts to safeguard the rights of all citizens, young and old.

One Social Studies teacher at Watsonville High School read biblical verses to her students and criticized Islam and the Koran. A foreign exchange student in her class, a Muslim, complained to me. As the department chairman, I investigated and then told her I was preparing a written report.

The next day, she called in sick, and then took a prolonged “medical leave.” She did not return. Instead, she retired.

There are too many teachers and coaches in public education throughout the country who indoctrinate and cross over the Separation of Church and State boundaries.]
PROTECTION FOR RELIGIOUS MINORITIES

CA Governor Jerry Brown (D) has signed AB 1964 legislation that reinforces a ban on bias against employees on the basis of religious dress and hair styles. He did so at a gathering of Sikhs. He, respectfully, declined to wear a turban.

[Editor’s note: I began my teaching career at Watsonville High School in September of 1960. The mini-skirt made its appearance to the dismay of many administrators and old-timers (teachers). But, they were not banned.

Instead, the Dean of Girls banned the “granny dresses,” a loose-fitting, ankle-length dress, usually with long sleeves and a high collar and sometimes having flounces, ruffles, or lace trimming, stating they should be worn only at home or at one’s leisure.

For the guys, wearing shirttails “out” was the fad. The administration stated the shirttails had to be tucked in. To resolve this problem, a committee of parents, students, teachers and administrators issued a compromise edit. The guys can wear their shirttails out but no more than 4 inches from the waist.

I was not going to measure 4 inches with a ruler, and exactly where is a person’s waistline? I refused to enforce this “dress code.” In fact, I refused to enforce any dress code. I expected my students to be comfortably dressed, neat and clean and to wear some kind of foot protection (shoes?).

The way a student dresses is part of his/her fundamental Constitutional right -- freedom of expression/speech. –part of the First Amendment.

Does a mute person lose his freedom of speech? Of course not! He can express himself in his art, and the way some dressed was a work of art!

Watching the students come into my class reinforced my faith in the First Amendment.]

2013 DIRECTORY OF BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONALS

The Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapter of the National JACL is a non-profit educational civil rights organization that serves our greater community in the important areas of education, civil and human rights, and cultural appreciation. With your financial support, we will be able to continue our community outreach programs.

We will be publishing a 2013 directory of businesses and professionals that is a valuable resource to our chapter’s 400 families and friends that reside primarily in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley.

Your ad donation will provide the necessary funds for our organization to continue to carry out our mission which includes but not limited to:

Educational Outreach:
• Presentation to students of our community the Japanese American experience—the unjust wartime incarceration of over 120,000 innocent persons.
• Digital oral history projects.
• Youth scholarship awards and program support.
• Events highlighting our Nikkei veterans and community members.

Civil and Human Rights Outreach:
• Support of legislation protecting Constitutional rights.
• Support of individuals and organizations against discrimination.

Cultural Community Outreach:
• Provide and safely maintain facilities for our elders at the Senior Center (Tokushige Kizuka Hall), Watsonville Taiko, Watsonville Bonsai Club, and Kokoro no Gakko, the Japanese cultural school.
• Publish a comprehensive community newsletter each month.
• Sponsor our annual Community Picnic, Santa Cruz Japanese Cultural Fair, and the Pacific Rim Film Festival.
• Participate in Holiday Traditions in the Plaza celebration of cultures sponsored by the City of Watsonville and the Watsonville Register-Pajaronian.

The deadline for submission of an ad is December 14th, 2012. We hope you will consider our JACL worthy of your support. If you prefer to make a donation, your donation would be most appreciated.

Sincerely,
David Kadotani & Marcia Hashimoto, Co-chairs

Christine and Joe Bowes of Watsonville Taiko. Christine plays the taiko drum for the obon celebrations of Monterey Peninsula, Salinas Valley and Watsonville Buddhist Temples. Joe, a W-SC JACL board member, is known as Taiko Joe. Joe made the Odaiko drum shown on the cover of our 2012 Directory.

We are grateful for the following early response from:
Dr. Reed K. Kuratomi
Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Senior Center
Pajaro Valley Memorial Park
Hargis Home Improvements
Fujii Brothers
Mas Hashimoto
Nikolas Chan
Dr. Arthur K. Hayashi
Kadotani Auto Repair
Monterey Bay Caterers
Dr. Yoshihisa Ogino
Scurich Insurance Services
Dr. David A. South
West Lake Fresh
Second Harvest Food Bank, Victor Kimura
Marty Franich Ford Lincoln
Watsonville Area Ikenobo, Jean Akiyama
Bay Federal Credit Union
Polaris Tours

**SENIOR CENTER NEWS by Kitako Izumizaki**

Hardy Seniors took their last casino trip of the year to Chukchansi with generous donors Gary and Cindy Mine, Edna and Yukio Nagata, Rubie Kawamoto, Jackie Yamashita, Paul and Carol Kaneko, Kumiko Nakatani, Hide Nagamine, Jean Akiyama, Eiko Nishihara, Fred and Betty Oda, Haruyo Ishibashi, Toshi Yamashita, Satoko Yamamoto, Ken Nakamura and Yaeko Cross taking care of the group’s hunger pangs. A great time was had by all, especially the stop at Taco Bell for free tacos thanks to SF Giant Angel Pagan’s stolen base during the World Series. This trip took a bit longer as we saw three accidents and had one train stop on top of all that.

Thank you, Rebecca Tavish, who during Watsonville Taiko’s practice, smelled a natural gas leak somewhere in the kitchen. Thanks to Marcia Hashimoto, Cindy and Gary Mine, PG&E rep, and Geo. H. Wilson Co., the gas leak problem has been solved. We were warned to dress warmly one Thursday as the two hall furnaces were inoperable. Both are now functioning safely.

Paul Kaneko suggested that the Senior Center help pay for repairs to the heating system. We needed to repair one main hall furnace and the hot water heater for the restrooms. The Center unanimously OK’d paying out the sum of $3,000 from savings.

Have you noticed how beautiful the floor is? It was cleaned, waxed and buffed three times!! By using our brand new chairs and putting non-marking bottoms on the table legs, the floors are looking better. When the tables and chairs must be moved, please lift them rather than drag them on the floor. Thank you, Gary and Cindy Mine, for overseeing the new conditioned floor, and Watsonville Taiko for its maintenance!

Jean Akiyama and Nancy Kuratomi worked on table decorations with flowers from Hisako Kodama and Akiyama Nursery. Head table had a bouquet of chrysanthemums, pussy willows and snowball.

We wish a speedy recovery to Jiro Sugidono and Kinji House. Both have been very ill lately. We wish Motoko House and Jane Sugidono our best.

Cindy Mine talked of shingle shots and flu shots and suggested that people carry their medical history information form with them when traveling. She also came by several times to take BP (blood pressure).

It was good to see Iwao Yamashita, Jane Sugidono and Akira Kodama back.

Thanks was given to the Izumizaki Family for the completion of the memorial to fallen WWII soldiers.

Our Thanksgiving celebration was held with individual turkey dinners from The Turkey Boat in Pajaro. Volunteers brought side dishes, desserts, and fruits, with pumpkin pies furnished by the center. The head table was decorated with a straw scarecrow and 2 pals along with an enormous pumpkin pillow on a tablecloth of colorful autumn leaves. Each place setting held a cute paper turkey with a pouch holding candy, and hand-made vases, the work of Helen Nakano, with green persimmon branches decorating each table.

Seven seniors attended the Santa Cruz County Symphony at the Mello Center on Sunday, November 18, thanks to complimentary tickets provided by the Symphony.

Thanks to tobans Nobue Fuji, Rubie Kawamoto, Kimi Fuji, Eiko Stewart, Judy Hane, and Susan AmRhein.

Monetary donations gratefully accepted: Toshi Yamashita, Iwao Yamashita, Yaeko Cross, Kitako Izumizaki, Edna Nagata, Yamato Nishihara, Satoko Yamamoto and Chie Sakaue. A $500 donation was received from The Russell Family Foundation as part of a matching personal donation from Henry Izumizaki.

Other donations gratefully accepted:

- **Jane/Jiro Sugidono** 3 pkgs sushi nori
- **Alan/Betty Yagi** 10 pkgs of crabs
- **Haruko Yoshii** 2 bags chagashi
- **Chiyoko Neri** persimmons for all
- **Rubie Kawamoto** cookies for all, 4 pkgs cookies, 2 bags chagashi
- **Hisako Uemura** doz double roll tissues
- **Nobue/Kimi Fuji** 18 bunches celery, 11 pkgs broccoli, and broccoli and celery for all
- **Kitako Izumizaki** 9 double roll tissues
- **Akira/Hide Nagamine** 5 cans Comet
- **Chiyoko Yagi** 5 Dawn soap, 8 fruit cups, 1 pkg dried persimmons
- **Akira/Hisako Kodama** 3 bags cherry tomatoes, 6 jars pickles
- **Chie Sakaue** 1 pkg manju
- **Mitsuyo Tao** doz rolls tissues
- **Mitsuyo Tao** 10 containers strawberries
- **Jo Ann Vear** 2 bags candy, 2 pkgs senbei, 1 bag cookies

November birthday celebrants were Kitako Izumizaki 91, Edna Nagata, Satoko Yamamoto, and Yaeko Cross, Yamato Nishihara 90 was absent.
Watsonville Resident Care, Elise Kim, 36 bags nori and noodle pack, 37 bags assorted noodles
Masako Miura
candy
Eiko Stewart
4 sq Kleenex, 10 pkg seasoned nori, 3 bags cookies
Haru Ishibashi
2 doz double roll tissues
Sunao/June Honda
10 pkgs seasoned nori, 8 plates California roll sushi
Shirley Nishimoto
3 boxes puzzles
Eiko Ceremony
6 boxes shortbread cookies
Louise/Ray Sako
6 rolls Scott paper towels
Terry Hirahara
doz rolls tissues
Mitsuko Ruble
doz double rolls tissue
Jean Akiyama
4 boxes Kleenex
Yaeko Cross
10 bags mandarin oranges, 30 rolls tissues
Ichiro Sam Sugidono
4 cans soup
Bobbi Jo Palmer
lots of persimmons for all
Miye Yamashita
12 goody bags, 3 cans whipped cream
Toshi Yamashita
4 boxes Kleenex, 2 bags chagashi, 120 dinner rolls
Eiko/Yamato Nishihara
doz strawberry jams

Thanks loads for your continued generosity. You are the greatest. Keep healthy, keep coming and keep checking our Seniors’ Corner for the December schedule.

TOM GRAVES HONORS NISEI VETERANS AT MANZANAR ON VETERANS DAY 2012

The Twice Heroes: America’s Nisei Veterans of WW II and Korea exhibit at Manzanar National Historic Site, near Lone Pine, California, officially opened Sunday, Veterans Day, 11:00 am on 11/11. The portraits and accompanying interviews are from the 98 veterans pictured in Tom Graves’ new book of the same title. This is only the second exhibit at Manzanar’s new gallery space, and the first Veterans Day program at the site’s interpretive center.

A color guard of Vietnam veterans of the Bishop Shoshone Paiute reservation began the ceremony, which included speakers from the National Park Service, the Shoshone Paiute tribe, local veterans and photographer Graves. A touching video of photos of veterans, sent in by their friends and family, was shown in one of the interpretive center’s two theaters. A ranger-led tour of a restored barracks and mess hall completed the formal program. The Twice Heroes photos will be on display until December 31, 2012.

Over 50 people attended the opening and saw the Twice Heroes exhibit. For some, it was their first visit to Manzanar, or first to the interpretive center that opened in 2003. Some traveled to the event from as far as Los Angeles.

There were genuine expressions of outrage and irony of the Internment. There are several small Indian reservations located in the area, and some speakers compared the government’s treatment of Japanese Americans to that of Native Americans.

Manzanar NHS Administrator, Les Inafuku, spoke on the significance of Manzanar, and of his uncle in Hawaii, an MIS veteran, and the special ties Les saw him share with his Army buddies right up to his death. Graves read quotes from the Twice Heroes veterans on their experiences and feelings upon being interned. Photographer Graves said everyone learned something that day.

WATSONVILLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE NEWS

WATSONVILLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE NEWS

The Temple’s Calendar for December 2012:

2 Sun 10 am Sunday & Shutsuki Hoyo Bodhi Day

4 Tues 7:30 pm Temple Board

5 Wed 1 pm BWA Meeting

6 Thurs 10 am ABA Meeting

7 Fri 2 pm San Juan Howakai

9 Sun 9 am -12 pm Mochi Tsuki Sale

10 am Sunday Service & Luncheon

16 Sun 8 am Yard Cleaning

10 am Sunday Service

Sundays 23 and 30 No Services

31 Mon 7:30 pm Joya E Service with Soba

1 Tues Jan 1 10 am Shusho E Service, New Year)

Mochi Tsuki
Sunday, December 9, 2012 from 7am

Everyone, young and old, is welcome to come and help pound the mochi the old fashioned way. File photo below.
Please remember to call 831-724-7860 to place your order. The cost will be $5. Last year, we sold out so make sure to reserve your fresh hand-made mochi. The pickup will be from 9 am to noon. Please pay at that time.

**Shotsuki Hoyo Service**

The December Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, Dec. 2, 2012 at 10 am for the following:

- Yoshiro Roy Aramaki
- Hajime Etow
- Norman Fukuba
- Tomiye Hamada
- Yoneko Hara
- Uta Ito
- Kanezo Kaita
- Jihei Kawasaki
- Yoshinobu Maemura
- George Matsumoto
- Kikue Mine
- Shizue Misumi
- Soichi Morimune
- Shoichi Murakami
- Shuichi Nishita
- Toku Oda
- Hajime Saiki
- Chiyono Sakai
- Ichiyo Sakata
- Kunito Shinta
- Sakaye Sudou
- Tsunesuke Tawamoto
- Iwao Teshima
- Jim Shigeru Toriumi
- John Susumu Ura
- Hatsu Wada
- Frank Yamakoshi
- Edward Yonemura
- Yaemon Yoshida
- Lewis Kazuo Yamamoto
- Haru Yamashita
- Tomiko Yamashita

Kiku Enomoto
Shigeru Etow
Takino Hamada
Machie Hane
Teyo Hirahara
Mitsuko Kadotani
Kamimoto
John Mitoshi Kimura
Tatsue Matoba
Michie Matsumoto
Mary Misumi
Haya Morimoto
Kumajiro Murakami
Meiji Nakamura
Kumezo Nitta
Tokuzo Oda
Roy Saiki
Kiyoto Sakai
Somo Sakaue
William Shirachi
Toshiye Takemoto
Sam Yoshinobu Terasaki
Bunkichi Torigoe
Saizo Tsuji
Jitsuo Uyeda
Shozo Wada
Tadashi Yamamoto
Lee Ritsu Yoneyama
Kumakichi Yoshii
Akira Yamashita
Masano Yamashita

**The Tao family:** Mannie, Sidney carrying Kaden, Lee carrying **Tyler**, Wesley carrying **Ethan**, and grandma Shizuko Tao.

**The Kondo family:** Saadi Halil, Janice DeCarli, Vicki Halil Kondo, Gerald Kondo, Anthony Von Pervieux, Leah and **Takeo Von Pervieux**, Brooke Kondo, Chris Rain, and Ashkin Merrikh.

Dharma School welcomes Rex Honda as our new assistant teacher. Thank you Rex, we look forward to having you as a part of our Dharma School Family.

On Nov. 10th, seven members and four chaperones went to the Central California Jr. YBA conference in Fresno. They all had a great time. Rex Honda has joined our YBA as our Jr. Advisor. He’s been assisting them along with Ken Tanimoto in their workshop ideas for the upcoming Coast District YBL Conference in March.

**TEMPLE VETERANS’ MEMORIAL SERVICE,**

By Sam Sakamoto, 442nd RCT

We appreciated the participation of the VFW Freedom VFW Pos 1716’s Honor Guard and bugler, Tony Rojas and Boy Scout Troop 558.

This year’s Veteran’s Memorial Service on November 3, 2012 was a successful event. Guest speaker was Rev. Peter Inokoji-Kim of the Sacramento Temple.

As chairperson I could not have done this without the help of the Temple Sangha and friends and the donations offered. I would like to express my gratitude to the following: Rev. Shousei Hanayama; Rev. Peter Inokoji-Kim, Temple President Perry Yoshida, Ken Tanimoto making arrangements for the guest speaker, Capt. Jack Kelly and the Honor Guard, Ryoko Kozuki for the boutonnieres, Jackie Yamashita for preparing the program, organist Mrs. Yoko Umeda, Mr. Alan Uyematsu for the use of his printer, Mr. Sadao Matsunami, and the veterans and widows who attended.

October 28th, YBA hosted the **Halloween Party**. Thank you to all who donated to the cake walk.

The **Hatsumai Service** welcomed **Tyler Tao** and **Takeo Von Pervieux** of the Kondo family.
The men and women on the program are the real heroes and heroines. It is because of them we enjoy the freedom all of us share today. In Gassho, …

Chair Sam Sakamoto, 442nd RCT veteran.

The keynote speaker was Rev. Peter Inokoji-Kim, a West Point graduate, who permitted us to publish his address honoring the Nisei vets. Thank you, Sensei.

Rev. Peter Inokoji-Kim was born in Seattle, Washington, in 1964 but grew up mainly in Rochester, NY.

He received a Congressional appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY, and served as a tactical Military Intelligence Officer in the 4th Infantry Division at Ft. Carson, Colorado.

Following his Army career, he worked briefly for Pfizer, Inc., but later found his passion teaching high school Chemistry, Math, and Pre-Engineering in Colorado for 16 years.

Rev. Peter received his ordination in 2003 in Kyoto, Japan, as a Jodo Shinshu Minister; volunteered as a Minister Assistant at the Denver Buddhist Temple; received Kyoshi certification in 2007 in Kyoto; and began his new career as a minister at the Sacramento Buddhist Church in August of 2009.

His wife, Aileen Okimoto, is a Denver native, and they’ve been married for 13 years.

Good Morning Everyone.

It is an honor for me to be here for the Santa Cruz County Nikkei Veterans Memorial Service to honor and remember Servicemen and Women who proudly served our Country as Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen.

I once read that a Veteran, whether active duty, reserve, discharged, or retired is someone who, at one point in his or her life, wrote a blank check made payable to the United States of America for an amount of “up to and including his life.”

To all the Veterans here today, please accept my most sincere Gratitude for your service to our Nation--protecting our American way of life through your hard work, bravery, sacrifices, and commitment to Freedom.

Today’s Memorial Service is a special occasion, in that we appreciate Japanese-American Servicemen and Women-- those who are with us today and so many more who have passed away.

Whether these Veterans were drafted into service, or whether they volunteered for duty, when they raised their right hand and swore to protect and defend our Constitution from all enemies, foreign and domestic, to bear allegiance to the same, and to follow the orders of the President and the Officers appointed over them.

Military service is very different from working in civilian life and in the private sector.

Servicemen have little say about where they will serve, or what their military specialty will be because everything they do is dictated by the needs of the Army or Military Branch in which they serve. It was always “Mission 1st and everything else comes 2nd.”

As servicemen, whether during wartime or peace time, a Soldier, Sailor, Marine, Airman, or Coast Guardsman must be fit for duty and ready to fight 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Veterans that we’re honoring today lived this unique and challenging lifestyle, and when called upon to face adversity with their comrades, they were not asked whether they agreed with the politics of the time, they were not asked whether they thought their compensation, pay, benefits or leave time was adequate, and they were not even asked whether they were personally or philosophically “ok” with doing the ultimate job that Soldiers are asked to do to the enemy.

They just did their job with the hope that they and their comrades would be able to come back home alive and healthy.

And it is because of the courage of these troops and the heroic sacrifices they have made in defense of our freedoms that we are able to live comfortably today.

On a personal note, I would like to thank our Veterans for paving the way for Asian-American Servicemen and Women of my generation to serve in the Armed Forces with fewer obstacles concerning race and ethnicity.

November 2nd, 2011 was a Historic occasion for Japanese-American Soldiers of the 100th Infantry Battalion of the 34th Infantry Division, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service.

Nearly seven decades after World War II, Congress awarded these 3 Army units our highest Civilian Award: the Congressional Gold Medal.

About 20,000 Japanese-Americans served in these units, and they were honored at a ceremony in Washington, DC.
I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the recipients of the Congressional Gold Medal that are present today.

Under a dark cloud of suspicion hanging over them, the men of the 100th BN, the 442nd RCT, and MIS volunteered to fight for our Country, even though their families and people of Japanese descent were imprisoned in concentration camps throughout the U.S. after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

But even during the grave injustice of internment, many young men remained steadfast in their commitment to our Country.

They put aside their own fears, personal comfort, and safety so that Japanese-Americans, and Asian-Americans in general, would be viewed as loyal and patriotic Americans, and they volunteered to serve our Nation in Combat.

What's amazing is that they did this with Gaman: patience, perseverance, and dignity—with no complaint. As you may know, the Soldiers of the 442nd received more medals for heroism than any other unit of their size.

As President Harry Truman said on July 14th, 1946 while addressing the men of the 100th BN, and 442nd Regimental Combat Team on the White House lawn: “You are to be congratulated for what you have done for this great nation of ours. You fought for the Free Nations of the World along with the rest of us.

“You fought not only the enemy, but you fought prejudice - and you have won. Keep up that fight, and we will continue to win.”

As California Senator Barbara Boxer, so eloquently stated about the 442nd RCT—“You served your Country, despite being subjected to hurtful slurs and deep suspicion from many of your fellow citizens ... and you bravely led your unit being known as the “Go for Broke” Regiment because of your willingness to risk everything for the cause you believed in.”

As Senator Daniel Inouye said, “You made the decision that America was “worth fighting for and worth dying for.”

What I have come to realize is that these Soldiers fought so that their families at home and future generations could live as free Americans.

By fighting in War, these soldiers upheld the pride and honor of their families, they opened the doors of equality and respect for Asian-Americans, and they demonstrated to the rest of society that being a patriotic American has nothing to do with one’s race, religion, or ethnicity.

In addition to the 20,000 Soldiers who served in these 3 distinguished units, at least 10,000 more Japanese-Americans served in many other units during World War II.

And although we may not have known the over 30,000 Nisei soldiers who volunteered to fight for something more than just victory in war, our lives are all connected to their lives.

It is because of their Military Service and their actions during a racist time in American history that we are able to pursue our own dreams ... a luxury that many of them did not have.

In my Army training, I did not hear or read of Nisei Veterans until I was 27 years old, and ever since then, I have thanked as many individuals as I could for answering the call of duty.

But each time I thank them, without hesitation, most of them humbly decline my words of gratitude.

A few have said, “We did what we did, Kodomo no tame ni-- for the sake of the children.

These Veterans did what they had to do ... not for their own benefit ... but for us.

They chose to serve or fight in battle for the honor and freedom of others, and to me, Other-centeredness, as opposed to Self-centeredness is the seed of Compassion.

Although the actions of Soldiers in War may seem to be on the opposite end of the spectrum from “Compassion,” I feel that their reasons for volunteering to fight ... is Compassionate. They did it for us.

In closing my talk, I would like to share just one more thought.

As Veterans know well from their military training or from experiencing the realities of war--each day of life is truly a gift to be treasured--not to be taken for granted.

So as we leave this Nikkei Veterans Memorial Service and go about our lives, let us reflect on what these Veterans did for us, and let us try to repay them by living our lives as meaningfully as we can ... appreciating our family and friends ... doing our part for our Community and Nation, ... and let us try to live as they live ... with gratitude, and with the deep strength and courage of Gaman: patience, perseverance, and dignity ... with no complaint.

In my Jodo Shinshu Buddhist tradition, one could say that Namo Amida Butsu is an expression of gratitude beyond words.

Namo Amida Butsu.
This wonderful event is sponsored by the Register-Pajaronian, the City of Watsonville, Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County, and the Salvation Army of Watsonville.

It is an informative and educational opportunity to build unity and promote understanding of the holiday traditions of other cultures. The entertainment and children’s activities are free of charge. Food will be available for purchase.

Watsonville Taiko’s children’s group will welcome everyone to this year’s celebration at noon on the steps of Watsonville’s Cabrillo College on Union Street.

Our W-SC JACL is delighted to participate with the talents of Dr. Brooke Kondo, Carter Kimura, Debbe Chan, Aimee Mizuno, Nozomi Bank, Cindy and Gary Mine, Mas and Marcia Hashimoto, Lisa Nagamine, and others. We will help children and adults learn how to make origami figures and write their names (Maria, David, et al) in katakana. We will have on display bonsai, ikebana, Boy’s Day, Girl’s Day (dolls), Tanabata (Star festival wishes tied to bamboo), and other features of our Japanese culture.

**WATSONVILLE TAIKO AND SHINSEI DAIKO**

By Bonnie Chihara

It’s time once again for our annual **Holiday Party**. We’re inviting anyone who is interested in joining us on Friday, Dec. 14 from 6-9 pm at Kizuka Hall for a potluck dinner, cake walk, talent show and mini-crafts boutique. Please let us know if you’d like to join us by emailing info@watsonvilletaiko.org or calling 831-435-4594.

We would like to thank everyone for their continued support; a special thank you to Cindy and Gary Mine and Jeanette Hager who helped set up our **Winter Boutique** on Oct. 28th. They stayed most of the day to pass out flyers to the soccer players! The hall was filled with happy shoppers looking for unique holiday gifts. We quickly sold out of our quilt raffle tickets and many were disappointed to have missed out on buying a ticket. Congratulations to **Drewz Phan**, our quilt raffle winner. Thank you to everyone who attended this event and made it a success.

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**WESTVIEW HIGHLIGHTS** by Leslie Nagata-Garcia

**Our Annual Harvest Dinner**

Our **Annual Harvest Dinner** was a huge success as approximately 140 people attended and had a delicious chicken teriyaki dinner. The **Pajaro Rescue Mission/Teen Challenge** was the recipient of our free will donations and some of their members gave testimony during the service. All the “Free Will Offering” (over $900) went to help support Teen Challenge.
Lynne Nagata, Joanne Yahiro, Tracy Mano, Marlon Veal, and Kevin Urbe prepped the chicken for the Harvest Dinner. Kenny Matsui marinated the chicken. Manny Uriarte spoke about the needs for Teen Challenge during the Harvest Dinner. All enjoyed the dinner immensely. Photos by Randy Mano.

We will resume our Salvation Army meals for the needy on December 7th. We will be preparing and serving meals on the first Friday of each month through April. We start cooking at Westview at 2 p.m., arrive at the Salvation Army at 5:45 p.m., serve food at 6:00 p.m. and go back to the Church to wash dishes. This is a wonderful way for us to be the hands of God to the needy of the community, and conversely it is a way to meet Jesus, who said when we care for the least we care for him! If you would like to help, call Jane Yoshida at (831) 722-1265. Volunteers are always welcome!

Youth/Family Events:
The schedule and times for Gym Nites in December are as follows:
December 7th –Our youth will help serve the needy at the Salvation Army. Meet at 4:30 p.m. to help prep food and take to the Salvation Army at 5:30 p.m. to serve. We will be done at 8:00 p.m.
There will be no Youth Gym Nite on December 21st.

Photo is from our October 26th Halloween Gym Nite. Our youth and Pastor Dan arrived in their Halloween best and carved pumpkins to their heart’s content.

The Praise Team will be singing at the JACL Senior Center Christmas Party on Sun., Dec., 9th at 2:00 p.m. It is always a joyous occasion as the Seniors always spread Christmas cheer to us. All are welcome to join us!

Our annual Appreciation Luncheon will be held immediately after Service on December 16th. Once again, we will have our $5.00 gift exchange. Please join us at this event that will bring Holiday cheer and fellowship to all!

Mark your calendars for Sat., Dec. 15th as we go Christmas caroling at various retirement homes in the area. Please meet at Westview at 1 p.m. to spread some Christmas cheer to those who need some loving! If you can’t make it, please join us for pizza afterwards. For more information please call Randy Mano at (831) 809-7938.

We will begin a new Wednesday Study Series in January. Our last Study Series was of World Religions and was a very educational & worthwhile experience for all who participated.

Just a reminder that we are always looking for enthusiastic people to join our Westview Praise Band. If you are interested in playing or singing 1 -2 times a month on Sundays please contact Pastor Dan.

DONATIONS, GRATFUELLY RECEIVED FROM ...
For Veterans Day Tribute, Nov. 10, 2012.
Thank you, in memory of all Japanese American Veterans of Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties from Life Members of the VFW Memorial Post 1629 --

Louie and Henry Hayashida
Lawson and Mineko Sakai of Morgan Hill
Mas and Marcia Hashimoto
Jiro and Jane Sugidono
Jean Akiyama
Kiyoko Arato
Diane Porter Cooley
Lillian Etow
Sadako Matsunami
Betty Morimune
Sam and Yaeko Sakamoto
Alan and Gayle Uyematsu
Iwao Yamashita
Richard Uyematsu, strawberries for the reception
Cabrillo College Chinese Language Fund
   Active Chinese, Inc. of SF
   Bethany Christelle Schulze of Santa Cruz
   Henry J. Mello Foundation

In Memory of …
   Glen Gordo’s mother and Art Hayashi’s mother
      from Chiyeko Shikuma
   Ron Gallino from Esther Ura
   Sid Itamura from Esther Ura

Newsletter
   Judge Raymond Uno of Salt Lake City
   Winkie Rose of Santa Cruz
   Mas Yamasaki of Fremont

**WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL**

Please send in your ballots so that we receive them by **Friday, Dec. 14th**. Senior Center JACLers may return your ballots to **Paul or Carol Kaneko** on Thursdays.

**Thank you** for your National JACL membership and for your continuing support of our important programs. We truly appreciate it.

This newsletter is the monthly publication of the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL, P.O. Box 163, Watsonville, CA 95077, and comments are always welcome. Please email us at [hashi79@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hashi79@sbcglobal.net).

Check out our full color newsletter at [www.watsonvillesantacruzjacl.org](http://www.watsonvillesantacruzjacl.org). Click, **Newsletter**. then—December 2012. Check out our previous newsletters, too. Enjoy!

   Onward!
   Mas Hashimoto, Editor.

**FRED T. KOREMATSU INSTITUTE**

Dear Mas,

   Bhagat Singh Thind, Larry Itliong, Yuri Kochiyama, and Fred Korematsu--do you know who all of these people are?

   On **Sunday, January 27, 2013** the Korematsu Institute will be celebrating the third **Fred Korematsu Day** by honoring **sixteen American civil rights heroes** who’ve been long overlooked.

   We’ll be gathering at San Francisco’s historic Herbst Theatre for this momentous occasion.

   And, we will be bringing the living heroes, and the descendants of the heroes who have passed, to the event in person.

   The full list of honorees, ticket information and other details will be announced soon. Stay tuned at [korematsuinstitute.org](http://korematsuinstitute.org) and “Like” our Facebook page at [facebook.com/KorematsuInstitute](http://facebook.com/KorematsuInstitute).

   Please save the date on your calendar. We'll see you on January 27!

   Best,
   Ling Woo Liu, Director
   Fred T. Korematsu Institute for Civil Rights and Education at the Asian Law Caucus
   55 Columbus Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94111, Tel: (415) 848-7727
W-SC JACL President Tosh Tanaka welcomes all. (2) The Pledge of Allegiance salute. (3) Invocation is given by Rev. S. Hanayama. (4-6) Cindy Hirokawa Mine, David Kadotani, and Jeanette Hager read the names of 90 Santa Cruz County Nikkei veterans who have passed away. Bugler Tony Rojas of the VFW stands at attention. Photos are the courtesy of Gary Mine and Norman Abe.

(7) Keynote address was given by veteran Mas Hashimoto. (8) The VFW Nisei Post and JACL plaque is located at the base of this flagpole. (9) The audience sang “God Bless America,” (10) 442nd RCT vet Lawson Sakai spoke of his wartime experiences.
"The Great Pumpkin," Sadao Matsunami, chaired the service. The Taos--Lee carrying Tyler, Wesley with Ethan, and Rev. Hanayama. Perry Yoshida (right) helps to take Takeo VonPervieux’s footprint. Parents are Anthony and Leah VonPervieux, Costumes Best Girl was Cinderella Elren Hanayama, Best Boy Ethan Tao, Captain America; Most Creative Mr. Pumpkin Head, Sadao Matsunami; and Best Overall Kim Yamaoka as "Kim Chee" World Wrestling Federation Champion (second row, second from the left). We all had such great fun!! Thank you, everyone! The “cake walk” to music with the YBA providing the desserts. Nitao family walked in the “cake walk” and won some delicious goodies. Winners of “pass the pumpkin” contest were Tee Yamamoto for adults and Kevin Yamaoka for the youngsters.
Seniors’ Corner

WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL SENIOR CENTER TOURS

Asian Art Museum/San Francisco Japantown
December 4, 2012 [Tuesday] 8 AM to 5 PM
Cost for bus: Active Senior Members $30 and others $35
Asian Art Museum admission fee: $7 for 65+, $10 regular adult
For reservations: call Carol Kaneko (831) 476-7040 or Rubie Kawamoto (831) 464-6721

If you have suggestions where our Seniors would enjoy a one-day or multiple-day trip, or can help in the planning of such trips, please call Carol Kaneko. Thank you.

(1) Thanksgiving potluck dinner of turkey, stuffing, gravy, tsukemono, gohan and much, much more was enjoyed by all the Seniors.
(2) Nancy Iwami 98, Cindy Mine, and Toshi Yamashita (their ages are still classified) enjoyed the dinner. (3) Haruko Yoshii 95 and Miye Yamashita 94 are enjoying the Thanksgiving potluck. (4-6) Helen Nakano’s artistry of table decorations for Halloween included a ghost tree, with owl and pumpkin; scarecrows with a ripe “kabocha” and a haunted house were enjoyed by all. Photos by Carol Kaneko.

Upcoming Activities at the Senior Center for December 2012 and January 10th:

Tues., Dec 4th
Thurs., Dec 6th & 13th
Sun., Dec 9th
Thurs., Dec 20th
Thurs., Dec 27th, Jan 3rd
Thurs., Jan 10th, 2013

Asian Art Museum/SF Japantown one-day trip 8 am-5 pm
Regular Bingo
Christmas Party Kizuka Hall 2 pm
December Birthday Party/last meeting; Hong Kong II for dinner at 4 pm
Senior Center closed for the Holidays
First day back for 2013!

Join our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Senior Center on Thursdays. It’s a lot of fun for all.

NIKKEI CORNER

Reminder of upcoming events:

Sat. Dec. 8th  Holiday Traditions in the Plaza, noon to 4 pm
Sun. Dec. 9th  Mochi tsuki and sale from 9 am to noon, Watsonville Buddhist Temple
Fri. Dec. 14th  Last day to return JACL ballots

Happy Holidays!
Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapter  
National Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)

2013 Membership Form for the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL

Working toward our national goal of Better Americans in a Greater America is a worthy one. One does not have to be of Japanese ancestry or a US citizen to be a JACL member, but one must believe that safeguarding the rights of all Americans and legal residents is of utmost importance in this country.

Please join us today. We are the most proactive and respected Asian American civil rights organization in the nation today.

Your membership is never taken lightly or for granted. We have worked diligently to earn your confidence and trust. Your active participation and membership can make a significant difference in what happens today in our community and in our nation.

Please help us fight racial prejudice, discrimination, racial profiling, bigotry, intolerance and indifference.

The 2013 National and local dues for our tax-deductible organization (ID #94-2659895) are as follows:

- **Family/Couples**: $150 This includes two National dues with one subscription to the Pacific Citizen, local dues and our monthly JACL newsletter, and all children under age 14 to be included.

- **Individual Member**: $80 This includes National dues with subscription to the Pacific Citizen, the official paper of the National JACL, and local chapter dues and our monthly JACL newsletter.

- **Youth/Student**: $25 for each of ages 14 to 24, which includes a subscription to the Pacific Citizen, local youth/student membership, and our monthly JACL newsletter. Youth membership is required for scholarship consideration.

For Thousand Club, Century Club, and Millennium Club and Life membership categories, please contact our membership chair Jeanette Hager at the address listed below.

Name: _____________________________ (Last Name) _____________________________ (First Name) _____________________________ (Middle Name)

Spouse's Name: _____________________________ (Last Name) _____________________________ (First Name) _____________________________ (Middle Name)

Address: _____________________________________________________________

Home phone: _____________________________ E-mail: _____________________________

For family membership, please list names (and ages) of all children under the age of 14:

- Name: _____________________________ Age: _____________________________
- Name: _____________________________ Age: _____________________________
- Name: _____________________________ Age: _____________________________

Please send your check payable to Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL and mail ASAP to:

c/o Jeanette Hager, Membership Chair, P. O. Box 163, Watsonville, CA 95077

Thank you so much for your support.

Check out our websites: watsonvillesantacruzjacl.org or jacl.org.