FLOWERING CHERRY TREE PLANTED AT WATSONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL, APRIL 22, 2013

On “Earth Day,” representatives joined together to celebrate more than 100 years of friendship. With the help of WHS custodians George Garcia and James Hurtado, the tree was planted. Additional photos by Tarmo Hannula and Marcia Hashimoto are on page 18.

Welcoming everyone was Principal Elaine Legorreta, a former student of Mas Hashimoto. Invited were the Mayor Lowell Hurst (who has visited Kawakami, Japan, our sister-city), Santa Cruz County Supervisor Greg Caput (a friend of the Nikkei community who donated many flowering cherry trees to the county, schools, and city), former Nikkei graduates of Watsonville High, Rev. Shousei Hanayama of the Watsonville Buddhist Temple, Deputy Consul General Nobuhiro Watanabe, Vice Consul Tsuyoshi Hikita, ASB President Brittany Hackwell, and “Willie, the Wildcat” (the school’s mascot).

Deputy Consul General Watanabe spoke of the friendship between the United States and Japan as exhibited by the donation of cherry trees to Washington, D. C. more than a century ago. He expressed his gratefulness for the 25th anniversary of our relationship with Kawakami, our sister-city. Sister City Coordinator Robb Mayeda spoke about the cultural enrichment program.

Brittany Hackwell, with “Willie” by her side, accepted the beautiful cherry tree on behalf of the ASB.

Introduced as special guests were Kitako Tsuda Izumizaki, Class of 1940 (age 91) and Kiyoko Nancy Tada Iwami, Class of 1933, who, at age 98, may be the oldest living graduate of Watsonville High School!

Mas Hashimoto thanked everyone for coming. The full text is presented here:

The earliest known Japanese here in 1892 was Sakuzo Kimura. He spoke some English and was, therefore, a labor contractor for growers. He died in 1900 at age 65, and as a Japanese Catholic, he is buried in the Catholic Cemetery on Freedom Blvd.

Watsonville is well-known and respected among the Japanese American communities—SJ, SF, LA, Seattle—for many families got their first start here. We were welcomed here, and if we worked hard, we were rewarded. We were never without American friends.

Japantown was situated where Burger King is located on the corner of lower Main Street and now Riverside Drive.

Over 100 years ago, in 1912, Helen Herron Taft, the wife of President William Howard Taft, wished to beautify the Tidal Basin area of the City of Washington, D. C. She admired the beauty of flowering cherry blossom—sakura, in Japanese—remembering, too, how delicate the sakura petals were.

Correspondence between diplomats and friends ensued. In 1912, Mayor Yukio Ozaki of Tokyo, sent 3,000 trees to Washington, D. C. as a gesture of friendship.

Today, millions of tourists visit Washington, D. C. to view the cherry blossoms annually in April. The US Postal Service honored the centennial celebration with commemorative stamps in 2012.

When the 1906 earthquake destroyed much of San Francisco, Japan was the very first country to offer help. The United States reciprocated in 1923 when Tokyo experienced a serious and devastating earthquake. Most recently, the USA and the people of Watsonville offered assistance to the victims of the Tohuku earthquake and tsunami of March 11, 2011.

In the late 1920s the Watsonville Japanese Association donated sakura trees to the City of Watsonville, to the Watsonville High School, and to the Watsonville Elementary School District as a token of friendship and appreciation. During World War II, many of the trees were vandalized and cut down. It was believed that only one tree remained at Watsonville High School.

We have since learned that two flowering trees—one with white petals and the other with pink, double blossom—have survived quietly at Mintie White Elementary School. For that, we are grateful.

But, the lone sakura tree at Watsonville High School did not survive this winter. The Watsonville-Santa Cruz chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League has donated this flowering cherry tree to replace it.

I would like to take a moment to tell the story of a young college student from Japan studying at the

For our full, living color newsletter, log onto www.watsonvillesantacruzjacl.org, Newsletter, then the month.
University of Southern California in the early 1930s. Each summer, he came to Watsonville where he stayed at the Hayashi boarding house, and my father, we had a restaurant, fed him. He learned to appreciate American customs, history and traditions. He returned to Japan to join the Foreign Service. When WW II broke out, as a pro-America advocate, he was placed under house arrest. After the war, he was to serve once again in the Foreign Service where he later became the Foreign Secretary. My mother visited him in Tokyo, and they talked about Watsonville. Then, in 1972, he was elected to serve as the Prime Minister of Japan, the highest elected official. His name? Takeo Miki. Someday, one of our foreign exchange students may become the head of state and remember, fondly, of Watsonville.

Japanese American graduates of Watsonville High, while serving with the Military Intelligence Service of the US Army because of their knowledge of the Japanese language, assisted after WW II with the occupation, restoration, and modernization of a democratic Japan. Today, Japan is our strongest and most loyal ally in the Pacific Basin.

During WW II, Japanese Americans were not without friends. Many who supported us were teachers of Watsonville High School—Mae Lord, Dorothy Roark, T. S. MacQuiddy and others.

We’ve come a long ways since the days when discriminatory laws were passed against the Japanese and other minority immigrants.

Names such as Honda, Toyota, Suzuki, Kawasaki, Yamaha, Sony, Ninja turtles, karate, karaoke, teriyaki, sukiyaki, sushi, origami, haiku, and sakura are well known and respected now.

I would like to give this sakura tree a name--Neko. It means “cat.” The cat is revered in Japan and is a symbol of good fortune. Our “Willie, the Wildcat,” is a neko. “Willie” is a symbol of fair play, justice, playful “cat antics,” and a bearer of good fortune to all who come into contact with him.

Most of all, this flowering cherry tree—sakura—represents friendship. Each spring it brings new hope and a new beginning, a renaissance. Quietly, it lends its beauty to this campus. The beautiful blossoms are short-lived as a reminder that our lives are also short-lived. We must work diligently during the short time we have on this earth.

It is my fervent hope that the students and faculty will be reminded of the meaning of the sakura blossoms—of friendship and gratitude of the Japanese American community.

On Friday, May 10th, the late Mitchie M. Miyamoto will be inducted into Watsonville High School Foundation’s “Hall of Fame” at 10:30 am in the Henry J. Mello Center for the Performing Arts Theater, Watsonville High School, 250 East Beach Street, Watsonville, CA 95076, and you are most welcome to attend our event.

[Editor’s note: I am a board member of the WHS Foundation. I recommend parking in the student parking lot on Blackburn Street adjacent to the high school tennis courts and walk one block to the Mello Center. I have asked WPD Chief Manny Solano to provide extra security around the cars parked there.]

Accepting the honor will be Mrs. Martha Miyamoto and son, Martin “Dino” Miyamoto.

Our Congressman Sam Farr will present the Congressional Gold Medal (replica) in gratitude to widow, Martha Miyamoto.

The following to be inducted are:

- Ken Dobler, farmer, Class of 1957.
- Andy Vargas, lead singer of Santana, Class of 1995.
- “Posthumous awards” to:
  - Louis Bilicich, WHS custodian, Class of 1936
  - Mitchie M. Miyamoto, Class of 1938

And, as “Friends of the Wildcatz:”

- Louise Bilicich, Girl’s PE teacher
- Jean Pogue, Chair of Math Department and Sno Catz (WHS ski club) founder

An “Evening of Black and Gold” dinner will be held in honor of the inductees from 6 pm to 8:30 pm at the Corralitos Community Center, 35 Browns Valley Road, Corralitos, CA 95076. Reservations for this dinner may be made for $25 per person by calling Peggy Ernst at (831) 761-0491.

MITCHIE M. MIYAMOTO, 442nd RCT

Mitchie Miyamoto was born in Peerless, Utah, in 1920. His family moved to San Francisco when his father lost his leg in a coal mining accident. Mitchie was only 11 years old when they settled in Watsonville, working in the strawberry industry. He graduated from Rob Roy Elementary School on San Andreas Road. Mitchie was a proud graduate of Watsonville High School, Class of 1938.

[Editor’s note: His Nikkei classmates were

- Toru Asada
- Mitsuugu Eto
- Hideo Hashimoto
- Toyo Hisatomi
- Haruye Inouye
- Minato Kawaguchi
- Emily Matsui
- George Matsumoto
- Bill Mine
- Sanae Mita
- Shinichii Mukai
- Harumi Shintani
- Tomio Takeshima
- Yukata Yamamoto
- Hiro Yamasaki
- Helen Enomoto
- Fumiye Fujita
- Kay Hisatomi
- Tom Ichikawa
- Roy Kaita
- Suyeo Manabe
- Chiyoko Matsumoto
- Raymond Matsushita
- Mitsuo Misumi
- Yuriko Morimoto
- Hirouki Nakaji
- Misaye Sukekane
- Yasuo Tsuchiyama
- Ben Yamamoto
- Dorothy Yamauchi

2013 WHS FOUNDATION’S “HALL OF FAME” by Mas Hashimoto

“Willie, the Wildcat” - WHS’s famous mascot.

On Friday, May 10th, the late Mitchie M. Miyamoto will be inducted into Watsonville High School Foundation’s “Hall of Fame” at 10:30 am in the Henry J. Mello Center for the Performing Arts Theater, Watsonville High School, 250 East Beach Street, Watsonville, CA 95076, and you are most welcome to attend our event.

[Editor’s note: I am a board member of the WHS Foundation. I recommend parking in the student parking lot on Blackburn Street adjacent to the high school tennis courts and walk one block to the Mello Center. I have asked WPD Chief Manny Solano to provide extra security around the cars parked there.]

Accepting the honor will be Mrs. Martha Miyamoto and son, Martin “Dino” Miyamoto.

Our Congressman Sam Farr will present the Congressional Gold Medal (replica) in gratitude to widow, Martha Miyamoto.

The following to be inducted are:

- Ken Dobler, farmer, Class of 1957.
- Andy Vargas, lead singer of Santana, Class of 1995.

“Posthumous awards” to:

- Louis Bilicich, WHS custodian, Class of 1936
- Mitchie M. Miyamoto, Class of 1938

And, as “Friends of the Wildcatz:”

- Louise Bilicich, Girl’s PE teacher
- Jean Pogue, Chair of Math Department and Sno Catz (WHS ski club) founder

An “Evening of Black and Gold” dinner will be held in honor of the inductees from 6 pm to 8:30 pm at the Corralitos Community Center, 35 Browns Valley Road, Corralitos, CA 95076. Reservations for this dinner may be made for $25 per person by calling Peggy Ernst at (831) 761-0491.

MITCHIE M. MIYAMOTO, 442nd RCT

Mitchie Miyamoto was born in Peerless, Utah, in 1920. His family moved to San Francisco when his father lost his leg in a coal mining accident. Mitchie was only 11 years old when they settled in Watsonville, working in the strawberry industry. He graduated from Rob Roy Elementary School on San Andreas Road. Mitchie was a proud graduate of Watsonville High School, Class of 1938.

[Editor’s note: His Nikkei classmates were

- Toru Asada
- Mitsuugu Eto
- Hideo Hashimoto
- Toyo Hisatomi
- Haruye Inouye
- Minato Kawaguchi
- Emily Matsui
- George Matsumoto
- Bill Mine
- Sanae Mita
- Shinichii Mukai
- Harumi Shintani
- Tomio Takeshima
- Yukata Yamamoto
- Hiro Yamasaki
- Helen Enomoto
- Fumiye Fujita
- Kay Hisatomi
- Tom Ichikawa
- Roy Kaita
- Suyeo Manabe
- Chiyoko Matsumoto
- Raymond Matsushita
- Mitsuo Misumi
- Yuriko Morimoto
- Hirouki Nakaji
- Misaye Sukekane
- Yasuo Tsuchiyama
- Ben Yamamoto
- Dorothy Yamauchi

2013 WHS FOUNDATION’S “HALL OF FAME” by Mas Hashimoto

“Willie, the Wildcat” - WHS’s famous mascot.
There were 31 Nikkei in a class of 221 graduates. Some notables in the class were Vernon Ackerman, Antone Basich, George Freiermuth, Charles Martinelli, Ann Matiasevich (Soldo), Joe Muzio, George Oliverius, and Frank Osmer.

In October of 1941, he was drafted into the US Army (our first and a controversial peacetime draft at the time), and he took his basic training at Ft. Riley, Kansas. After the Pearl Harbor attack, Miyamoto was transferred to Camp Hale, Colorado. Mitchie’s entire family, along with all other Japanese families, was forcibly removed from their home because of their Japanese ancestry. Mitchie’s family was sent to the Santa Anita Assembly Center, California (the famous racetrack) before being incarcerated at Heart Mountain, Wyoming. Even though Mitchie was in the military, he was denied permission to visit his own family!

In the spring of 1943, he was sent to assist in the formation of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team at Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

The original 442nd shoulder patch, designed by the artists of the War Department (now called the Department of Defense), depicted a yellow arm brandishing a blood dipping sword. The racial overtones of the design were obvious and obnoxious. Everyone in the unit hated it.

Sergeant Miyamoto designed a patch of a silver hand holding the torch of liberty against a sky of blue, surrounded by a border of silver and red. It was a positive symbol of freedom and liberty—goals the men could and would fight and die for. Senator Daniel K. Inouye was to remark years later that the shape of the patch was that of a coffin and many brave men died proudly wearing it.

German troops quickly learned to fear the men who wore this red, white, and blue patch.

The 442nd RCT proved to be self-sufficient and fought with distinction, becoming the most decorated regimental unit for its size and length of service in the history of the United States military. Mitchie was awarded five medals of valor for his years in the service, including the Congressional Gold Medal.

Mitchie also designed the lapel emblem displaying a river boat representing Camp Shelby, Mississippi, where he was stationed during his military training. This design can be seen today on two monuments located at Camp Shelby.

Mitchie received the Bronze Star from Major General E. M. Almond for his meritorious service rendered while in combat. He was frequently exposed to enemy fire while making trips to the forward areas to attest the accuracy of the maps in use. His knowledge of maps and his ability to accurately locate difficult spots on the terrain quickly won him the gratitude of the men and the commanding officer he served.

After the war, Miyamoto married Martha and raised a daughter, Teri, and two sons, Roger and Martin. In 1955, he returned to Watsonville and was employed by the Charles Ford Department Store for over 32 years. He was the recipient of many national awards and honors for his outstanding window displays and advertising skills.

In the history section of the Smithsonian Institute on the mall of Washington, D.C., opposite of the original Star Spangled Banner (flag), is an exhibit telling of the exploits of the 442nd. The 442nd patch is proudly displayed with the notation that it was designed by Mitchie M. Miyamoto, a member of the unit.

All members of the 100th/442nd RCT are grateful to Mitchie M. Miyamoto, a graduate of Watsonville High School, Class of 1938.

2013 JEFFERSON AWARD EVENT

We are thankful to the students and teachers at Bradley Elementary School for nominating Esther Ura for the 2013 Jefferson Award. Of the over 50 nominees from all over the Monterey Bay region, Esther was one of the six finalists, which included Christy Licker of Aptos, Regina Mason of Seaside, Esther Ura of Watsonville, Glenn Moore of Seaside, Veronica Lezama of Hollister, and Doug Brown of Salinas. Congratulations to Regina Mason of the Monterey County branch of the NAACP who will represent the Monterey Bay area in Washington, DC.

Esther Ura is presented the award by KSBW-TV’s popular and very capable news anchor, Dan Green. "Grandma Esther" Ura has been volunteering in Watsonville public schools for over four decades. During this time, she has single-handedly supported hundreds of...
students and their teachers. Therefore, in the spirit of the Jefferson Awards, “honoring ordinary people who accomplish extraordinary things without expectation of recognition,” the students of Bradley Elementary School in the Pajaro Valley Unified School District, nominated “Grandma Esther” Ura for always being there for them with a smile, positive encouragement, and support. The students also wanted to recognize her lifetime of service to the community of Watsonville through her volunteer work with the Watsonville Buddhist Temple, the Japanese American Citizens League, and the “Kokoro no Gakko,” a Japanese cultural school. “Grandma Esther” has been such an inspiration that generations of Watsonville residents have strived to emulate her dedicated contributions to their community.

Family and friends who celebrated on April 1st were Kristin and Jason Ura, Esther Ura, Curtis Gavin, Kai Gavin, Jennifer Ura Gavin, Marcia Hashimoto, Ari Parker, and Mas Hashimoto.

Esther is only the second Nikkei to receive the Jefferson Award since 1998. The first, in 2010, was Edith Ichiuji of Pacific Grove.

JACK MATSUOKA: HIS LIFE AND SKETCHES

Opens Saturday, May 11, 2013 at the Japanese American Museum San Jose, Second Floor, 535 N. Fifth Street, San Jose, CA 95112.

JAMsj is delighted to present a new exhibit, entitled “Jack’s Show: His Life and Sketches,” showcasing the work of Japanese American cartoonist Jack Matsuoka. One of the few Nisei cartoonists to be awarded membership to the prestigious National Cartoonist Association, Jack is a recognizable and well-known figure in the Nikkei community. His drawings, from illustrations of the Japanese American incarceration experience as published in his book, Poston Camp II, Block 211, to those more recently of local sports and community figures and events are also acclaimed. This special exhibition features artwork spanning his impressive 70-year career.

Born in Watsonville, California, in 1925, Jack's talent and interest in drawing were evident from an early age. His visual storytelling blossomed during his family's incarceration where, beginning as a sophomore in high school, he recorded the experiences of living first in the Salinas Assembly Center and later in Poston by illustrating camp life. His historic sketches became doubly important as our cameras, along with radios, flashlights, and weapons, were confiscated by the authorities.

How could we document and tell our stories? His drawings, sometimes humorous, often heartbreaking, but always honest, heartfelt, and poignant, were to become of such historic importance that the US Government could not deny our wartime incarceration.

[Editor's note: A favorite sketch of mine is of Jack, second from the left, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance with his fellow “Roastin' Poston” (and dusty) classmates. The teacher is looking up realizing the hypocrisy of “... with liberty and justice for all” – two of many things we didn’t have in “camp.” Amazingly and to the credit of those incarcerated, they retained their faith in this country.]

After serving in the MIS (for which he later received a Congressional Gold Medal), Jack made a career out of his unique talent and was a regular cartoonist for the Hokubei Mainichi newspaper. His drawings, which ranged from sketches of his beloved local sports teams to political cartoons illustrating the issues of the day, were also featured in numerous Bay Area publications, including the San Francisco Examiner, San Mateo Times, and San Jose Mercury News.

To honor the life and art of this Bay Area Nisei cartoonist, JAMsj has selected more than 60 pieces of art from Jack’s personal collection for the show. In addition to original drawings and sketches, photographs and other artifacts from his life will be on display. These personal items serve as a portal into the history of the man behind these drawings.

This special temporary exhibition opens to the public on May 11, 2013. Please come to honor Jack, share in his many experiences, and bear witness to his extraordinary talent.

Save the Date: Saturday, May 11, 2013, 3:00 p.m. Join us for a special celebration honoring Jack Matsuoka at JAMsj. Seats are limited. RSVP required. Contact the JAMsj office for reservations at (408) 294-3138.

MISers--JAVA ASKS FOR YOUR HELP,

The Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) is asking for your help. JAVA, via Terry Shima, is establishing and maintaining a record of the individual
awards received by MISers for their service during WWII and of that very important post-WW II era, the restoration and occupation of Japan. Its goal is to build a list of awards presented to MISers. JAVA regrets this effort is nearly 70 years late, but it believes it is better late than never. JAVA knows of no such list that exists today. If there is such a list, please let JAVA know immediately.

The MISers made a huge contribution to the war effort in the Pacific of saving American and Japanese lives by shortening the war by nearly two years. Their efforts and contributions to the successful conclusion of the war were neither fully appreciated nor recognized. We must know the number of individual awards they have received. We now want to document this information, the best we can.

In our numerical listing of Awards, unit awards will be listed as follows:

Unit Awards
Congressional Gold Medal . . 1
Presidential Unit Citation 1

Individual Awards would include the following:
CIB/Combat Infantryman Badge
MB/Combat Medical Badge
DSC/Distinguished Service Cross
DSM/Distinguished Service Medal
SS/Silver Star
LM/Legion of Merit
PH/Purple Heart Medal
BSM/Bronze Star Medal
SM/Soldier’s Medal
AM/Air Medal
DUC/Distinguished Unit Citation awarded to MISer during WWII from units to which they were assigned.
Ranger Hall of Fame, Fort Benning, GA
MIS Hall of Fame, Huachuca
FGM/Foreign Government Award
LC/Letter of Commendation

If a MISer received any of the above awards, please let us know the name of the MISer and the award he has received. JAVA is not counting Good Conduct Medal, Victory medal and other medals like that. If a decorated 100th/442nd RCT soldier transferred to MIS his awards won while serving the 442 should not count in our MIS endeavor. Thank you.

Contact Terry Shima, JAVA Chair
Outreach and Education Committee
415 Russell Ave #1005
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
Tel: 301-987-6746, tts@comcast.net

THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL EXHIBIT OPENS AT THE JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM ON MAY 4TH, 2013

Speaking and book signing at the opening will be our writer and photographer, Tom Graves, on his superb and most extraordinary book, Twice Heroes: America’s Nisei Veterans of WWII and Korea. Veterans shared their own histories with the author, many revealing their experiences for the first time.

Graves, who spent over a decade interviewing and photographing men and women who served to prove their loyalty to America, will discuss and read from his new book. A Q&A period with Tom Graves will follow.

Those Nikkei and friends of our Nikkei community in Southern California should not miss this special opportunity.


SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS’ JAPANESE HERITAGE NIGHT, MAY 6TH, 2013

So, who is going to throw the first pitch to SF Giant catcher Buster Posey, and what will he throw—a slider, fastball, wild pitch, grounder (one hop), curve ball, bean ball, knuckler, submarine, or change up?

This honor goes to 100th/442nd RCT veteran, Lawson Sakai, now of Morgan Hill, and we couldn’t be happier. We recommend he throws a knuckler so that no one will know where the ball is going.

Join us for Japanese Heritage Night at AT&T Park! Join fellow JCCNC members and friends to cheer on our World Series Champions as they take on the Phillies on May 6, 2013.

JAPANESE HERITAGE NIGHT WITH THE SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

Your special ticket includes a pregame sake tasting festival in Seals Plaza from 5:00-7:00 pm and a SPECIAL EDITION JAPANESE-THEMED GIANTS SCARF! [Only available with this ticket].

Your special ticket includes a pregame sake tasting festival in Seals Plaza from 5:00-7:00 pm and a SPECIAL EDITION JAPANESE-THEMED GIANTS SCARF! [Only available with this ticket].
Seating and Pricing Info:

VR Infield seats in section 315, 321, 323 (varies - rows 10-15) $26.00 JCCNC Members; $29.00 General.
VR Outfield seats in section 326 (rows 4-13)-$19.00 JCCNC Members; $22.00 General.
Non-members who purchase 20 or more tickets will receive the JCCNC membership rate.
Purchase tickets by calling JCCNC at (415) 567-5505 or email membership@jccnc.org. Do it today!
Tickets for the game are also available by visiting www.sfgiants.com/specialevents or calling (415) 972-2298.

This special night brings together JCCNC, JACL, Nakayoshi (young professionals), and Japantown San Jose.

"Go, Giants!"

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF NISEI VETS

The second quarterly meeting of the FFNV will be held at noon on Saturday, May 18 at Roberts Park above Oakland. There will be a memorial service held for the Nisei veterans of WW II. It will be followed by a communal potluck luncheon.

A trip to the battle sites in Italy planned for May 20 to June 2 is full, but there may be cancellations. Contact Brian Yamamoto at brianeyamamotodds@gamil.com, or call (425) 877-0057.

The meeting on the USS HORNET will take place on Saturday, August 24 at 11 am. Reserve the date.

HATE GROUPS ON THE RISE

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), the number of anti-government groups on the American radical right reached an all-time high in 2012.

The SPLC warned of the potential for domestic terrorism from the so-called “Patriot” movement in 2012. It reported that there were 1,300 Patriot groups in 2012, an 813% rise since 2008, the year of Barack Obama’s first election as President. The groups include 312 militias, self-appointed guardians of white Nativism.

Law enforcement officials in the last several years have uncovered numerous terrorism conspiracies born in the militia subculture – plots to spread poisonous ricin powder, to attack federal installations, and to murder federal judges and other government officials, including law enforcement officers.

Related to this issue are anti-gun control, anti-background checks for gun purchasers, and anti-immigration laws.

We in Santa Cruz County are not immune from hateful acts of violence.

A RESOLUTION OF THE W-SC JACL

[Editor’s note: Not so long ago it was illegal for our Issei parents to become citizens of the United States. There were discriminatory laws--Asians couldn’t marry whites, and Asians couldn’t own property in California.

We are grateful to the men and women who honorably served in the armed forces of the United States during WW II and of the loyalty expressed and demonstrated by the Nikkei community during our unjust wartime incarceration. We could no longer be denied our rights.

The JACL played a leading role in securing the right of citizenship for our Issei immigrants with the passage of the Walter-McCarran Act of 1952 and the elimination of many racist laws. In keeping with that tradition, the W-SC JACL supports the Pathway to Citizenship for our present immigrants, many of whom are Asians.]

A Resolution of the Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapter of the National Japanese American Citizens League (W-SC JACL) for a Pathway to Citizenship to support comprehensive immigration reform and urge action from the 113th Congress

WHEREAS, the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL, a chapter of the National Japanese American Citizens League, the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the nation, is calling on the 113th Congress to take real action on immigration reform in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government’s inability to enact immigration reform has created severe economic, cultural and political strains here and in communities across the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the United States current immigration system is dysfunctional, harms our economy, and does not reflect our values; and

WHEREAS, the W-SC JACL identity is defined by its promise of equality, esteem for diversity and commitment to innovation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Watsonville, the Pajaro Valley, the County of Santa Cruz, the State of California and the United States of America have prospered because of the contributions of hard-working immigrants; and

WHEREAS, we believe in the human dignity of all residents, regardless of immigration status, and recognize the importance of immigrants’ many contributions to the social, cultural and economic fabric of the Watsonville-Santa Cruz area and the Pajaro Valley; and

WHEREAS, we call on the Congress to stop the unnecessary deportation of residents in our community who are law abiding and live in peace with their neighbors. Keeping families together not only is the right thing to do, but is also good for the economy because families provide a base of support that increases worker productivity and spurs entrepreneurship; and

WHEREAS, immigration is a federal responsibility, and a comprehensive approach to solve our broken immigration system would strengthen the City of Watsonville, the Pajaro Valley, the County of Santa Cruz, the State of California and the nation’s economy; and

WHEREAS, the Dream Act frees aspiring young citizens to make an even greater contribution to our communities and offers a clear path to citizenship; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform must provide a mechanism for aspiring citizens who have grown up in this country to become U.S. citizens and be able to fully contribute to our joint future; and
WHEREAS, immigration reform must occur in a comprehensive, thoughtful manner that builds the strength and unity of working people, keeps families together, and guarantees the same rights, obligations, and basic fairness for all workers, no matter where they come from; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform must include a pathway to citizenship without an unnecessary lengthy wait for all aspiring citizens who live in the United States if they meet reasonable and legal requirements; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform must update the legal immigration system so that the future flow of immigrant workers more realistically matches our nation’s labor needs and is structured to protect the wages and working conditions of citizens and immigrant workers; and

WHEREAS, any new worker visa program must provide for strict compliance with U.S. labor standards and wage and hour standards; the right to organize; portability of visas so that workers can change jobs; and the ability for workers to petition for permanent residency; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform enforcement provisions must promote strict adherence to the right guaranteed by our nations Constitution including due process, civil and human rights and freedom of religion; and

WHEREAS, the W-SC JACL supports a comprehensive Immigration Reform bill that keeps families together, upholds our values as a nation, promotes economic growth, and provides a long-term solution to the broken immigration system; and

WHEREAS, our elected officials must create an immigration process that strengthens our nation’s economy and lets aspiring citizens continue their contributions to our communities, now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL
That this organization urges the 113th Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform as outlined in this resolution that addresses full legalization with a path to citizenship and future immigration of families and workers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be delivered to the President of the United States of America, U.S. Speaker of the House, President of the Senate, U. S. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, Congressman Sam Farr, members of the California State Assembly, members of the California State Senate and Governor of the State of California.

Tosh Tanaka (s)        April 25, 2013
President of the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL
P. O. Box 163
Watsonville, CA 95077-0163

A CONSTITUTIONAL STORM IN CONGRESS

In the wake of Hurricane Sandy, some religious lobbies are seeking federal funding to rebuild their houses of worship.

Should taxpayers’ monies be used to support religious institutions? Is this a violation of Freedom of Religion as expressed in the First Amendment?

NEW ZEALAND LEGALIZES SAME-SEX MARRIAGES

New Zealand has become the first country in the Asia-Pacific region and the 13th in the world to legalize same-sex marriage.

The New Zealand Parliament on Wednesday passed the marriage bill by a vote of 77 to 44.

New Zealand law will now state that "marriage means the union of two people, regardless of their sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity".

In addition to allowing same-sex couples to marry, the bill rescinds the requirement that trans people divorce or change their relationship to a civil union before changing the gender marker on their birth record.

Same-sex couples who marry will now be able to jointly adopt children. New Zealand law allows only one member of an unmarried couple to become the legal parent of an adopted child.

Couples will be able to marry as early as mid-August 2013, four months after the bill receives Royal assent.

Support for the bill among Members of Parliament has been strong since its introduction in 2012.

Countries which have already legalized same-sex marriage are the Netherlands (2001; special municipality of Saba, 2012), Belgium (2003), Canada (2005), South Africa (2006), Spain (2005), Norway (2009), Sweden (2009), Argentina (2010), Portugal (2010), Iceland (2010), Denmark (2012) and Uruguay (2013).

Marriage equality legislation is currently pending in Colombia, the United Kingdom and France, with the final vote in the French parliament expected soon.

GREEN TEA AND COFFEE CUT STROKE RISK

Tokyo: A recent study of over 80,000 adults found that those who regularly drink green tea or coffee were roughly 20% less likely to have a stroke. Green tea may help protect blood vessels while coffee may lower blood sugar levels.

Compared with those who did not drink at all, those who drank at least one cup of green tea each day had a 22-35% lower risk of brain hemorrhage. Stroke risks were 14-20% lower among those who drank two to three cups of coffee than those who did not drink any.

[Editor's note: When the British began the custom of drinking tea, the nation's health improved dramatically. I asked my students why. They wanted to know what kind of tea, how many cups they drank, what time of the day did they drink the tea, etc. Wrong! Wrong! Wrong! Finally, I asked them, "How do you make tea?" They immediately caught on. "You boil the water!"

ME? SPIDERMAN?

By the Editor

The other day, while gardening in the back yard, I was bitten on the neck by a medium-sized, black spider.

The bite was painfully sharp, and my immediate reaction was to swat the perpetrator. By doing so, I killed it. I felt guilty about killing a friendly insect. It was acting on instincts. I was glad it wasn’t a black-widow spider.
We had black-widow spiders in the Poston “camp.” Each time, before we sat on the toilet seat, we had to check over and under the toilet seat for black widow spiders which were hiding.

Back to 2013: I thought of becoming “Spiderman”- out to save Watsonville from the notorious, evil criminals.

But, Watsonville doesn’t have high rises or skyscrapers. Our tallest buildings are only five stories high, and they are at the opposite end of the town. How can I “fly” from one end of town to the other before crashing onto the streets below? Plus, we don’t have big crime bosses or criminals. There’s no need for a potbellied, bald-headed, out-of-shape “Spiderman.”

FRANK MITO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Kokoro no Gakko Scholarship for graduating high school senior

Please apply for this scholarship if you:

- Are a graduating high school senior in 2013.
- Will be attending college this fall.
- Have a high school grade point average of 3.5 or better.
- Have attended and/or assisted Kokoro no Gakko.
- Agree to use the scholarship money for your college education.

General Instructions:

Attach your most recent high school transcript which indicates latest grade point average (GPA).

Respond to the following questions (type or print legibly in black ink). Your effort and response to these questions weighs significantly to the reviewing committee.

1. When did you attend Kokoro no Gakko? If you attended several years, please indicate which years and grades you attended.
2. Did you do any volunteer work for Kokoro no Gakko? If so, please indicate which years, whom you assisted, and which class or teacher. How did you assist? What did you contribute to the classroom experience?
3. How has Kokoro no Gakko influenced your life?
4. What are your future goals for yourself? (You may include academic, professional or personal goals.)
5. What college or university are you planning to attend, and why?
6. Provide a list of volunteer or children related work you have done. What was the most rewarding of this experience?
7. You may (not required) add any additional short free form statement, video, music or art work that you feel may best reflect why you should receive this scholarship (no duplicate copies necessary).
8. Include your name and address, and mail postmarked or hand delivered to Patt Takeuchi no later than Friday, June 28, 2013.

Provide one original of scholarship packet.

The selection process: There will be a review of the written application by a Mito family member and scholarship coordinator. The final decision, if needed, will be by at least 2 founding board members.

Do not mail to the Gakko address. Deliver/mail application to:

Patt Takeuchi
15 Melwood Court
Watsonville, Ca. 95076
Telephone: (831) 728-5374
email: patt@ucsc.edu

You will be notified by mail if you are awarded this scholarship.

Thank you.
The Frank Mito Family Trust

2013 KEE KITAYAMA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP ATTENTION: ALL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS and THEIR PARENTS

The Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Chapter is delighted to announce that the 2013 Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarship(s) will total $1,000 or more for graduating high school seniors.

[Editor’s note: Kee Kitayama was our W-SC JACL President in 1987 who worked to secure the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. The Kitayama family is originally from Bainbridge Island, Washington and was, therefore, among the first to be evicted from the island and his home in early 1942.]

An applicant must be a 2013 National JACL Youth member ($25) with at least one parent who is also a 2013 member of the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Chapter and the National JACL. For JACL membership forms, please contact our membership chairperson Jeanette Hager at jeanette.otsuji.hager@gmail.com, or (831) 768-8689.

There are no application forms for our Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarship. However, interested high school seniors must submit the following information:

1. Official high school transcript with grade point average and class standing;
2. A résumé of school, community, and civic activities and awards, including your involvement with JACL;
3. A statement regarding your future goals and objectives;
4. One letter of recommendation from a non-relative adult;
5. One wallet-size photo (yearbook or graduation style with a light background if possible);
6. An essay of 500 to 750 words on either topic: “The Significance of the ‘Day of Remembrance’ Observance Today,” or “Remembering the Civil Liberties Act of August 10, 1988 (Redress and Reparations Act).”
Research materials on either topic are available by contacting Mas Hashimoto, hashi79@sbcglobal.net, the public libraries, and/or checking the Internet. Parents, grandparents and other relatives who were unjustly incarcerated in America’s concentration camps and who received the apology and reparations are excellent sources of primary research information.

Send your completed forms to Dr. Brooke Kondo, our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Chapter Scholarship Chairperson, on or before Tuesday, May 21st, 2013. They should be mailed to:

Dr. Brooke Kondo, Chairperson
JACL Scholarship Committee
P. O. Box 163
Watsonville, CA. 95077-0163

The presentation of the scholarship will take place on Saturday, June 22, 2013 during the JACL Annual Community Picnic, Aptos Village Park in Aptos.

REKISO “RAY” AND HISAKO “LOUISE” SAKO SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2013! ATTENTION: HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND COLLEGE GRADUATES

The Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Chapter is excited to announce two new scholarships established in honor of Rekiso “Ray” and Hisako “Louise” Sako.

1. 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.

2. 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. An applicant must be a Youth/Student member of the National JACL ($25), a member of the Westview Presbyterian Church, or a member of the Watsonville Buddhist Temple. For a JACL membership application form, please contact our membership chairperson, Jeannette Otsuji Hager at jeannette.otsuji.hager@gmail.com, call (831) 768-8689, or check www.watsonvillesantacruzjacl.org.

For the undergraduate Sako Scholarship, the requirements include the following:

1. Official transcript from an accredited high school with grade point average of 3.0 or higher;
2. A résumé of school, community, and civic activities and awards, including your involvement with JACL and/or with the church/temple;
3. A statement regarding your future goals and objectives;
4. One letter of recommendation from a non-relative adult;
5. One photo (a wallet-size yearbook or graduation style with a light background, if possible);
6. Acceptance by an accredited academic college or university.

For the graduate Sako Scholarship, a letter from the candidate on the goals of his/her graduate studies program with an accompanying letter of recommendation from the supervising professor that the candidate has been accepted to the graduate program are required. The letters should be mailed to Dr. Brooke Kondo, our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Chapter Scholarship Chairperson.

All Sako Scholarship recipients must verify they are maintaining a 3.0 or better GPA in order for their scholarship to continue.

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Brooke Kondo at Broooke.kondo@gmail.com.

Mail or deliver your completed forms and letters on or before Tuesday, May 21st, 2013 to:

Dr. Brooke Kondo, Chairperson
W-SC JACL Scholarship Committee
P. O. Box 163
Watsonville, CA. 95077-0163

The presentation of the scholarships will take place on Saturday, June 22, 2013 during the JACL Annual Community Picnic, Aptos Village Park in Aptos.

WATSONVILLE’S KAWAKAMI SISTER CITY STUDENTS ARE ON THEIR WAY by Robb Mayeda

The twelve Watsonville students and their families are preparing for the trip to Tokyo and Kawakami-mura. They are set to fly from San Francisco to Tokyo on May 7. The group includes two 8th graders, two 6th graders and the eight 7th graders. They are: Jacqueline Lopez-Diaz, Autumn Ricketts from Cesar Chavez M.S.; Ruby Gonzalez, Maria Corona, Evelyn Torres-Topete from E.A. Hall; Alex Wong, Bryanna Crick from Lakeview M.S.; Julie Quintana-Martinez, Roxana Arrona from Rolling Hills M.S.; Braelen Addison from Linscott Charter School; Luis Garcia-Ponce from Alianza Charter School; and Emma Thomas from Kokoro no Gakko. (Emma is the niece of Zane and Holly Ota.) This year’s chaperones are Rick Ito, principal of Rolling Hills, Joann Borbolla, counselor at E.A. Hall and Teresa Martinez, Rolling Hills School Site Council. Ms. Martinez’ family has hosted Kawakami students a number of times and her daughters, Julie and Jackie, have been school guides for Kawakami students at Rolling Hills.

Besides the monthly meeting, April included a “practice” Japanese dinner followed by a car wash at Ramsey Park the next morning, on Saturday, April 20. The students ate 15 different food items, mostly prepared by Robb Mayeda and Phyllis Nagamine. The dinner has been held at the Renaissance High School cafeteria for the past seven springs. It started when Robb was principal there and familiar with the kitchen, cafeteria setup and alarm system. The dinner was brought out in courses that usually contained three food items. Robb told the students about the ingredients and how to properly eat it. The students learned why some of the foods were used in Japan, but also how the food might compare to American or Mexican dishes. The students were prepared to select foods in Japanese restaurants that they might favor or others. For instance, udon or soba may be more palatable to the less adventurous student compared to maguro sashimi (or even bashashi which is a regional delicacy in Nagano-ken). A poll at the
end of the dinner revealed that the students’ favorites were miso soup and udon.

This year’s participants in the Kawakami-Watsonville Sister City Exchange program are, from upper left, Julissa Quintana-Martinez, Roxanna Arrona, Evelyn Torres-Topete, Alex Wong, Luis Garcia-Ponce, Ruby Gonzalez, Maria Corona. In the front row, Jacqueline Lopez-Diaz, Autumn Ricketts and Brianna Crick. Photo by Todd Guild/Register-Pajaronian.

There is one fundraiser left, a website on www.indiegogo.com that accepts donations for the Kawakami Watsonville Sister City Association.

The demonstration of creating a magnificent bonsai out of raw material by Katsumi Kinoshita, of Monterey, will begin at 1:30 pm. A raffle of bonsai items will follow the demonstration. A plant vender will be available for those of you who want an unusual or just an extra plant. 

Tea & cookies will also be served. The exhibit is free, but a $3 contribution at the door would be appreciated.

For further information, please contact Don White at 831-724-9283, or Email: whiteslib@aol.com.

CARD MAKING WORKSHOP

By Bonnie Chihara

We will be having our card-making workshop again on Sunday, May 5th from 2:30-5:30 pm at Kizuka Hall 150 Blackburn St., Watsonville, CA 95076. We will work on the iris folding technique with Mother’s Day and Spring being the themes for this workshop. If you’ve taken this class before and would like to take it again, we will have new templates and lace cutouts to accent your cards.

The cost is $15 and includes all supplies and materials. Please contact Bonnie Chihara at 831-662-1895 or email kyoko55@hotmail.com to sign up for this workshop.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS By the Editor

Mas spoke about our wartime incarceration on Saturday, March 30th, at the Robert Louis Stevenson School located at Pebble Beach to over 70 students, faculty and parents at the invitation of the Japanese language teacher, Shinobu Nakashima.

Pictured before the bronze plaque of Robert Louis Stevenson (center) are Andy Chuang, senior, from Taiwan; Joseph Lee, senior from Korea (who speaks five languages); Japanese language instructor Shinobu Nakashima; Esther Miller, a junior from NY who has lived in Japan with her US diplomatic mother; and Mas Hashimoto.

Watsonville Bonsai President, Iwao Yamashita, will exhibit a favorite personal bonsai.
On Saturday, April 13th, Mas was invited to be the keynoter at the DREAM conference, hosted by the migrant students and their parents of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District. Over 400 students from the 6th grade to the 12th grade were in attendance. Mas spoke as an “experienced” farm worker from age 10 and of his and his mother’s DREAM.

Then, on Friday, April 26th Mas spoke to 400 juniors of Watsonville High School in the morning and then to 75 juniors of Pajaro Valley High School in the afternoon. All were studying WW II in US History.

On Monday, May 27th, Mas will be the keynote speaker at the VFW Golden Gate Nisei Memorial Post #9879 annual Memorial Day ceremony held at the Golden Gate National Cemetery, 1300 Sneath Lane, in San Bruno. This event is co-sponsored by the NCWNPD and the SF JACL.

I am grateful for the invitations to speak to students about the racism that led to our wartime experience and incarceration.

Watsonville Taiko entertained us royally: The children in the photo are Skye Horton, Genji Nagel, Eileen Hanayama, Shoren Hanayama, Amir Roque, Inti Roque and Becka Tavish.

May Calendar of events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 5    | Sun   | 10 am | Sunday Service & Shotsuki Hoyo Dharma School Class  
|      |       |       | Bonsai Show |
| 7    | Tue   | 7:30 pm | Temple Board Meeting |
| 8    | Wed   | 1 pm  | BWA Meeting |
| 9    | Thu   | 10 am | ABA Meeting |
| 10   | Fri   | 2 pm  | San Juan Howakai |
| 12   | Sun   | 10 am | Mother's Day Sunday Service |
| 19   | Sun   | 10 am | Sunday, Late Bishops' Memorial & Gotan E Service with luncheon |
| 22   | Wed   | 7:15 pm | Coast District Meeting in Watsonville |
| 26   | Sun   | Memorial Day Cemetery Services  
|      |       | 9 am Pioneer Cemetery, Freedom Blvd  
|      |       | 10 am Pajaro Valley Memorial Park  
|      |       | 1 pm Santa Cruz  
|      |       | 3 pm San Juan Bautista  
|      |       | 4 pm Hollister |
| 28   | Tue   | 7pm   | Teriyaki Meeting |

Shotsuki Hoyo Service

10am Sunday May 5, 2013

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 of May are invited to attend the service and to offer incense. We look forward to seeing you at the service.

May Memorial Service

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hideo Akiyama</td>
<td>Jutaro Akiyoshi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fumiye Akiyoshi</td>
<td>Fujie Aramaki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akiharu Arao</td>
<td>Tamehachi Arao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akino Chihara</td>
<td>Yayeno Etow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Flanagan</td>
<td>Chiyoko Fujii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sumito Fujii</td>
<td>Yuichi Fujii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Yoshio Fujita</td>
<td>Hideo Hashimoto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noriyuki Hashimoto</td>
<td>Kichiyo Hayashida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mariko Higaki</td>
<td>Fumio Hirahara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Takeso Hirahara</td>
<td>Frank Yoshimi Horibe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somekichi Ikeda</td>
<td>Yasutaro Iwami</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fumiyo Izumizaki</td>
<td>Haru Kodotani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ippei Kajihara</td>
<td>Saka Kawasaki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Kimura</td>
<td>Kichiemon Kuroiwa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toshikazu Maemura</td>
<td>Youemon Marui</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitsuo Matsunami</td>
<td>Yoshino Misumi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Okon Morikawa</td>
<td>Reymo Morimoto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yoshi Morimoto</td>
<td>Chieko Morishima</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiroshi Munotaka</td>
<td>Betty Nishita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misako Kawasaki Ouchida</td>
<td>Michiko Sakamoto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yoshimi Sakaue</td>
<td>Hideji Shibata</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Watsonville Buddhist Temple News

Mrs. Eiko Sakaguchi pours sweet tea over the statue of the Buddha during the service.

Perry and Kim Yoshida, chairs

We want to thank all of our members, organizations, and non-members that unconditionally volunteered countless hours and/or participated to help make this year’s Hanamatsuri Flower Festival a success! We couldn’t have done it without each and every one of you!

We also thank the community for your continuous support and hope to see you all again next year!
George Shirachi  
Rin Takamune  
Hisa Tawamoto  
Yoshie Tsuji  
Gary Uchimaru  
Shizue Uchimaru  
Teiko Uyematsu  
Emi Yamamoto  

Senzo Yoshii  

Watsonville Buddhist Women’s Association  
For the Gotan E and Bishop Memorial Services, the BWA will provide lunch and desserts. We look forward to seeing our Sangha at the service & lunch.  
Thank you to Chairpersons Perry and Kim Yoshida for a very successful Hanamatsuri Festival. The foods, displays and demonstration were wonderful.  
Thank you BWA members and non-members for your hard work in preparing sushi for the Hanamatsuri Festival. Without your dedicated help our sushi would not have been made. Please come to help again in July for our Obon Festival.  
Thank you, Aileen Kawasaki and Terry Hirahara, for preparing 70 beautiful flower pens which were given to the members of the JACL Senior Center in celebration of Hanamatsuri on April 4.  

YBA Update May 2013  
This year’s anticipated CD YBL Conference at the San Jose Betsuin went very well. Thirteen members and seven chaperones received their letters to attend the school of witchcraft and wizardry. The delegates were emerged in the world of Harry Potter as it was the theme of the exciting conference: Harry Potter and the Path to Enlightenment. We spent the day in our groups of fellow YBA members embarking on various adventures learning who we truly are, searching for horcruxes, and showing off our theatrical talents. The day was wrapped up with a magical dance with plenty of delicious, Potter-themed desserts and boba drink potions. All of the months of planning and prepping really paid off! We want to thank Ken Tanimoto for guiding us in our workshop and Peter Hester for designing our conference logo. We would also like to thank Hoseki Designs, BCA Bookstore and Reed Kuratomi for their generous donations to the workshop.  
We’ll be sending a team to the Bay District YBL Volleyball Tournament this Memorial Day weekend in Alameda.  
Thank you everyone for supporting our Pancake Feed on March 24th. It was a big success! Hope you all enjoyed your pancakes and ham.  
Along with Dharma School, we sold baked goods and produce for the Hanamatsuri Bazaar on April 7th.  
Dharma School: The biennial Pet Memorial Service, open to members and non Temple members, was held on April 24: Many brought a picture or some item of their pet. Rev. Hanayama called their names during the service on April 21st. Refreshments were served after the service.  
Temple Board:  
Howard Tao: You will be missed by so many people.  

You always had a smile and a cheerful greeting. When we hear Japanese music in the gym, we will think of you. Good bye, Howard…..you live in our hearts.  
Hanamatsuri: Thank you to those who helped with the chicken preparation and sales. Thank you, Kim Yoshida, for our sales signs.  
Iwao Yamashita has donated the screen partitions used during Hanamatsuri.  
Former Eagle Scout Charles Streig is now helping out as Assistant Scout Master. The Scouts will be watching stars from Fremont’s Peak.  
Everyone who went on the casino bus trip on March 24 had a great time. Thank you, Perry Yoshida, Toshiko Yamashita and Jackie Yamashita, for assisting with the trip.  
Ryoko Kozuki and her crew will provide dinner for the upcoming Coast District meeting hosted by Watsonville Temple on May 22nd.  

WESTVIEW PRESBYTERIAN HIGHLIGHTS  
By Leslie Nagata-Garcia and Randy Mano  
Easter Sunday at Westview  
More than eighty people attended our Easter Service. An Easter egg hunt took place after Worship Service, and kids filled their Easter baskets/bags full of goodies. The adults were not left out as they also received Easter bags full of Easter treats. A scrumptious potluck luncheon was served and a raffle for all ages took place. It was a perfect memorable day to spend time with family and friends.  
After worship services, the youngsters are given instructions on how to look for eggs by Marlon Veal.  

Two and ½ year old, Jason Barte, with grandmother Jeanni Kadotani, is an experienced egg gatherer.
Alan Yagi, Robb and Dorothy Mayeda, and Louise Sako are enjoying the potluck fellowship time after Easter Service at the United Presbyterian Church.

Upcoming Youth/Family Events

Spring is already here, and summer will be just around the corner! And what a better way to enjoy these seasons than to attend our upcoming youth and family events. Each event is guaranteed to be fun-filled! Everyone is welcome so mark your calendars for the following dates:

May 3rd:  “Kids’ choice game nite!” 5:30 – 8 p.m., Westview
May 17th: Beach Party and Bonfire at Rio Del Mar Beach from 3:00 pm – 9:00 pm.
June 7th:  Everything frisbee! From golf, ultimate, juggling, distance rolling, skipping.
June 21st:  2nd annual WCP youth Olympics. Last year’s event was so successful that we had to make this an annual event.
June 22nd (Saturday):  JACL Community Picnic – Come to Aptos Village Park for a day of games, raffle and great food! Bring the whole family!
July 5th:  Theme game night (Youth Gym Nite). Westview, 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm.
July 20th:  Pool Party! At the Kadotani’s house. Always a crowd pleaser! Thank you, David & Jeanni for opening up your home to Westview members and friends.
August 2nd:  2nd annual Church lock-in overnighter.
August 16th:  Beach Party at the Church – volleyball, croquet, paddle ball, bocci ball, roasting hot dogs and marshmallows over a fire.

Photos are from the April 19th Youth Gym Nite.

Westview to Receive Historic Landmark Blue Plaque

The Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History, 705 Front Street, Santa Cruz, will be presenting Westview with a History Landmark “Blue Plaque” award on May 4, 2013 from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. This free educational event will introduce you to the rich architectural history and diversity of our county. The blue plaques are awarded to structures of architectural or historic significance throughout Santa Cruz County and highlight these structures, educate the public, and provide visibility for successful preservation.

Thursday Study Series

We are continuing the series on “Conceptions of the afterlife and how this affects how we live in the present.” We are studying the book Life After Death: The Evidence by Dinesh D’Souza. Thursday Study Series are held the 2nd and 4th Thursdays (May 9th and 23rd) of each month, 6:30 p.m., at Westview.

Sunday Message Series: We will continue to study the Gospel of Matthew in Pastor Dan’s series entitled “Come and See!” with the hope that we will grow to love Jesus more deeply.

Worship Team for May 5, 2013

Pulpit: Rev. Dan Hoffman
Chair: Randy Mano
Greeter: David Kadotani
Usher: Lynne Nagata, Edna Nagata
Pianist: Evelyn Veal
Refreshments: Faye Hashitani, Gabriela Church
Counters: Willie & Joanne Yahiro

Worship Team for May 12, 2013

Pulpit: Rev. Dan Hoffman
Chair: David Kadotani
Greeter: Craig Yuhara
Usher: Dick Wong
Pianist: Lynne Nagata
Refreshments: Special Mother’s Day Luncheon
Counters: Willie & Joanne Yahiro

Worship Team for May 19, 2013

Pulpit: Rev. Dan Hoffman
Chair: Edna Nagata
Greeter: Gabriela Church
Usher: Joanne Yahiro
Pianist: Joanne Hayashi
Refreshments: Diane Mio, Jeanni Kadotani
Counters: David & Jeanni Kadotani
IN REMEMBRANCE …

HISAE TAO

WATSONVILLE — Hisae Tao died with her family at her side on Saturday, April 6, 2013, in Mountain View. She was 92.

Mrs. Tao was born in Gilroy. However, she spent most of her life in the Pajaro Valley. While in Poston, Ariz. during WWII, she married Shigeo Tao. They returned to Watsonville and eventually became strawberry farmers for many years and raised their family.

Mrs. Tao is survived by her three children, Roger (Pat) Tao, John (Nita) Tao and Nancy (Reed) Kuratomi; brother, Tom Akiyama; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, Shigeo Tao.

The memorial service was held on Saturday, April 20 at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple.

TAKERU OKAMOTO

CASTROVILLE — Takeru Okamoto of Castroville died peacefully on Sunday, April 14, 2013, at Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital following a stroke. He was 83.

He was born on Jan. 14, 1930, in Kagoshima, Japan, the youngest child of Shinkichi and Oto Okamoto. In 1955, Mr. Okamoto immigrated to the United States, first to Visalia, then to Los Angeles where he worked as a gardener. He married Itsuko Hamada in 1958, and they started a family. In 1973, the family moved to Castroville where they started a flower growing business, and continued until he retired in 1994.

Mr. Okamoto was a member of the Watsonville Buddhist Temple, Japanese American Citizens League, Kagoshima Kenjinkai, and Nansatsu Doshi kai.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Itsuko; sons, Michael, Charles, Frank and Roy; sisters, Toki Arimura and Tsuya Okamoto. He was preceded in death by his brother, Hisao Okamoto; and sister, Hine Kajisa.

The memorial service was held on Sunday, April 21, 2013 at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple.

We send our deepest condolences to the Tao and Okamoto families, relatives, and friends.

DONATIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED FROM …

Day of Remembrance Education Fund

Education
Vivianne and Darryl Hoshiyama of Rowland Heights
Newsletter
Shigeo and Asayo Akiyoshi
Anonymous
Kurt Kurasaki of San Juan Bautista

Esther Ura in memory of Frank Enomoto
Esther Ura in memory of Takeru Okamoto
Janice Tao in memory of her husband, Howard Tao
In memory of Howard Tao from …
Mas and Marcia Hashimoto
Chiyoko Shikuma
Esther Ura
In memory of Hisae Tao from …
Mas and Marcia Hashimoto
Esther Ura
Jennifer Gavin in memory of Mary Meifu
Peggy Nunes

Gerald and Nancy Yamada
Donation of a metal file cabinet and large book shelf.

SENIOR CENTER NEWS by Kitako Izumizaki

― “One-Day Senior Trip to Chukchansi Gold Casino,” Coarsegold, Tues., May 7, 2013, 8 am to 7:30 pm. $10 e-cash, $5 food coupon. Cost: Active Senior Members $30 and others $35. Good seats are available. For reservations: call Carol Kaneko (831) 476-7040 or Rubie Kawamoto (831) 464-6721. Non-Senior Center members are welcome to join us! ―

Easter week found Seniors greeted by decorated tables in an Easter motif, the work of Helen Nakano with the help of Susan AmRhein. Hanging deco-balls with rabbit container holding a chocolate egg was in each place sitting. Head table held an Easter egg tree with tiny figurines inside. Westview Presbyterian Church sent over a large cut-out paper rabbit wearing a colorful tie and holding a basket of chocolate candies. We appreciate all their hard work and thoughtfulness every year.

Seniors started out the month of April with Hanamatsuri. The head table held a lovely bonsai pine and a large bouquet of yellow and rust colored...
mums with quince blossoms and reeds. Individual table flowers were colorful spar axis. Manager Iwao Yamashita opened the session with greetings to all, which was followed by a moment of silence for all departed members. God Bless America was then sung and Rev. Shousei Hanayama from the local Buddhist Temple invited all to the Hanamatsuri Festival, April 7th. He explained when Buddha was born, that flower festival was showing when and where he was born ... in a garden. He also thanked all for the invitation. Guests were Rev. and Mrs. Hanayama, son Shoren and daughter Eileen with Aileen Kawasaki, Kiiko Akiyama, Aiko Nita and Ryoko Suruki from the BWA. Aileen Kawasaki gave the greetings and thanks for the invitation.

Entertainment followed with the BWA and the Hanayama family singing, “Happy Birthday Oshakasama,” while holding red and white carnations, the donations of Kiiko Akiyama. Photos by Carol Kaneko.

Left photo: Cake cutting by Seniors 90 and over at Hanamatsuri: Sam Sugidono (90), Nancy Iwami (98), Rev. Hanayama, Masako Miura (98), Yoshino Matano (97), Ray Sako (96), Louise Sako (96), Haruko Yoshii (95), Miyeko Yamashita (95), Mitzi Katsuyama (92), Michi Hamada (91), Hideko Nagamine (92), Kitako Izumizaki (91).

Words of appreciation were given by manager Paul Kaneko who thanked all for faithfully coming and taking an active part in the various programs. Bingo followed with Rev. Hanayama giving grace before the group sat down to enjoy the boxed obento from Sushi Gardens. What a wonderful way to end a lovely Thursday.

Many thanks to hard working tobans Nobue Fujii, Kimiyo Fujii, Eiko and George Stewart and Iwao Yamashita.

Monetary donations gratefully received from Sam Sakamoto, the BWA, and Aileen Kawasaki

Other donations gratefully received:

Westview Presbyterian Church Easter basket for all
Shirley Nishimoto 3 doz eggs
Eiko Ceremony 7 avocados
June/Sunao Honda 8 plates sygum 10 pkgs katsu and toasted seaweed
Sharon Lowenstein box of popcorn, 2 bags pretzels, 1 bag almonds
Kitako Izumizaki 9 sweet potato pies
Hide/Akira Nagamine 8 daikon, doz big rolls paper towels
Mitsuko Ruble doz lge rolls paper towels
Haruko Yoshii 2 bags chagashi
Susan AmRhein cup cakes for all
Eiko Nishihara 2 so double roll tissues
Satoko Yamamoto 6 big rolls tissues
Kinji/Motoko House 5 sq Kleenex, 2 boxes foil, doz double tissues
JoAnn Year 2 lge bags chocolate candy
Hisako/Akira Kodama doz jars tsukemono (koko)
Rubie Kawamoto 3 bags chagashi, 6 sq Kleenex
Dylan Matsuo and twins 1 box Girl Scout cookies, 1 box “gold fish,” 1 bag rice crackers
Nobue Fujii 1 box lemons, 4 jars cauliflower tsukemono, 2 bags fujikake
Terry Hirahara/Aileen Kawasaki 70 flower pens
Toshi Yamashita 2 lge bags chagashi
Mitsuyo Tao 30 roll tissues, Jpn tapes
Yaeko Cross 6 double roll tissues, 8 rolls Bounty towels
Chie Sakaue flowers for all, more flowers
Emi Hirano DVDs
Sam Sugidono 6 ramen
Chiyoko Yagi 4 bags chips
Judy Hane 16 rolls Bounty paper towels
Miye Yamashita 9 pkgs roasted seaweed
Jane Sugidono 3 pkgs sushi nori
Betty/Fred Oda doz big rolls paper towels
Edna/Yukio Nagata 8 rolls paper towels.

Upcoming May Activities at the Senior Center:
Thurs May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Regular Bingo
Thurs, May 2, 9 Chukchansi Gold Casino trip
Tues, May 7 Mother’s Day Celebration; Hong Kong Gardens 4:15 pm
Thurs, May 16 April/May Birthday Party

Again many, many thanks for all your continued generosity. See you next month.

WATSONVILLE TAIKO AND SHINSEI DAIKO
By Bonnie Chihara
April was a very busy month for Watsonville Taiko. We participated in 8 performances! We enjoyed playing at Watsonville Buddhist Temple’s Hanamatsuri Festival. For some of our kids, this was their first performance after having taken taiko classes for only 4 weeks.

The next weekend we played at Morgan Hill for the Haru Matsuri. As usual it was sunny but windy but we all enjoyed the day. We watched other taiko groups from around the bay area while munching on the delicious food.

Karen Groppi, Pam Dalley-La Mica, Herlie Kataoka and Sandy Allen played at the Harumatsuri in Morgan Hill.

At this year’s Santa Cruz Japanese Cultural Fair we will be serving our yakitori combination plate as well as fried mochi and taiyaki. We hope to see everyone there.

Our upcoming schedule:
- May 11th: Human Race Natural Bridges
- May 18th: Santa Cruz Rejuvenation Festival San Lorenzo Park
- June 8th: Japanese Cultural Fair Mission Plaza
- June 22nd: JACL Community Picnic, Aptos
- July 6th: Campfire Days New Brighton Beach
- July 28th: Wharf to Wharf
- October: Watsonville Taiko’s 22nd Anniversary
- Nov 17th: Big Sur Half Marathon Asilomar

Japanese Cultural Fair, June 8, 2013
By Paul Kaneko

The Japanese Cultural Fair (JCF) will be held on Sat., June 8th at the Mission Plaza Park in Santa Cruz from 11 am to 6 pm. Come celebrate the 27th anniversary of this very popular, free event in Santa Cruz. The Fair will have many of the performances and activities that have been so popular with Fair goers.

However, because of reduced grant funding, the free shuttle service to and from the County Government Center had to be eliminated. Donations are still needed and very much appreciated. Please send your generous tax-deductible donations to JCF, P.O. Box 3458, Santa Cruz, CA 95063. Thank you!

The 2012 Japanese Cultural Fair documentary by Community Television of Santa Cruz County (CTV) can be viewed on www.jcfsantacruz.org, JCF’s website. Tell us what you think of the documentary.

The W-SC JACL is a JCF co-sponsor. Come visit their booth to say “Hi!” Flyer designed by Linda Levy.

WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL

Thank you for your National JACL membership and for your continuing support of our important programs.

We strongly believe that every person of Japanese ancestry should belong to the National Japanese American Citizens League, and we welcome friends of all ethnic backgrounds to join JACL as full members who are devoted to the principles of justice, fair play, and equality under the US Constitution.

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

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.

Onward!
Mas Hashimoto, Editor

OUR SENIOR MOMENTS

What do we want? Better memory!
When do we want it? Want what?

A senior golfer tells his friends he must quit playing because he can no longer see the ball in flight. He has no idea where his ball lands. A friend suggests he play with “John” who has eagle eyes.

A tee time is scheduled. On the first tee, he hits his drive and asks John, “Did you see it?”

“Yup,” replies John.

“Well, where is it?”

“I forgot.”
Danny Souza ably chaired the 2013 Hanamatsuri Service; Rev. Hanayama spoke of the significance and meaning of Hanamatsuri, a young family participated in pouring sweet tea over the statue in the Hanamido; Displays and exhibition of bonsai, demonstration by students of Salinas’ Kendo club, an odori (Japanese dance) performed by Makena and Tiara Nitao, ages 7 and 5; a beautiful Ikenobo arrangement delighted those in attendance; an appreciative audience; a special debut of Elen Hanayama, the youngest taiko drummer; Ryoko Kozuki, Phyllis Nagamine, and JoAnn Kato helped with the floral display and raffle prizes; the Smiley family admires and enjoys the doll display; Pam Yoshida displayed her hand-crafted Girl’s Day display; L to R = Reiko Itamura, Masanori (Isako) Wasano-Director, Nellie Kitamura, Kris Kitamura and Yuki Baishiki of San Jose. The group, Mataro Miyabi Kai Northern California Shibu, explained how carefully and artistically the dolls, Benkei and others, are made.
Deputy Consul General Nobuhiro Watanabe spoke on the friendship between Japan and the United States, most notably of Watsonville; Presenter Mas Hashimoto with "Willie the Wildcat," mascot of WHS; ASB President Brittany Hackwell accepted the tree as a gift from the Nikkei community; Nancy Tada Iwami, Class of 1933, age 98, with Kitako Tsuda Izumizaki, Class of 1940; tree planting by George Garcia and James Hurtado; Mas Hashimoto '53, WHS Principal Elaine Legorreta ’78, Mayor Lowell Hurst, Deputy CG Watanabe, ASB President Brittany Hackwell 2013, Santa Cruz County Supervisor Greg Caput, Nancy Iwami, Kitako Izumizaki, "Willie," back Victor Kimura '62, Cindy and Gary Mine '73, and Robb Mayeda '70. Photos by Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian and Marcia Hashimoto.
THE WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL 2013 ANNUAL

Community Picnic

Free admission! Join us for a day of family fun! Everyone is welcome!

Saturday, June 22, 2013

11:00 AM — 4:30 PM
Aptos Village Park
100 Aptos Creek Rd.
GPS: N 36 58.644, W 121 54.154

Lunch
Teens & Adults to 69 Years $7
Seniors 70 Years & Up $4
Children 6 to 12 Years $4
Children 5 Years & Under FREE

11:00-Noon Races and Senior Bingo

Noon LUNCH! BBQ chicken, hot dogs, chili beans, rice, salad, French bread and beverages

1:00-3:00 More Races and Senior Bingo

3:00-3:10 Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarship, and Rekiso “Ray” & Hisako “Louise” Sako Scholarships Presentations

3:10-4:30 Raffle with many great prizes!

Featured Entertainment
Watsonville Taiko

For more information, contact the Watsonville-Santa Cruz Japanese American Citizens League:
Email: wsc.jacl@gmail.com or visit us at http://www.watsonvillesantacruzjacl.org

General public parking is at the upper lot area. Clearance is needed for fire trucks, so there is no parking along the driveway down to the park.

Lower parking area is reserved for our volunteers, Seniors, handicapped, and Watsonville Taiko.
Seniors’ Corner
May 2013 ck
WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL SENIOR CENTER TOURS

One-Day Senior Trip
Chukchansi Gold Casino, Coarsegold
May 7, 2013 [Tuesday] 8:00 AM to 7:30 PM
$10 e-cash $5 food coupon
Cost: Active Senior Members $30 and others $35
Reservations: Carol Kaneko 476-7040 or Rubie Kawamoto 464-6721
Non-Senior Center members are welcome to join us! Seats still available!

If you have suggestions for places where our Seniors would enjoy a one-day or multiple-day trip or you can help in the planning of such trips, please call Carol Kaneko at 476-7040. We are open to your suggestions. Thank you.

Upcoming May Activities at the Senior Center:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. May 2, 23, 30</td>
<td>Regular Bingo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues., May 7</td>
<td>Chukchansi Gold Casino One-day trip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs., May 9</td>
<td>Mother’s Day Celebration; Hong Kong Gardens 4:15 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs., May 16</td>
<td>April/May Birthday Party</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please join our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Senior Center! If you enjoy playing bingo, celebrating special birthdays and holiday occasions, and going on trips, and would like to regularly receive health information and have your blood pressure monitored, join us for our Thursday get-togethers. We’d love to have you and your spouse and/or friends join us. “Active Senior Center Members,” who have paid their membership dues and who make annual birthday and Senior Center anniversary donations, are eligible for reduced fares on our trips. Please contact Carol Kaneko (831) 476-7040 for registration information. Since our Senior Center operates under the auspices of both our local JACL chapter and the National JACL, we encourage all members of the Senior Center to be members of the National JACL through our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL chapter.

HELP WANTED! The Senior Center is always looking for able-bodied, caring, fun-loving volunteers (any and all ages welcome) to help out weekly (or once a month or so) with toban duties. We need your help on Thursdays from 12:30 to 3:15 pm to help our toban teams prepare tea, set out the tea and snacks, and clean up. You are invited to play bingo with us while you wait for clean up time – who knows what goodies you might take home! Let us know if you can help out on one or more Thursdays each month. Call Susan AmRhein at (831) 724-9454 to volunteer and have some fun.

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

No Increase in the 2013 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 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 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: c/o Jeanette Otsuji Hager, Membership Chair, P. O. Box 163, Watsonville, CA 95077

Thank you so much for your support.

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