TEN WORLD WAR II VETERANS WERE HONORED WITH FRANCE’S LEGION OF HONOR MEDAL

SAN FRANCISCO – February 3, 2015

Ten American World War II veterans were awarded France’s highest honor Tuesday morning -- The Legion of Honor. It recognizes their service and sacrifice.

"Today we are celebrating 10 heroes," said French Consul General Pauline Carmona. “You saved France and Europe from hell. You saved people you didn’t even know.” One by one, Carmona pinned the medals on the men, ending each time with “merci.”

"You joined the US Army in March 1943 at the age of 20. As a rifleman, you participated in several battles against German troops, in Central Europe, Rhineland and in the Ardennes, including the major campaign of the Battle of the Bulge, in 1944 and 1945. For your actions, you were awarded, among others, the European Africa Middle Eastern Theatre Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, the AT Service Medal, the Bronze Service Star, and the Combat Infantryman Badge."

WILLIAM ALLEN (no close up photo)
"You joined the US Army in December 1942 at the age of 20, in active duty in December 1943 as a US Air Force pilot. You fought in Italy, southern France and Germany. In the summer of 1944, you were present at Poretta Corsica alongside the 86th group of fighters and participated as a bomber pilot in twenty-four missions in the south of France in support of the landing in Provence, including the air attack against the Orange Caritat base occupied by the enemy. For your actions, you were awarded, among others, the WWII Victory Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the European Africa Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with six Battle Stars, the Air Medal with three oak leaves and the Distinguished Flying Cross."
JOHN HOCKENBERRY
"You joined the US Army in March 1943 at the age of 18. As a rifleman of the 66th Infantry Division, you took part in many battles on French territory against the German armies, including those carried out in the north of France from December 1944 until the end of the hostilities in May 1945. For your actions, you were awarded, among others, the Combat Infantry Badge, the American Campaign Medal, the European Africa Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the World War II Victory Medal and the Bronze Star for meritorious service when you participated with your division in containing the enemy fire in the Saint-Nazaire and Lorient pockets."

MASAO KADOTA
"You joined the US Army in June 1944 at the age of 20. Rifleman in the 442nd Infantry Regiment, you participated in the Italian campaign then took part in the fighting in the Vosges in 1944 before participating in the Rhineland campaign. For your actions, you were awarded, among others, the Good Conduct Medal, the Army occupation Medal, the European Africa Middle Eastern Theater service ribbon and the World War II Victory ribbon."

JAKE LARSON
"You joined the US Army in November 1938 by lying about your real date of birth, you were not even 18. In active duty in February 1941, you were a clerk in the 135th Regiment of the 34th Infantry Division and participated in battles against the German armies in the north of France and Normandy, including the D-day, Normandy Invasion, on June 6, 1944. For your actions, you were awarded, among others, three Battle Stars, the European Africa Middle Eastern Theater service Ribbon, the Good conduct Ribbon, the American Defense Service Ribbon and the Individual Award of the Bronze Service Arrowhead for your participation in the assault which helped secure the beaches during the D-Day."

ROYAL MANAKA (no close up photo)
"You joined the US Army in November 1941 at the age of 21. As First Sergeant in the 442nd Infantry Regiment, you participated in the Italian campaign then took part in the fighting in the Vosges in 1944. From October 14 to 30, you participated in the liberation of Bruiyeres' strategic passage, so the US 36th Division could cross the Vosges from West to East and compelled the enemy into a hasty retreat. For your actions, you were awarded, among others, the Combat Infantry Badge, the American Defense Service Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the WWII Victory Medal and the Good Conduct Medal."

MASUO TSUDA
"You joined the US Army in August 1943 at the age of 19. With the 442nd Infantry Regiment, you participated in the Italian campaign then took part in the fighting in the Vosges in 1944. From October 14 to 30, you participated in the liberation of the strategic passage of Bruyeres. Wounded in Europe, you were awarded for your actions, the Purple Heart Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Good Conduct Medal, the European Africa Middle Eastern Theater medal, the WWII Victory Medal and the Distinguished Unit Badge."

GEORGE YASUKAWA (wife Jean accepted)
"George Yasukawa joined the US Army in July 1943 at the age of 22. With the 3rd Battalion of the 442nd Infantry Regiment, he participated in the Italian campaign then took part in the fighting in the Vosges in 1944. He..."
participated in the liberation of Bruyères and in the epic rescue of the "Lost Battalion" in Biffontaine. George Yasukawa himself was wounded twice during these military operations. For his actions, George Yasukawa was awarded the Purple Heart Medal with oak leaf, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Distinguished Unit Badge with two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, The Good conduct medal, the Victory Medal, the European Africa Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with four Bronze Battle Stars."

HADLEY JENSON (presentation to granddaughter)
"Hadley N. Jenson joined the US Army in June 1941 at the age of 23. Sergeant technician in the 99th Transportation Battalion of the 474th Infantry Regiment; he participated in battles against the German armies during the major campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. For his actions during WWII, he was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, the American Theater Service Medal, the European Africa Middle Eastern Theatre Service Medal and four Overseas Service Bars."

LAWSON SAKAI
"You joined the US Army in June 1943 at the age of 19. With the 2nd Battalion of the 442nd Infantry Regiment, you participated in the Italian campaign then also took part in the fighting in the Vosges in 1944. From October 14 to 30, you participated in the liberation of Bruyères and you were then posted to the epic rescue of the "Lost Battalion," the US 141st Infantry Regiment, surrounded by the enemy in Biffontaine. You yourself were wounded during the military operations. For your actions, you were awarded, among others, the Purple Heart Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Good Conduct Medal, the European Africa Middle Eastern Theater medal, the WWII Victory Medal and the Distinguished Unit Badge."

Sakai tried to enlist in the military the day after Pearl Harbor was attacked. He found out his new designation as enemy alien wouldn't allow it. "All of a sudden I was not an American anymore." Sakai was born in America, and grew up in Southern California. He would later join the 442nd, an all-Japanese American regimental combat team. "Seventy one years after the fact," 91-year old Lawson Sakai pointed out. "It's a long time, but it's nice!"

Masao Kadota, Jake Larson, and Royal Manaka.
"I'm the last one alive from my outfit," said 92-year-old Jake Larson. He joked, "The key to life is don't die!"
Larson lied about his age to join the Army when he was 15 years old. Larson was part of the D-Day invasion on the beaches of Normandy. "I feel bad for all the people I was with," he said. "And, they're not here anymore."
"We all fought for the same cause. Everybody had a different story to tell," Larson said with a tear in his eye. "And I'm glad I got a little chance to tell part of mine."

NHK-TV JAPAN's reporter Miyuki Iwasaki, with her cameraman and producer (not shown) covered the event. We hope to see it on the NHK channel soon.

Consul General Masato Watanabe of Japan congratulated Lawson and all the recipients of the Legion of Honor medal.
The Tsuda family from right to left: Mas, Ann, son Alan, and friend Karole Morikawa. The lei worn by Mas and Lawson during the event were the thoughtful gifts from Lawson’s children.

After the presentation, our group met at the Peace Pagoda in Japantown: Front: Marcia Hashimoto; Helen, (daughter) Ann and Mas Tsuda; Mineko and Lawson Sakai; Dr. Howard Kline; Madame Odette le Pendu (an earlier awardee of the French Legion of Honor for fighting with the French underground during WW II and a friend of the 100th/442nd RCT); Kazuko Kurasaki, Ellen Sawamura; and Karole Morikawa. Back row: Tom Davisson; Alan Tsuda; Dennis Sakai; Grant Eisen; Tom Graves; and Brian Shiroyama.

SMITHSONIAN CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL DIGITAL EXHIBITION FUNDRAISER DINNER, FRIDAY, JUNE 12 IN SAN JOSE, CA

A special fundraising dinner, organized to support the Congressional Gold Medal Digital Exhibition which highlights the stories of the World War II Nisei soldiers, will be held on Friday, June 12, at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose, and will feature a special thank you to former U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki.

The digital exhibition is being developed by the National Veterans Network (NVN) in collaboration with the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center and the National Museum of American History and will be unveiled at the Smithsonian in 2016. This project is funded in part by the National Parks Service (NPS) and Cole Chemical, but they are requiring the NVN raise the balance to complete the project. This is NVN’s major fundraiser event for the year.

Secretary Shinseki, who served as head of Veterans Affairs from 2009 until May of 2014, is also the former Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army and the first Asian American four-star general. Several Japanese American organizations have expressed the desire to thank him for his service to his country and the NVN dinner will be the opportunity to do so.

Former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, U.S. Congressman Mike Honda and Olympic Gold Medalist Kristi Yamaguchi are members of the Dinner Honorary Committee. Floyd Mori, Mari Watanabe and Lt. Col. Michael Yaguchi are the event’s co-chairs.

The National Veterans Network is a national coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to educating the nation on the Japanese American World War II experience. For more information, visit www.nationalveteransnetwork.com. The Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center is a national resource for discovering the consequence and complexity of the Asian Pacific American experience through collaboration, exhibitions, programs, and digital initiatives: http://ww.apa.si.edu.

To purchase ticket(s), or for more information, visit http://nationalveteransnetwork.givezooks.com/events/congressional-gold-medal-dinner-san-jose-ca, or contact Reiko Iwanaga at riwanaga@ecopiasfarms.com.
Sponsorships are as follows:

- National Sponsor $25,000
- Platinum Sponsor $10,000
- Gold Sponsor $5,000
- Silver Sponsor $3,000
- Table Sponsor (10) $1,750
- Individual $175

The news media is asked to contact: Chris Komai at (213) 448-1875 or ekomai52@gmail.com.

**FLOWERS WILL BLOOM ... YES, THEY WILL**

After the earthquake/tsunami/radiation disaster of March 11, 2011, flowers began to bloom in the Tohoku region and elsewhere, giving hope to the people of Japan. NHK produced this song, “Hana wa Saku” (Flowers Will Bloom), to build public support for the recovery efforts. The lyrics are a message from those who lost their lives to the people they left behind (who survived).

The lyrics are by Iwai Shunji and the music by Kanno Yoko, both of Miyagi prefecture. English lyrics by Roger Pulvers. Hear Flowers Will Bloom on Internet/YouTube.

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My heart goes out to you
When the winter snows give way to spring
My heart is longing now
Longing for the town where the happiness had been.

Been a place of hope and of dreaming too
Been a home when my heart always went back to you

But for now I only dream
Of the people who I loved and knew.

Someone is singing I can hear singing now
Someone is weeping I can feel their tears
Someone is smiling showing me why and how to go on
living for years and years

Flowers will bloom, yes they will yes they will
For you who are here or yet to be born.
They'll bloom, yes they will and they bloom again until
There's no missing sorrow and no reason left to mourn.

Yes they will
They'll bloom, yes they will, and they bloom again until...
You'll live and remember and love us forever more
And love us forever more.

The music and lyrics, both in Japanese and in English, inspired celebrity artists, children's choirs, and symphony orchestras, all over the world. On the Internet/YouTube check out “Flowers Will Bloom” to listen to this beautiful song of hope.
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**TRI-CHAPER INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS 2015**

Gilroy JACL hosted this year’s installation/luncheon at the Old City Hall Restaurant on Monterey Road on Sunday, January 25th with Mike Hoshida, master of ceremonies, who was both informative and entertaining.

His honor, Judge Joseph Biafore, Jr. (ret.) of Santa Clara’s Superior Court, installed this year’s officers. He’s been installing our officers for the past 30 years! He has the oath of office committed to memory! We are so grateful.

Keynote speaker Congressman Mike Honda of San Jose, speaking from the heart, reminded everyone of the importance and duty of all JACLers and that we must be eternally vigilant against injustices and discrimination.

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Gilroy JACL officers, shown with Judge Biafore and Mike Honda, are: (not in order) President Mike Hoshida; VP Public Relations Teri Hinmon; VP Activities Lisa Sheedy; VP Membership June Muraoka; Secretary Gena Gonzales; Treasurer June Otaguro; Past President Lauren Mantani; Official Delegate Lily Kawafuchi; Board Members-at-Large Nancy Kawamoto and Allan Kawafuchi.
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San Benito County JACL officers are (not all present):
President Kurt Kurasaki; Vice-President Jon Yamanishi; Recording Secretary Phyllis Teshima; Correspondence Secretary Jung-A Kim; Treasurer Craig Yamaoka; Membership Chair Tony Boch; Official Delegate Jeff Yoshioka; Board Members-at-Large Ruby Yamaoka, Sayuri Yamanishi, & Ann Tanaka.

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL officers are: Senior Center Rep Iwao Yamashita; Judge Joseph Biafore; President Marcia Hashimoto; Board member Dr. Gini Matute-Bianchi; Carol Kaneko; Secretary Cindy Hirokawa Mine; Kimiyo Kimura; Mike Honda; back: 2nd VP Aimee Mizuno; Gary Mine; Bobbi Jo Palmer; Joe Bowes, 1st VP David Kadotani; Phil Shima; Dr. Brooke Kondo Rains; and Mas Hashimoto (missing from the group photo, Victor Kimura).

Nancy Iwami, assisted by Joe Bowes, was recognized, at age 100+, as the most loyal JACLer, perhaps the oldest in the nation. Approving were Norris Woodford and Dr. Gini Matute Bianchi.

The buffet luncheon was delicious, and the free raffle was a lot of fun. We all had a great time.
Thank you, Gilroy JACL.
Next year, San Benito County JACL will be our host.

A special tribute was paid to Bennie Yamane of Gilroy for his many years of dedicated service to the community by the Mayor of Gilroy, Don Gage. Mike Honda also congratulated him.

KITAKO “KAY” TSUDA IZUMIZAKI ...

Kitako Izumizaki passed away peacefully on January 21, 2015. “Kay,” as her friends called her, was 93 years young. She was a lifetime fixture in the Watsonville community, graduating from WHS in 1939, marrying her high school sweetheart James (deceased 2001) in 1943, working in freezers-berries-apples throughout the post-World War II years.

The Watsonville Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture awarded Kei “Woman of the Year” in 1980. She served on the city’s Cultural Arts Council, Citizens Advisory Committee among others, and was a long time Democratic Party activist—working as chair of Santa Cruz County’s Leon Panetta’s successful congressional campaign.

Kitako was the fourth of seven Tsuda children born to Yomoya Tsuda and Matsue Hayashi. She was predeceased by sisters Toshiko and Kiyoko, and brothers Tetsuya “Tets” and Haruo “Hardy”. Aiko Yamamoto (of Watsonville) and Masuo “Mas” Tsuda (Ann) of Grass Valley survive her.

Kitako and James Izumizaki had three children: Sandra Sams, Christine Izumizaki and Henry Izumizaki. She had 3 grand children: Stefanie, James and Eddie Izumizaki; and 3 great-grandchildren Brian and Sydney Ng and Charlie Izumizaki.

Kitako amazed many as a regular at a local Jazzercise class, was very active at the local JACL Senior Center, was a lifetime member of the Buddhist Temple, having served in numerous leadership positions at the Temple throughout the years.

Just this past December, Kitako journeyed to the Galápagos Islands with daughter Chris, son Henry and his wife Debbie. This had been on Kitako’s “bucket list,” and was a trip of a life-time for all.
Those who knew her were impressed with her honesty, her toughness, her generosity, her humility, her intellect and energy. She was a very special woman to many generations of family and friends.

The Senior Center was a focal point for Kitako for over three decades. Until recently, she wrote the “Senior News” section of the much heralded monthly newsletter. Her best friend, Nancy Iwami (100 years young!), often came to Izumizaki family gatherings and accompanied Kitako on numerous senior trips to casinos and cultural events. Kitako inspired many as she often led the seniors in singing “God Bless America.”

“A Celebration of Kitako’s Life” was held on Saturday, February 14 at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Watsonville Santa Cruz JACL Senior Center in memory of Kitako Izumizaki would be appreciated: Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL, P.O. Box 163 Watsonville, CA 95077-0163.

OUR PAJARO VALLEY

... AND WATSONVILLE

If every morning,
You can find a reason to say,
“Yes, it’s going to be a beautiful day.”
And every day, you find a reason to say,
“Yes, it is a beautiful day.”
And every night, you find a reason to say,
“Yes, it was a beautiful day.”
Then, one day, you’ll look back and easily say,
“Yes, it was a beautiful life.”

unknown

In Watsonville, we enjoy clear air, good water, mild and pleasant climate (the summer fog is our air conditioner), fresh fruits and vegetables, great seafood, nice and friendly townspeople, little traffic, and a rich Nikkei history. We have made our presence known.

Looking down from the top of “Hecker Pass” (CA Highway 152), one will see, on a clear day, Santa Cruz to the north, Monterey to the Southwest, and the most beautiful farm land below. Watsonville is located in the Pajaro Valley (Pajaro is “bird” [was it a condor?] in Spanish). The valley is surrounded on three sides by hills and the beautiful Pacific Ocean on the other. It is our Shangri-La.

This view, looking toward the eastern hills, is from Kelly Lake. Returning from Poston “camp” in 1945 and seeing these hills meant we were finally home.

YWCA “EQUALITY FOR WOMEN IN PROGRESS FOR ALL” AWARD, March 7, 11 am to 2 pm

The W-SC JACL is honored to nominate Jeanette Otsuji Hager and Aimee Mizuno for the YWCA’s “Equality for Women in Progress for All” Award.

The presentation will take place at the YWCA, 340 East Beach Street in Watsonville. Brittany Nielsen, KSBW-TV, is the keynote speaker. To RSVP call (831) 724-6078 or elon@ywcawatsonville.org.

Jeanette and Aimee are members of our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL board of directors, and they are truly dedicated to upholding the civil and human rights for all; educating the greater community of the historic challenges and achievements of the Japanese Americans during and after World War II; and promoting cultural appreciation of our richly diverse community.

Jeanette’s outstanding leadership is validated by her conscientious service as our chapter president, vice-president, secretary, membership chairperson, official delegate, and National JACL convention nominating committee (of officers) member. She has been our spokesperson in compassionately advocating for equal rights for our LGBT brothers and sisters. Jeanette continually volunteers without hesitation to take on responsibilities to ensure the success of our JACL events and programs. Her depth of giving is immeasurable and admirable.

Aimee’s leadership qualities shine as she helps organize people to rally and to march for immigration reform and for the protection against violence. Aimee cares deeply for children and her compassion is evident in
the tremendous amount of time and effort she devotes to their well being. She is our second vice president, youth advisor, and a member of our youth scholarship committee. Aimee willingly and enthusiastically offers her assistance to our organization, and her community outreach is commendable.

The W-SC JACL is extremely proud of the achievements and dedicated services of Jeanette Otsuji Hager and Aimee Mizuno. By their active leadership as members of our board and as community advocates, Jeanette and Aimee exemplify the mission and vision of the YWCA as women who are empowered and committed to eliminating racism and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

High School Seniors: Attention! JACL National Scholarships

We’ve reported that the deadline for incoming (fall, 2015) college Freshman application is March 1, 2015. Visit http://www.jacl.org/edu/scholar.htm for scholarship details, eligibility requirements, and applications. You must first submit your application to our Scholarship Chairperson, Dr. Brooke Kondo Rains, on or before March 1, 2015, W-SC JACL, P. O. Box 163, Watsonville, CA 95077.

For additional information regarding the JACL National Scholarship Program, please contact Patty Wada at (415) 345-1075 or pwada@jacl.org.

The deadline for graduate and undergraduate applications is April 1, 2015.

The National JACL annually offers approximately 30 college scholarships for students who are incoming college freshmen, undergraduates and graduates, and those specializing in law or the creative/performing arts. There is also a scholarship for those in need of financial aid in this time of rising tuition costs.

The newest scholarship, Meiji Gakuin University-JACL Scholarship, will be awarded to a graduating high school senior to attend college in Japan to study for a bachelor’s degree in International Studies. What a wonderful opportunity for someone in our National JACL! Don’t miss this opportunity!

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Local Scholarships

Applications are available for download at http://watsonvillesantacruzjacl.org/scholarships/ The deadline is Tuesday, May 12, 2015.

2015 JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION

The convention will be held Monday, July 13 to Wednesday, July 15 at the Monte Carlo Resort Las Vegas, NV.

Delegates may make reservations for their rooms at the hotel, and they should do so before the cutoff date of Monday, June 22. Call the Monte Carlo Hotel Reservation Department at 800-311-899. Callers must identify their affiliation with the convention by utilizing the group code XJACL16.

The National JACL will pay tribute to our wartime leader, Mike Masaru Masaoka. He was a young Executive Secretary of the National JACL in the early 1940s, author of the “Japanese American Creed,” “Father of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team,” 442nd RCT soldier, wrote over 2,000 stories about the heroics of our Nisei heroes to their hometown newspapers and “Stars and Stripes,” and after the war the enabler of our elderly Issei to obtain their American citizenship, assisted Japanese companies to be established in the United States, and promoter of a national monument after the war to Japanese and Japanese American—the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in Washington, D.C.

He is the most important Japanese American in our Nikkei history.

TELLING OUR INCARCERATION STORY …

On Wed., Feb. 4th Mas spoke to 330 Aptos High School juniors, thanks to Vice Principal Peggy Pughe and Social Studies teacher, Joseph Smith, who made the arrangements. It was his 15th annual visit to Aptos High.

Then, on Tues. Feb. 10th Mas spoke to 320 Los Altos High School students about our wartime incarceration at the invitation of a parents’ group led by Robbin Kawabata and Carole Wunderlich.


The books were purchased with your generous donations to our Day of Remembrance Education Funds. We are grateful for your support.

KITAYAMA BROTHERS FLOWER NURSERY WAS FEATURED IN THE PACIFIC CITIZEN

We are grateful to Tiffany Ujiiye, Assistant Editor, for the article which appeared in the Feb. 6-19 issue.

The Kitayama Brothers were once the world’s largest grower and shippers of roses, that is until the Congress passed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1994.
Central American growers of poppy (for heroin) and marijuana were encouraged to grow flowers instead. Their flowers were imported duty free. American flower growers, with strict restrictions on fertilizer and pesticide use and high labor costs, had difficulties competing. The NAFTA’s goal has not been realized as heroin and marijuana continue to cross our borders. Nikkei flower growers in California suffered.

Our Sansei flower growers, like Robert Kitayama, had to adapt. Today, the Kitayama Brothers are the largest growers of beautiful Gerberas daisies (left), and they specialize in growing gardenia, snapdragons, and other flowers as well.

They are protective of our environment, recycling wherever necessary, and use the most innovative farming methods available.

Robert Kitayama explains how to grow Gerberas daisies to Consul General Masato Watanabe of Japan.

Robert Kitayama took us—Marcia Hashimoto, Consul General Masato Watanabe, Itaru Nitao, Rev. Shousei Hanayama and Mas Hashimoto—on a tour of their extensive Watsonville flower nursery. In front are white gardenias ready for shipment.

SENIOR CENTER NEWS by Jo Ann Vear

On January 29, Paul and Carol Kaneko requested a meeting of all JACL seniors to help in organizing the events for 2015. Attending were: Jean Akiyama, Nobuko Akiyama, Susan AmRhein, April Goral, Terry Hirahara, Sunao Honda, Kinji House, Carol and Paul Kaneko, Helen Nakano, Mitsuyo Tao and Jo Ann Vear. We were treated to a lovely lunch prepared by Susan and Terry. The 2015 tentative calendar was reviewed extensively, and one of the special events coming up in June is a Samisen performance. It will be a very special day for all of us and desserts and tea will be served. Further discussion was held regarding bus trips to the casinos and disposal of all the VCR tapes.

The Seniors were saddened by the passing of Kitako “Kay” Izumizaki. We had a moment of silence. It was followed by the singing of God Bless America, which Kitako loved.

Kitako served as a reporter of our Senior Center activities for the W-SC JACL newsletter, kept a careful record of all bingo donations, spoke of our appreciation (grace) before our dinners with itadakimasu, baked delicious Santa Claus cookies for all to enjoy, and sat in her favorite, old wooden chair (above photo). She will be missed. We send our condolences to the Izumizaki family and appreciate all the things she did to make our Center an active and welcoming place.

February 5th was our annual zenzai treat. Thanks to Hisako Kodama (rt) for donating the mochigome, azuki beans, and rice flour. Nobuko Akiyama (left) washed the rice and Yaeko Cross and Judy Hane cooked the beans.
Helping make and serve the *zenzai* were Hisako Kodama, Mitsuyo Tao, Kimiyo Fujii, Yaeko Cross, Judy Hane, Nobuko Akiyama, and Cindy Mine. Mitsuyo Tao and Hisako Kodama organized the event.

What a special treat *zenzai* was for everyone! February 12, Helen Nakano decorated the tables with special Valentines, treated everybody to candies and an assortment of Valentine Bears adorned the front table.

Many thanks to the February *toban* group and helpers: Yaeko Cross, Gail Wurtenberg, April Goral, Eiko Stewart, Judy Hane, June Honda and Leigh Sakaguchi.

The February 10th trip to Table Mountain was enjoyed by 38 seniors and friends. Providing goodies for the trip were Toshi Yamashita, Kimi Kimura, Yaeko Cross, Josie Martinez, Eiko Nishihara, Yoshiko Nishihara, Jean Akiyama, Jackie Yamashita, Emma Reyes, Chie Sakaue, Kazuko Sakai, Hide Nagamine, Carol Kaneko, and the Senior Center. Big winner Noboru Nakatani provided the tip for the bus driver.

February Birthday honorees were: Jean Akiyama, Eiko Ceremony, 90, Haruyo Ishibashi, Carol Kaneko, Rubie Kawamoto, 88, Hisako Kodama and Chiyeko Shikuma, 90. Absent were: Ken Nakamura, Sam Sakamoto 90 and Eiko Stewart. *Happy Birthday* to all of you. A big thanks to Rubie Kawamoto for donating the birthday cake.

All the tables had bouquets for the birthdays and a beautiful arrangement at the head table. There were orchids from Jean Akiyama's garden and thank you to Mitsuyo Tao, Jean Akiyama, and Hisako Kodama for the decorations.

Donations were gratefully received from:

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<th>Donator</th>
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<td>Hisako Uemura</td>
<td>12 rolls toilet tissue</td>
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<td>Eiko Stewart</td>
<td>8 banana bread</td>
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<td>Sandy Sam</td>
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<td>Haruko Yoshii</td>
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<td>Rubie Kawamoto</td>
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<td>Nobuko Akiyama</td>
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<td>Eiko Nishihara</td>
<td>1 dozen homemade jam, (strawberry, blackberry, raspberry)</td>
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<td>Nancy Iwami</td>
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<td>April Goral</td>
<td>9 bags of lemons (nephew, <em>Ted Wada</em>), 3 bottles of <em>mirin</em> plant, 4 trail mix cookies</td>
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<td>Paul &amp; Carol Kaneko</td>
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<td>Jean Akiyama</td>
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<td>Sunao &amp; June Honda</td>
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<td>June’s Mother</td>
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<td>Chie Sakaue</td>
<td>12 <em>Dawn</em> dish soap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jo Ann Vear</td>
<td>4 hand soap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>lemons</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 box Japanese cookies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 bag <em>saifun</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 bags <em>senbei</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terry Hirahara</td>
<td><em>Football Fudge Brownie Brittle</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan AmRhein</td>
<td>2 bags lemon bars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 bags chocolate cookies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 <em>Dawn</em> dish soap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 rolls paper towels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 boxes Kleenex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 boxes <em>Chex Mix</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edna/Yukio Nagata</td>
<td>8 rolls paper towels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 bags <em>chagashi</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 boxes Kleenex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 lemon squares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 packages Kleenex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Japanese noodles with soup base</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 – 6 oz can almonds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 pocket tissues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 packages noodles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitty Mizuno</td>
<td>6 plates of lemon cake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Sugidono</td>
<td><em>small money purse</em>, 1 bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>chips, 5 pack mop towel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Yagi Lowenstein</td>
<td>2 pounds cookies, plant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Cocoa Baton</em> cookies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Paul announced the phone number for Kizuka Hall has been changed. The new number is: (831) 536-5297. Please write it down and keep near your telephone.

Paul further announced there will be a *Nikkei Festival* on April 26 in San Jose and there will be a bus trip to the Japanese American Museum in San Jose on April 28 to see the “Twice Heroes” exhibit by Tom Graves. Tom will be there to talk about his exhibit. As the time nears you will be hearing more information.
Other news about our Seniors: **Inako Johnson** had a small stroke but is recovering at home and hopes to return to the Senior Center soon. **Sam Sakamoto** has vertigo and is in rehab at Pacific Coast Manor in Capitola.

On February 19, we welcomed back: **Chiyoko Yagi**, **Jane Sugidono**, **Chiyeo Shikuma**, **Fred Oda**, **Leigh Sakaguchi**, **Tea Hashimoto**, and **Mitsuko Ruble**. Guests were **Elaine Kong** and **Sharon Lowenstein**, daughter of **Chiyoko Yagi**.

How well do you know your JACL friends? Let’s play a game. She’s the mother of two and a grandmother – that could be anybody!! She is very talented with crafts. She was born in the US but visits Japan regularly. Find out at our next meeting who this mystery person is.

The W-SC JACL and Senior Center extends their heartfelt condolences to **Inako Johnson** and her family upon the passing of **Roland Johnson** on Feb. 23, 2015.

**WATSONVILLE TAIKO AND SHINSEI DAIKO**

*By Bonnie Chihara*

We are starting a new class called **Taiko Rhythm for Children** at our **dojo**, 150 Blackburn St., Watsonville. This class is scheduled for Fridays, March 6 to April 24 from 4:30-5:15 pm. Come join us.

We have our regular adult classes every Friday from 7-8 pm as well as our **Early Birds** classes for beginners every Saturday morning from 9-10 am. We have classes for every age group. We also have classes at the **Grey Bears’** facility on 2710 Chanticleer Ave. in Santa Cruz.

For more info on all of our classes, please call our business manager **Taeko D’Andrea** at (831) 435-4594 or email her at info@watsonvilletaiko.org.

Visit our website [www.watsonvilletaiko.org](http://www.watsonvilletaiko.org).

Our upcoming schedule:

- March 7 Watsonville Film Festival, Mello Center
  Watsonville High School
- March 28 Santa Cruz Ballet Theater, Crocker Theater
  Cabrillo College, Aptos
- April 19 **Harumatsuri**, Morgan Hill
- April 12 **Hanamatsuri**, Watsonville Buddhist Temple
- April 25 Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival, Memorial Park Cupertino
- April 26 Big Sur Marathon, Big Sur
- May 9 Human Race, Santa Cruz
- June 6 Japanese Cultural Fair, Mission Plaza
  Santa Cruz
- June 27 JACL Community Picnic, Aptos Village Park
- Nov. 15 Watsonville Taiko’s Annual Holiday Boutique

**WATSONVILLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE NEWS**

The “All You Can Eat Udon Feed” on Feb. 7th sold out! It sold out of **udon**, **Chirashi**, and desserts! Thank you, everyone! The Temple was the busiest place in town.

Marcia Hashimoto served tea to **Sandy Izumizaki Sams** and **Chris Izumizaki**.

Enjoying the **udon** were **Patt and Mark Takeuchi**, **Alan and Gayle Uyematsu**, **Sunao and June Honda**, **Susan Uyematsu**, and **Judy Hane**.

Udon heating crew #2 members were: **TJ Inokuchi**, **Dean Sakae**, **Dennis Yamaoka**, and **Doug Nakashima**.

"Hold the onions!" “Six take-outs!” “No chashu.”

Every order was carefully prepared by **Alice Tanimoto**, **Susan Uyeda**, and **Yoshie Maemura**.
Cheerfully, Sangha workers, Lily and Peter Hasebe-Hester, stood in line. Lisa Sakae helped serve.

Kiyo and Aileen Kawasaki, Dr. Reed Kuratomi, and Sumiko Matsunami took a well-deserved break, while Rev. Shousei Hanayama and Sadao Matsunami enjoyed their bowls of udon too.

Fred Oda is our “Zen” tea master.

Scoutmaster Chris Garcia and his scouts of BSA Troop 558 help us on every occasion, and we are grateful. We are grateful to the Temple Sangha who worked all week preparing the wonderful and delicious foods.

The Temple calendar for March:

1 Sun. No service
3 Tues. 7:30 pm Temple Board Meeting
4 Wed. 1 pm BWA Meeting
5 Thurs. 10 am ABA Meeting
8 Sun. 9:30 am Japanese Language Service
   10 am Sunday/Dharma & Shotsuki Hoyo
13 Fri. 2 pm San Juan Howakai
15 Sun. 10 am Sunday Service
21 Sat. CD YBL Conference, Fremont
22 Sun. 10 am Sunday and Higan E Service
29 Sun. 8-11 am YBA Pancake Feed
   10 am Family Service

Shotsuki Hoyo Service
March 8, 2015 at 10 am

ETO, Takashi  ETOW, Mary
FUJII, Tadashi  FUJII, Linda
FUJII, Kosaku  FUJITA, Kikuko
HAMADA, Chochi  HAMAMOTO, Tatsuhiko Patrick
HAMAMOTO, Yuichi  HASABE, Setsuko Betty
HASHIMOTO, Nami  HASHIMOTO, Tsuneno
HOSADA, Shizayo  ISHIMARU, Yuichi
IWAMASA, Yoichi  IWAMI, Hideo Charles
KADOTANI, Kimiyo  KADOTANI, John
KAITA, Kinu  KAMITANI, Muneichi
KAMITANI, Soichi  KATSUYAMA, Toshiya
KIMOTO, Tokumatsu  KISHIMURA, Kyoshuke
KITAMURA, Masaao  KOBARA, Shoichi
KODAMA, Hatsu  KOKKA, Noriyuki

The YBA boys sold all the desserts the YBA girls made.
KUNISIGE, Nobuyuo
MAMETSUKA, Moi
MATSUDA, Masayoshi
MAYEDA, Kamenoshin
MORIMOTO, Kenji
NIYAMA, Yakuichi
ODA, Yaeko
OKAMURA, Sueko
SAKAGUCHI, Shioki
SAKAMOTO, Katsue
SASAKI, Tadaichi
SUKEKANE, Frances
TAKEMOTO, Katsumi
TANIMASA, Jiro
TAO, Keitaro
TERASAKI, Yoneko
TSUKIJI, John
UEMURA, Itsuo
YAMAKOSHI, Helen
YAMAMOTO, Jintaro
YAMANISHI, Kunimatsu
YAMASHITA, Tommy
YONEMURA, Kimiko
KUSUMOTO, Kajito
MATOBA, Shizuo
MATUNAMI, Itsuko
MIO, Masujiro
NAKAMURA, Kozuye
NISHITA, Kimiko
SAIKI, Saburo
SASAKI, Masami
SERAI, Kikuno
SUMIDA, Tsune
TAKEMOTO, Itaro
TANAKA, Mina
TAO, Howard
TAO, Yotsu
TORIUMI, Shigezo
TSUCHIYAMA, Yoshito
URA, George Masaru
YAMAMOTO, Iwakichi
YAMAMOTO, Saikichi
YAMASHITA, Kenji
YOSHIDA, Kikuno
YOSHIDA, Morisaburo

We wish to thank Applebee’s for their continued and generous support.

Earlier, in November of 2014, the seven middle school programs in the Pajaro Valley Unified School District selected their representatives. Fourteen students and their families have been attending monthly meetings, studying in preparation for their trip in May of 2015.

What a wonderful cultural exchange they will enjoy!

Our next fundraiser is a car wash at Ramsey Park, Saturday, March 28. Please come by between 9:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M., and drive a shiny car to the Watsonville Buddhist Temple YBA Pancake Breakfast the next day.

KAWAKAMI! READY OR NOT, HERE WE COME!

Our Watsonville-Kawakami Sister City Association would like to thank the many people who attended our Flapjack breakfast at Applebee’s on Feb. 22nd. We, students and chaperones, appreciate your support. Several people gave us additional donations, including a very generous one of $500!

Of the 100 sister city programs in Northern California, Watsonville-Kawakami’s is the most active. The Consulate of Japan is most appreciative of our efforts.

KOKORO NO GAKKO

Registration is now open for the 2015 summer session, and a parent doesn’t want his/her child to miss this absolutely fantastic program.

Kokoro No Gakko (“school with a heart”) is a two-week summer school that teaches children about Japanese culture, festivals, and traditions. Don’t let your children miss this amazing experience.

It is available to children who have completed kindergarten through the 6th grade by June 2015. Limited spaces are available. Sign up today!

Gakko dates are: Monday, June 22, 2014 through Thursday, July 2, 2014 (9 days). School is ending on a Thursday due to the 4th of July Holiday weekend.

Location: Watsonville Buddhist Temple, 423 Bridge Street, Watsonville, CA 95076. Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Monday through Friday.
To register, please visit our website: www.kokoronogakko.org, or contact Lynsey Niizawa at lynseyn@gmail.com for information on how to enroll.

Students and their teachers, too, of Kokoro no Gakko welcome you to join them for two weeks of great fun while learning about Japan’s rich cultural history.

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OBSERVANCE

On a beautiful Feb. 22nd, we, members of the five Monterey Bay area JACL chapters—Gilroy, Monterey Peninsula, Salinas Valley, San Benito County, and Watsonville-Santa Cruz—gathered to observe the anniversary of Executive Order 9066 at the very site of the infamous Salinas Assembly Center of 1942. First, with Rev. Orai Fujikawa of the Salinas Buddhist Temple officiating at the California Historical Landmark and Japanese Memorial Garden, we paid our respects to those 3,608 who were unjustly incarcerated 73 years ago in the Salinas Assembly Center from April 27, 1942 to July 4, 1942.

Then, we went to the Santa Lucia Room where we were welcomed by Shari Higashi of the Salinas Valley JACL. She lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The highlight was the viewing of the documentary film (DVD) “The Untold Story: Internment of Japanese Americans in Hawai‘i.” The film was sponsored by the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program of the National Park Service; the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i; Island Insurance Foundation; the Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation; and the Honolulu chapter of the National Japanese American Citizens League.

We learned of the struggles and hardships our Hawaiian Japanese American experienced and of their heroic contributions to this nation and to the Japanese American community.

Nearly 100—including several non-Nikkei students from Salinas High School with their teacher—were in attendance.

SV JACL had a free raffle, and many were surprised recipients of the DVD or a book on the incarceration.

Takeshi Kaneko provided a surprise birthday cake for his mother, Carol Kaneko, of the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL. She was born 2/22/44 in prison—in Rowher, Arkansas!

We enjoyed the camaraderie and light refreshments.

Next year, W-SC JACL will host this important annual event.

WESTVIEW HIGHLIGHTS by Leslie Nagata-Garcia

A special thanks to Mary Lou Hoffman and Kathy Crudge for taking the time to fix-up our Youth Room.

Westview is always very grateful for special friends of the church that take it upon themselves to help with the upkeep of the Church.

Youth/Family Upcoming Events

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

- March 6: 3:30 – 7 p.m. – Salvation Army Meal and followed by Gym Fun!
- March 20 – Youth Gym Nite
- April 3, 3:30 – 7 p.m. – Salvation Army Meal followed by Gym Fun!
- April 17 – Youth Gym Nite

Pastor Dan will be leading a Hospice Grief Group for VNA and Hospice at Valley Heights the first Wednesday of each month from 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Come receive the healing support of others. Come learn that you are not alone in the fog of grief as you recover from the loss of a loved one. For the month of March and April, Grief Groups will be held on the following dates: March 4, April 1.
Westview is preparing meals for the Salvation Army every first Friday of each month. If you are interested in volunteering, please meet at Westview at 2 p.m. For the months of March and April we will be preparing the meals on March 6th and April 3rd.

**Wednesday Study Series:** We are reading and discussing The Hope Quotient, a fantastic book about nurturing hope in your life by Rev Dr. Ray Johnston! You can order a book online at Unleashinghope.com or for $15 at Amazon. Wednesday Study Series are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month, 6:30 p.m. at Westview. For the months of March and April we will be meeting on March 11th, March 25th, April 8th and April 22nd.

**Sunday Message Series:** “How to play the game.” Based on John Ortberg’s book, When the Game is Over, It All Goes Back in the Box, we will learn vital lessons about how to play the MOST IMPORTANT GAME EVER...the game of life.

**FILM HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 4TH WATSONVILLE FILM FESTIVAL, MARCH 5 – 8, 2015**

**Tickets will be available to purchase at the film's venue prior to each screening. Tickets are $10 for a day's worth of screenings. The programs will be held at one of two venues: The Green Valley Cinema, 1125 S. Green Valley Rd, Watsonville, CA 95076, and the Mello Center, Watsonville High School, 250 E Beach St, Watsonville.**

**W-SC JACL Senior Center members:** Please come to see "REEL WOMEN" – Sun March 8 at Mello Center, 1 pm - by Marissa Kitazawa, a student at UCSC, who interviewed Senior Center members.

**THE STORM THAT SWEPT MEXICO** – Thur March 5 at Green Valley Cinemas (Doors Open 5:30 pm, Film at 6 pm)
This PBS documentary narrated by Luis Valdez about the Mexican Revolution will be screening at the Green Valley Cinemas. Event includes live music, drinks and appetizers. Director Ray Telles & local musicians who participated in film soundtrack will participate in a post-screening Q&A.

**SLEEP DEALER** – Fri March 6 at Mello Center, 8 pm
The near future: a world marked by closed borders, corporate warriors, drones and a global computer network. Living in the shadows of la frontera, three strangers risk their lives to connect, break through the barriers of technology, and unravel their fates. Sleep Dealer is a Sundance award-winning sci-fi thriller packed with stunning visuals and strong social and political themes. Director Alex Rivera will participate in a post-screening Q&A.

**DOCUMENTED** – Sat March 7 at Mello Center, 4 pm
In 2011, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas outed himself as an undocumented immigrant in the New York Times Magazine. ‘Documented’ chronicles his journey to America from the Philippines as a child; his journey through America as an immigration reform activist/provocateur; and his journey inward as he re-connects with his mother, whom he hasn’t seen in person in 20 years. Director Jose Antonio Vargas will participate in a post-screening Q&A. Includes UCSC & local high school art exhibit titled “Define American,” and a popup museum outside the Mello in collaboration with the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History (MAH).

**EAST SIDE SUSHI** – Sat March 7 at Mello Center, 7 pm
After working at a fruit-vending cart for years, Juana can slice and dice anything with speed and precision. Looking for a better job for her family, she lands a position at a Japanese restaurant, discovering friendship and a new world of cuisine and culture. Eventually she attempts to become a sushi chef, embarking on a journey filled with roadblocks, surprises and self-discovery. This delightful, award-winning film makes its Santa Cruz County debut at WFF. Watsonville Taiko will open the show. Director Anthony Lucero & crew will be in attendance for Q&A.

**FOOD CHAINS** – Sun March 8 at Mello Center, 3 pm
Produced by Eva Longoria & Eric Schlosser, Food Chains presents a story of hope and promise for the triumph of morality over corporate greed – to ensure a dignified life for farm workers and a more humane, transparent food chain. The documentary includes scenes from Watsonville & Salinas. We’re partnering with Springfield Grange, Center for Farm working Families and Reel Work Labor Film Festival to present this powerful film and host a post-screening conversation.

Check out their website for the complete schedule.
FEATURE FILMS INCLUDE:
“HABANASTATION” - Sun March 8, Mello Center, 11 am. Sunday Matinee for the family / Domingo familiar.

SHORT FILM PROGRAMS:
“ARTE LATINO” - Shorts celebrating Latino artists & muralists. Fri March 6 at Mello Center, 6 pm. Post-Screening Q&A.
“HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SHORTS” - Sat March 7 at Mello Center, 2 pm. With Awards Presentation.

SPECIAL EVENTS
“POPUP MUSEUM” - Participate! Bring your own artifact that relates to the theme “Define American.” At the Mello Center, Sat March 7, 1-4 pm. Sponsored by Santa Cruz MAH.
“SATURDAY NIGHT VIP PARTY” - Schmooze with filmmakers and local VIPs & festival staff at our annual party. Food, drinks, live music & DJ make for an unforgettable evening.
“CLOSING FIESTA” - Close the festival with us, with food & music, in the courtyard of Plaza Vigil, Sun March 8, 5pm. Sponsored by Plaza Vigil Merchants and El Pájaro CDC.

DONATIONS...
We are grateful for the thoughtful and generous donations to and for...
Day of Remembrance Education Fund
Greatest Need...

Paul and Carol Kaneko
Nobue Fujii in memory of husband, Sid Fujii
Jean Akiyama in memory of Joanne Yahiro
Thomas and Debbe Chan in memory of Joanne Yahiro and Kitako Izumizaki
Ben and Yoko Umeda
George Shimizu & Mary Takai of Walnut Creek
Alan and Gayle Uyematsu
Victor Kimura
Sachi and Philip Snyder in memory of Tadashi, Ayako and Iwao Mino
Kiyoko Arao
Henry Hayashida of Seaside
Karen Kurokawa of Santa Cruz
Helen Mito of Cupertino
Daniel and Karen Nitta of Cupertino
Noburo Nakatani
Mas and Ann Tsuda of Grass Valley
Viola Nakagawa of Los Angeles in memory of George and Frances Hoshiyama
Katherine C. Tobin and Evan J. Wallach of Alexandria, VA

Newsletter from...
Chiyeko Shikuma
Leo Hosoda of Roseville
Robert and Mary Oka of Salinas
Raymond Uno of Salt Lake City
Kazuco Sakai
Mas and Marcia Hashimoto in memory of Kitako Izumizaki
Henry and Evelyn Hibino of Salinas
Anonymous

Esther Ura in honor of Ed and Jean Kelly for Lifetime Achievement Award, Watsonville Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture 2015.

In memory of Kitako Izumizaki from...
Mary Tsuyuki; Jennifer Tsuyuki; Laura, Bill & Billy Cass: Dr. Paul & Deborah (Tsuyuki) Banta.
Eunice Cunningham of Portland OR
Jennifer Gavin Ura
Esther Ura
JoMarie Lake of Watsonville
Barbara Leighton of Watsonville
Isao Matsui
Alice Misumi
Russell Family Foundation of Gig Harbor, WA
Alan and Gayle Uyematsu

Watsonville Bonsai for use of the JACL Kizuka Hall.

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER AT THE JACL HALL
Please record our new number: (831) 536-5297.

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP
To those who have renewed recently and to those who renewed before your due date (4/15, etc)--Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

JOIN US--WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL
If you are not now a member of the National JACL, we’d love to have you join our W-SC JACL chapter.
A membership form has been included in this newsletter for your convenience. We are a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, educational, civil rights organization, and our tax deductible federal ID is #94-2659895.
Yes, you don’t have to be a Japanese American to be a member. You don’t even have to be a US citizen. You must be an advocate for justice and for civil rights for all.
To those who have renewed their membership for 2015 and beyond, thank you! Please encourage family members, relatives and friends to join us for 2015.
To check your current membership status, look at the date after your name on the address label. For example: E. Txxxx 1/15 means your membership expired in January of 2015. Please renew.
If you have moved or are planning to move, please let us know your new address. The newsletters are returned to us with first class postage due.

Our mailing address is:
Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL
P.O. Box 163
Watsonville, CA 95077-0163
Please do not mail to our Kizuka Hall address on Blackburn Street.

Our new phone number is (831) 536-5297.

Thank you for reading this March 2015 newsletter. This newsletter is the monthly publication of the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL, P.O. Box 163, Watsonville, CA 95077, and your comments are always welcome. Please write or email us at hashi79@sbcglobal.net.

To read our full color newsletter online check our website: http://watsonvillesantacruzjacl.org.

Onward!

Mas Hashimoto, Editor

TORAO TAKAHASHI V. FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

You know about these federal cases: Takeo Ozawa (1922), Bhagat Singh Thind (1923), Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi, Minoru Yasui and Mitsue Endo (during wartime) but do know about Torao Takahashi’s case (1948)?

Thanks to Judge Evan J. Wallach of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, we learned of this case which proved to be a vital step toward the Issei gaining their United States citizenship in 1952 and in which the JACL played a major role.

The Takahashi case had its origins in the wartime confinement of West Coast Japanese Americans. In 1943, following mass removal of the state’s ethnic Japanese population, the California legislature amended its Fish and Game Law to bar all "Japanese aliens" from being granted state fishing licenses. (Nativist legislators had repeatedly introduced similar legislation during the 1930s, but such attempts had all been defeated). The new law, which was part of a wave of anti-Japanese legislation introduced in the legislature, was signed by Governor Earl Warren. It’s evident purpose was to express hostility towards the Japanese Americans and to discourage them from returning to California once released from camp by making it impossible for them to practice their trade.

In 1945, amid concerns that a law barring solely "Japanese aliens" from fishing licenses might be unconstitutional, the legislature enacted a new measure that denied fishing licenses to all "aliens ineligible to citizenship,” the legal category that California had devised in its Alien Land Act thirty years earlier in order to discriminate against Asian immigrants. Since by that time Japanese aliens were virtually the only national group barred from naturalization, the change in wording had no substantive impact on the law.

In 1945, as Japanese and Japanese Americans returned to the Pacific Coast, The Southern California Japanese Fishermen's Association, a group of Issei workers, decided to challenge the law in court, and the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) agreed to help bring a test case. (Ironically, the JACL’s charter, because it admitted only U.S. citizens, thereby excluded Japanese aliens! That is not the case today. Anyone who believes in social justice, human and civil rights is invited to join us.) Torao Takahashi, who had been one of approximately 700 licensed Issei commercial fishermen working in California in the years before World War II, agreed to serve as a test case. His defense was taken up by JACL counsel A. L. Wirin assisted by his partners John Maeno and JACL’s Saburo Kido.

Wirin first brought the case in the California courts. In June 1946, the Los Angeles County Superior Court delivered a mixed verdict. The court agreed that California could restrict fishing licenses within the three-mile limit representing its territorial waters for purposes of conservation, but had no authority to limit Takahashi from fishing outside them. The Superior Court also found that the law constituted anti-Japanese discrimination, despite the belated change of wording, which the decision referred to as “the thin veil used to conceal a purpose being too transparent.”

The state appealed to the California Supreme Court, which in October 1947 overturned the Superior Court's decision. By a narrow 4-3 vote, the high court ruled that the state had a proprietary interest in the fish in its ocean waters and could constitutionally restrict fishing licenses to citizens and to aliens eligible for citizenship in order to preserve its natural resources. This decision attracted widespread negative comment in the national press. In its landmark report To Secure These Rights, the President Harry S Truman’s Committee on Civil Rights called for the statute’s repeal!

Mr. Justice MURPHY, with whom Mr. Justice RUTLEDGE agrees, concurring.

The opinion of the Court, in which I join, adequately expresses my views as to all but one important aspect of this case. That aspect relates to the fact that s 990 of the California Fish and Game Code, barring those ineligible to citizenship from securing commercial fishing licenses, is the direct outgrowth of antagonism toward persons of Japanese ancestry. Even the most cursory examination of the background of the statute demonstrates that it was designed solely to discriminate against such persons in a manner inconsistent with the concept of equal protection of the laws. Legislation of that type is not entitled to wear the cloak of constitutionality.

The statute in question is but one more manifestation of the anti-Japanese fever which has been evident in California in varying degrees since the turn of the century. *423 See concurring opinion in Oyama v. California, 332 U.S. 633, 650, 68 S.Ct. 269, 277 and dissenting opinion in Korematsu v. United States, 323 U.S. 214, 233, 65 S.Ct. 193, 201, 89 L.Ed. 194. That fever, of course, is traceable to the refusal or the inability of certain groups to adjust themselves economically and socially relative to residents of Japanese ancestry. For some years prior to the
Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, these protagonists of intolerance had been leveling unfounded accusations and innuendoes against Japanese fishing crews operating off the coast of California. These fishermen numbered about a thousand and most of them had long resided in that state. It was claimed that they were engaged not only in fishing but in espionage and other illicit activities on behalf of the Japanese Government. As war with Japan approached and finally became a reality, these charges were repeated with increasing vigor. Yet full investigations by appropriate authorities failed to reveal any competent supporting evidence; not even one Japanese fisherman was arrested for alleged espionage. Such baseless accusations can only be viewed as an integral part of the long campaign to undermine the reputation of persons of Japanese background and to discourage their residence in California. See McWilliams, Prejudice (1944), ch. VII.

More specifically, these accusations were used to secure the passage of discriminatory fishing legislation. But such legislation was not immediately forthcoming. The continued presence in California of the Japanese fishermen without the occurrence of any untoward incidents on their part served for a time as adequate and living refutation of the propaganda. Then came the evacuation of all persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast. See Korematsu**1145 v. United States, supra. Once evacuation was achieved, an intensive campaign was begun to prevent the return to California of the evacuees. *424 All of the old charges, including the ones relating to the fishermen, were refurbished and augmented. This time the Japanese were absent and were unable to provide effective opposition. The winds of racial animosity blew unabated.

During the height of this racial storm in 1943, numerous anti-Japanese bills were considered by the California legislators. Several amendments to the Alien Land Law were enacted. And s 990 of the Fish and Game Code was altered to provide that ‘A commercial fishing license may be issued to any person other than an alien Japanese.’ No pretense was made that this alteration was in the interests of conservation. It was made at a time when all alien Japanese were excluded from California, with no immediate return indicated; thus the banning of fishing licenses for them could have no early effect upon the conservation of fish. Moreover, the period during which this amendment was passed was one in which both federal and state authorities were doing their utmost to encourage greater food production for wartime purposes. The main desire at this time was to increase rather than to decrease the catch of fish. Certainly the contemporaneous circumstances only confirm the obvious fact that the 1943 amendment to s 990 was intended to discourage the return to California of Japanese aliens. By taking away their commercial fishing rights, the lives of those aliens who plied the fisherman's trade would be made more difficult and unremunerative. And the non-Japanese fishermen would thereby be free from the competition*425 afforded by these aliens. The equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, however, does not permit a state to discriminate against resident aliens in such a fashion, whether the purpose be to give effect to racial animosity or to protect the competitive interests of other residents.

The 1945 amendment to s 900 which is now before us stands in no better position than the 1943 amendment. This later alteration eliminated the reference to ‘alien Japanese’ and substituted therefore ‘a person ineligible to citizenship.’ Adoption of this change also occurred during a period when anti-Japanese agitation in California had reached one of its periodic peaks. The announcement of the end of the Japanese exclusion orders, plus this Court's decision in Ex parte Endo, 323 U.S. 283, 65 S.Ct. 208, 89 L.Ed. 243, made the return to California of many of the evacuees a reasonable certainty. The prejudices, the antagonisms and the hatreds were once again aroused, punctuated this time by numerous acts of violence against the returning Japanese Americans. Another wave of anti-Japanese proposals marked the 1945 legislative session. It was in this setting that the amendment to s 990 was proposed and enacted in 1945.

It is of interest and significance that the amendment in question was proposed by a legislative committee devoted to Japanese resettlement problems, not by a committee concerned with the conservation of fish. The Senate Fact-Finding Committee on Japanese Resettlement issued a report on May 1, 1945. This report dealt with such matters as the Alien Land Law, the Japanese language schools, dual citizenship and the Tule Lake riot. And under the heading ‘Japanese Fishing Boats’ (pp. 5-6) appeared this explanation of the proposed amendment to s 900:

*426 ‘The committee gave little consideration to the problems of the use of fishing vessels on our coast
owned and operated by Japanese, since this matter seems to have previously been covered by legislation. The committee, however, feels that there is danger of the present statute being declared unconstitutional, on the grounds of discrimination, since it is directed against alien Japanese. It is believed that this legal question can probably be eliminated by an amendment which has been proposed to the bill which would make it apply to any alien who is ineligible to citizenship. The committee has introduced Senate Bill 413 to make this change in the statute.'

Not a word was said in this report regarding the need for the conservation of fish or the necessity of limiting the number of fishermen. The obvious thought behind the amendment was to attempt to legalize the discrimination against Japanese alien fishermen by dropping the specific reference to them.

The proposed revision was adopted. The trial court below correctly described the situation as follows: ‘As it was commonly known to the legislators of 1945 that Japanese were the only aliens ineligible to citizenship who engaged in commercial fishing in ocean waters bordering on California, and as the Court must take judicial notice of the same fact, it becomes manifest that in enacting the present version of Section 990, the Legislature intended thereby to eliminate alien Japanese from those entitled to a commercial fishing license by means of description rather than by name. To all intents and purposes and in effect the provision in the 1943 and 1945 amendments are the same, the thin veil used to conceal a purpose being too transparent. Under each and both, alien Japanese are denied a right to a license to catch fish on the high seas for profit, and to bring them to shore for the purpose of selling the same in a fresh state * * * this discrimination constitutes an unequal exaction and a greater burden upon the persons of the class named than that imposed upon others in the same calling and under the same conditions, and amounts to prohibition. This discrimination, patently hostile, is not based upon a reasonable ground of classification and, to that extent, the section is in violation of Section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, * * *.’

We should not blink at the fact that s 990, as now written, is a discriminatory piece of legislation having no relation whatever to any constitutionally cognizable interest of California. It was drawn against a background of racial and economic tension. It is directed in spirit and in effect solely against aliens of Japanese birth. It denies them commercial fishing rights not because they threaten the success of any conservation program, not because their fishing activities constitute a clear and present danger to the welfare of California or of the nation, but only because they are of Japanese stock, a stock which has had the misfortune to arouse antagonism among certain powerful interests. We need but unbutton the seemingly innocent words of s 990 to discover beneath them the very negation of all the ideals of the equal protection clause. No more is necessary to warrant a reversal of the judgment below.

**ISSEI GRANTED US CITIZENSHIP, 1952**

Our Issei pioneers were finally granted the opportunity to become United States citizens with the passage of the McCarran-Walter Act in 1952. Citizenship classes were held in nearly every Japantown by JACL chapters.

The loyalty of our Issei to this country, those Nisei men and women who so honorably and who sacrificed while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States during WW II, and the favorable decision in the Torao Takahashi case, were evolutionary steps that led the National JACL with its leader, Mike M. Masaoka, to seek United States citizenship for our Issei.

The discriminatory “ineligible for citizenship” was no longer the law!

Masaoka single-handedly lobbied and campaigned Congressional leaders to pass the McCarran-Walter Act. At the time, we had no Nikkei member of the Congress! It was truly an amazing feat.

Today, we, the younger JACLers who are the beneficiaries, need to recognize, honor and celebrate those leaders who remained steadfast to the cause of justice.

While we have been able to move forward in overcoming the prejudices of the past, we must remain vigilant against future acts of prejudice and discrimination to anyone or any group. That’s the mission of the National JACL and the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Chapter. You can help us in our fight against discrimination.

Our Watsonville Issei pioneers, now United States citizens, gathered at the site of the Salinas Assembly Center in February of 1984, in observance of the “Day of Remembrance.” They recited the Pledge of Allegiance and followed it by singing “God Bless America,” their favorite song.
One-Day Senior Trip
Tuesday, April 28, 2015 9 am to 4:30 pm
Japanese American Museum in San Jose, SJ Japantown, Mitsuwa or Marukai store
“Twice Heroes” exhibit by Tom Graves at JAMsj – Tom will be there
Cost: Active Senior Center Members $30 and others $40
Non-Senior Center members are welcome to join us!
Reservations: Carol Kaneko (831) 476-7040 or Rubie Kawamoto (831) 854-2028

February birthdays: Jean Akiyama, Haru Ishibashi, Carol Kaneko (in back), Eiko Ceremony 90, Rubie Kawamoto 88, Chiyeko Shikuma 90, Hisako Kodama. Photo by Carol Kaneko.

Upcoming Activities at the Senior Center:
Thurs., Mar 5, 12, & 26 Regular Bingo
Thurs., Mar 19 March birthday party!

Please check out our Senior Center website: http://kizukahallseniors.wordpress.com to keep up with our activities.

*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 W-SC JACL chapter and the National JACL, we encourage all members of the Senior Center to become members of the National JACL through our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL chapter. To upgrade your $20 Senior Center membership to National is $60. A membership form has been included in this newsletter for your convenience.

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, or you can help our bingo team check bingo cards! 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 to have some fun.
GUARDING AGAINST UNJUST INCARCERATION BY US GOVERNMENT

We, in 1942, were held without charges, attorney, trial, or due process of law by those who swore, with their oath of office, to uphold the Constitution of the United States! They didn’t!

Now, one would think, after all these years, that America has learned the lesson of our unjust wartime incarceration, but it has not! It must never happen again to anyone in this country! We are, in short, the modern guardians of the Bill of Rights!

As JACLers, it is our duty to fight for and protect the civil and human rights of every American and legal resident. You can help. How? By continuing your membership in our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL chapter and by taking an active role in our mission.

Our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL is truly grateful to its members and friends who have donated to this year’s 2015 Day of Remembrance Education Fund (DOREF). Thank you. To those who haven’t, please help with what you can. Each donation helps to preserve our Nikkei history and legacy.

This DOREF maintains a safe hall/dojo for our Seniors and cultural groups; honors our youths with the Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarship(s); and supports this monthly newsletter.

2015 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE EDUCATION FUND (DOREF)

___Yes, I/we wish to help. Enclosed is a tax-deductible contribution for:

___Greatest Need   ___Education/Scholarship   ___Newsletter

Please make checks payable to Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL, memo: DOREF, and mail to Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL, P. O. Box 163, Watsonville, CA 95077.

Your name(s):

______________________________________________________________

Address: ___________________________________________________________________________________

Our donation is: ___ In Remembrance of .., or ___ In Honor of …

Name(s): ___________________________________________________________________________________

(An acknowledgment, unless you request otherwise, will be sent to):

Name of person(s) to be notified and address(es):

______________________________________________________________

___I/We do not wish to be acknowledged in any publication of the organization.

Thank you!

W-SC JACL is a non-profit, educational, civil rights organization.
Tax deductible #ID 94-2659895
Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapter
National Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)

No Increase in the 2015 Membership Dues

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

Please join us today. We are the most proactive, oldest, and respected Asian American civil rights organization, and our programs include cultural appreciation and educational outreach.

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

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

The 2014 National and local dues for our tax-deductible organization (ID #94-2659895) are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Category</th>
<th>Dues</th>
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<tr>
<td>Family/Couples</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Member</td>
<td>$80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth/Student</td>
<td>$25</td>
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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.

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.

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

For Thousand Club, Century Club, and Millennium Club and Life membership categories, please contact our membership chair Jeanette Otsuji Hager.

Name: ________________________________
   (Last Name)  (First Name)  (Middle Name)

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

Address: __________________________________________

Home phone: (_____)_____________  E-mail: __________________________

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

Name: ____________________________  Age: ____________
Name: ____________________________  Age: ____________
Name: ____________________________  Age: ____________

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

Thank you so much for your support.