HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL DINNER, JUNE 12, 2015

SAN JOSE, CA – This gala dinner was organized by Christine Sato-Yamazaki (above), Executive Director of the National Veterans Network (NVN), in support of the Congressional Gold Medal Digital Exhibition and held at The Fairmont Hotel in San Jose, with 500 in attendance.

Former U.S. Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki and Olympic Gold Medalist Kristi Yamaguchi were the featured speakers at the Congressional Gold Medal Dinner, along with former Secretary of Transportation, Norman Y. Mineta.

Lawson Sakai, 442nd RCT veteran who spoke on behalf of his Nisei comrades, formally thanked Secretary Shinseki, a long-time advocate for veterans, for his public service. Retired Lt. Col. Jerry Nakashima led all veterans present in a hand salute to General Shinseki.

With brilliant eloquence, Secretary Shinseki paid tribute to the entire Nisei generation of soldiers who served in different capacities during the war for all contributed to the final victory. And, while in Europe, as a US Army officer, he visited the US gravesites of American soldiers, including those Nisei who were killed in WW II. He gratefully noted that they were dutifully cared for by the local villagers.

Kristi Yamaguchi, who won her Olympic Gold Medal in figure skating in 1992, recounted the story of her grandfather, George A. Doi, who served with great distinction in a non-segregated U.S. Army unit during World War II.
Our most sincere apologies. We were unable to name all in proper order with Gen. Shinseki: James Ogawa, 100th; Kats Hikido, 442; Lawson Sakai, 442; Frank Higashi, MIS; Roy Muotsune, WWII; Yosh Uchida, WWII; Ronald Yoshida, MIS; Kenneth Iwagaki, MIS; Leo Oyama, 442; Hiroshi Kaku, 442; Bill Omoto, 100th; Wesley Koyano, 442; Frank Masuoka, MIS, George Hanada, MIS; and Ben Umeda, MIS.

Christine Sato-Yamazaki, NVN Executive Director, presented updates on the Congressional Gold Medal Digital Exhibition that is being developed in partnership with the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center and Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History. The digital exhibit is set to be unveiled in 2016 as the educational counterpart to the gold medal that is presently on display at the National Museum of American History’s Price of Freedom: Americans at War exhibition. While the Congressional Gold Medal was awarded collectively in November 2011 to the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and members of the Military Intelligence Service (MIS), the digital exhibition encompasses the diverse military service of over 31,000 Japanese Americans during World War II.

Board member, Robert Johnson (above), spoke on behalf of the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center, and he is looking forward to the opening of the exhibit which is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, Japanese American Confinement Sites Grants Program, Cole Chemical and AARP. This dinner supported the project’s matching grant.

Secretary Shinseki was introduced by former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta. Secretary Mineta, who also served as U.S. Secretary of Commerce, was a member of Congress for 20 years and former San Jose mayor. He shared stories of his older brother, Dr. Albert Mineta, who served as a Nisei linguist during the occupation and restoration of Japan.

The entertaining MC for the event was Michael Inouye of NBC Bay Area. He’s the “traffic guy” [Editor’s note: Mike is the nephew of Watsonville’s Roy Sakae].

Above, Michael (standing left) and Secretary Shinseki (seated) shared a lighter moment to everyone’s delight.

G. Yamazawa presented an entertaining slam poetry based upon his father and grandmother’s experiences.

Co-chairs for the dinner were Floyd Mori, Mari Watanabe, and Michael Yaguchi.
Reiko Iwanaga and Pamela Dunnett of At Your Request served on the dinner committee.

National Sponsors for the dinner were AARP and Cole Chemical. Gold Sponsors included the Japanese American Veterans Association, Mae Nakamoto and Marty Herbert in honor of Robert Nakamoto and the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation. The VIP Reception Sponsor was PG&E. Silver Sponsors were: Kristi Yamaguchi’s Always Dream Foundation, the Japanese American Museum of San Jose, the Japanese American National Museum, Secretary and Mrs. Norman Mineta, Tomio Moriguchi/Seattle Nisei Veterans Committee, Larry and Anne Oda, San Jose JACL, Yoshihiro Uchida, and Tom and Carol Yuki. Media Sponsor was NBC Bay Area, and the Raffle Sponsor was Southwest Airlines. The Entertainment Sponsor was Contemporary Asian Theater Scene (CATS). There were also a number of Table Sponsors representing individuals and local and national organizations.


The dinner successfully reached its funding goal for the digital exhibition. Thank you, but to ensure the successful completion of the project and its future success, additional support is most welcomed. Donations to support the maintenance and accompanying national programs for the Congressional Gold Medal digital exhibition are still being sought. For further information or to donate, please visit the website: www.nationalveteransnetwork.com or email at info@nationalveteransnetwork.com.

Some private moments we wish to share:

Veterans Bill Omoto of Monterey and Ben and Yoko Umeda of Watsonville with Gen. Shinseki.

MIS Ben Umeda, with Yoko at his side, was recognized for his service. W-SC JACL was represented by Joe and Christine Bowes, Gary and Cindy Mine, Gini Matute-Bianchi and Norris Woodford.

Mas met with Floyd Mori, Deni and Norm Mineta, and the newly assigned Consul General Jun Yamada of the Japanese consulate in SF.

A photo opportunity with Gen. Shinseki.

It was a gala event that will be remembered for a long time. Thank you, Christine Sato-Yamazaki and the NVN.
JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION, JULY 13-15

Mas and Marcia Hashimoto, as W-SC JACL official delegates, are looking forward to this year’s convention.

The highlight of the 46th JACL National Convention in Las Vegas will be the tribute to the late Mike Masaru Masaoka at the Sayonara Banquet. Masaoka, as the JACL Executive Secretary (1941-1943), founding member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (1943-1945), and our Field Representative after WW II, was the guiding inspiration for all that we, Japanese and Japanese Americans, enjoy today in this country.

A special resolution, authored by our W-SC JACL chapter honoring the legacy of Mike M. Masaoka, will be presented to the delegates of the National Council prior to the dinner.

We are grateful Grant Ujifusa of NY and an honored member of our W-SC JACL chapter will be the keynote speaker for Mike’s tribute. No one in the JACL knows of Mike’s legacy better or can explain more fully than Grant. A special video by Midwest Regional Director Bill Yoshino will be presented at the banquet.

At the convention, a Smithsonian representative will be attending in search of Japanese and Japanese American incarceration artifacts to be featured in a JACL-sponsored 2017 exhibit commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066. If you have any of the following objects that you might consider donating to the Smithsonian for this exhibit, please bring a photograph of the object to the convention or give them to Mas and Marcia, before July 10th, who will meet, on your behalf, with the Smithsonian representative.

- 100th Infantry Battalion full uniform
- Photos from Japanese American World War II veterans (100th/442nd RCT/522 FAB/MIS/WAC/etc.)
- Handmade toys and children's items from camp
- Cards and games used in camp for leisure (kids and adults)
- Textbooks, report cards, projects, and artwork from camp schools and adult education classes
- Birth & death certificates from camp
- Camp worker’s documentation and records, such as salary logs, etc. (for both Japanese Americans and non-Japanese)
- Sports related artifacts, photos, and documents from camp
- Camp Newsletters and Newspapers
- Personal Letters (e.g. Nisei soldiers writing to parents in camp etc.
- Resettlement documents

Set to be featured in the Smithsonian National Museum of American History (NMAH) in Washington, D.C., this exhibit is scheduled to debut on February 19, 2017 and will remain on display through November 2017. The NMAH is the most visited history museum in the world and counts over 10,000 visitors daily.

Please email americanhistoryapacollection@si.edu for more information.

Visit the 2015 JACL National Convention website for registration, a schedule of events, forms, and more.

Noriko Sanefuji of Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and Marlene Shigekawa of Poston Community Alliance are viewing artifacts related to the Japanese American experience during World War II. Photo Credit: Patti Hirahara

“REFLECTIONS,” JAPANESE CULTURAL FAIR
by Carol Kaneko

The 29th annual Santa Cruz Japanese Cultural Fair at Mission Plaza Park on Saturday, June 6 began with Chanting by the members of the Zen Center on School Street, followed by a wonderful performance by Watsonville Taiko, then a demonstration by Aikido of Santa Cruz Dojo.

Throughout the day, there were performances on the main stage, martial arts demonstrations at Aikido of Santa Cruz, and demonstrations of Ikebana, kimono dressing, and tea ceremony at the Zen Center.

The fair is one of the most comprehensive presentations of traditional Japanese culture on the Central Coast, and, in spite of several other events happening in Santa Cruz that Saturday, was attended by several thousand people, mostly non-Nikkei, who were interested in learning about Japanese culture, eating Japanese food, and experiencing all things Japanese.

Our W-SC JACL chapter was again a major co-sponsor of the event, and our booth sold delicious strawberries, organic cucumbers, green tea, three types of bento boxes prepared by Timmy Hunt of Pono Hawaiian Grill, Hawaiian Sun drinks, and some beautiful ceramic items donated by Wendy King of Double Happiness Pottery. The JACL picture boards of the unjust wartime incarceration of Japanese and Japanese Americans were arranged at the side of our booth and were viewed by many people who stopped by to look at them and ask questions of our chapter historian, Mas Hashimoto.

Bobbi Jo Palmer and Paul Tao worked in our booth, too. The event was very successful for our chapter and brought together a hard-working group of JACL board members and their families and friends who set up, decorated, and manned the booth, increased our chapter’s visibility in the community, and raised awareness of our Nikkei history.

One of the great things about having a booth at the Japanese Cultural Fair is the opportunity to see and visit with many friends from near and far who stop by to say hello and support our JACL chapter. Visiting our JACL booth were teacher friends, travel friends, former students, and neighbors. Also stopping by to have lunch at our booth after their demonstration at the Zen Center were some of the ikebana ladies – Jean Akiyama, Terry Hirahara, Fumie Hane, and Hide Nagamine.

Thanks to the many friends and local businesses that generously donated to our booth: Paul and Kim Tao for organic strawberries; Tom Simmons of Berry Bowl for strawberries; Nagamine Farms for organic cucumbers; and Wendy King for the ceramic items. Timmy Hunt from Pono Hawaiian Grill prepared our delicious obento and gave us a good deal on them.

W-SC JACL board member, Aimee Mizuno and her parents, Takashi and Kitty Mizuno, were in charge of the Kids’ area. They gave lessons in ikebana, origami, and Japanese writing to kids and adults alike.

Many thanks to the following people who worked at the JACL booth: Jean Yamashita, Kerwin Berk, Victor Kimura (also arranged for donation from Berry Bowl), Jeanette Hager, Phil Shima, Bobbi Jo Palmer, Marcia and Mas Hashimoto, Gini Matute-Bianchi, Cindy and Gary Mine, Tadashi Kaneko, Takeshi and Aya Kaneko. (Tadashi, Takeshi, and Aya were dressed in yukata and gave an authentic “nihonjin” look to our booth.) Thanks to Iwao Yamashita for bringing two bonsai trees for display.

A very special thank you goes to Jim and Bobbi Jo Palmer and Mas and Marcia Hashimoto for providing the transportation to and from Watsonville for all our equipment and supplies.

To everyone: Domo arigato gozaimasu! See you next year (June 4, 2016) - same time, same place!

WATSONVILLE TAIKO AND SHINSEI DAIKO
By Bonnie Chihara

Here are a few pictures from our performance at the Japanese Cultural Fair on June 6th. We had our usual food booth there, too. We were so busy all day making yaki tori, rice, cucumber salad, mugicha and fried mochi. Our takiyaki (fish-shaped desserts) sold out after just a few hours! Thank you!
If you are interested in taking class with us we have classes for all age groups. Our classes are held at Kizuka Hall, 150 Blackburn St, Watsonville and at the Grey Bears Facility, 2710 Chanticleer St., Santa Cruz. For more info please go to our website www.watsonvilletaiko.org. Or, contact our business manager Taeko D’Andrea at (831) 435 4594 or email her at info@watsonvilletaiko.org.

We are currently seeking new board members. We meet bi-monthly in Aptos. So, if anyone is interested in joining our board please contact our business manager Taeko D’Andrea at (831) 435 4594 or email her at info@watsonvilletaiko.org.

Our upcoming schedule:
June 27th Land of Medicine Buddha Festival, Soquel
June 27th JAACL Community Picnic, Aptos Village Park
July 4th Summer Concert Series, New Brighton State Beach
July 10th Relay for Life, Watsonville High School
July 19th Obon Festival, Watsonville Buddhist Temple
July 26th Wharf to Wharf
July 26th Festival of Books, Harvey West Park
Aug. 30th Aromas Day, Aromas
Aug. 9th Church Street Fair, Santa Cruz
Sept. 5th Ksitigharba Day, Land of Medicine Buddha, Soquel
Sept. 26th Discovery Learning Center Summer Concert Series
Nov. 8th Big Sur Half Marathon, Asilomar
Nov. 15th Watsonville Taiko’s Annual Boutique Raffle

WELCOME, DIANE PORTER COOLEY!

Here is a special baby photo of Diane Porter Cooley before age one dressed in a kimono with Mrs. Uchida who lived on the Porter Las Lomas Ranch, 103 Hall Road, in North Monterey County.

The Uchidas, who were childless, had this photo taken in 1928 by a professional. The photo was sent to Mr. Uchida’s parents in Japan as “their newborn daughter.”

Diane Porter Cooley, shown with our W-SC JAACL President Marcia Hashimoto, is a strong supporter and a member of our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JAACL. Diane and another “cattle ranching” friend from Arizona, Sandra Day, graduated from Stanford University together. They remain the best of friends.

Sandra Day O’Connor made history by becoming the first woman Justice on the United States Supreme Court.

W-SC JAACL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS
Thank you for renewing prior to your expiration date. The date is located after your name on the address label of this newsletter (i.e. Name 7/15, end of July of 2015).

Your conscientious attention facilitates the task of our membership committee.

We appreciate your continued support, and we welcome new members.
On May 28, a bento lunch, strawberries and ice cream were provided by Iwao Yamashita's family—Jean, Shirley, Ann and Brian Yamashita—in honor of their father's 88th birthday. They also gave everyone Hawaiian designed utility bags. Attached to the bags were pictures of Iwao when he was in the first grade and one from present time. Iwao thanked everybody.

Daughter Shirley spoke glowingly of her father, Iwao Yamashita. Jean and Shirley surprised their father with a special gift—a SF Giant jersey!

After the festivities were over, Iwao was back to work—calling the bingo numbers.

Many thanks to toban group for June: Judy Hane, Rubie Kawamoto, Jo Ann Vear, and many others. It's gratifying to see so many helping out when it is not even their turn on toban—such a nice group of ladies and gentlemen working together.

Donations for bingo prizes were gratefully received June 4-18:

- George/Eiko Stewart: 12 toilet tissue, 6 rolls toilet tissue, 6 zucchini carrot bread
- Toshi Yamashita: 6 big paper towel, 4 boxes Kleenex
- Nobue Fujii: 3 bunch flowers, 6 cup of noodles
- Hideko Nagamine: 6 salad green, 17 bags cucumbers
- Mark/Patt Takeuchi: Miscellaneous paper goods
- Miye Yamashita: 5 noodle bowl, 3 bags chagashi
- Fred Oda: 5 Campbell soup, 5 cans tuna
- Kitty Mizuno: 4 bags lemons, 6 rolls bath tissue
- Rubie Kawamoto: 6 boxes Kleenex, 3 large bags arare, 80 tea bags, 3 bags arare
- Eiko Ceremony: 6 packages Ramen
- June/Sunao Honda: 3 dozen brown eggs, 8 plates chocolate mochi, 4 zucchini pineapple bread
- Terry Hirahara: 1 dozen toilet tissue, 1 large bag chips, 4 boxes Kleenex
- Eiko Nishihara: 1 dozen strawberry jam
- Yoshiko Nishihara: 14 bottles Dawn dish soap
- Nobuko Akiyama: 5 box Kleenex
- Yaeko Cross: 30 rolls toilet tissue
- Yuki & Edna Nagata: 4 boxes Kleenex, 4 boxes tissue
- Grace Fujita: 4 cans Spam Teriyaki
- April Goral: 5 mocha bar cookies
- Haruko Yoshii: 12 toilet tissue
- Reiko/Norman Kawano: 68 toothpaste, 46 mouthwash
- Ken/Alice Tanimoto: 15 rolls paper towels
- Jean Akiyama: 4 boxes Kleenex
- Eileen Byers: 10 Dawn dish soap
- Kumiko Nakatani: 15 rolls paper towels
- Hisako/Akira Kodama: 8 bunches flowers
- Mary Perez: 2 Campbell soup, 2 Rice-a-Roni, pkg. roasted peanuts
- Mitzi Katsuyama: 5 plates lemon cake
- Chie Sakaue: 2 bunches flowers, 5 bags chagashi
- Reiko Yamamoto: 12 cup of noodles
- Pat Marr: 8 pkgs cookies, 2 note pads
Tickets have been purchased for Mary Poppins at Cabrillo College on Sunday, July 26th. If you have made a reservation, please pay Susan AmRhein at your earliest convenience. We will be taking several cars and riding together.

Paul Kaneko advised Seniors there will be a bus trip to Table Mountain July 28. Sign up ASAP.

Cindy Mine advised everyone that they need to review their checking accounts regularly as now people are hacking into that as well as credit card theft. She had a small charge in her checking account and after questioning it, found out it was fraudulent. If you are hacked in any way at all, check with your banks and social security office.

Our Father’s Day celebration began with a moment of silence for those fathers who have passed away. Chocolate cigars were handed out to the fathers in attendance for the celebration: Akira Kodama, Fred Oda, Iwao Yamashita, Sunao Honda, Paul Kaneko, Leigh Sakaguchi, Gary Mine, and Phil Shima. A Happy Father’s Day to all and also for those that missed the celebration: Carmel Kamigawachi, Jim Kawamoto, Akira Nagamine, Sam Sakamoto, Yukio Nagata and Mark Takeuchi.

April Goral shared her Father’s Day story. Eichi Karl Koiwai, MD and Sensei 8th Dan belt in judo, was born in Seattle on February 26, 1920, and he was an athlete, artist, physician, quiet and bright and a photographer. He would dive for money in Puget Sound as a young boy and worked in the canneries in Alaska. He attended the University of Washington and was a black belt in judo at age 16. He served in the military as a physician and taught for 39 years. He never gave up swimming or judo and passed away on February 23, 2009, 3 days before his birthday. Thank you, April for sharing your father with us.

Susan AmRhein arrived with barbecue steaks and sautéed mushrooms and many members brought rice, beans, salads, side dishes and a beautiful array of desserts. Everybody enjoyed their delicious meal. Helen Nakano made the fabulous Father’s Day decorations which members were able to take home. It was a special Father’s Day feast, and thank you to everybody who participated.

June birthdays were celebrated June 11. Happy Birthday song was sung to Judy Hane and Eiko Nishihara (left). These members were not there to celebrate their birthdays with us but a great big Happy Birthday to: Masako Miura, 101; Yoshino Matano, 100; Leigh Sakaguchi and Philip Snyder. Photos by Carol Kaneko.

The JACL picnic was held June 27 at Aptos Village Park, and we all had a great time.

Monetary donations were received from: Sachi Snyder, Kimiyo Fujii, Helen Nakano, Toshi Yamashita, Akira and Hide Nagamine, Paul and Carol Kaneko, Fred Oda, Family of Ichiro Sam Sugidono, Eiko Nishihara, Judy Hane, Yoshino Matano, and Gary and Cindy Mine.

Special request: The Senior Center is in need of a replacement DVD player (not a Blu-Ray player). If you’ve recently upgraded to Blu-Ray and no longer need your DVD player, please consider donating it to the Seniors so they can continue to watch instructional and exercise videos as well as documentaries and home movies. Please contact Paul or Carol Kaneko via email: wcs.jacl.seniors@gmail.com.

Kinji House, 1932-2015

Kinji House, 83 of Monterey, passed away on May 11, 2015. He was born in Kamakura, Japan on December 2, 1932. He owned Kinji’s Oriental Gift Store in Carmel, CA for 38 years. He is preceded in death by his wife, Motoko House, March 2, 2014, and is survived by his daughter, Takae Araki and Haley and Jeffrey Araki of Goleta, CA, his two grandchildren.

Kenji and Motoko were great supporters of our W-SC JACL Senior Center and will be missed dearly.

To leave online condolence to the family, please visit www.thepaulmortuary.com.
Jim Uyematsu, 1923-2015


Jim was a lifelong strawberry farmer who started farming with his father, Rempei, and brother Roy in Southern California. After World War II the family started farming strawberries in Watsonville for Driscoll Strawberry Associations, Inc.; Jim farmed until his retirement in the mid-1980s. The Uyematsu family continues in the berry business to this day.

Jim and Mary loved to travel and after his retirement they traveled extensively. Their trips included traveling across the United States in their motor home and numerous trips to Japan, Europe and China. Jim also loved sports of all types and was a big fan of the San Francisco Giants. Even as his vision began to fail, he enjoyed listening to the games on the radio.

Jim is survived by his son, Alan (Gayle) Uyematsu and daughter, Kathy Leslie. Jim is also survived by four grandchildren—Andrea Leslie, Michael (Brooke) Leslie, Matthew Leslie and Kevin Uyematsu; great granddaughter Juliana Leslie, and close friend, Yukimi Inagaki.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Mary, in 2007.

Private memorial services will be held at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to the Watsonville Buddhist Temple, 423 Bridge Street, Watsonville, CA 95076; the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL, PO Box 163, Watsonville, CA 95077-0163; or your favorite charity.

**WATSONVILLE IKENOBO IKBANA**

**By Terry Hirahara**

Watsonville Ikenobo Ikebana had a very successful ikebana exhibition on June 13-14, thanks to Chairperson Mitsuyo Suiko Tao and her very able committee: Fumie Suimon Hane, Teruko Suisho Hirahara, Reiko Suirei Yamamoto, Jean Suika Akiyama, Hideko Suishu Nagamine, Elko Suilei Trapp, Aiko Suiai Nitao, Hisako Suitumi Kodama, Marian Monto, Nancy Kuratomi, Keiko Hanayama, Bonnie Gutierrez, Sonia Deetz, Jo Ann Vear, Christine Bowes, Kazuko Kurasaki, Chie Suisen Sakaue, Gail Wurtenberg, Judy Hane, Reiko Akiyoshi, Phil Shima, William Guess, Angel Reyda, and Christine Shang. Special thanks to the Boy Scouts and the Watsonville Buddhist Temple.

The event honored the 100th birthday of Sensei Yoshino Suiun Matano and was co-sponsored by the Ikenobo Ikebana Society of Northern California.

A beautiful arrangement by Professor Taichi Inoue greeted the hundred enthusiasts that attended. Sensei is from the Ikenobo Ikebana Headquarters in Kyoto, Japan.

A demonstration by Inoue sensei was enjoyed by the audience for his creation of eight different styles of Ikenobo Ikebana.

Sensei was assisted by members of the Watsonville chapter and by Mrs. Hideko Metaxas, President of Ikenobo Ikebana Society Northern California Chapter, who interpreted and entertained the audience with her delightful wit and smile.
Watsonville teachers and students had arrangements. All the arrangements were created in such a beautiful style and admired by all those who attended.

We are grateful to the teachers who came from the Northern California area to arrange flowers on Saturday and stayed overnight at local motels.

Christine Bowes’ ikebana included a blue glacier influence and flowers of Alaska.

DONATIONS, GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

In memory of Helen Kobara from ...
D. Tomi and Roderick Kobara of Kailua, HI
Diane Cooley
Yoshiye Kaita and Family
John and Sarah Kobara Foundation of LA
Margaret Madsen of Soquel
Isao Matsui
Alice Misumi
Tom Murakami
Frances Schwamm of Salinas

Linda Itamura
Michiye Noda of Lodi
Judy Kaita Tokubo of Newark, CA
Mary Tsuyuki and Family
Esther Ura
Chiyoko Yagi
Aiko Yamamoto
Ruth Yamamoto
Mary Okamoto of Alexandria, VA
Betty Morimune
Stuart Sakuma and Janet Nagamine

From Christine Izumizaki of San Jose ...
Mother’s Day in memory of Kitako Izumizaki,
Nancy Iwami’s 101 birthday, and
In memory of Kenji House

From Esther Ura ...
In memory of Saichi Kimoto
In memory of Sam Ichiro Sugidono
In memory of Curtis Gavin from ...
Kai, Maili, Lili and Oliver

In honor of Ben Umeda from ...
Gini Matute-Bianchi

From Ben and Yoko Umeda in appreciation

From Winkie Rose of Santa Cruz in appreciation DOREF

WATSONVILLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE NEWS

By Jackie Yamashita

Safe and Sane Fireworks on Sale!

The Watsonville Buddhist Temple Sangha will be selling fireworks from its parking lot July 1 to July 4. While we appreciate your patronage, we ask you to be extra careful with the fireworks this summer. You can only set them off within the Watsonville city limits, and we ask that you take all the suggested precautions before setting off any fireworks.

John Adams wrote in 1776 that our independence will be celebrated with pomp, parade and, of course, fireworks!

July is Obon Festival time around the Monterey Bay:
July 12th Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple
July 19th Watsonville Buddhist Temple
July 26th Salinas Buddhist Temple

Each Temple conducts its festival with fun, food, and enthusiasm. Let’s honor our ancestors by dancing, especially the traditional obon odori and tanko bushi.
All are welcome to join any of our remaining obon odori (dance) practices on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7 pm at the Temple hall, July 6th to July 15th.

Jimmy Uemura got the Temple grounds to look nice for Kokoro no Gakko, the flag pole dedication ceremony by Eagle Scout candidate Angelo Long on Sunday, June 28th, and the obon festivities on July 19th.

Watsonville’s Obon Festival will be on Sunday, July 19th from noon to 5:30 pm. There will be a service in the Hondo at 3 pm, koto performance at 3:15 pm, Watsonville Taiko at 3:30 pm, obon odori (dancing) from 4 pm, and the raffle follows.

From noon will be udon, sushi, chicken teriyaki, and other great food for sale. Why cook, and why not make the festival a family traditional homecoming?

Graduates Kelsey Kusumoto, Aptos High; Christopher Inokuchi, Anzar High (San Juan Bautista); and Kevin Yamaoka, Christopher High (Gilroy) received certificates of congratulations from Rev. Shousei Hanayama on behalf of the BCA. Congratulations!!

Watsonville Buddhist Temple Calendar for July 2015:
1-4 Wed-Sat Fireworks Booth
1 & 2 Wed & Thu 9 am - noon Kokoro no Gakko
1 Wed 7 pm Obon Odori Practice
5 Sun 9:30 am Japanese Service
10 am Sunday & Shotsuki Hoyo
6 Mon 7 pm Obon Odori Practice
7 Tue 7:30 pm Board Meeting
8 Wed 1 pm BWA Meeting
7 pm Obon Odori Practice
9 Thu 10 am ABA Meeting
10 Fri 2 pm San Juan Howakai
11 Sat 6:30 pm Hatsubon Service with Rev. George Matsubayashi
12 Sun 10 am Obon Cemetery Service at PV with Rev. Matsubayashi

Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple Obon
13 Mon 7 pm Obon Odori Practice
15 Wed 7 pm Obon Odori Practice
19 Sun Noon Watsonville Obon Festival
3 pm Obon Service
4 pm Obon Odori
26 Sun Salinas Buddhist Temple Obon

Reserve these dates on your calendar.
The Temple’s Annual Rummage Sale is scheduled for Fri., August 7 and Sat. August 8.
Watsonville’s famous Chicken Teriyaki Take-Out Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, Sept 26, 2015.
Shotsuki Hoyo Service
10 am Sunday July 5, 2015
July Memorial List

Akimoto, Keiko
Arao, Alan
Arao, Ted Tetsuo
Fujita, Asa
Hamai, Sosuke
Hattori, Kin
Higaki, Thomas Tsuyoshi
Hirano, Isao
Ikeda, Midori
Inokuchi, Takeshi George
Iwami, Shige
Izumi, George
Kawasaki, Fuji
Kawasaki, Sanosuke
Konishi, Aki
Kurimoto, Fusayo
Kusumoto, Amiko
Kusumoto, Satsuki
Matano, Yoshio
Mine, Isekiichi
Misumi, Jim
Naoto
Mito, Mary
Nagata, Takeo
Nakahara, Robert
Nakamoto, Motoichi
Nakashima, Mikie
Nakashima, Mitsuteru
Niiyama, Ayako
Nishihara, Mits
Nishita, Ronald Toshiyuki
Nitta, Isano
Nitta, Tokujiro
Oita, Suwa
Ota, Yaeko
Sasano, Katsukazu
Sasano, Yoshiko
Shimonishi, Torasuke
Shingai, Chiyoko
Shingai, Fuku
Shingai, Isaac
Shingai, Seki Inouye
Sugimoto, George Kazuo
Takeuchi, Sugako
Tamasu, Masao
Tao, Kazu
Terasaki, Kichisaburo
Tsuyi, Sunao
Uyeda, Sen
Wada, Utako
Wada, Hiroshi George
Wakayama, Hiroko
Yamaguchi, Tadayoshi
Yamamoto, Fuku
Yamaoka, Akei
Yamaoka, Kousaku
Yokai, Shizu
Yoshizumi, Tsuru

Westview will once again participate in the 24 Hour Relay for Life event that takes place on July 18 - July 19 at the Watsonville High School. Besides needing volunteer walkers, Westview will also be selling Chicken Teriyaki take-out meals on July 18th that can either be picked-up at Westview or the Watsonville High School. Chicken teriyaki tickets are currently being sold; suggested donations are $8.00. All proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society.

Another way to donate at this event is to purchase a luminaria bag. Relay For Life participants and donors remember loved ones lost to cancer and honor those battling the disease by dedicating luminaria bags. Luminaria bags are transformed and illuminated after dark at every local Relay For Life event. Each luminaria is personalized with a name, photo, message or drawing in memory or honor of a friend or loved one who has been affected by cancer. Luminaries can also be dedicated in support of a Relay participant. Each luminaria candle represents a person. Luminaries are $5 each and can be purchased at the church or at the Relay for Life Event. If you purchase the luminaries at the church, the proceeds will be a part of Team Westview's total donation. If you are interested in purchasing the luminaria bags, signing up to walk and/or purchasing chicken teriyaki tickets, please text or leave Evelyn Veal a message at (831) 840-4307.

Westview will also be selling lap beads for people who will be walking the track for $5 each.

Any volunteer help that you can provide would be greatly appreciated by Westview in order to help make this a successful event for the American Cancer Society. For instance, if you are unable to walk but would like to volunteer/participate at the event, just manning our booth would be very helpful.

For more information of the Relay for Life event in Watsonville go to:
http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFL_CY15CA?pg=entry&fr_id=68480

To make a donation for the church on the website, click on the DONATE button first, then look for Westview’s team name - the Westview Warriors.

Westview Church Youth Group: The Youth Group is going to Navajo Nation Native American reservation in Arizona for a service mission trip July 25th - July 31st. They will learn about Native American life on the reservation, grow spiritually, serve the children in the local church, and do a work project. They will also experience Monument Valley and
the Grand Canyon. Please be praying for our youth, the leaders, and the people they will serve.

In order to help fund raise their trip, the Youth will have a car wash at Westview on July 11th from 9 am – 1 pm.

Along with the chicken teriyaki meals for Relay for Life on July 18th, Westview will also be selling chicken teriyaki take-out meals to benefit the Youth Mission Scholarship Fund. Suggested donations are $8.00 and can be picked up at Westview from 10 am – noon; tickets are currently being sold. These donations will also help finance the Youth Group's previously mentioned upcoming trip to Arizona.

### Youth/Family Upcoming Events
Help your youth/children grow a strong foundation in Christ!

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

Mark your calendars for the following dates in July and August:

- July 3rd – Gym Nite
- July 17th – Gym Nite
- July 18th – Preparation of chicken teriyaki meals and Relay for Life
- August 7th – Gym Nite
- August 21st – Gym Nite

The Youth are having a great time at the Beach Party held on June 5th at Manresa Beach.

**In Loving Memory.**

Long-time church member Kazuko Gooding passed away on June 4, 2015 in Vacaville. She was active in the Church nichigobu (second generation group), the church choir under the direction of Virginia Sakata and a member of the Deacons. Westview would like to send their condolences to the Gooding family.

### Tutoring Club:
Westview will be starting a tutoring club to local students after school at Westview one day a week beginning in September. Please be in prayer. Contact Pastor Dan if you are interested in helping in this loving outreach to our neighbors.

### Salvation Army:
Westview will resume serving Salvation Army meals again in December. Contact Pastor Dan or Jane Yoshida if you would like to volunteer in December.

**Wednesday Study Series:** We finished *The Hope Quotient* by Rev Dr. Ray Johnston in May and will start a new study in September.

**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 are learning vital lessons about how to play the MOST IMPORTANT GAME EVER—the game of life.

In August, we will start a series on “Care for your soul – taking care of the only part of you that will last for eternity!”

### Pajaro Valley Historical Association’s Award

“The $500 prize was awarded to Molly DeCastongreene for her research paper on Kenny Sears, basketball star at Watsonville High School, professional basketball player in the 1950’s and 1960’s and presently a local resident. Her outstanding presentation highlighting the factual information of his career as well as her historical perspective of educating young people was deemed by the judging panel to fit all the criteria of the award. She wrote of ‘the need to honor our local heroes, because it fosters a sense of community and shows kids growing up around here that anything is possible.’

In addition, four other projects including a booklet of Watsonville Apple labels by Max Bowman, Royal Oaks Park restoration by Nicholas Deleissegues, a booklet on Victorian homes by Vincent Irao, and a research project on the establishment of the Pajaro Valley Water Management Association by Roger Marin were each awarded $100.”

Congratulations to all! Gerry Martin, PVHA

### “TOMMY ARITA” MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The annual tournament was held at the Pajaro Valley Golf Course on Friday, June 19th, the proceeds of which benefited the Watsonville High School’s Athletic Department.

The late Tommy Arita, WHS Class of 1951, was a sports enthusiast helping both boys and girls sport teams by volunteering for decades—as official score keeper, announcer, ground and maintenance man, coaching—in any way he could help.
Coach Norm Haney with “Willie the Wildcat” and the members of the freshman football team.

This foursome included Coach Jim Kosinski (retired WHS math teacher), Victor Kimura (WHS Class of 1962 and Chief Financial and Administrative Officer of Second Harvest Food Bank), Coach Bob Bivins (WHS Class of 1960 and retired PE teacher), and Jack Spurlock, (retired foreign language teacher and graduate of rival Santa Cruz High, Class of 1954). All had a great time.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF NISEI VETERANS

On Sat., August 15, FFNV will be participating in the Living Ship Day, a monthly event open to the public aboard the historic USS HORNET, docked in Alameda, CA. On that day, the 442nd RCT will be honored, and Lawson Sakai will be the keynote speaker.

The program starts at 1 pm, and all veterans, family and friends are encouraged to join us and view the Nisei Veterans’ Exhibit created by Lt. Col. Brian Shiroyama (USAF retired and Vietnam War veteran) and to tour this historic warship. There will be no bento lunch but food may be purchased at the ship’s snack bar.

FFNV has arranged for a group discount admission of only $10 per person. All you need to do is email, call or send a note to Jean Hirasaki for this special rate. Please provide first and last names; veterans and their spouse will be free. Gates open at 10 am and closes at 5 pm. Regular admission is $20 per adult; Seniors 65+, Military and students with ID $15; children 7-17 $10; children under 6 free with one paying adult.

We have a table set up from 12 noon to 12:45 pm at the entrance where you can check in, pay the $10 fee, and pick up a name tag. Drinks and snacks will be provided for those in the FFNV group. If you do not pre-
register, you can still attend but will have to pay the regular fee.

Contact Jean at jthirasaki@gmail.com (408) 842-6973, or 7210 Princeton Pl, Gilroy, CA 95020 by July 31.

ATTENTION GRANDPARENTS: Some of you may be encouraged to take grandchildren to amusement centers—Disneyland, Universal Studios, or Legoland. Instead, bring ‘em, if they are 10 years of age or older, to tour and to learn more about this one special US naval vessel. A plus? The USS HORNET is anchored close by.

The Las Vegas Reunion of the FFNV will take place on October 18-22 at the California Hotel, 12. E. Ogden Avenue. If you wish to attend, contact Jean Hirasaki right away at jthirasaki@gmail.com (408) 842-6973, or 7210 Princeton Pl, Gilroy, CA 95020.

**Midori Kai Arts & Crafts Boutique Slated for Sept. 12 in Mt. View by Aggie Idemoto**

Midori Kai, Inc., a professional women’s organization will host its annual Asian American arts and crafts boutique on Saturday, September 12, 2015, 9 am to 4 pm at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple gymnasium, 575 North Shoreline Boulevard in Mountain View, CA.

This annual fundraiser, a signature event of Midori Kai, Inc., benefits other non-profit organizations on a 2-year rotating cycle. This year’s recipients include: Asian Americans for Community Involvement, Asian Women’s Shelter, Asian Law Alliance Domestic Violence Project, and the Fred Korematsu Institute.

In addition to shopping for quality arts and crafts, jewelry, clothing, and pottery, visitors can enjoy Asian cuisine, door prize drawings, and entertainment by the Lotus PreSchool Singers and Matt Toshima, Guitarist.

Midori Kai President Cynthia Sasaki notes: “Customers feel that the Midori Kai Arts & Crafts Boutique offers a wonderful shopping experience and supports a worthwhile cause, helping to benefit many non-profits over the years.” Questions?

Please do not call the Mt. View Buddhist Temple. Contact Phyllis Osaki (925.596-1770) or visit www.midorikai.com. Like us on Facebook!

**SPEAKING ABOUT OUR UNJUST WARTIME INCARCERATION CONTINUES ...**

Mas Hashimoto is grateful to the parents and teachers who extend invitations each year for him to speak. Why is there an origami crane in this drawing from a student of Ann Sobrato High School in Morgan Hill?

I begin by asking if they gave presents on their birthdays to their parents in appreciation for the most precious gift of all …life …instead of expecting presents. If they don’t have any money, I’ve suggested folding two cranes to give to each of their parents. If one gives a crane that one has made, one is wishing the other a long life (remember, “Sadako” of Hiroshima?). After my presentation, students have given me origami cranes they folded with binder paper, and I am grateful. I am grateful that they are aware of our Japanese culture, traditions, and, most important, our philosophy and values.

For, it was said by the newspaper publishers, politicians, and others that “The Japanese race is an alien race which can never be assimilated into the American way of life. There is nothing of value of Japanese culture.” It was a form of racism, hatred, and bullying by adults. Hollywood movies of the 1920-1940s reinforced that belief. Laws were passed to advance that concept—Asians couldn’t become citizens, own property, or marry whites.

Today, the students love sushi, sashimi, wasabi, teriyaki, tofu, karate, karaoke, haiku, sumo, ikebana, taiko, bonsai, et al.

But, those are not nearly as important as our philosophy and values—of loyalty; integrity; respect; duty; gaman; to bring no shame to one’s family, one’s self, and one’s community; respect and love of nature; and to live with harmony (wa).

It is important that students know we were unjustly incarcerated but it is also important to know why – the racism—that prevailed long before the war began.

At the invitation of parent Dr. Janet Nagamine, Mas spoke to Jaime’s 5th grade class at Gateway School in Santa Cruz on May 22nd, and at the invitation of Betsy Waki-Tatsugawa, Mas spoke to a special group of senior ladies in Carmel on June 23rd. The message to both groups was the same—racism in any form is wrong!
IRELAND VOTES FOR SAME SEX MARRIAGES
Not only was the outcome surprising, but even more impressive was the margin of victory—60.1%—a landslide! This vote was a referendum of the people and not of a legislature. A Vatican official denounced the vote.

Of equal concern today deals with religious freedom. Does one’s religious beliefs permit discrimination or refusal of service against another in hospitals, restaurants, motel/hotels, rentals, atuo repair shops, barber shops, clothing stores, entertainment centers, schools, pharmacies, government agencies (police, fire, paramedics), etc?

KILL-GAYS INITIATIVE DENOUNCED
An Orange County (CA) lawyer has proposed a ballot initiative to make gay sex punishable by death.
California’s Attorney General Kamala Harris is asking a judge to toss it out.
Members of the California Assembly are denouncing a proposed ballot measure that would make it legal to murder gay and lesbian people.

“Deeply involved in community, Aptos High senior thanks friends.” By Todd Guild, Watsonville Register-Pajaronian, May 16, 2015, Reprinted with permission

Brandon Gruber was a sophomore when he came to Aptos High School, and soon thereafter he met his first bully.

It would also turn out to be one of his last, thanks to his friend Saul Miramontes, who stood up to the tormentor.

The bully was possibly drawn to the fact that Gruber has Down syndrome.

“I saw a kid picking on him, calling him foul names, and I didn’t like that,” Miramontes said.

Miramontes, 18, said he told Gruber to continue on to class and then threatened the bully, who reportedly asked what he planned to do to stop him. Miramontes’ response: “Do it again and find out.”

That was the beginning of a friendship that lasted throughout their high school career.

Gruber, now 19 and set to graduate on June 5, addressed the Pajaro Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees Wednesday night, where he gave a short presentation thanking all the people who have helped him through high school.

“It was pretty heart-touching for me, “Gruber said of his friend’s defense.

Gruber graduates with a long list of accomplishments.
He is a member of the school’s Associated Student Body. He also played on the freshman basketball team, acted in several plays, took weightlifting classes for four years and has been involved in many other school activities.

An accomplished artist, he created his own foundation through which he sells note-cards with designs he painted himself. To date, he has raised more than $13,000, which he used to send several low-income classmates to the prom and buy them yearbooks.

In addition, Gruber volunteers with the Teen Kitchen Project, and served on the Santa Cruz City Youth Council.

Gruber calls his foundation 321life.com numbers that refer to the chromosomal anomaly that causes the syndrome.

“It’s a way to give back to the community,” he said of his work.

On his website, Gruber’s parents Tim and Theresa Gruber wrote of their worries that their son’s condition would draw attention of mean people.

But he leaves high school with a legion of friends, dozens of extracurricular activities under his belt and modeling work on his resume.
His fellow students voted him homecoming king earlier this year.
He earned national recognition in this week’s *People* magazine for his philanthropic work.
In appreciation for his friendship, Gruber gave Miramontes a football, which is autographed by the San Francisco 49ers—all of them.
But Miramontes seemed perplexed by the gift and by the recognition.
“It shouldn’t be something we get recognized for,” he said. “It should be human nature.”
Instead, Miramontes gave credit to Gruber.
“If it wasn’t for him, I wouldn’t be the man I am today,” Miramontes said. “If I had the world I would give it to him.”

Marie M. Mockett’s most recent book, *Where the Dead Pause and the Japanese Say Goodbye*, takes the reader on an insightful journey into Japanese culture by revisiting the March 11, 2011 earthquake, tsunami and radiation in northern Japan. Mockett’s maternal family is from the region that was shattered by the disaster. Her family owns and maintains a Zen temple in the region. If you’ve enjoyed the many festivals of Japan on your tours, you will definitely relate to this book. She is a graduate of Robert Louis Stevenson of Pebble Beach and Columbia University in NYC and is a classmate of Kurt Kurasaki.

For information or to order Gruber’s note cards, visit [www.321life.com](http://www.321life.com). Photos by Todd Guild.

**“GAMAN: COPING WITH ADVERSITY”**

On Sat. May 17, at the JACL in Monterey, the Center for Japanese American Heritage sponsored a panel discussion that was ably moderated by Professor David Yamada. Carolyn McCombs welcomed everyone to this special event.

Marie Mutsuki Mockett, Paul Mark Tag, Luis Valdez, Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, David Yamada, and Carolyn McCombs.

The mission of the CJAH is to collect, maintain and preserve the Japanese and Japanese American cultural legacy of the Monterey Peninsula.
A near capacity crowd gathered to listen to members of this outstanding panel.

Paul Mark Tag retired as a research scientist to write fiction, an interesting love mystery, *How Much Do You Love Me?* It’s a story of love shared between a young Japanese American girl and a Caucasian boy whose relationship is shattered by race prejudice, war, and “camp.” Tag has researched our wartime experience carefully, and we certainly appreciate that. It lends credibility, though the book is fiction. Is there the triumph of love and commitment? Hmmm. Part of the story takes place on our favorite Monterey Peninsula.
Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston’s widely acclaimed American classic, *Farewell to Manzanar*, is an autobiographical novel read by hundreds of thousands of young students each year. We are grateful for Jeanne and her late husband and co-author, James D. Houston, for introducing our wartime camp experience to the American public. Our story is now included in the high school US History textbooks!

WELCOME TO A NEW NEIGHBOR IN TOWN

GOOD BYE TO AN OLD FRIEND, ONE LESS JAPANTOWN SHOP …

Oda’s Barber Shop (left) will make way for a new McDonald’s come next August.

Luis Valdez was two years old when his migrant farm worker parents took over ownership of a ranch in the Cupertino area. Only later did Luis learn the farm was previously owned by a Japanese American family that had been incarcerated in Heart Mountain, WY during WW II. Valdez’s historically relevant and emotionally powerful play, *Valley of the Heart*, is a testament to friendship and loyalty. The play is to open soon in San Jose.

Each panelist/author wrote glowingly of the Japanese concept—gaman—to endure and to persevere.

Many have objected to another fast-food restaurant on lower Main Street. Some wish to develop the area with quaint boutique shops instead. Watsonville is not suited for that. To have “boutique” shops in the city, one must raise wages by improving the educational system.

W-SC JACL AUGUST 2015 NEWSLETTER

Next month’s newsletter will feature:
1) The W-SC JACL Community Picnic, which was held on Sat. June 27, 2015;
2) Honoring our 2015 scholarship recipients;
3) The flag pole dedication by Eagle Scout Angelo Long of Boy Scout Troop 558;
4) Kokoro no Gakko’s summer session;
5) Obergefell v. Hodges case; and
6) The National JACL Convention in Las Vegas.

JOIN US--WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL

We are a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, educational, civil rights organization, and our tax deductible federal ID is #94-2659895. A membership application form is included in this newsletter. Yes, you don’t have to be a Japanese American to be a member. You don’t even have to be a US citizen. You must be an advocate for equal justice and civil rights for all.

Thank you for reading this July 2015 newsletter. Onward!

Mas Hashimoto, Editor
Seniors’ Corner

One-Day Senior Trip
Table Mountain Casino, Friant
Date: July 28, 2015 [Tuesday] 8:00 AM to 7:30 PM
$5 e-cash
Cost: Active Senior Members $30, and others $40
For reservation call Carol Kaneko 476-7040 or Rubie Kawamoto 854-2028
Non-Senior Center members are welcome to join us! Seats are still available.

Join our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Senior Center! Don’t stay alone at home. 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, come 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 care and protection of both our local W-SC JACL chapter and the National JACL, we encourage all who take part in our Senior Center activities to become regular members of the National JACL through our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL chapter. A membership form has been included in this newsletter for your convenience.**

Upcoming July Activities at the Senior Center:
- Thurs., July 2: Regular Bingo, a “4th of July” surprise
- Thurs., July 9, 23, 30: Regular Bingo
- Thurs., July 16: July Birthday Party
- Sun., July 26: Mary Poppins at Cabrillo College

Check our Senior Center website: [http://kizukahallseniors.wordpress.com](http://kizukahallseniors.wordpress.com) to keep up with our activities.

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.
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:

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

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

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

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

Name: ___________________________ (Last Name) ___________________________ (First Name) ___________________________ (Middle Name)

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

Address: ________________________________________________________________

Home phone: (_____)_________________________ E-mail: ___________________________

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

Name: ___________________________ Age: ___________________________

Name: ___________________________ Age: ___________________________

Name: ___________________________ Age: ___________________________

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

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

Thank you so much for your support.