THE WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL
Newsletter November 2012

“SALUTING OUR JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS” ON NOVEMBER 10TH, 2012

The Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL is honored to pay tribute to the Japanese Americans who fought and sacrificed in America’s wars with a special two-part program on Saturday, November 10th.

Members, friends, and especially veterans and their families—Sansei, Yonsei, and Gosei children—are most welcome. It promises to be an outstanding event—one that you and your family should not miss.

There is no charge for this W-SC JACL event, and light refreshments will be served at the JACL Hall.

Part I: At 12:30 pm, we will meet at Pajaro Valley Memorial Park’s flag pole, Hecker Pass Road, Watsonville, to rededicate the 1963 Watsonville J.A.C.L. and VFW Nisei Post 9446 plaque, weather permitting. In case of rain, we will meet at the JACL Hall. Dress warmly.

Pfc Henry Izumizaki (above left) was killed in the “Battle for the Texas Lost Battalion.” His older brother, James Izumizaki, in the US Army before December 7, 1941, visited his kid brother’s grave at Epinal, France (above right) after the battle. Their Gold Star mother, Fumiyo Izumizaki, wished her son’s body be returned for burial in his beloved Pajaro Valley. Henry is buried near our American flag that flies proudly every day.

Part II: From 1 pm, we will meet at the Tokushige Kizuka JACL Hall, 150 Blackburn Street, Watsonville, CA 95076.

This program will begin with a welcoming address by W-SC JACL President Tosh Tanaka; Pledge of Allegiance by all; invocation by Rev. Shousei Hanayama of the Watsonville Buddhist Temple; keynote speaker Mas Hashimoto, former US Sixth Army, Chemical Section, Presidio of San Francisco and US History teacher; and the VFW Freedom Post 1716 Honor Guard and bugler.

For our full, living color newsletter, log onto www.watsonvillesantacruzjacl.org, Newsletter, then the month.
President Tosh Tanaka’s welcome address will be followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the W-SC JACL Senior Center’s theme song, God Bless America.

Our keynote speaker will be 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team veteran and founder of Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans, Lawson Sakai.

We are delighted to present filmmaker Burt Takeuchi’s 90 minute film, Valor With Honor, which features our 442nd soldiers Henry Arao (Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart recipient), Shig Kizuka (Bronze Star and Purple Heart), and many others. A brief “question and answer” period will follow.

The grand finale will be W-SC JAClers Paul Kaneko and Tosh Tanaka who will unveil our new Henry Sadao Izumizaki Memorial exhibit which features seven Watsonville-Santa Cruz Nikkei soldiers who were killed during World War II:

Pfc. Charles S. Fujiki
Pfc. Victor Katsu Hada
Pfc. Paul Fumio Horiiuchi
Pfc. Henry Sadao Izumizaki
Pfc. Harry Fumio Madokoro
Sgt. George Ichiro Nakamura
Pvt. Kongo Nitta

Two Congressional Gold Medal replicas, donated by the family of MISers Tsuyoshi and Tadashi Hashimoto will be presented to the exhibit. If you have never held in your hand the Congressional Gold Medal replica, this will be your opportunity.

Our W-SC JACL officers and board of directors have been working diligently for the past several months on this event.

We are grateful to Cindy and Gary Mine who have located the grave sites of many of our deceased soldiers—WW II, Korean War, Vietnam and others—so that we can place American flags by their markers.

A big “thank you” to those who have placed flowers in the vases at the 1963 Watsonville J. A. C. L. and Nisei VFW Post 9446 plaque site and who have pulled the weeds! We, including the veterans’ families, truly appreciate your thoughtfulness and kindness.

We are grateful to Sam Sakamoto and Franz Steidl for the following list of deceased veterans. We acknowledge that it is by no means a complete list. It is our first effort to find and locate the gravesites. Some are buried in other cemeteries. Please look over this list and help us to correct and update it.

Contact Mas Hashimoto at 578 Vivienne Drive, Watsonville, CA 95076-3530 if your loved one—a veteran—is not on this list:

Akiyama, Hideo
Arao, Henry
Arao, Takenori
Fujiki, Charlie S
Fujita, Yoshio
Hamai, Yoneichi
Hashimoto, Tsuyoshi
Hashimoto, Walter
Higuchi, Takeo
Hirahara, Noboru
Hirokawa, Rocky Yukio
Ikeda, George
Isobe, Takeo
Iwami, Min
Izumizaki, Henry Sadao
Jofuku, Kaz
Kitahara, Art
Kizuka, Shigeru T.
Kokka, Henry
Manabe, Bob
Matsui, Tommy
Matsunami, Iwao
Mine, Bill Matao
Miyamoto, Mitchie
Morimune, Harry
Nakagawa, Eddie H.
Nakahara, Chick
Nakamoto, Masaru
Nitta, Kango
Nitta, Tokukuki
Oita, Katashi
Otsuki, Craig Issie
Otsuki, Thomas
Sakata, Tommy
Sakoda, George
Sera, Kazuo
Shimamoto, Frank
Tada, Richard “Dick”
Tao, Akira Bill
Torigoe, Kenji
Tsukiji, John
Uyeda, Florence
Wada, Hiroshi
Yamada, George
Yamamoto, Bob
Yamamoto, James
Yamashita, Tommy David

Arao, Aki
Arao, Tetsuo
Asaji, Yotsuya
Fujimoto, Joe
Hada, Katsu Victor
Hashimoto, Tatashi
Hashimoto, Hideo
Hashimoto, Mitsuru
Hirahara, Manabu
Hirano, Shig
Horiuchi, Paul Fumio
Ikeda, Henry
Ito, Frank H.
Izumizaki, Arthur
Izumizaki, James
Kato, Jerry
Kitahara, Burt
Kizuka, Bill Makio
Madokoro, Harry F.
Manabe, Suyeo
Matsumoto, George
Mayekawa, Mike
Mio, Kaz
Morimune, Shig
Murakami, Sunao
Nakagawa, Fred Kuso
Nakamori, Nick
Nakamura, George I.
Nitta, Thomas
Noda, Masaru “Buzz”
Ota, Zenichi
Otsuki, Jessie
Sakai, Seigo
Sakesagawa-Etow, Toshiko
Sakoda, Sam
Shikuma, Hiroshi
Tachibana, Mas
Takemoto, Katsumi
Tominaga, Tats
Tsukiya, Makoto
Ura, George
Uyematsu, Roy
Wada, Yosh George
Yamada, Julius
Yamamoto, George
Yamamoto, Richard

There are two women on this list.
VALOR WITH HONOR  By Esther Newman

Their families were in concentration camps. They were designated enemy aliens. Their rights as American citizens were denied.

“The government did us a big wrong and we had to prove how wrong they were,” said Frank Shimada. “The only way to prove it was by going to war and laying our life on the line.” Shimada, who had been interned at Heart Mountain, Wyoming is one of more than a dozen members of the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team who appear in the documentary, Valor With Honor by Burt Takeuchi. The feature-length film, to be screened at the W-SC JACL Tokushige Kizuka Hall, 150 Blackburn Street, Watsonville, CA at 2 pm, reveals the steep price these World War II veterans paid to prove their loyalty to America.

Burt Takeuchi; Mitch Miyamoto’s designed 442 patch.

Burt Takeuchi, a Los Angeles born Sansei, first learned about the 442nd as a boy in elementary school. “My neighbor, Nob Shimotsuka, was a member of the 442nd and loaned me his photo albums to take to school for show and tell,” recalled Burt. His interest in this heroic regiment increased through the years as he met and became friends with other Nisei vets. Burt thought about how best to preserve and tell the story of the most decorated regiment—21 Medals of Honor, and more than 500 Silver Stars and 9000 Purple Hearts—in the history of the United States armed forces.

Then, Burt lost several of his friends. “The fact that the vets were passing away at an alarming rate convinced me to create a documentary on these fascinating stories I heard over the years,” he wrote. “I wanted to make a film on the 442nd but did not have the skill at the time to produce one.”

Burt graduated in 1995 from San Jose State University with a degree in Biology, not the standard filmmaker credential. He had, however, taken courses in oral history at Cal State Long Beach. In addition, he had worked as an extra and an actor in several films. “One advantage of working on a Hollywood set,” shared Burt, “is that you can learn from the best (actors, technicians, directors, etc.) The editing and camera were self taught.” Burt certainly applied those skills effectively.

Valor With Honor unfolds in a straightforward manner, without editorializing, voiceovers, or extended historical context. Instead, the subjects speak, one after the other, about their experiences. Each person is filmed seated, at close range, giving viewers the sensation that they are guests, pulling up a chair in a living room to listen to stories that are as gripping now as they were more than sixty years ago. Burt showed “that these stories were first-hand and not all second-hand stories.”

Many of the interviewees were close comrades that Burt initially located through the JA community. “If you notice, some the vets interviewed were in the same platoons or companies. In some of the scenes in the film, the vets are recalling fighting very close to each other. Maybe 25 yards or less,” wrote Burt. “So each vet had a few friends from the war to contact. The idea to have vets from the same unit comment on specific historical events worked out well for the film.”

After a preliminary phone interview, Burt then filmed each subject, starting with a list of prepared questions. However, he “also let the interviewees go if they had something important to say” resulting in many hours of taped interviews. “Since I had so much footage,” explained Burt. “I wanted to show as much as possible and decided not to use a narrator to carry the story. This was risky since I could lose the audience without careful editing. I wanted to show the stories the way I heard them: raw, gritty, and not polished. War is horrible, and I didn’t want to gloss over that aspect of the interviews.”

The terrible conditions endured and the impossible odds faced are eloquently described by these veterans of the 442nd who lived the unit’s motto, Go For Broke. Cold and hungry before the Battle of Bruyeres in the Vosges Mountains of northeastern France, Al Takahashi of the 100th battalion described a rare treat of musubi and chicken. “I was ready to fight any German after that musubi and chicken.” His unit fought a fierce battle with German soldiers, earning a Presidential Unit Citation for liberating the townspeople of Bruyeres.

One of the most dramatic accomplishments of the 442nd was the rescue of the “Lost Battalion,” the 141st Infantry Division. Two-hundred-thirty soldiers, formerly from the Texas National Guard, were surrounded by German troops. After two failed attempts to rescue the 141st, Major General John Dahlquist sent the 442nd into treacherous conditions. The “Go For Broke” unit managed to break through enemy defenses in five days but in doing so, suffered enormous losses totaling more than 800 casualties.

Valor With Honor includes an interview of Al Tortolano, a member of the 141st Regiment, saved by the 442nd. “That’s what I call loyalty to a country,” he said. “For what they went through and for them to come as a unit and fight for a country like they did...how can you thank them enough?” Another Lost Battalion veteran, Irv
Blonder, noted that the 442nd never received their due. “We weren’t the heroes of the Lost Battalion, they were.”

The high number of casualties suffered by the 442nd illustrated both the extreme bravery of this unit but also, perhaps, the pervasive racism that the unit endured. Many veterans believe General Dahlquist saw the Japanese American unit as expendable “cannon fodder.” The veterans on Valor With Honor described racism before and during their military service but also faced discrimination after they returned home. Some of these brave soldiers had no home to return to, and most faced storefronts with “No Japs Allowed” signage posted. But Lawson Sakai, in the film, noted how the Issei pioneers had been treated badly and that the 442nd “needed to right that. The world has opened up... the Sansei and Yonsei have to remember that. It would not be like it is today,” without the battles the 442nd fought on and off the battlefield.

Valor With Honor preserves vivid first-hand accounts of fierce battles, dramatic rescues and the liberation of Jewish prisoners at Dachau. “I wanted to show the Nisei vets in a light that few have seen before. You hear about their accomplishments on the battlefield but not how they felt about their personal experiences,” wrote Burt. “It’s also a tribute to our vets who were willing to sacrifice their lives to a country that turned its back on them.”

Burt Takeuchi is by no means finished with this subject. “I am interested in producing an independent dramatic film on the 442nd but there is talk of a film in Hollywood also.” Perhaps he’ll be behind the camera as well as in front of it.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER LAWSON SAKAI**

Lawson Sakai was born in Los Angeles on Oct. 27, 1923 and is a graduate of Montebello High School, where, recently, he was inducted into the school’s Hall of Fame!

On December 8, 1941 (the day after Pearl Harbor), he tried to join the US Navy but was rejected because of its discriminatory regulations and practices.

His family then evacuated to Colorado in 1942.

In March 1943 Lawson volunteered for the 442nd RCT. He left to go overseas in May of 1944 and stayed overseas until November 1945. While overseas, he served in all of the 442nd major campaigns. During that time he was wounded four times, once seriously. In December 1945, he was discharged from the army.

He married Mineko Hirasaki of Gilroy, California on April 8, 1946. They have four children, ranging in age from 49 to 58. After leaving the service, Lawson operated a travel agency in San Jose, California. He sold the business in 1990 to retire.

Lawson, founder and President of the Family of Nisei Veterans, has been very active in the 442nd reunions. He recently led a group of 53 to Bruyeres, France for the 60th Anniversary of the liberation of Bruyeres, France by the 442nd. Please read the following article. A similar trip but this time to the battle sites in Italy is planned for 2013. Join us.

Lawson and Mineko currently reside in Morgan Hill.

**442ND VETERANS VISIT BATTLE GROUNDS IN ITALY AND FRANCE. CANNOT BELIEVE HOW THEY CLIMBED STEEP CLIFF OF MT. FOLGORITO IN 1945** By Lawson Sakai 442nd RCT

Po Valley, Italy and Bruyeres, France: Seven veterans of the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team, comprised of Japanese American volunteers from Hawaii and the Mainland USA, led a 52 person tour group to visit the sites of the final 442nd campaign in Italy and the Lost Battalion rescue operation in the Vosges Mountains of eastern France.

Lawson Sakai was the tour organizer and director of this memorable pilgrimage which included 442nd veterans.
Other acts of heroism of this sort would be recognized in June 2000 when, following a review, twenty Distinguished Service Crosses would be upgraded to Medals of Honor.

The group then went to the town of Bruyères, located five miles from Pietrasanta and famous for its high quality marble, where they were greeted by officials of the Association Nationale Partigiani Italiani (ANPI). From there they went to Mt. Folgorito, where, on the night of April 4, 1945 the 3rd Battalion scaled a steep cliff to position themselves at the top of the mountain. Meanwhile, the 100th Battalion scaled Mt. Folgorito from the other side. The objective was to dislodge and get the enemy to retreat to where the 2nd Division was positioned to cut them down. At 5:00 AM on the morning of April 5, the 442nd launched their daring plan which caught the Germans asleep. In 32 minutes the “impregnable” German defense, known as the Gothic line, was breached. The 92nd Infantry Division failed to do this in the preceding five months.

The group selected four 442nd veterans to scale the cliff. The Italian Park Ranger transported them by jeep to within 200 yards from the summit. They climbed but considered the last 50 yards too steep. They stopped, however, Sakai and the Park Ranger made it to the top where they planted the 442nd/ANPI banner. Shig Kizuka, who was the third man to the top of the mountain that morning in 1945, couldn’t believe what he saw, “How did we climb up there at night with all our equipment. I wouldn’t want to climb it in the daytime,” he mused.

On July 13 the group proceeded to the American Military Cemetery in Epinal, France where another thirteen 442nd KIAs are interred. Over 20 French partisans and two young Europeans, who are 442nd historians, greeted them and provided details of the rescue of elements of the 141st Regiment, 36th (Texas) Division, which the press dubbed the “Lost Battalion”. The historians are Gilles Guignard from Geneva, Switzerland, and Pieter Oosterman from Holland, both wearing WW II US Army uniforms. After a dignified memorial service, that included the placement of a wreath and the burning of incense, the group visited the Nisei gravesites, including Tamtosu Hirahara of Honolulu, HI and Hachi Mukai of Morgan Hill, CA. Ed Hirahara, nephew of Tamtosu, and Shinnichi Mukai brother of Hachi, were members of the tour group. In 1998 a Sansei US Army Colonel visited Epinal with his family. In his discussions with the caretaker, who knew the locations of the Nisei gravesites, he was asked if many people visit the Japanese American gravesites. The caretaker responded “almost every day”

They then journeyed to the town of Bruyères, where the town folks feted the group to a gala welcome dinner. A major highlight of the tour was the group’s involvement in the July 14th Bruyères’ Bastille Day, the French Independence Day, celebrations. The day started with a stop for photos at “Rue de 442” followed by a visit to Helladraye forest to the site of the 442nd monument, constructed by the town’s people to honor their liberators, the 100th Bn and the 442nd RCT. The group was greeted by about 400 Bruyères town folks, the French Army Band and French partisans. An impressive program that included the placement of many floral wreaths at the base of the 442nd monument and speeches was done with dignity and skill that indicated the frequency of this genuine display of appreciation to Japanese Americans who visit there individually or in groups. Everett Wakai, who represented the American Embassy in Paris, served as the interpreter.

Following this, the group Marched at the head, or the position of honor, in the annual Bastille Day Parade that ended at “Place Stanislaus” in the City Square where civic and military dignitaries were on the reviewing stand. Awards were presented to French citizens and medals were presented to the 442nd veterans. This was followed by lunch with the Peace and Freedom Trail Association (PFTA) members and another parade called the “Blueberry Festival” where the group again marched in the place of honor and which included bands and floats and Hawaiian hula dancers.

On July 15 the group visited Biffontaine, located about five miles east of Bruyères and where they transferred to US WW II military vehicles with drivers in US Army uniform for the three mile drive to the 36th (Texas) Division Monument in the Vosges Mountain. The group was taken to the site where the elements of the 141st Infantry Regiment were trapped by the Nazis with orders to “annihilate them so they don’t fight on German soil”. After five days of the most fierce fighting, including “banzai” charges and hand-to-bayonet fighting, 211 men were rescued. The 442nd sustained over 800 casualties. The US Army categorized this battle as one of the ten most fiercely fought battles in its history. Approximately 200 residents of Biffontaine participated in an impressive ceremony with band and French dignitaries placing floral wreaths at the base of the monument.

Sakai probably reflected the views of the 100th Bn and 442nd RCT veterans, their families and the Japanese American community when he said: “We are grateful for the Italian and French people who, at their personal expense, erect monuments and hold programs to honor their Japanese American liberators.”

*ALLEGiance, THE MUSICAL*—A FINAL WORD?

Bob Verini of Variety, show business’ paper, reported on the same weaknesses we saw in George Takei’s musical:

“(W)hile the personal material lands, the political stuff lacks nuance and weight in “Allegiance.” Despite a handsome production and talent to spare, the writing would need considerable toughening up to withstand Broadway’s harsh glare...

“The sloganeering libretto ... portrays both points of view as more or less reasonable until a last-minute, cheaply manipulative flip-flop tells us, out of left field, exactly what to think. In so doing, “Allegiance” comes dangerously close to branding every member of the honored 442nd regiment as fools and dupes, though the scribes don’t even seem to realize the thematic impact of their clumsy 11th hour reveal....

“(The songwriter) does seem to have played the “Les Misérables” cast album plenty ...." (emphasis added).

We of the W-SC JACL sincerely endeavored to help the producers of Allegiance, but they were convinced they had the winning score and story.
World War II veteran and MISer Frank Shinichiro Tanabe, 93, receives help from his daughter, Barbara (left), completing what will likely be his last ballot in this photo, taken Oct. 17, in Honolulu, while his wife, Setsuko Tanabe, sits in the foreground. Tanabe has been in hospice care for three weeks.

A photograph of Tanabe filling out his absentee ballot from his hospital bed became one of the most popular submissions on Reddit after one of his daughters, Irene Tanabe, uploaded it to the social media site.

Tanabe, who is battling an inoperable tumor doctors found on his liver two months ago, speaks less these days -- a symptom of his deteriorating condition -- but family members said he was determined to vote.

“I think he feels like joining the Army, going to the camp, fighting in the war, and fighting discrimination -- these were all things he did so that we have this precious right to vote,” his daughter, Barbara Tanabe, told the Associated Press. “For so many people to express their heartfelt tribute to my father was really, really heartwarming for us.”

Tanabe was born in Osaka, Japan on Aug. 10, 1919, in what he describes as unique circumstances. In a 2008 video interview from the Densho Digital Archive, Tanabe described how his mother immigrated to the United States from Japan, but decided to return to her homeland upon discovering she was pregnant.

About two years later, Tanabe’s mother returned with him to the United States, where they stayed. He was raised in Seattle and after high school, decided to return to her homeland upon discovering she was pregnant.

But in the past few years, Tanabe has begun receiving recognition for his service. In 2008, the University of Washington presented Tanabe, along with many other Japanese-Americans who were forced to leave college, with an honorary degree. Last year, he and his entire unit were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal.

“I’d like to accept on behalf of all hyphenated Americans, including American-Americans. We all served together in defense of our country,” he said in his acceptance speech, according to the Honolulu Star-Advertiser.

When his daughter, Barbara Tanabe, was asked what her father would make of all the fuss over the photograph, she said he would be thrilled to motivate others to vote. “That would be the ultimate honor for him,” she said.

HONOR & SACRIFICE: Heart of a Patriot, Face of the Enemy, The Story of MISer Roy Matsumoto

Roy Hiroshi Matsumoto was born in Laguna, California, in May 1913 to Tei Kimura and Wakaji Matsumoto. His father, a farmer and professional photographer, was the grandson of Wakamatsu Matsumoto, an Issei “pioneer” in the rich agricultural lands of southern California. His mother, a mail order bride, was the daughter of Shinjiro Kimura, a famous fencing (kendo) instructor to Lord Asano of Hiroshima.

When Matsumoto reached junior high school age, he was sent to Japan to live with his maternal grandparents and to receive a Japanese education. After three years at the chugakkko (middle school) level, he came back to California for his junior and high school education. He remained there after his parents returned to Hiroshima taking his four brothers and two sisters with them.

When the government of the United States began the removal and internment of 110,000 citizens and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry from west coast states in the spring of 1942, Matsumoto, then living in the Los Angeles area, was incarcerated first at the Santa Anita Race Track (converted to an assembly center) in Arcadia, and then at the “concentration” (internment) camp known as the Jerome Relocation Center in Arkansas.

In the fall of 1942, Matsumoto and many other young Japanese Americans, including other future “Marauders”, volunteered from the camps for service in the Army. After infantry basic and Japanese language training, he and 13 other Japanese Americans volunteered for the 5307th Composite Unit, Provisional, which was to gain fame in the jungles of Burma as Merrill’s Marauders. Matsumoto was decorated with the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star.

When the provisional unit was disbanded, Matsumoto joined the 475th Infantry Regiment of the “Mars Task Force” and he was attached to Chinese Nationalist Army guerrilla forces operating behind enemy lines. Serving as an intelligence non-commissioned officer near the French Indochina border, he participated in several dangerous missions, including the demolition of bridges, capturing of prisoners, information gathering, and disruption of enemy communications. He heard about the bombing of Hiroshima while stationed in China, but did not learn that his parents and family had survived until after the war.
When the war ended, Matsumoto was assigned to headquarters, China Command, Shanghai, where he remained for a year. His duties included escorting 24 war crime prisoners to Japan by air. He was later transferred to GHQ in Tokyo where he was assigned undercover missions during the Occupation. During the Korean War, he was stationed in Okinawa. In 1952, he was transferred to Sixth Army headquarters, Presidio, San Francisco and then to the Oakland Army Base, from which he was reassigned to the Transportation Command, Fort Story, Virginia. He retired in 1963, after 20 years of Army service.

He is a life member of the Japanese American Citizens League, Merrill’s Marauders Association, Military Intelligence Service Association, Ranger Regiment Association, and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Roy with daughter, Fumi, at the Presidio of SF in 2009.

[Editor’s note: On July 19, 1993, retired Master Sgt. Roy H. Matsumoto was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame, Fort Benning, Georgia, "for extraordinary courage and service...with Merrill's Marauders". Later that same year, at the MIS National Capital Reunion on October 23, he was presented the American Patriot Award for services to his country by the Japanese American Veterans Association. On August 24, 1994, at Ft. Benning, he was designated by order of the Secretary of the Army to be an honorary member of the Seventy-Fifth Ranger Regiment "in the special interest of regimental continuity, tradition and esprit de corps." In 1997, Matsumoto was inducted into the Military Intelligence Corps’ Hall of Fame.

The British called their special forces “commandos.” Ours are called “Rangers” after our “guerrilla” fighters of the American Revolution. Since then we have had our Green Berets, SEALs, and other special, elite forces.]

Request for funds by Karen Matsumoto, daughter.

Dear friends and fellow supporters of Nisei Veterans!

I don’t need to say anything to you about the invaluable contribution the Japanese American community has made to this country. And I’m sure you all know how important Japanese American soldiers were to the success of the Allies during World War II.

I am asking your financial support for an important historical project sponsored by the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community (BIJAC) of Washington state that focuses on one of the less well-known chapters in this history. BIJAC and Stourwater Pictures have started an on-line fundraising campaign using the Kickstarter website, for a documentary film called HONOR & SACRICE: Heart of a Patriot, Face of the Enemy. This broadcast-length film will memorialize the extraordinary contribution of the Military Intelligence Service during WWII, presented through the story of my 99-year-old father, Roy Matsumoto.

Photo: Army Signal Corps photographer, Akiji Yoshimura (of Colusa, CA) and Roy Matsumoto in Burma.

For the Kickstarter campaign, we need to raise $30,000 in 30 days. The fundraiser started on October 16th and ends November 15th, 2012. If we do not raise the full amount by the end date, we do not get to keep any of the funds donated to the campaign. So it is essential that we receive as much support as possible before the deadline of November 15th.

Roy Matsumoto was a Nisei linguist during WW II, serving with a unit called Merrill's Marauders in Burma. The service of the Nisei linguists in the Pacific theater of World War II was so successful that it prompted Major General Charles Willoughby—General Douglas MacArthur’s Chief of Staff for Military Intelligence—to say, "The Nisei shortened the Pacific War by two years and saved possibly a million American lives and saved probably billions of dollars."

The sponsor, BIJAC, our local JA organization, is currently building the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial on Bainbridge Island, WA, the first location where Japanese Americans were relocated to concentration camps during WWII. The memorial will be a National Park satellite unit of both the Manzanar and Minidoka National Historic Sites. BIJAC is continuing ongoing education efforts on the Japanese American experience through films, school programs, and other events.

The story of the MIS is not well known to the general public. Information about the work of Japanese American soldiers in the Pacific Theater was classified until the 1970s. Like many Nisei from the WW II generation, my own father never talked about his experiences until he was well into his 80s. Without projects like this, future generations might have no chance to know about the history-making contribution of Japanese American patriots in the Pacific War.
To learn more about this film and donate to this important project, please go to this website: http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/stourwater/honor and-sacrifice-the-roy-matsumoto-story.

It is simple to navigate the Kickstarter website, and donations of any size will be deeply appreciated! The more backers we have, the stronger the campaign. We need to raise the full $30,000 by November 15th! Please help us meet our goal.

Roy is a Life Member of the National JACL and was active in the Berkeley Chapter when he lived in the Bay Area. The Berkeley JACL awarded Roy in 2011 with the Berkeley JACL Pioneer Award for his contributions to the Nikkei community.

He moved to Washington State to be near his grandchildren. Roy had heart surgery earlier this year and is recovering well. He will turn 100 in May, and we would love to finish the film in time for his 100th birthday!

Karen Matsumoto, daughter

[Editor's note: Your donation is tax deductible. Kickstarter, which accepts credit card payment, will not accept personal checks. If you wish to donate with a personal check (as I will), please make the check payable to Karen Matsumoto with memo MIS Film – Kickstarter. Karen will scan the check to keep a paper trail of the donation. Checks must be received by Karen before November 14th. Send the check to: Karen Matsumoto 13203 Madison Avenue N Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 Each donor will receive a tax letter from BIJAC.]

A REFRESHER COURSE IN HISTORY

Mas Hashimoto, Editor

Nick Bulaich recently objected to my short letter of support of the Constitution of the United States. I responded with:

To the Editor:

Mr. Nick Bulaich’s response to my letter to the editor regarding Constitution Day, September 17 and his accompanying history lesson was of interest.

I purposely prefaced my support of “Without justice there can be no freedom, liberty, or peace” with “This November election is about justice and about its companion—compassion. “Only one political party has consistently demonstrated its major concerns are justice and compassion.”

Mr. Bulaich took great offense. First, defending Republicans, Mr. Bulaich stated “It took President Abraham Lincoln, a Republican, to push for the end of slavery in this country.” He continued with “Mr. Hashimoto should know better as a former history teacher, a Japanese American who experienced an ugly moment in American history,” and finally, “... he is a political hack who needs a lot more than just a refresher course on history.”

First, a refresher course in history—the Civil War. Mr. Bulaich, was fought over: (1) protective tariffs (which the agricultural South opposed); (2) state’s rights of nullification (of not enforcing federal laws within a state); and (3) the right of secession (South Carolina voluntarily joined the Union; therefore, it can voluntarily “unjoin,” or secede). Preserving the Union, a contract (one party unilaterally cannot negate a valid contract agreed to by both parties), was Lincoln’s primary goal.

In an August 22, 1862 letter to Horace Greeley, Lincoln wrote, “My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and is not either to save or to destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing all slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would also do that.”

Of slavery, Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863 did not free all the slaves. The 13th Amendment passed on December 6, 1865, eight months after Lincoln’s assassination, did. Lincoln, many have come to believe, was not the great emancipator.

The Proclamation, however, was a brilliant piece of strategy directed to the people of Great Britain by Lincoln who wished to keep Britain from supporting the Confederacy. In effect, he asked, “Do you wish to help slavery?” Britain’s working class, living a step above slavery, responded with a resounding “No!” Staying neutral, Britain benefited by promoting the growing of cotton elsewhere in her empire.

Lincoln, considered a political hack by his foes, was, in fact, a shrewd and able politician.

Over 1,100 persons of Japanese ancestry (nearly 70% were American citizens) residing in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley were unjustly incarcerated as prisoners of war for three and one-half years (1942-1945). We were held by the US Government without charges, attorney, trial, due process of law or equal protection of the laws. To quote Gordon Hirabayashi, “Ancestry is not a crime!”

We are grateful for the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of August 10, 1988 which offered an apology and reparations to those unfairly imprisoned during World War II. But, it doesn’t end there for today the mission of Japanese Americans is to assist others who are similarly oppressed unfairly and unjustly.

All political labels are in a constant state of flux, evolution, and redefinition, but, in this election, the Democratic Party is more forward looking for justice and compassion for women’s rights, GLBT equality, health care especially for those most in need, securing social security, affordable college education, the Dream Act, economy and job opportunities, essential government services, national security, cultural diversity, opposition to hate groups and crimes, veterans issues, civil rights, healthy environment and foods, energy independence, separation of church and state, support for small businesses, and voting rights—all working toward “a more perfect Union.”

Onward!

Mas Hashimoto, 578 Vivienne Drive, Watsonville, CA 95076, (831) 722-6859

WE GET LETTERS … Editor

Normally, I don’t open letters with no name or return address. Most of the letters are threats. The handwriting on this one looked familiar. She, in her 80s or 90s, wrote the following in response:
Our government (sic) had the right to incarcerate (sic) all Japanese from Watsonville without trials - We were at war that we didn’t start – defense purposes - They the families old enough were given 20,000 after the war – Mas's mother had us poor children collect cigarette rappers & send them to Japan to make bullets. In exchange for penny candy. Also people on Beach road had guns. How much did Japan give to China after killing Chinese? America has rights in case of war without questions. I have a son in law who is Japanese & have grandchildren – of Japanese ancestry (sic). We get along fine & nothing is brought up about the war. Forget the past as "War is War".

Nothing is fair in Peace & War.

Hopefully Japan will not attack Pearl Harbor again. American friends died for nothing.

By bringing up the subject over & over you are reminding all Japanese in Watsonville to remember the past that they probably don’t want to & forget the past remember. My husband drove the Polish minister from Fort Ord to San Francisco to sign the peace treaty – The war is over. Forget it!

[Editor's note: Do Japanese Americans want Americans to forget the unjust wartime incarceration of 120,000 innocent persons of Japanese ancestry? Tell me if it’s time to forget, but please sign your name and include your address. We’d be delighted to publish your letter in our next newsletter. Mas Hashimoto.

Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. George Santayana (1863-1952)]

BALLOTS FOR OUR W-SC JACL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In early December, you, as our National JACL and W-SC JACL member, will receive a ballot in the mail to elect five members to a three-year term, 2013-2016).

We encourage you to submit your candidacy to serve on our board. We’re a great group serving the community. Please submit your name by writing to our W-SC JACL, P. O. Box 163, Watsonville, CA 95077, and please do so by Nov. 15th.

The installation of the 2013 tri-chapter officers and board of directors (Gilroy, San Benito County, W-SC JACL) will take place on Sunday, January 20, 2013 in San Benito County. Details will be in our December 2012 and January 2013 newsletters.

COMING ON SAT., DEC. 8TH, 2012

We are excited to once again participate in this wonderful community event which promotes and respects cultural diversity. It will be held on Saturday, December 8th, 2012 from noon to 4 pm at the City Plaza. We encourage you to attend. There is no admission charge.

Several groups will be sharing cultural activities and our W-SC JACL will display Japanese artifacts and teach those who visit our booth how to write their names in katakana and on how to fold paper into origami subjects such as a dog, a butterfly, and a crane. These activities were quite popular last year.

Watsonville Taiko’s youth group will open the event with a performance that will welcome all in attendance. They delighted the crowd last year with their precision and enthusiasm.

Respectfully, the sponsors—Watsonville Register-Pajaronian and the City of Watsonville—are not calling this “Christmas Traditions” so that everyone can participate and enjoy the day. This is an event that celebrates Watsonville’s rich cultural diversity.

24TH PACIFIC RIM FILM FESTIVAL

The W-SC JACL is grateful to the Pacific Rim Film Festival for the selection of The Tsunami and The Cherry Blossom film which was shown twice, once in Santa Cruz and again in Watsonville.
November 2012 Temple Calendar

3 Sat 10 am Veteran’s Memorial Service with Reverend Inokoji Kim

4 Sun 10 am Sunday & Shotsuki Hoyo

6 Tue 6:45 pm Post Teriyaki Meeting

7 Wed 1 pm BWA Meeting

8 Thu 10 am ABA Meeting

9 Fri 2 pm San Juan Howakai

10 Sat 12:30 pm W-SC JACL Japanese American veterans memorial dedication Jr. YBA Conference in Fresno

11 Sun 10 am Sunday Service BWA Memorial Reverend Fujikawa, Luncheon

18 Sun 10 am Sunday Service & Eitaikyo Memorial

25 Sun 10 am Thanksgiving Service

Shotsuki Hoyo Service
10 am Sunday November 4, 2012
The families of the following deceased of November are invited to attend the service and to oshoko (offer incense).
We look forward to seeing you at the service.

Sadatoshi Akiyama
Tom Tsutomu Aoki
Kumaki Aramaki
Henry Akio Arai
Taisuke Arao
Yoshino Arita
Mitsugu Eto
Helen Natsuko Fukuhara
Chizue Fujii
Shinhiichi Fujita
Yoshio Fujita
Sasayo Hamada
Toraji Hara
Dick Takashi Higaki
Mitsuji Idemoto
Fujino Iwanaga
Tokiuyemon Jim Iwanaga
Sadao Izumizaki
Hana Kadotani
Peggy Ayako Kadotani
Masayo Kajihara
Sadao Kajihara
Shizuko Kajihara
Takeshi Kajihara
Yoshiko Kamimoto
Hatsumo Kinoshita
Kim Kohara
Shinnosuke Kohara
Kunishige Matsunami
Barbara Ayako Mino
Kazuji "Kaz" Mio
Natsu Nakamori
Hiroshi Nishita
Tokuki Nitta
Chiyo Ogawa
Fumiko Frances Shiotsui
Ryu Shirachi
Ayano Sukekane
Jean Takei
Katsumi Jim Tao
Tatsuyoshi (Tats) Tominaga
Senzo Ura
Masao Wada
Fusajiro Wakayama
Tami Yagi
Kikuyo Yamakoshi
Kiku Yamamoto
Hideo Yamashita
Kuni Yoshida

Dharma School News
The Dharma School hosted the Higan E Service/Welcome Back luncheon on Sunday, September 16th. Thank you to Dennis and Kim Yamaoka for planning the menu and DS families for cooking. We also thank all those who attended and hope everyone enjoyed the BBQ chicken and salmon. YUM!
Thank you, Ken Tanimoto and Dr. Reed Kuratomi for teaching the September Dharma School classes.

Reed’s gift of beautiful new nenju’s for the kids was very much appreciated, thank you for your kindness!

YBA Update
We would like to thank all who came to our annual Spaghetti Dinner on October 6th. It was nice seeing many of you. We hope you enjoyed the dinner.

On October 28th, we hosted the Halloween Party after the Hatsumairi Service. Many were dressed in Halloween costumes and enjoyed the games and food.
On November 10th, nine members will be going to the Central California Jr. YBA conference in Fresno.

Watsonville BWA
BWA Memorial Service will be November 11th with Rev. Fujikawa of Salinas as the guest speaker. BWA members will provide lunch after the service.

RICE SACK STORY
We thank those who responded to Louise Sako’s article about cotton rice sacks, a collectors’ item. A friend had them framed to give to her children—to remind them of their cultural heritage.

Kyle Wong (age 11) of San Francisco, son of Keith Wong and Tracey Chan and grandson of Steve and Etsie Nakajo, loves his rice sack shorts made by his grandmother. Another friend is maintaining the tradition of making dish towels out of the highly durable material.

FREE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
Before you buy walkers, canes, shower chairs, commodes, chux, incontinence pads, and other medical equipment or supplies for yourself or for your elderly parents, call Cindy Mine at (831) 818-1511. Cindy, a W-SC JACL board member, is also a registered nurse. She can help you with instructions and suggestions, but best of all, she can save you a ton of money! Give her a call.

WATSONVILLE SENIOR CENTER NEWS
By Kitako Izumizaki

October is always a busy month for Seniors as it is the month of the founding of our Senior Center.
On Oct. 11th we celebrated our 41st anniversary with a program having a moment of silence for departed members. After singing God Bless America, manager Iwao Yamashita greeted all and thanked all for taking such good care of the Senior Center and wishing us all well. A message from JACL was given by Jeanette Hagar who wished us all well. Presentation of a lovely orchid plant was made to past leaders, Ray and Louise.
Seniors over the age of 90 all received a potted plant starting with Nancy Iwami 98, Masako Miura 98, Yoshino Matano 97, Ray Sako 96, Louise Sako 95, Haruko Yoshii 95, Miyeko Yamashita 94, Frances Goon 93, Mitzi Katsuyama 92, Chiyoko Yagi 92, Carmel Kamigawachi 91, Hideko Nagamine 91, Michiko Hamada 91, Akira Kodama 91, Sam Sugidono 90, and Kitako Izumizaki 90.

Cake cutting followed by past leaders Ray and Louise Sako. After picture taking of the whole group (see Seniors Corner, page 15), a 1981 video of the retired Kayo Club was shown which was followed by a slide show put on and arranged by Carol Kaneko. It was just great! After bingo, the group enjoyed a delicious Mexican buffet dinner. Table decorations for the anniversary party consisted of artificial colorful paper flowers made with crepe paper on a tray with a pair of marimbas. The head table was covered with a colorful Mexican blanket with a huge black embroidered Mexican sombrero on top.

Seniors entering the Center got a pleasant surprise as Helen Nakano celebrated her daughter, Susan AmRhein’s birthday by placing a package of nuts at each seating with a card saying Happy Birthday Susan. Ice cream sundaes were passed out for all to enjoy with the group singing a rousing round of the birthday song. Various local berries adorned the top of the ice cream ... straw-rasp-and blue berries making a very colorful and tasty treat.

October birthday celebrants were Toshi Yamashita and Jiro Sugidono, but Jiro was absent. Toshi led the singing of Happy Birthday with vigorous swinging of her arms and invited her childhood friend, Sachi Snyder, to stand and have their photo taken. The head table held a bouquet of variegated chrysanthemums while individual tables had mums and cockscomb. Visiting later that day was Sandy Izumizaki Sams, another classmate of Toshi.

On the 25th, Seniors entered the Center to be greeted by a haunted house with 2 grave stones surrounded by a black fence covered with pumpkins. Individual seating had a wide eyed black owl, with a piece of candy inside. On the table was a dried up tree, made with folded paper bags covered with black spiders, along with a package of homemade cookies and other sweets, the work of the AmRhein and Nakano families. What a joy to see all the wonderful treats and decorations that Helen and family create for this center. We sure are lucky!!

Presentation of gifts was made to hard workers and guests by the Center. Thank you flowers were given to Iwao Yamashita for all his hard work at the anniversary party; June and Sunao Honda and Judy Hane for their dedicated work to the Seniors; and to Jeanette Hager, JACL 1st Vice President.

We thank the ever hard working tobans for October: Betty Oda, Terry Hirahara, Jo Ann Veer and to Judy Hane, Shirley Nishimoto, Eiko Stewart and Sachi Snyder.

Nancy Iwami, 98 years young, calls out the bingo numbers in English and in Japanese.

Monetary donations were gratefully received from the Rotary Club, the Tsudama Family, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Nakajo, and Jiro Sugidono.

Other donations gratefully received:

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<td>air pot</td>
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<td>30 doz sq Kleenex, 3 bags chagashi</td>
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<td>3 pkgs sushi nori, 4 Kobe cream</td>
<td>June/Sunao Honda</td>
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<td>an pan pies, 6 plates apple cake</td>
<td>Susan AmRhein</td>
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<td>13 bags Asian pears, berries, tomatoes,</td>
<td>Hisako Uemura</td>
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<td>more pears, chip and homemade salsa</td>
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<td>12 Dawn, 4 hot pads, towels</td>
<td>Shirley Nishimoto</td>
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<td>1 case Maruchan instant lunch</td>
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<td>Kinji/Motoko House</td>
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<td>double roll tissues, 100 tea bags,</td>
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<td>2 large bottles cleaner</td>
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Mitsuyo Tao 8 containers organic strawberries
Ernie Yamamoto 7 rolls yarn
Yaeko Cross doz jumbo roll tissues, doz tissues
Helen/Sho Kobara 5 crates strawberries
Gary/Cindy Mine a whatchamacallit
Toshi Yamashita 2 bags chagashi, doz roll tissues
Jean Akiyama 4 lge boxes Kleenex
Eiko Ceremony 5 avocados
Miye Yamashita 6 big rolls paper towels
Kumiko Nakatani 30 rolls jumbo Northern Tissues
Mitsuko Ruble doz rolls tissues
Marcia Hashimoto 400 paper napkins, 130 paper plates

Eiko/Yamato Nishihara doz strawberry jam
Yae/Sam Sakamoto 4 bags candy
Satoko Yamamoto 10 coasters.

Elsie Kim, Stephanie Vasques of Watsonville Residential Care Center donated assorted gift pkgs, and the birthday cake for October!

Many, many thanks for your continued generous donations. It certainly does help to keep this place running smoothly. Many thanks for the generous donations for the 41st anniversary. Keep well and keep coming.

WATSONVILLE TAIKO AND SHINSEI DAIKO

By Bonnie Chihara

On October 7th Watsonville Taiko participated in the “Open Streets” event in Santa Cruz. Part of West Cliff Drive was closed to traffic on this day and various music groups and entertainers performed for the hundreds of people who took the opportunity to walk, run, bike and skate in the street without the presence of vehicles. It was a great event that had a very positive response so we are hoping it happens again next year.

If you would like to join us and learn to play taiko please call Taeko at (831) 435-4594, email us at info@watsonvilletaiko.org, or visit us on line at www.watsonvilletaiko.org.

We have classes for children every Friday starting at 4:30 pm. Our adult beginners’ class is every Friday at 7 pm. We also have an early bird class on Saturday mornings beginning at 9 am. On Wednesdays, we have classes at the Grey Bears Facility on Chanticleer in Santa Cruz. Classes start at 6pm.

Our upcoming schedule:
Nov.18 Big Sur Half Marathon-Asilomar
Dec. 8 Holiday Traditions in the Plaza-
Dec. TBA KSBW Share Your Holiday-Watsonville
Dec. TBA Watsonville Taiko’s Holiday Party

IN REMEMBRANCE …

CHRISTINA M. LIM

“IN CELEBRATION OF A LIFE WELL-LIVED”

Christina Margaret Lim passed away peacefully on October 12th at home in the loving embrace of her family.

Christina was born in Oakland, CA to Harry and Dorothea Lim on October 11, 1960. She graduated from California State University, Hayward with a Bachelor of Arts in Speech Pathology and Audiology Option and then taught at Franklin Year Round School in Oakland for six years. Christina returned to Cal State University, Hayward to earn a Masters in Education followed by a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology (Packaging Technology).

From San Jose State University, Christina found her true calling as a TV producer while at KTEH, Channel 54, the PBS station in San Jose. During her 14 years at the station, she won two Emmy awards for the documentaries “Return to The Valley” and “Dave Tatsuno, Movies & Memories.”

[Editor’s note: We are grateful to Christina, who, in her dream of producing a film on the hardships of our return from “camp” in 1945, expanded it to include residents of our Pajaro Valley and Monterey Bay. Featured were Kitako Izumizaki, Helen Nitta Mito, Lawson and Mineko Sakai, and Larry Oda. At the time of her death at age 52, she was working on a journal and program for the reunion of the Chinese American airmen who were stationed at Kunming in support of the “Over the Hump” (Himalaya mountains) pilots and Flying Tigers transfers to the United States Air Corps.]

Her hobbies included cooking, sewing, cross stitching, knitting, scrapbooking, travelling, collecting cookbooks, PEZs and comic books. Christina is survived by her parents Harry and Dorothea, and younger brother Sheldon. The family asked, in lieu of flowers, that a donation be made to the American Cancer Society; Susan G. Komen; Japanese American Museum of San Jose, 535 North Fifth Street, San Jose, 95112; or a charity of your choice.

The memorial service for Christina was held on, Oct. 27th at the Chapel of the Chimes in Oakland.

SIDNEY “SID” ITAMURA

Sidney “Sid” Itamura passed away on Monday, Oct 8, at the age of 70. Sid, a 1959 graduate of Watsonville
High School, graduated from Healds College in 1964. He married Patricia Morikawa (deceased) of Honolulu, HI. Sid worked for Naturipe and Well-Pict and was VP of TT Miyasaka, Inc. He had a passion for classic cars and was a member of the Central Coast Muscle Car Club, the Watsonville Rod & Gun Club, and the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL. Sid loved animals (especially his dogs), going hunting and fishing, and had a tremendous sense of humor. He took pride in attending all his grandkids sports activities, especially baseball and football. Sid is survived by his son Ryan "Yoshi" (Gretta) Itamura, three grandchildren: Isaac, Ryan, Mikayla and his sister Linda Itamura-Saunders.

A memorial service at Ave Maria Memorial Chapel, was held Wednesday, Oct 17 with his many friends and coworkers in attendance.

JACK EIJI MOMII

Jack Eiji Momii, born November 30, 1935, died on September 24, 2012. He was the youngest of three children born to Kiyoshi and Sakae Momii in Glendale, CA. His unique life was shaped by his extraordinary experiences. Raised by his Japanese parents, he learned to speak his mind, share with others, and do manual labor.

Interned at Amache, Colorado at 7 years old, he built strong friendships playing tops and marbles with Mori and Koji. Upon his release from the internment camp, he experienced extreme racism and isolation that was hard for a young, innocent boy to comprehend.

Once he adjusted to post-war America, he enjoyed his studies at Compton High and helping out his parents on their egg farm. He attended U.C. Davis and earned a masters degree in zoology at U.C. Berkeley. He continued his lifelong learning by teaching in Sierra Leone, Africa for two years and traveling through Japan and Mexico.

After meeting and marrying his wife Sandra, he settled his new family in Watsonville in 1972. On an apple farm they worked together to raise some of the first organically grown apples in the area and produced fresh squeezed apple juice. He loved his home where he could pursue many diverse projects and share his love of nature with friends.

Also, Jack had many interests over the years. These hobbies included cooking and eating, gardening, listening to world music, fishing, camping, creating sculptures, taking pictures, rock hounding and faceting, reading, following sports and politics, and supporting social causes.

A few months back he organized a shiitake mushroom planting for September 22nd. He was able to hold on while his friends and family planted the spawn into oak logs.

Sandra and their children, Michelle and Daniel, were with him when he passed way. They were at peace that he got to see the shiitake project through and he was no longer suffering.

Jack is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 41 years, his son, daughter, and son-in-law, Noel Hernandez of San Jose; grandson Miles and granddaughter Eva; older brother John Momii and his family of Seattle and older sister Shioko Momii and her family of Los Angeles.

They are so grateful for the assistance of Roseann, Harold, and Mato during this difficult time. Special thanks also to the wonderful staffs of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation Oncology Center and Hospice of Santa Cruz County.

A celebration of Jack’s life will be held on the Momii Farm in the spring--his favorite season. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Jack Momii’s name to the Hospice of Santa Cruz County, 940 Disc Drive, Scotts Valley CA 95066 or the Esophageal Cancer Education Foundation, PO Box 821, Manalapan NJ 07726.

We send our deepest condolences to the Lim, Itamura, and Momii families, relatives, and friends.

DONATIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED FROM …
Daryl Osaki of Salinas
For the Newsletter
Grant Ujifusa

WESTVIEW HIGHLIGHTS By Leslie Nagata-Garcia
Don’t forget to mark your calendars for Nov. 3rd as Westview will be hosting our annual Harvest Dinner beginning at 5 p.m. This year’s freewill offering will benefit the Pajaro Rescue Mission/Teen Challenge.

Youth Gym Nights: 6 – 8 p.m. with an optional Life/Bible Study at 5:30 p.m. are held on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month. For the month of November, Gym Nights will be on Nov. 2nd and Nov. 16th. Gym Night for December will be held on Dec. 7th (only one night in December). – The Youth Group will help serve the needy at the Salvation Army.

Photo: Pastor Dan chaperoned Linscott Charter School’s 7th grade class when they went to Catalina Island Marine Institute. About 12 of these wonderful youth come to our Youth Gym Nights. Please pray for them. Everyone is always welcome to attend our gym nights.
Westview will begin the Salvation Army Meals starting on Dec. 7th. We will cook and serve meals every first Friday of the month through April, 2013. This is a wonderful way for us to be the hands of God to the needy of the community, and, conversely, it is a way to meet Jesus, who said when we care for the least we care for him! For more information and/or if you would like to help, please call Jane Yoshida at (831) 722-1265.

By popular demand we are continuing our Study of World Religions. So far, we have learned about Buddhism, Judaism, Hinduism, Moslem and Jehovah’s Witnesses. During the month of November, we will learn about Native American Spirituality and Latter Day Saints (Mormons). Speakers will talk about their faith and practices. These have been very educational, and it is never too late to join us! The classes are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month starting at 6:30 pm. However, for the month of November the classes will be held on the following three dates:

- Nov. 7th – 6:30 pm Native American Spirituality, 660 Freedom Blvd. (private property, across street is McDonald’s). Those that want to carpool please Westview, 6:10 pm.
- Nov 14th - 6:30 pm at Westview Church for Latter Day Saints (Mormon)
- Nov 28th 6:30 pm at Westview Church.

Discussion about what we learned about Native American Spirituality and Latter Day Saints

We are continuing to form a Westview Praise Band. If you are interested in playing or singing 1 -2 times a month on Sundays please contact Pastor Dan. We would love more instruments and singers! Also, the Girl Scouts will be singing in a worship service in December.

Worship Team

- Nov. 4th, 2012 Pulpit Rev. Dan Hoffman
- Nov. 11th, 2012 Pulpit Rev. Tom Carr
- Nov. 18th, 2012 Pulpit Rev. Dan Hoffman
- Nov. 25th, 2012 Pulpit Rev. Lee Tyler

CROP Hunger Walk

It was the perfect sunny Sunday as twelve walkers participated in the Pajaro Valley CROP Walk that was held on October 14th.

Stewart, Marlon, Evelyn, Elijah, & Isaac Veal (and their two dogs Luna and Sol), Shirley Wong and Jane Yoshida put on their walking shoes and walked the 3.5 mile trek. Westview is very appreciative to those who participated in the Walk and to Church members and friends who graciously made donations to support this event. Because of your generous support Westview raised more money than last year.

ON CBS TV “SUNDAY MORNING,” NOV. 4

On the morning of Sunday, November 4th, first-time author Steven Ujifusa is scheduled to appear on CBS “Sunday Morning,” hosted by Charles Osgood, to talk about his best-selling book, A Man and His Ship. The program begins at 7-8:30 am on CBS-TV. Be sure to watch.

Veterans of World War II will find this book full of valuable “I didn’t know that” for the subject—William Francis Gibbs—not only designed the finest US luxury liner—the SS United States—but the fastest. He also designed luxury liners that could quickly be converted to troop transports. He designed American warships and cargo vessels, including destroyers, LST landing craft, minesweepers, tankers, cruisers, escort carriers, and “Liberty” ships (SS Jeremiah O’Brien is docked in SF and is only one of two Liberty ships remaining). Between 1940 through 1946, 63% of all merchant ships of 2,000 tons up and 74% of all American naval vessels were built to the designs of Gibbs. The speed of his ships was faster than German submarines! Gibbs helped win the war.

The book, brilliantly written, may be purchased on Amazon for less than $20. We highly recommend it.

WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL

Thank you for your membership and renewal in our W-SC JACL chapter and for your continuing support of our Japanese and Japanese American programs. We truly appreciate it.

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

Check out our full color newsletter at www.watsonvillesantacruzjacl.org. Click, Newsletter, then the month—October 2012. Enjoy!

Onward!
Mas Hashimoto, Editor.
Dear Friends,

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL sincerely appreciates your generous support that encourages and validates our efforts in the important areas of education, civil and human rights, and cultural appreciation.

Yours truly,

David Kadotani  
Co-chair

Marcia Hashimoto  
Co-chair
Seniors’ Corner

November 2012

WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL SENIOR CENTER TOURS

Asian Art Museum/San Francisco Japantown
Tuesday, December 4, 2012, 8 am to 5 pm

Cost: Active Senior Members $30 and others $35
Asian Art Museum Admission fee: $7 for Seniors 65 and older; $10 regular adult
Reservations: Call Carol Kaneko at (831) 476-7040 or Rubie Kawamoto (831) 464-6721

If you have suggestions where our Seniors would enjoy a one-day or multiple-day trip, please call Carol Kaneko. Thank you.

Upcoming Activities at the Senior Center for November and December 2012:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. Nov. 1, 29</td>
<td>Regular Bingo</td>
<td>Thurs. Dec. 6, 13</td>
<td>Regular Bingo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. Nov. 15</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Potluck Party</td>
<td>Thurs. Dec. 20</td>
<td>Birthday Party, Hong Kong II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. Nov. 22</td>
<td>No Senior Center meeting</td>
<td>Thurs. Dec. 27</td>
<td>Center closed ‘til Jan. 10</td>
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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.

NIKKEI CORNER

Exciting upcoming events:

Sat. November 3rd
Veterans’ Memorial Service, Watsonville Buddhist Temple 10 am

Sat. November 3rd
Westview’s annual Harvest Dinner, proceeds to benefit the Pajaro Rescue Mission/Teen Challenge, 5 pm

Sat. November 10th
Special Veterans Day program, Pajaro Valley Memorial Park 12:30 pm and JACL Kizuka Hall, 1:30 pm
Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapter  
National Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)  

2013 Membership Form for the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL  

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Name: ___________________________________________  
(Last Name) (First Name) (Middle Name)  

Spouse’s Name: ___________________________________  
(Last Name) (First Name) (Middle Name)  

Address: _________________________________________  

Home phone: ________________________ E-mail: ________________________  

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

Name: ___________________________________  Age: _____________  

Name: ___________________________________  Age: _____________  

Name: ___________________________________  Age: _____________  

Please send your check payable to Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL and mail ASAP to:  
c/o Jeanette Hager, Membership Chair, P. O. Box 163, Watsonville, CA 95077  
Thank you so much for your support.  

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