THE MISSION OF WATSONVILLE - SANTA CRUZ JACL CHAPTER…  

Editor

The mission of the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL is to protect the civil and human rights of all persons, to preserve the historic contributions made to this country by our Issei pioneer immigrants and succeeding Nikkei (of Japanese ancestry) generations and others, and promote cultural appreciation. Our assignments include:

**Senior Center:** Serving our local Senior (elders) Issei, Nisei, Kibei, Sansei and non-Nikkei members, many of whom are in their 90s, are Paul and Carol Kaneko, Iwao Yamashita, Sunao and June Honda. We are fortunate and grateful (arigatai) to have this team plan and oversee the recreational activities of our Seniors.

This tradition of hosting a gathering on a weekly basis, initiated by Westview Presbyterian Church member Tokushige Kizuka and Watsonville Buddhist Temple member Frank Wakayama in the early 1970s at 27 First Street, continues to be held now in our W-SC JACL Kizuka Hall on Blackburn Street. Every Thursday, 50-70 Senior members, many are National JACL members, meet to have an afternoon of fun. They celebrate monthly birthdays, enjoy dinner on special occasions, exercise, take trips to historical places (including casinos), and play bingo for thoughtful gifts donated by Senior members.

If you are retired or know someone who would benefit from our Senior Center program, please join us on Thursdays from 1:30 pm to 4 pm. All are welcome.

Photo: Our elders who enjoy the Senior Center’s activities are 90 years of age and older. Who will be 102 soon?

We are delighted to be able to provide for our most important senior citizens. Please read our Senior Center News in this newsletter.

Our W-SC JACL chapter, with its dedicated members of the Board of Directors, is also engaged in:

**Historical events:** On Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016, we observed, in conjunction with our fellow chapters, the *Day of Remembrance*, Feb. 19, 1942. Included in this newsletter is a report on our most recent *Day of Remembrance* held at the very site of the Salinas Assembly Center.

We were the first in the nation to honor the Nisei graduates of the Class of 1942 in 1992, and the first and only chapter to re-enact the evacuation of 1942 with a program entitled, “Liberty Lost … Lessons in Loyalty.”

We were the first in the nation to ask the US Postal Service for a commemorative stamp honoring everyone in the Nikkei nation under the banner of “National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism.” We believe the many significant contributions made by our Nikkei nation is most worthy of the consideration.

**Civil Rights and Constitutional Issues:** Our chapter, under the leadership of Gini Matute-Bianchi, PhD; Paul Kaneko; Aimee Mizuno; and Laurel Mayeda; is involved in promoting civil and human rights issues—women’s rights, LGBTQ rights, voting rights, immigration reform, and others. Gini and Paul are currently working to bring you a program involving anti-Muslim and hate group/crimes on May 1st.

Our chapter reaches out to local students who are victims of bullying, teasing, and harassment.

**Cultural Appreciation:** This chapter works actively and cooperatively promoting cultural appreciation with Watsonville Taiko, Watsonville Bonsai, Kokoro no Gakko, Japanese Cultural Fair in Santa Cruz, and Valley of the Heart, an historical play by Luis Valdez. Annually, we participate in Watsonville’s Multicultural Celebration which highlights the rich cultural diversity of our town. Recently, our youngest board member, Laurel Mayeda, traveled to Japan with the Kakehashi Project. You will enjoy her experiences reported on pages 2-3 of this newsletter.

**Scholarships and Youth Activities:** We offer a number of wonderful local scholarships, and several of our youth members have been recipients of National JACL scholarships. Our scholarship chair, Dr. Brooke Rains, has announced the criteria and deadlines for the scholarships, which are not limited to incoming college freshmen. Please refer to her article on pages 3-4.

**Education:** For the past 19 years, we have had a speakers’ bureau on our wartime incarceration of WW II, which is presented at no cost. We provide educational materials and reference sources to teachers in both the public and private schools. We monitor films, articles, TV shows, etc. for historical accuracy.

**Membership in the National organization:** We are supportive of the National JACL. We are an inaka (rural, country) chapter with one of the largest memberships. There is no organization today more important to the welfare and future of all Japanese Americans. Membership is open to all—Nikkei and non-Nikkei—who support the civil and human rights of all Americans and legal residents. Our board members—Jeanette Hager, Victor Kimura, Mas and
Marcia Hashimoto—work to maintain and increase our membership. We ask you to join us in this endeavor. A membership application form to individuals, couples/family, and youth/students is included in this newsletter.

**Nisei Veterans support:** Our chapter is most supportive and grateful to our Nisei veterans of WW II. We honor the *Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans* and their program. Our W-SC JACL chapter initiated the request that the men and women of the Military Intelligence Service of WW II be included in the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal in 2011.

We continue to support a commemorative stamp from the US Postal Service honoring the services of the Nisei soldiers of WW II.

**Building and Maintenance of our Hall:** We are grateful to our elders of the 1970s and 1980s who provided the means ($78,000) by which we were able to purchase and enjoy the facilities that is now our W-SC JACL Tokushige Hall. Maintenance is a big part of our budget. Our treasurer, Victor Kimura, keeps careful records to let us know of our financial situation monthly. Our expenses include: utilities (water, gas and electric, garbage pickup), insurance, taxes, painting, hot water, lighting, telephone, furnaces, security, windows, floor waxing, insect control (ants, termites, *et al*). Joe Bowes and Gary Mine care for the needs of our hall. They also volunteer to maintain the Japanese Memorial Garden at the Salinas Assembly Center site, and Iwao Yamashita trims the garden’s trees and bushes. We are grateful for their service and dedication.

**Blue Cross Insurance and Health Care:** Immediately after WW II, the only insurance company that offered insurance coverage for Japanese Americans was Blue Cross. Cindy Hirokawa Mine, a registered nurse, thoughtfully takes care of our members’ health care needs.

**Disaster Relief:** When disaster strikes, natural or otherwise, the W-SC JACL members are ready to help. With David Kadotani’s leadership we assisted families during floods and earthquakes.

We sent financial aid to the Tohoku region for the March 11, 2011 disaster (earthquake, tsunami and nuclear radiation). The fifth anniversary of this disaster will be observed by many in this country.

**Website and Graphic Art:** We are fortunate to have Kimiko Marr continually updating our website, www.watsonvillesantacruzjacl.org, which is informative and attracting much attention. She has enabled the viewing of our 2002 re-enactment of “Liberty Lost ... Lessons in Loyalty” at http://watsonvillesantacruzjacl.org/liberty-lost-lessons-in-loyalty/re-enactment/. Phil Shima fulfills all of our graphic art and ad requests. He is the editor of our Directory of Businesses and Professional Services.

**Newsletters:** We are so grateful to all who contribute articles, some on a monthly basis, to our community newsletter: Leslie Nagata-Garcia (Westview Presbyterian Church), Jackie Yamashita (Watsonville Buddhist Temple), Don White (Watsonville Bonsai), Terry Hirahara (Watsonville Ikenobo Ikebana), Bonnie Chiha (Watsonville Taiko), Robb Mayeda (Kawakami Sister City), JoAnn Vear and Carol Kaneko (Senior Center), Brian Shioyama (Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans), Janet Nagamine (Kokoro no Gakko), Paul Kaneko (Japanese Cultural Fair), and our board members.

We thank all who take the time to read and offer comments about our monthly newsletter. Some members share our hard copies with family and friends. We are grateful to Marcia Hashimoto, our careful proofreader.

If you wish to read our newsletters in blazing color, log onto our website. The February 2016 newsletter is at https://wscjacl.files.wordpress.com/2013/03/feb-2016.pdf. This March 2016 newsletter will be online, too.

**A NEW NAME FOR THE JACL?**

By Laurel Mayeda

Asian American something? No way. There are literally hundreds of JA and AA organizations in the country, and should we change our name, as some leaders of the JACL have proposed in the past, our history and contributions would be forgotten, and membership would surely decline.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the United Negro Fund, and other similar organizations have not and will not change their names even though “colored people” and “Negro” are no longer in vogue. If they changed their names, their places would be lost in our American history.

The National JACL is the only organization in the entire Nikkei community that can and will deliver for the rights of all for this who we are and what we do.

What is our goal? “Better Americans in a Greater America.” That will not change.

**YOUTH PROJECT: 2016 KAKEHASHI PROJECT REPORT**

By Laurel Mayeda

Earlier this year, I participated in the Kakehashi Project (*The Bridge for Tomorrow*), a cross-cultural exchange program that allows young Nikkei and Asian Americans to reconnect with their roots. The Kakehashi Project is a 9-day program sponsored by Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE), Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the JACL. It is an all-expense-paid trip for leadership opportunity. This year there were three different trips that had the opportunity for 180 students to be an ambassador for the United States. I was accepted to the second trip that was January 10th-January 17th.

The trip I attended had student ambassadors from all over the United States. Students flew out from SFO, Chicago, and D.C. The majority of the students were Nikkei, and the rest were Asian American. Those who were Nikkei were mixed with some other race. It was an interesting mixture of individuals that allowed for learning and sharing of personal experiences of what it means to be Nikkei/Asian American.

We initially met at the sunshine City Prince Hotel in Tokyo, Japan. During the first two days we explored Tokyo and sat through lectures. The lectures explained the socio-politics of Japan and its citizens.

After the two days, the 60 students from all over the United States were split into the exploration of two different prefectures in Japan. 30 students were chosen to explore the North of Japan in Tohoku and the other to explore the South. I was in the group that explored the South of Japan in Fukuoka city.

Fukuoka offered a contemporary cultural exchange. In Fukuoka, we met with other university students at the Seinan Gakuin University (SGU) in Fukuoka. The U.S students were allowed to teach the SGU students about American culture and vice versa. After talking to the
university students, it was evident that Japan is a very conservative nation that reflects its ethics in its government policies.

After visiting the University, we went to the Ohori Park Noh Theater where we learned the art of Noh and Kyogen. We then had the opportunity to go to Dazaifu Tenmangu, a Shinto shrine. This cultural experience showed us the traditions that modern day Japan still held onto.

On the 5th day of our adventure, students in Fukuoka were assigned to their host family. The host family I was assigned to was a young married couple, both teachers. My host family lived in the suburbs of Fukuoka. They took me to Yanagawa on a gondola tour. My experience with my host family was full of so much love and warmth. Although there was a language barrier, I believe it actually brought us closer together. I can’t believe that after just 2 days with complete strangers I felt like their family.

My roommate took me to explore Fukuoka and look at art collections.

This trip had a packed opportunity that gave us Nikkei/Asian Americans an insight on Japanese culture. Those nine days made me realize what it meant to be Japanese. There were folks who were genetically some other Asian; however, were raised culturally Japanese because of the Japanese effect on imperialism and the diaspora. I saw which traditions that Nikkei hold onto and which ones that the Japanese hold onto. It was a wonderful opportunity to get to know people from all over the place.

I am still jet lagged but it is very much worth it. I was introduced to a much different perspective of Japan.

1--Meoto Iwa: “The wedded rocks” Mitsuhashimachi Fujiyoshi, Yanagawa; 2--My host family and my roommate! 3--This is my home stay family’s living room. I was surprised on how modern it was! 4--There were students that were tallying on farms with animals!! The house was located in Itoshima, in the Fukuoka Prefecture.

Thank you JACL, JICE, and the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs for allowing me this opportunity.

[Editor’s note: Meoto Iwa—the two rock islands have been “living” together for so long, the Japanese married them in Shinto tradition. The sun rises between the Shinto rope that ties the rocks together. Also, on this trip was our Julian Nakanishi. We hope Kakehashi Project will continue. We will keep those of 18-25 age posted for the next applications in our newsletters.]

The Kakehashi Project is a fully-funded, large-scale youth exchange program between Japan and the United States. Promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Kakehashi aims to heighten potential interest in Japan and increase the number of overseas visitors to the country, as well as enhance international understanding of the “Japan brand,” or the nation’s strengths and attractiveness. The project is also anticipated to revitalize and boost the Japanese economy.

The objective of this program is to promote deeper mutual understanding among the people of Japan and the United States, enable future leaders of Japan-US exchanges to form networks, and help young people develop wider perspectives to encourage active roles at the global level in the future.

Commissioned by the Japan-U.S. Educational Commission (Fulbright Japan), The Japan Foundation organizes the project in cooperation with The Laurasian Institution.

[Editor’s note: If you are between 18-25 years of age and are interested in this program for this coming season, let us know at hashi79@sbcglobal.net or check The Kakehashi Project online for next season’s updates.]

ATTENTION, JACL YOUTH MEMBERS!

JACL National Scholarship Applications are available now!

The deadline for Freshman application was March 1, 2016. Notices were sent earlier to students and parents.

The deadline for other National JACL applications is April 1, 2016.

The National JACL annually offers approximately 30 college scholarships for students who are incoming college freshmen, undergraduates and graduates, and those specializing in law or the creative/performing arts.

There is also a scholarship for those in need of financial aid in this time of rising tuition costs.

The newest scholarship, Meiji Gakuin University-JACL Scholarship will be awarded to a graduating high school senior to attend college in Japan to study for a bachelor’s degree in International Studies.

Please visit http://www.jacl.org-national-scholarship-program/ for Scholarship details, eligibility requirements, and applications. For additional information regarding the JACL National Scholarship Program, please contact Patty Wada at (415) 345-1075 or pwada@jacl.org.

Our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Local Scholarships:

Applications available for download: www.watsonvillesantacruzjacl.org/scholarships.

Note: the deadline is Tuesday, May 17, 2016.
Applicants will apply for scholarships by submitting generic application information that could apply to and satisfy all of the four scholarship funds.

- The JACL’s Scholarship Committee will determine, based on factors such as meritorious performance; grades; participation in certain social activities and organizations, such as *Kokoro no Gakko*; level of volunteerism; and length of membership in the JACL, the Watsonville Buddhist Temple, and/or the Westview Presbyterian Church, which applicants receive which scholarships.
- All scholarship recipients and their parents must be JACL, Watsonville Buddhist Temple, and/or Westview Presbyterian Church members for a minimum of one year prior to receipt of scholarship.
- Unless there are extenuating circumstances, the scholarship recipient and/or his/her family must be present at the awards ceremony, which will take place at the JACL’s annual community picnic on **Sat., June 25, 2016**, at Aptos Village Park, Aptos, CA, 95003.

An announcement for scholarship applications will be included in the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL newsletter, the Watsonville Buddhist Temple’s *Ichimi*, and the Westview Presbyterian Church’s *Chimes* no later than the April issues. That announcement will include requirements, documentation, and information needed to apply—along with the submittal deadline. The final determination of scholarship recipients should be made no later than the 31st of May.

**Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Local Scholarships**

**Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarship**
- The *Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarship* fund was established by the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL and Mrs. Keiko Kitayama in memory of her husband, Kee, who was our chapter president in 1987. Mr. Kitayama worked tirelessly for Redress and reparations with the Civil Liberties Act of August 10, 1988. The *Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarship* fund provides much needed financial and moral support for our future Santa Cruz County young scholars. It upholds Mr. Kee Kitayama’s legacy, encouraging our youth in their pursuit of higher education. The *Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarship* may be awarded to graduating high school seniors to be used towards their college education.

**Frank Mito Scholarship**
- The *Frank Mito Scholarship Fund* was established by his family to provide financial support for local students pursuing higher education goals. Frank Mito was an active supporter of the Watsonville Japanese American community. The *Frank Mito Scholarship Fund* was formerly awarded through the *Kokoro no Gakko*.

The $500 *Frank Mito Scholarship* may be awarded to a graduating high school senior with *Kokoro no Gakko* participation preferred and may be additive to other JACL scholarships.

**Rekiso “Ray” and Hisako “Louise” Sako Scholarships**
- The Rekiso and Hisako Sako Scholarships were established in 2012 to help local students who are actively involved with the W-SC JACL, Watsonville Buddhist Temple, and/or Westview Presbyterian Church pursue their higher education goals. Mrs. Sako and the late Mr. Sako have been long time members of the JACL, Senior Center, and leaders among the Japanese American Community.
- A four-year undergraduate scholarship may be awarded at $1,000 per year. This scholarship shall not be limited to first-year undergraduates. For example, an undergraduate who has completed the first year of study may be eligible for a $1,000 per year scholarship for up to three years.

**Photo:** Sarah Nagamine (left) received the “Sako’s Undergraduate” scholarship from Dr. Brooke Rains at last year’s annual JACL community picnic.
- A two-year graduate scholarship will be awarded at $1,000 per year. This scholarship is not limited to a first-year graduate. For example, a graduate who has completed the first year of study may be eligible for a $1,000 scholarship for a year.

Send your completed forms to Dr. Brooke Rains, our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Chapter Scholarship Chairperson, on or before **Tuesday, May 17, 2016**. They should be mailed to:

Dr. Brooke Rains, Chairperson  
JACL Scholarship Committee  
P. O. Box 163  
Watsonville, CA. 95077

The presentation of the scholarships will take place on **Saturday, June 25, 2016** during the JACL Annual Community Picnic at Aptos Village Park. Thank you.

**FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF NISEI VETERANS**  
By Brian Shiroyama

Once again, they came from everywhere – San Francisco, Sacramento, Turlock, Monterey. It was another gathering of *Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans (FFNV)* in Morgan Hill, CA, on February 13, 2016. About 100 attended the “membership meeting” filled with warmth and camaraderie. Even several “strangers” came from Visalia and Fresno after hearing the radio announcement about this meeting. The annual potluck lunch gathering was enjoyed by all.

The program began with a presentation by Consul General Jun Yamada of Consulate-General of Japan, San Francisco, of a prestigious Certificate of Commendation by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan to Lawson Sakai. The Certificate recognized Sakai’s dedication to promoting mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and the United States. Specifically, the award recognized Sakai’s service with the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team (442nd RCT), his tireless effort to preserve the proud legacy of Nisei veterans, and his dedication as eloquent speaker to promote understanding of Japanese American history. Introductory remarks stated: “With unselfish,
Lawson Sakai, a decorated World War Two veteran and compatriot in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, became a true and proud legend among all Japanese Americans and legitimately among all Americans.

The second part of the program took the audience back 72 years into Vosges Mountains in France where enduring and amazing history was unfolding. Four speakers shared their knowledge of the epic battle in late October 1944 when the 442nd RCT successfully rescued the encircled Texas “Lost Battalion.” Tom Graves, professional photographer/author moderated the program and gave an overview of the battle. Franz Steidl, historian, showed a Department of Defense newsreel coverage of this rescue and introduced the regional military situation that resulted in an American battalion being trapped by retreating German forces. Al Tortolano, a soldier of the “Lost Battalion,” was not able to attend due to illness. However, Tom Graves summarized Al Tortolano’s emotional speech he gave to another group of 442nd RCT veterans in 1999 in which he repeatedly thanked the 442nd RCT for its valiant effort despite taking heavy casualties. In conclusion, Lawson Sakai presented an inspiring account of his personal role during the rescue and that of his fellow 442nd RCT soldiers. Sakai was wounded four times during World War Two, including once from gunfire during the rescue of the Lost Battalion.

The next meeting, a memorial service, will be held Sat., May 21 at 12:00 noon, Roberts Park, Oakland Hills, CA with a potluck lunch and picnic after the service. Everyone is most welcome to join us.

AN INTERNATIONAL HERO: SAKAI RECEIVES JAPAN FOREIGN MINISTRY AWARD

By Michael Moore, Editor Morgan Hill Times

Lawson Sakai, a decorated World War Two veteran and Morgan Hill resident, recalled at the Feb. 13 annual meeting of the Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans how German artillery and mortars came crashing through the treetops of the Vosges mountains in France when his unit was in the process of rescuing the “Lost Battalion.”

He said the falling branches and tree trunks in the densely wooded forest endangered him and his compatriots in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team as much as the artillery fire during the 1944 battle. He recalled the wet, muddy conditions on steep, rugged mountains that resulted in low visibility and close combat with the enemy.

“We would slip and slide up the mountain, fall down, and help each other get up,” Sakai said to a crowd of about 100 guests and FFNV members at the Morgan Hill Buddhist Center. “The Germans were shooting down at us, and bullets were flying by your head… The shrapnel would come down with big chunks of trees. Many soldiers were crushed.”

The Feb. 13 event in Morgan Hill featured Sakai and military historians presenting a history of the 442nd, and specifically the unit’s mission to rescue the Lost Battalion from the steep mountainsides in France.

The annual meeting of the FFNV was also an opportunity for Consul-General of Japan Jun Yamada to present Sakai with the prestigious Japan Foreign Ministry Award, an honor that Yamada said was long overdue. Yamada said the citizens of Japan and the U.S. should be proud of the efforts Sakai and others have made in fostering happy relations between the two countries.

The Japan Foreign Ministry Award is presented annually to “individuals and groups with outstanding achievements in the promotion of friendship between Japan and the United States,” according to the Consulate-General’s website. The 2015 recipients of the honor include four residents of northern California, including Sakai.

“His whole story is great inspiration to anyone in Japan,” Yamada said. “We all have to be grateful. He’s aware of his ancestry…and we wish more people in Japan would become aware of this story.”

Sakai was born in Los Angeles in 1923 and graduated from Montebello High School in 1941. He tried to enlist in the Army the day after the bombing of Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941. However, he was rejected as an “enemy alien.” Federal authorities subsequently detained Japanese-Americans on the Pacific coast in internment camps.

In March 1943, the U.S. needed more troops for the war effort, and asked for volunteers to form the segregated 442nd, a unit that consisted only of Japanese-American citizens. Sakai immediately signed up, according to FFNV Vice President Brian Shiroyama’s introduction at the Feb. 13 event.

“As a squad leader in E Company, Mr. Sakai fought in all major campaigns, most notable being the liberation of (the) logistically critical French town of Bruyeres, rescue of the ‘Lost Battalion’ and breaking of the Gothic Line in Italy in 1945,” Shiroyama said. “Mr. Sakai fought to prove his loyalty to this country that initially denied him of military service.”

Sakai was wounded four times during World War Two, including once from gunfire during the rescue of the Lost Battalion. He was decorated with a Bronze Star.

The Lost Battalion was the 141st Infantry, 36th Division of the Texas National Guard. The division’s 1st battalion, consisting of 275 American soldiers, were cut off by German forces Oct. 24, 1944, as they tried to make their way through the rugged mountains. Attempts by the 2nd and 3rd battalions to rescue the 1st failed, and the commander finally ordered the 442nd to follow suit.

Two historians of the Lost Battalion and the subsequent rescue—Tom Graves and Franz Steidl—spoke about the military actions at the Feb. 13 presentation.
“For two days and nights (the 141st) desperately tried to break through, but they were held off,” said Graves, author of “Twice Heroes.” “The 275 soldiers of the Lost Battalion were spread out, surrounded by German troops. They were desperate for medical supplies and ammunition.”

The battalion never considered surrendering or leaving their wounded in an escape attempt, according to Graves. Instead, they hunkered down in the muddy mountainsides, waiting for backup and hoping for an accessible airdrop of friendly supplies.

“The airdrops either got tangled in trees or rolled down the steep hillsides,” he said.

On Oct. 30, the 442nd broke through and rescued the Lost Battalion. Two hundred eleven of the trapped soldiers survived. The Americans suffered about 800 casualties during the rescue.

Sakai was shot by enemy troops before the mission was complete, shortly after the 442nd “took the high ground,” he said.

“I got hit and was taken out. I told the medic to let me die right there,” Sakai said. He woke up on a train headed to an American hospital.

After returning home from the war, Sakai married Mineko Sakai of Gilroy, and owned and operated a travel agency in San Jose.

When he retired, Sakai quickly became one of northern California’s most eloquent and prominent speakers on the subject of Japanese-American history and the Nisei (second generation Japanese-American) veterans’ accomplishments, Shiroyama added. He helped convince the East Bay Regional Park Commission in Oakland to plant a redwood tree in honor of the Nisei veterans in 1992, and later founded the FFN,V, of which he currently serves as president.

He also created a popular exhibit on the history of Nisei veterans at the USS Hornet museum in Alameda, Shiroyama continued. He is also a recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal.

In another illustration of Sakai’s contribution to foreign relations, in February 2015 he was one of 10 American veterans awarded with France’s Legion of Honor pin, the country’s highest decoration. Sakai wore his red Legion of Honor pin at the Feb. 13 meeting, where he recognized Legion of Honor Officer Odette M. LePendu who was sitting in the Morgan Hill audience.

LePendu was a member of the French Resistance at the age of 14 during World War Two.

“Because of people like you, we were able to succeed,” Sakai told her.


**TWICE HEROES: AMERICA’S NISEI VETERANS OF WW II AND KOREA**

“Author Tom Graves’ interviews (with portraits) of the Nisei reveal their patriotism, honor and pride as a people. Vividly honest and deeply moving.” Richard DeNoyer, VFW Commander-in-Chief 2011-12.

All JACL members will receive a discount on *Twice Heroes: America’s Nisei Veterans of WWII and Korea* if they enter code JACLHEROES when buying online at [http://www.twiceheroes.com/](http://www.twiceheroes.com/).

Tom Graves is a highly respected and honored photojournalist and a W-SC JACLer.

**“Case of Don D.J. Williams was clearly a hate crime”** Letter to the Editor of the Santa Cruz Sentinel 2/26/16

The jury was wrong in the case of Don D.J. Williams not being a hate crime.

Obviously, the jury is ignorant of American history if they don’t know how abhorrent the term “three fifths” is and how it could be applied to black people only. The bike lock they put around his neck was there only because they didn’t have chains to complete the slave scenario. By now, every American should know the Confederate flag has always been a symbol of racism and white supremacy to African-Americans.

Strom Thurmond, an avowed racist, fathered a child with a black woman, so having an interracial relationship means absolutely nothing.

And the use of the n-word, no matter how it’s spelled, is the ultimate symbol of a hate crime. Considering those factors, the African-American community is dismayed, disappointed and disgusted with the decision to not convict these young racists of a hate crime. It’s apparent to African-Americans, and others, that it was, indeed, a hate crime.

— Simba Kenyatta, president, Santa Cruz NAACP

**AT SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY...**

From the victim’s father, Don Williams Sr of UCSC’s Rainbow Theater: “We thank you (W-SC JACL) for your well wishes. It’s not a total loss. We still have a greater victory for the boys are convicted of battery, and yes, we do believe race was involved. The good news is a multitude of people’s spirit has been awakened about this issue. We will continue to fight for justice. I will keep you posted if we need anything. Thank you for reaching out.”

[Editor’s note: Don Williams Sr was the director of our “Liberty Lost … Lessons in Loyalty” presentation in 2002 for which we are eternally grateful. He remains a dear friend.
UCSC’s Rainbow Theater is a “Cultural Arts and Diversity Resource Center, Celebrating Diversity and Building Communities.” SJSU would benefit from such a program.]

**NO LONGER SILENT ABOUT VOICES OF HATE AND RACISM** By Sandy Lydon, Historian Emeritus


A subcommittee of the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL with Gini Matute-Bianchi and Paul Kaneko is leading the effort to convene a community forum to counter the national anti-Muslim political rhetoric.

In a partnership with the History Department of Cabrillo College, and the Islamic Center of Santa Cruz, they will be sponsoring a screening of the documentary “An American Mosque” with a presentation by the film’s producer/direction, Davis Washburn, on May 1st at Cabrillo College.

This film focuses on the 1994 arson of a mosque in Yuba City, and how the city’s religious leaders came together to support the Muslim community following the fire. The film will be followed by a panel discussion about how best to proceed to strengthen the bonds between community groups during this time of verbal hostility.

This forum is free and begins at 7:00 pm on the Cabrillo College Aptos Campus, Sunday, May 1st.

The subcommittee will be meeting regularly during the months of March and April, beginning with their first meeting on Monday, March 7th at 7:00 pm at the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Kizuka Hall, 150 Blackburn St., Watsonville, CA 95076. You are most welcome to join.

Sandy Lydon, Historian Emeritus
Cabrillo College, Aptos
On the web: [www.sandylydon.com](http://www.sandylydon.com)

**GOOD NEWS … “VALLEY OF THE HEART”**

“Valley of the Heart” has been so popular that it has been extended for another two weeks to March 20, 2016. Tickets are available via the Box Office of The San Jose Stage [http://www.thestage.org/events.php](http://www.thestage.org/events.php). Several of the extended dates have been sold out.

If you have not seen the play, please order your tickets without delay. You must do it immediately. Click onto El Teatro Campesino’s website for ticket information.

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL is a sponsor of this play by internationally acclaimed playwright, Luis Valdez.

The play features actors Lakin Valdez as Benjamin Montano, Melanie Arii Mah as Teruko “Thelma” Yamaguchi and Randall Nakano (behind) as father Ichiro Yamaguchi.

**WATSONVILLE BONSAI EXHIBIT** By Don White

The Watsonville Bonsai Club will hold its 43rd annual exhibition and demonstration Sunday, April 24, 2016 at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple, 423 Bridge Street, Watsonville, CA 95076. This is a week earlier than normal, trying not to be in conflict with Cinco de Mayo and the Concert at the Mello Center.

Doors will be open from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Over 50 trees, tiny, small, medium and large, from ages young to very old, will be on display. There will be a 500 plus year-old live California juniper, and its baby, a 450 year-old California juniper. These plants have been dug up from the Mojave Desert, with permits, and trained as bonsai for over 12 years.

Bring the family to this free exhibit and enjoy a demonstration at 1:30 pm on how to create a bonsai by renowned Bonsai Master Katsumi Kinoshita from Monterey. A raffle of many bonsai items will follow the demonstration. Plant sales will also be available, offering pre-bonsai material, and bonsai already completed or at least started. There is plenty of free parking, and tea & cookies will be served.

Even though this is a free event to the public, a donation is much appreciated. Hope to see you there.
Here’s a young maple **bonsai** similar to one you, as a
beginner, can nurture.

**WATSONVILLE TAIKO AND SHINSEI DAIKO**

*By Bonnie Chihara*

Our 25th Anniversary show is scheduled for April 16th and 17th at Cabrillo College Crocker Theater. This show will feature drummers from Watsonville Taiko and Shinsho Mugen Daiko as well as students from Cedar Grove Elementary School in San Jose and members of Niseishin Daiko from Morgan Hill. **Eventide Over Momoyama** is a multigenerational celebration of life’s journey.


Above, our youth groups, many are new members.

Our upcoming schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location/Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 23rd</td>
<td>Stevenson School, Pacific Grove</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 31st</td>
<td>Tandy Beale, Live Oak School</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Santa Cruz</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 3rd</td>
<td>Santa Cruz <strong>Bonsai Kai Festival</strong>,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Abbott Square Santa Cruz</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 6th</td>
<td>Tandy Beale, Mello Center Watsonville</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 10th</td>
<td>Watsonville Buddhist Temple’s <strong>Hanamatsuri</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 16-17</td>
<td><strong>Watsonville Taiko’s Anniversary Show</strong>,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Crocker Theater Cabrillo College</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**KOKORO NO GAKKO FOR 2016**

Registration is now available for **Kokoro No Gakko** Summer 2016 for students K-6th grades!

The dates are June 27, 2016 to July 8, 2016 (no Gakko on Monday, 4th of July).

Registration information is available on Gakko’s website: [http://www.kokoronogakko.org](http://www.kokoronogakko.org).

For questions, please contact Akiko Minami [akikominami70@gmail.com](mailto:akikominami70@gmail.com) or 831-423-5580.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like other information, please contact Janet Nagamine at [jmnaqamine@gmail.com](mailto:jmnaqamine@gmail.com) or 831-662-9748.

**KAWAKAMI SISTER CITY UPDATE**

*By Robb Mayeda*

The Kawakami Watsonville Sister City Association thanks those community members for their support at “Kawakami Night” at Miyuki Restaurant (2/9) and the flapjack breakfast fundraiser at Applebee’s in (2/21).
Thank you all! Miyuki’s was well attended, and several of our Kawakami bound attended and tried their first Japanese food!

KWSC Association thanks Janet Sakaguchi for hosting a “Kawakami Night” at Miyuki Restaurant and Esther Ura for arranging the Applebee’s event again.

Our sixteen students and their families sold a new record number of flapjack breakfast tickets, 370. The walk-in guests pushed the ticket sales over 400.

We would like to apologize to our guests at Applebee’s. The restaurant tried a new method of serving, and we did not have enough adults to serve everybody efficiently. Additionally, we taxed the kitchen’s capacity with the large number of guests. If we do another flapjack breakfast we will reduce the number tickets available and have the appropriate number of servers for whatever serving system is used.

Thank you for your support and patience.

Our students will be headed for Kawakami, Nagano-ken in May of 2016.

[Editor’s note: In a recent survey of the Japanese people, Nagano-ken was selected as the No. 1 place where the Japanese wish to live. Watsonville, with its Pajaro Valley and Monterey Bay, is one of the nicest places in the whole world to live but don’t tell anybody.]

**SENIOR CENTER NEWS** By JoAnn Vear

A BIG THANK YOU to the February toban committee – Terry Hirahara, Kimiko Marr and Pat Marr. As always the extra people helping out are: June and Sunao Honda and Jean Yamashita. And, it’s amazing that many Seniors just stop by to help with toban. Your hard work is always appreciated.

On February 4 we had our annual zenzai treat - freshly made mochi covered with sweetened azuki beans. Delicious! Thanks to Mitsuyo Tao and Hisako Kodama for chairing this event and organizing all the help. Hisako donated the 6 lbs. of mochigome, 4 lbs. of red beans, and mochiko for the zenzai, and Judy Hane and Yaeko Cross prepared the delicious beans. Several Senior ladies joined in to help prepare and serve the finished delicious treat. Thank you all!

![Hisako Uemura and Mitsuko Ruble enjoying zenzai treat.](image)

Helen Nakano couldn’t be with us for the Valentine celebration but sent her beautiful handmade decorations with her daughter Susan AmRhein. Thank you, Helen and Susan.

Paul Kaneko reminded everyone if they haven’t already signed up with Gray Bears that you can join for only $30 a year and once a week will receive a large bag of fresh groceries. Paul also made a request again that members move from their regular seats so they can get to know other members. Staying in the same location every week limits the friends you can make!

It was announced that it appears Nancy Iwami will be staying with her daughter in Reno for a while so a card was distributed for everyone to sign. We miss you Nancy and wish you a speedy recovery.

Kimiko Marr brought Wii games for members to try and also brought a DVD about Tai Chi. Members seemed to enjoy the exercise. Kimiko is hoping to expand our senior program by possibly adding another day where we have an exercise program, show movies, or do other activities. Let her know if you might be interested and what activities you would like to participate in.

Have you noticed something missing? Our little green men that were out front to help slow down traffic have been kidnapped!!! Sometimes the traffic on Blackburn is very fast and dangerous. Please be cautious crossing the street.

Paul and Carol Kaneko were thanked for their organization and coordination so all the gamblers could go to Table Mountain on February 16. The 33 Seniors and friends who rode the bus were treated to many “goodie times” thanks to: Jackie Yamashita, Alice Misumi, Eiko Nishihara, Yoshiko Nishihara, Kimi Kimura, Jean Yamashita, Toshi Yamashita, Yaeko Cross, Kazuko Sakai, Jean Akiyama, Edna & Yuki Nagata, and Carol Kaneko. Big winner Iwao Yamashita paid the bus driver’s tip. Another trip is being planned – date will be announced.

Donations fully appreciated and accepted are:

- June/Sunao Honda: 7 red bean coconut mochi, 16 plates coconut mochi, 8 plates spicy California roll and ume roll
- Eileen Byers: 10 Dawn dish soap, 1 gallon slider storage bags, 6 boxes Kleenex
- Rubie Kawamoto: 18 boxes Kleenex, large box Cheez-it crackers
- Eiko Ceremony: 3 cans Spam, 3 cans pineapple, 5 cans tuna
- Miye Yamashita: 22 bags rice crackers, 5 bags arare
- Haruko Yoshii: 6 mega rolls paper towels, 9 rolls bath tissue, 2 bags arare, 12 rolls bathroom tissue
- Chie Sakaue: 5 bunches flowers
- Yaeko Cross: 14 bars Dove bath soap, 3 bags Cheetos, 60 milk chocolate drink
- Jane Sugidono: 7 boxes Kleenex, 8 plates chocolate chip Bundt cake
- Nobue Fujii: 100 tea bags, 5 bags lemons
- Kazuko Sakai: 4 boxes Kleenex, 2 boxes crackers
- Hisako/Akira Kodama: 4 boxes Kleenex
- Eiko Nishihara: 12 hand soap
- Yoshiko Nishihara: 15 dish soap
- Mitzi Katsuyama: 5 plates lemon cake
- Hideko/Akira Nagamine: 6 rolls Bounty paper towels, 12 bags daikon, 6 bags Napa cabbage
- Nancy Iwami: Purple orchid plant
- Cindy/Gary Mine: White orchid plant
- Jeanette Crosetti: 5 Pajaro Valley Historical Assn. reusable bags
- Eiko/George Stewart: 6 rolls bath tissue, 2 jars persimmon/pineapple jam
- Hisako Uemura: 24 bathroom tissue
February birthdays were celebrated on February 18. We sang Happy Birthday to: Jeanette Crosetti, Jean Akiyama, Eiko Ceremony 91, Haru Ishibashi 90, Rubie Kawamoto, Hisako Kodama, Chiyeko Shikuma 91, Eiko Stewart, and Carol Kaneko. Sam Sakamoto 91 couldn’t be with us, but we certainly wish you a happy birthday. We all enjoyed the chocolate birthday cake. Eiko Ceremony, Haru Ishibashi, and Chiyeko Shikuma were given a box of manju (for being 90 or over), and Sam had his personally delivered.

In honor of Haru Ishibashi’s 90th birthday, her daughters Pam McTighe and Gayle Mellor treated all Seniors to a beautifully packaged special cookie at our February 25th meeting. Thank you for the delicious treat!

It was good to see Inako Johnson back twice in the past month. Also back after a long absence were Gail Wurtenberg and her mother, Mitsue Tao. We hope to see all three back regularly at seniors.

Watsonville Taiko will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary with a concert at Cabrillo College, Crocker Theatre, April 16 and 17. We have been given four (4) complimentary tickets to the Sunday, April 17, matinee performance. These tickets are for Senior Center members only. Please contact Paul Kaneko before March 24 if you would like one of the tickets - first come, first served.

Five of our Seniors attended the January 24th Santa Cruz County Symphony concert at the Mello Center.
Shirley Inokuchi and Kim Yoshida gladly accepted the task of cutting green onions for the udon garnish.

The Temple was the busiest “restaurant” that night. Photo below: Kikuye Hirano (center) and family all enjoyed the udon feed. Thank you for coming, Mrs. Hirano.

Taking orders and refill orders were JoAnn Kato, Lori Yoshida, Shirley Inokuchi and Lisa Sakae.

Norris Woodford and Gini Matute-Bianchi were served by Patt Takeuchi. Both Gini and Patt are old friends from UCSC working days.

YBAers Alex Tao, Kaitlyn Sakae, Brian Yamaoka, Shoren Hanayama, and Matthew Maemura sold desserts and soft drinks. Below: Lori Yoshida and Susan Uyematsu helped Scouts Hunter Blinkenberg, Jarrod Garcia, and Adrian Guzman select desserts to take home. Thank you, Scouts!

BWA’s Ryoko Suruki, Hisako Kodama, and Kiiko Akiyama, sold out their delicious chirashi quickly.
Washing the udon bowls were Jean Yamashita and Michael Gilbert.

The incoming President of the Buddhist Churches of America is Ken Tanimoto. Congratulations, Ken! He is shown here pouring dashi into the udon bowl.

We appreciated the coverage in the Watsonville Register-Pajaronian and the Santa Cruz Sentinel for publishing the event in their newspapers. Many locals came as a result of the notices.

The Calendar for March 2016:
1 Tues  7:30 pm  Board Meeting
2 Wed  1 pm    BWA Meeting
3 Thu  10 am  ABA Meeting
4 Fri  Secretary is off
6 Sun  No Sunday Service
1-6 Tues – Sun  BCA National Meetings
11 Fri  2 pm  San Juan Howakai
13 Sun 9:30 am  Japanese Service
10 am  Shotsuki Hoyo & Dharma School
20 Sun 7:30 am-Noon Pancake Feed
  10 am  Higan E Service with
  Rev. Sugahara
27 Sun 10 am  Sunday Service

Shotsuki Hoyo Service
10 am Sunday March 13, 2016
Shotsuki refers to a gathering to give thanks to express gratitude for being able to find the meaning of life through Nembutsu. Let us gather to remember and express our gratitude. The families of the following deceased are invited to attend the March service and to Oshoko (offer incense). We look forward to seeing you at the service.

March Memorial List
Daitoku, Mary  Eto, Takashi
Etow, Mary Fujii, Tadashi
Fujii, Linda Fujii, Kosaku
Fujita, Kikuko Hamada, Choichi
Hamamoto, T. Patrick Hamamoto, Yuichi
Hasebe, Setsuko Betty Hashimoto, Nami
Hashimoto, Tsuneno Hosada, Mrs. Shizayo
Ishimaru, Yuichi Iwamasu, Yoichi
Iwami, Hideo Charles Kadotani, Kimiyu
Kadotani, John Kaita, Kinu
Kamitani, Munieichi Kamitani, Soichi
Katsuyama, Toshiya Kawasaki, Isamu
Kimoto, Tokumatsu Kishimura, Kyoshuke
Kitamura, Masao Kobara, Shoichi
Kodama, Hatsu Kokka, Noriyuki
Kunishige, Nobuyo Kusumoto, Kajito
Mametsuka, Moi Matoba, Shizuo
Matsuda, Masayoshi Matsunami, Itsuko
Mayeda, Kamenoshin Mio, Masujirou
Morimoto, Kenji Nakamura, Kozuye
Niiyama, Yakuichi Nishita, Kimiko
Oda, Yaeko Oka, Kazuo
Okamura, Sueko Saiki, Saburo
Sakaguchi, Shioi Sakai, Ito
Sakamoto, Katsue Sasaki, Masami
Sasaki, Tadaichi Sera, Kikuno
Sukekane, Frances Akiye Sumida, Tsune
Take moto, Dr. Katsumi Takemoto, Itaro
Tamaki, Miyoko Tanaka, Mina
Tanimasa, Jiro Tao, Howard
Tao, Keitaro Tao, Yotsuo
Terasaki, Yoneko Toriumi, Shigezo
Tsukiji, John Tsuchiyama, Yoshito
Uemura, Itsuo Ura, George Masaru
Yamakoshi, Helen Yamamoto, Iwakichi
Yamamoto, Jintaro Yamamoto, Saikichi
Yamanishi, Kunimatsu Yamashita, Kenji
Yamashita, Tommy David Yoshida, Kikuno
Yonemura, Kimiko Yoshida, Morisaburo

YBA helped sell baked goods & drinks at the Udon Feed on February 6th. We want to thank all the board members & other kind members for their donation of baked goods. We had a variety of delicious desserts. We earned $625 for the Temple.

This year’s Bay District Conference will be at Palo Alto Buddhist Temple on Sat. March 19, 2016. Two members & two chaperones will be attending.

YBA gratefully appreciates Roy Sakae’s Family for donating the drinks.

ABA thanks all members who helped with the preparations and serving at the Udon Feed. We all had a wonderful time.

Board Notes:
Religious: The Higan E Service will be on March 20th with guest speaker Reverend Sugahara from Florin.
On April 3rd, for the Hanamatsuri Service the guest speaker will be Reverend Dennis Fujimoto of Idaho.
The Hanamido will be put together for the Hanamatsuri Service and kept in the cooler until the Bazaar the following week.

Coast District Report: Perry Yoshida thanked Barbara Shingai for being CD secretary for 2016.
The Guadalupe and San Luis Obispo Temples are now formally Coast District members. Welcome!

The BCA 2016 National Council Meeting will be held in Visalia. The 2017 Meeting will be in San Jose. In 2019 the Watsonville Temple will host the Nembutsu Family Conference.

Boy Scouts helped out at the Udon Feed. Thank you, Scouts!

On Sunday, March 20th from 7:30 am, the Scouts will host the Annual Pancake Feed at the Temple. Formerly, the YBA hosted this annual event. The Scouts are grateful to the Temple for this fundraiser as several of their annual fundraisers (such as the Watsonville Fly-In) have been cancelled.

Old Business
A preliminary discussion and planning for possibly having “Movie Night and Bingo” for a Temple activity.

The Planning Committee discussed three projects: Painting the Horin (Wheel of Dharma), parking lot renovations & kitchen renovations. A sub-committee is working on obtaining estimates to help define project cost. Next meeting will be determined pending estimates on the potential kitchen project.

CHIDORI BAND CONCERT, FEB. 27, 2016

The Chidori Band of San Jose came to entertain our Nikkei community of Watsonville on Feb. 27, 2016 at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple. Many of our senior members were brought to tears by the nostalgia music. Thank you, musicians Duane Takahashi, Wayne Adachi, Rod Arii, Len Fujita, Carolyn Iida, Emily Kawaguchi, Grant Shimizu, Melina Takahashi, Michael Yoshihara and singers Michael Yoshihara, Corrine Young, Shigeru Tashiro, Ron Montano, Yoko Inada, Tsukasa Kobashi, Yuki Watanabe, and Toshi Kasamura. Audio technicians were Ken Furukawa, Chris Hioki, Shig Tokiwa, and Ron Yamamoto.

Chidori Band was established in 1953 after Japanese Americans returned home from the incarceration camps across the country. Today, the band members are primarily Sansei and Yonsei (3rd and 4th generation) who enjoy performing a variety of Japanese classic folk song/music and contemporary Japanese music.

The band was recently honored and inducted into the 2015 Bunka Hall of Fame for perpetuating an important segment of Japanese culture in America.

The Temple is grateful to the following sponsors:

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL and its Senior Center
Dr. Gerald T. Kondo Dr. Brooke Kondo Rains
Toriumi Auto Repair Willie Yahiro Insurance
Patrick James Dr. Arthur K. Hayashi
Kadotani Auto Repair Drs. Reed and Jamie Kuratomi
Shalom Cleaners Imura Japanese Restaurant
Michael Yoshihara Financial and Insurance Services
Tokyo Oriental Foods and Gifts of Salinas
Flowers by Toshi Miyuki Japanese Restaurant
Yamashita Market Alan Uyematsu, CPA
Kay’s Garage and Auto Repair

Joining in the singing concert were our own Sadao Matsunami and Rev. Shousei Hanayama. Sadao sang “Nagara Gawa Enka,” and Rev. Hanayama sang “Subaru,” not about the Japanese car maker but of the stars. Rev. Hanayama once had his own band while in school. Question: was it a “rock band”?

The Temple is grateful to the following sponsors:
The event was organized by Perry and Kim Yoshida for this Temple’s fundraiser for the 110th anniversary celebration in November of 2017. Perry is appreciative of all the volunteers:

Greetings:
Watching the Chidori Band Performance was amazing. The group was talented, organized and motivated in their setup and performance.

Their teamwork was impeccable, and then I thought about my crew: from my Promoter (Pam), Art Technicians – Poster (Peter), Publisher (Jackie) and Program (Phil), Back Stage Crew (Phyllis, Susan, Nancy, Bob and Joanne), Bouncers (Bill and Gail), Roadies (Junko, Jeannie, Yosie & Ida), Stage Managers (Ryoko & Barbara), Production Manager (Kim) and my lead vocalist (Master of Ceremony) “The ever talented - Ken”.

Your performance was just as important and the applause that we all heard today is shared with you.

Thank you for your assistance and teamwork in making the concert “A Huge Success.”

Hey, Band Members: “Are you ready to take this show on the road?”

WESTVIEW “CHIMES” By Leslie Nagata-Garcia

They had never been in a church before!!

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 19:14

We now have 4 students in our tutoring program with 2 more who will likely be coming. The children are in 2nd through 5th grade. The principle at Radcliff has been telling parents about us (Wonderful!). Our students’ moms are learning English but are not proficient enough to help them with their homework. The children are bright and eager to learn. Having teachers and educational specialists on our tutoring team has been great. The students are very interested in the computer center, which Marlon set up, and as we continue to update that center it looks like it will get much use. It appears they are not in technology rich environments, which puts them at an educational disadvantage. We hope to fill that gap for them!

At our last tutoring club two of the boys asked about our sanctuary and wanted to see it. They said they had never been in a church before. They had wide eyes as they walked through our beautiful sanctuary with high ceilings and colorful large stained glass windows. They got excited about the drums and wanted to play. They tried out the piano too—what joy on their faces! They asked why we had so many instruments so Diane and I told them it is because we love to sing to our God and give him thanks for all the gifts he gives us in life. We told them about how we enjoy supporting each other, praising God, learning, and having food and fellowship together on Sundays. They were intrigued. We told them about our youth and children’s programs and invited them to come. We enjoyed meeting their mom and enjoyed being affirming to her about her well-behaved, inquisitive children. Each day of our tutoring club is not only a gift to the children, but has been a gift to us teachers as God sends us these precious ones to care for!! Special thanks to our tutors: Diane Mio, Susan & Emily Manabe, Mary Lou Hoffman, Hanna Kasik, Nancy Shott, and Pastor Dan.

Please pray God will send us more families to love and help, and pray that we can also help some of them grow closer to our amazing God!

It is a joy and honor to be your pastor. God bless you this season of Lent. I pray you will look to God this season for forgiveness, healing and new life as we prepare for the gracious gift of Easter!

-Pastor Dan

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Maunday Thursday Potluck and Service, March 24th, 6:15 pm, Westview

Good Friday Service, March 25th Noon, Episcopal Church 437 Rogers Avenue, Watsonville

Everyone is invited to attend our Easter Sunday Service, March 27th, at 10 am. Immediately after Easter Service Westview will be hosting its annual Easter Egg Hunt for children of all ages. Don’t forget to mark your calendars for this memorable day!!

Westview’s tutoring club for local students after school at Westview is on Thursdays from
3:15 – 4:45 p.m. Please be in prayer as we reach out to our neighbors with God’s love and provide very needed academic help. Contact Pastor Dan if you are interested in helping in this loving outreach to our neighbors (see Tutoring Club article on front page of Chimes).

**Help your youth/children grow a strong foundation in Christ!!**

**Youth/Family Upcoming Events**

Gym Nites are usually the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month, from 5:30 – 8 p.m., at Westview. Mark your calendars for the following dates:

- **March 4th** – Salvation Army Meal/Gym Nite, 4 – 7 pm, Westview
- **March 18th** – Gym Nite, 5:30 – 8 pm, Westview
- **April 1st** – Salvation Army Meal/Gym Nite, 4 – 7 pm, Westview
- **April 15th** – Gym Nite, 5:30 – 8 pm, Westview

**Volunteer In-Home Caregiver Available:**

One of our mom’s in our tutoring program is studying to be a Certified Nursing Assistant and wants to do in-home caregiving. She needs volunteer hours to continue her career. She is intelligent and kind. Please call Pastor Dan for details if you need some help and want to help her get her hours (she can stay at home with a loved one while you shop or go out, help with cleaning your home and help with care of your loved one).

**Pastor Appreciation Fund:** Our Pastor, Rev. Dan Hoffman, has been working very hard for us and has always been available for our spiritual needs. We are taking collection for the Pastor Appreciation Fund. Let’s share some happiness with Reverend Dan.

**Wednesday Study Series:** What is the confusing Book of Revelation really about and how does it speak into our time? **Wednesday Study Series** are usually held the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Westview. Come explore the Book of Revelation as we discuss Max Lucado’s study of Revelation. Please mark your calendar for the following dates: **March 9th, March 23rd, April 13th and April 27th.**

**Salvation Army:** Westview will be serving the Salvation Army meal on March 4th. Salvation Army meals are usually prepared and served the first Friday of each month through April. Meet at Westview at 2 pm. For more information contact the Deacons or Pastor Dan.

Photos (starting from the left): Our Faithful Salvation Army cooks, our Youth helping to serve the meal at the Salvation Army.

**Sunday Message Series:** “Care for your soul - taking care of the only part of you that will last for eternity!” - based on John Ortberg’s book **Soul Keeping.**

**Sunday School During Worship Service in our Youth Room**

Youth with Youth Leader Hanna Kasik

**Our Newest Deacons**

On January 31st, Mary Lou Hoffman and Nancy Shott were installed as our new Deacons. Westview welcomes them into our family with open arms. Photo at right: Church members welcome Mary Lou and Nancy as our newest Deacons.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The **Congregational Meeting** was held on February 7th. The 2015 Annual report was approved. Leslie Hoffmtn and Ian Hoffman were elected to the 2016 Nominating Committee. We listed things we were thankful for last year and our hopes for the coming year.

**DAY OF REMEMBRANCE EDUCATION FUND**

Our W-SC JACL chapter has a fundraising program in conjunction with our **Day of Remembrance** observance in February for the expressed purpose of calling attention to the unjust incarceration of 120,000 innocent persons of Japanese ancestry so that it will never happen again to anyone or group in this country.
Our three categories are Greatest Need, Education/Scholarships, and the Newsletter, and you may donate at any time of the year for:

Greatest Need:
For our general operation expenses—maintenance of our hall, advocating civil and human rights issues, Senior Center issues, support of our Nikkei veterans, etc.

Educational/Scholarship Outreach:
Presentations to high school and university students of our Nikkei heritage and Japanese American experience of our wartime incarceration. We award youth scholarships and programs supporting students and educators.

Newsletter:
For publication expenses of this comprehensive, community newsletter each month.

You may wish to donate in honor or in memory of a loved one, family member, or friend. As a policy, we do not publish the amount of the donation.

The Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL sincerely appreciates your generous support.

“DAY OF REMEMBRANCE EDUCATION FUND”
DONATIONS, GRATEFULLY RECEIVED FROM ...

Greatest Need from …
Sachi and Philip Snyder in memory of …
Tadashi and Ayako Barbara Mino and Iwao Richard Mino
Paul and Carol Kaneko
Norman Abe in remembrance of Lily Abe
Mary Collins of Marina
Anonymous from San Diego
Helen Mito of Cupertino
Danny and Karen Nitta of Cupertino
Amy Newell
Patt and Mark Takeuchi in remembrance of …
Helen and Shoichi Kobara
Ben and Yoko Umeda
Alan and Gayle Uyematsu
Mae Yoshida
Eiko Ceremony
Dale Minami and Ai Mori Minami of SF

Newsletter from …
Chiyeko Shikuma
Asayo Akiyoshi
Evelyn Hibino of Salinas
Vi Nakagawa of Los Angeles in memory of …
George and Frances Hoshiyama
Robert and Mary Oka of Salinas
Mas and Ann Tsuda of Grass Valley
Mas and Marcia Hashimoto

In remembrance of Roy Sakae from …
Roy Sakae Family
Esther Ura

In remembrance of Roy Kaita from …
The Roy Kaita Family …
Emiko Kaita/Susan Ikegami
Yukio and Edna Nagata
Mas and Marcia Hashimoto
Esther Ura
Mark and Patt Takeuchi

Watsonville Bonsai for use of the JACL KIZUKA HALL

In Remembrance …
Roy Kaita
July 2, 1920 - Feb. 5, 2016
Born in Watsonville to Kanezo and Kinu Kaita, he was the fourth of six children.

Roy lived a very full life, working as a truck driver, dishwasher, and then made a good living for his family growing strawberries. He loved golfing, day trips to the casinos, and most of all, cars! Roy had the most amazing memory and often matched significant family events with his cars. He was always dedicated to his family and known for making friends everywhere he went. He was a “hell of a guy!” and will be dearly missed.

He is survived by sister, Mitsue Tao and sister-in-law, Yoshie Kaita. He was happily married to Emiko Tara for 68 years. He was the wonderful father of five children: Cheryl (Vince) Itatani, Patti (Lester) Ikegami, Brad (deceased), Susan (Dennis) Ikegami, and Laurie (Ted) Matsushita. He was a proud grandfather to nine grandchildren: Derek (Joanna), Lesli, Michael, Kellene, Teri (David), Jeff, Lindsay, Brad and Jenny. He was a loving great-grandfather to four great-grandchildren: Cassie, Carrie, Kylie, Blake, and uncle to numerous nephews and nieces.

Memorial funeral service was held at Watsonville Buddhist Church on Saturday, Feb. 13, 2016.

We send our deepest condolences to the Kaita family, relatives, and friends.

2016 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OBSERVANCE
“WWII NIKKEI CAMP ARTIFACTS—HISTORICAL TREASURES”

By Marcia Hashimoto

On behalf of the Gilroy, Monterey Peninsula, Salinas Valley, San Benito County, and Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL, this year’s host chapter, a sincere thank you was extended to the members and friends who made the 2016 Day of Remembrance a priority by attending the program on Sunday, February 28, 2016.

Appreciation was expressed to W-SC JACLers Joe Bowes and Gary Mine who volunteer every month to clean, repair and maintain the DOR Memorial Garden and the
California Historical Marker of 1984 at the Salinas Rodeo/Community Center grounds. Iwao Yamashita was also gratefully acknowledged for trimming the garden’s trees. The five Monterey Bay chapters honored Paul Ichiuji of the Salinas Valley JACL for his many years of leadership as our DOR coordinator and treasurer. Paul has always been “the glue that holds us together” described one committee member. After decades of being the guardian of our DOR event, he has decided to retire. An engraved clock was presented to Paul for his loyal and dedicated service to the JACL.

Our keynote speaker, Nancy Ukai Russell, gave an insightful presentation of the importance of preserving historical objects and gave examples of stories which illuminate the incarceration history.

Supporting Nancy’s presentation and the event’s theme—“WW II Nikkei Camp Artifacts—Historical Treasures”—was an incredible display of camp artworks. Thanks to the willingness of families to share their special heirlooms an amazing variety of artifacts captured everyone’s attention. The participation of all five chapters and our NCWNPD Governor David Unruhe was appreciated. We are most grateful to the following W-SC JACL members who contributed family treasures to the exhibit:

Harry Okamura Family   Fred Oda
Toshiko Yamashita      Dr. Masako Miura
Kodama Family          Carol Kaneko
June Honda             Mas/Marcia Hashimoto


Gaman means to endure with patience and dignity, and patience and dignity can be seen in the artifacts on display.

The beautiful craftsmanship of each item shows pride and creative productivity.

The historical significance of each treasured artifact is its creator’s strength of the human spirit that persevered during a time of adversity.

At the conclusion of the program all in attendance had the opportunity to view the artifacts and enjoy refreshments.

Marcia Hashimoto served as mistress of ceremonies for the program. Photos by Mas Hashimoto.
A partial list of artifacts: a wooden stool; Poston Directory of March 31, 1944; Jack Matsuoka's sketches of Poston II; wood carving of a tiger walking in a bamboo forest; “sleeping puppy” wood carving; walking canes made of mesquite and ironwood; tanka poem and painting of camp; obutsudan (Buddhist altar) made from a wooden crate; oil painting of Manzanar; wood carved birds, unfinished and finished; seashell brooches of Topaz; vases made from cactus root, mesquite, and kobu; Poston II 1945 yearbook; and made of ironwood--toothpick holder with a lid, carving of a cactus on a stand, a closed fan, a small gourd; a “Scotty dog” pin; carved wood cigarette holder with a lid and a tray for matches; woven baskets; camp photos; and a fishing vessel.

Seated are Janice Higashi and Paul Ichiuji and behind them are Shari Higashi and Daryl Osaki--all of Salinas Valley JACL, Marcia Hashimoto of W-SC JACL, Kurt Kurasaki of San Benito County JACL, Lily Kawafuchi of Gilroy JACL and Jeff Uchida of the Monterey Peninsula JACL. We are grateful to all five Monterey Bay area chapters for participating in the artifact display.

Next year, Gilroy JACL will be in charge of the Day of Remembrance program.

PLANNING AHEAD IN 2016 …

Sunday, March 20th: last performance of “Valley of the Heart” in San Jose, 2 pm.

Sunday, March 20th: “Pancake Feed,” presented by Boy Scouts of America Troop 558 at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple from 7:30 am to noon.

Thursday, March 24th: Maunday Thursday Potluck and Service, 6:15 pm, Westview Presbyterian Church.

Friday, March 25th: Noon Good Friday Service, Episcopal Church, 437 Rogers Avenue, Watsonville

Sunday, March 27th: Easter Sunday Service at 10 am, Westview Presbyterian Church. Easter Egg Hunt to follow.

Sunday, April 10th: Watsonville Buddhist Temple’s Hanamatsuri Service and Bazaar Festival.

April 16th-17th: Watsonville Taiko’s Anniversary Show, at Crocker Theater, Cabrillo College Campus, Aptos.

Saturday, April 23rd, 2016 NCWNPD Awards Luncheon and Celebration, at Pleasanton DoubleTree by Hilton.

Sunday, April 24th, 2016: Watsonville Bonsai’s Annual Show, at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple.


Saturday, June 4th, 2016: Japanese Cultural Fair at the Santa Cruz Mission Park,

Saturday, June 25th, 2016: The W-SC JACL Annual Community Picnic will be held at the beautiful Aptos Village Park.

June 27th to July 8th: Kokoro no Gakko’s 2016 session. Registration for K to 6th graders are available.

July 11th to July 13th: 47th National JACL Convention in Las Vegas.
Heavens to Murgatroyd! By Richard Lederer.

Would you believe the email spell checker did not recognize the word “murgatroyd”?  
Lost Words from our childhood: Words gone as fast as the “buggy whip”?  
Sad, really!

The other day, a not-so-elderly, 65 year-old lady said something to her son about driving a “jalopy,” and he looked at her quizzically and asked, “What the heck is a ‘jalopy’?”  
OMG (new) phrase! He never heard of the word “jalopy”!!

She knew she was old but not that old.

Well, I hope you are “hunky dory” after you read this and chuckle.

About a month ago, I illuminated some old expressions that have become obsolete because of the inexorable march of technology.

These phrases included, “Don’t touch that dial.” “Carbon copy,” “You sound like a broken record,” and “Hung out to dry.”

Back in the olden days we had a lot of “moxie”.

We’d put on our “best bib and tucker” to “straighten up and fly right”. “Heavens to Betsy!” “Gee whillikers!” “Jumping Jehoshannah!” “Holy Moley!” We were “in like Flynn” and living the “life of Riley”, and even a regular guy couldn’t accuse us of being a “knuckle-head”, a “nincompoop” or “a pill”. “Not for all the tea in China!”

Back in the olden days, life used to be “swell”, but when’s the last time anything was “swell”? “Swell” has gone the way of bee.hives, pageboys and the D.A.; of spats, knickers, fedoras, poodle skirts, saddle shoes and pedal pushers.

“Oh, my aching back.” “Kilroy was here”, but he isn’t anymore. We wake up from what surely has been just a short nap. And before we can say, “Well, I’ll be a monkey’s uncle!” Or, “This is a fine kettle of fish!” We discover that the words we grew up with, the words that seemed omnipresent, as oxygen, have vanished with scarcely a notice from our tongues and our pens and our keyboards.

Poof, go the words of our youth, the words we’ve left behind. We blink, and they’re gone. Where have all those phrases gone? Long gone: “The milkman did it.” “Hey! It’s your nickel.” “Don’t forget to pull the chain.” “Knee high to a grasshopper.” “Well, Fiddlesticks!” “Going like sixty.” “I’ll see your nickel.” “Don’t forget to pull the chain.” “Knee high to a grasshopper.”

It turns out there are more of these lost words and expressions “than Carter has liver pills”. This can be disturbing stuff! We of a certain age have been blessed to once strutted their hour upon the earthly stage and now are once strutted their hour upon the earthly stage and now are heard no more, except in our collective.  
Memory: It’s one of the greatest advantages of aging.

“See ‘ya later, alligator!” “After ‘while, crocodile.”

[Editor’s note: Sadly, communication, and with it understanding and appreciation, with the younger generation have “fallen by the wayside”. There are so many new text words—many are scientific and technological—that we of the older generation do not understand. Life was less complicated then and maybe more enjoyable than now. Maybe we lived in the “best of times.”

THE JAPANESE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: THE INCARCERATION"

During this “speaking season,” retired Social Studies teacher, Mas Hashimoto, has been invited to speak to 5th graders at Gateway School in Santa Cruz and to senior citizens in assisted care facilities in Pacific Grove. The schedule has also included students at CSU Stanislaus in Turlock, Aptos High School, Ann Sobrato High School in Morgan Hill, Harbor High in Santa Cruz, Watsonville High School, Impact Academy High School in Hayward, and 8th graders at Moreland Notre Dame in Watsonville.

JOIN US--WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL

If you are not now a member of the National JACL, we’d love to have you join our W-SC JACL chapter.

Please encourage family members, relatives and friends to join us for 2015-2016. We are a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, educational, civil rights organization, and our tax deductible federal ID is #94-2659895.

A membership form is included in this newsletter.

Yes, you don’t have to be a Japanese American to be a member. You don’t even have to be a US citizen. You must be an advocate for justice and for civil rights for all.

Current members, please look at the date after your name on the address label. E. Txxxx 12/15 means your membership expired back in December of 2015. Please renew before your membership expiration month. Marcia Hashimoto who sends renewal reminders will be very grateful.

If you have moved or are planning to move, please let us know your new address.

Please do not mail to our Kizuka Hall address on Blackburn Street.

Our mailing address is: W-SC JACL, P. O. Box 163, Watsonville, CA 95077.

Thank you for reading this March 2016 newsletter. Comments are always welcome.

For our full, living color newsletter, log onto http://watsonvillesantacruzjacl.org. Click “Newsletter,” then the month and year.

Onward!

Mas Hashimoto, Editor
NCWNP District
Awards Banquet & Celebration

Pleasanton DoubleTree by Hilton
Saturday, April 23, 2016
11:00 am – 3:00 pm

About our event:

- Celebrating JACL’s past – continuing our work... ONWARD!
- Honoring our past treasurers:
  John Yamada, Fred Okimoto and Emily Teruya
- Honoring each chapter’s unsung hero
- Special guest, Delphine Hirasuna, author of “The Art of Gaman”
- Delicious lunch
- Silent auction with many fabulous items
- Net proceeds to support the 2017 Smithsonian exhibition
  commemorating the 75th Anniversary of Executive Order 9066

For more information, contact
NCWNP District Office at (415) 345-1075 or pwada@jacl.org
NCWNP District Awards Banquet & Celebration

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Registration:

$65.00 Early Bird deadline – March 21, 2016
$75.00 afterwards – final deadline to register April 10, 2016

Make checks payable to: NCWNP District JACL
Mail form & checks to: c/o Debbi Hatanaka, 8 West Canterbury Drive, Stockton, CA 95207

Names: (list additional names on back or second page – include entrée choice)  Circle your choice of entrée:
__________________________________________  Chicken  Vegetarian
__________________________________________  Chicken  Vegetarian

Email (for confirmation of receipt) ____________________________________________

Phone ___________________________  Chapter ____________________________

# of attendees _________  Amount enclosed $___________

_____ Sorry, I am unable to attend, but I would like to donate $___________
Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapter
National Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)

No Increase in the 2016 – 2017 Membership Dues

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 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, oldest, and respected Asian American civil rights organization, and our programs include cultural appreciation and educational outreach.

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 2014 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 Otsuji Hager.

________________________________________________________________________________________

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:

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL
c/o Jeanette Otsuji Hager, Membership Chair, P. O. Box 163, Watsonville, CA 95077

Thank you so much for your support.