CELEBRATING MIKE’S LEGACY…

Thursday, October 15, 2015 will be the 100th birthday of Mike Masaru Masaoka had he lived (1915-1991). In celebration we offer this tribute to he who remains the most important Japanese American who ever lived and who contributed so much to the present well-being of all Japanese and Japanese Americans.

We called upon Terry Shima who knew Mike Masaoka personally and who would speak with authority.

The following is a question and answer response of May 6, 2015 between the National JACL and TSgt Terry Shima (photo left). We are grateful to be able to share this with our readers— to those who lived through our wartime experience and unjust incarceration, to our youthful members, and to our future generations.

Describe your first contact with Mike Masaoka.

I first met Mike Masaoka around May 15, 1945 at the Replacement Depot in the Italian Alps, near Lake Garda, where the 442nd was bivouacked. Replacement Depot is where the incoming replacements go to be assigned to a unit. I was told Mike Masaoka will interview me. Mike entered the room, put out his hand, and said “I am Mike Masaoka. Director of 442nd Public Relations office”, abbreviated as PRO. Mike spent about 10 minutes describing the work of the PRO, asked me a few questions, and asked if I wish to be assigned to PRO. I responded: “I think you have the wrong man, I don’t have any public Relations training or experience, I don’t have any college education, I graduated from a small high school in the Hawaii countryside, and I am poor in English. There are a number of college graduates in my group, who are better qualified.” Mike said, “You’ll do, we will teach you, however, the first thing we need to do is find a name for you because your name, Teruji, is not good for PR work. We’ll call you Terry.” Mike then said “Terry, put your bag in the jeep, I need to get back to the office to work on a couple deadlines.”

When we got to Service Company and the PRO tent, where we slept and worked, Mike pointed to my bunk and introduced me to Tak Yatabe, UC Berkeley, about 38, who, before 442nd was an official of a wholesale florist in Berkeley and to Shig Aratani, also about 38, a UCLA graduate and owner of a publishing firm in Los Angeles. Tak and Shig were transferred to PRO from line companies. Mike pointed to my work space, which looked like an orange crate with a typewriter sitting on it. I learned from Tak later it was occupied by Tooru Kanazawa, a professional journalist before he volunteered, also about 38. Shima succeeds Kanazawa? I wondered if Mike had been overseas too long.

Mike then got me registered with the clerk of Service Company and introduced me to 1st Sgt Royal Manaka.
Mike asked 1st Sgt Manaka to exempt me from company duties, such as KP ("kitchen police"), latrine and guard duty because my PRO work will require me to work long and odd hours. Manaka said OK. Mike also introduced me to the Mess Sergeant, Staff Sgt Joe Itagaki, and Master Sgt Yoshida of the Motor Pool. These three non-coms were key to Mike’s PRO work.

2. What were Mike’s duties in the Army during World War II?

Mike said that when he reported to Colonel Charles Pence, 442nd commander at Camp Shelby, Pence told him Washington wants him to publicize the heroism of the 442nd men. Mike said that while we are no longer in a combat situation “your principal mission is an extension of this directive”. Within this framework, as Chief of PRO, Mike was responsible for putting out a daily Newsletter; write and send articles to 442nd soldiers’ hometown newspapers with a copy going to Pacific Citizen; visit regimental headquarters to gather news and leads and to ensure PRO activities were in coordination with Headquarters; to talk to American journalists, who represented wire services and newspapers; cover Italian village folks’ interaction with 442nd units mainly for goodwill; attend Italian officials and nobilities dinner parties, and when time was available assist the Adjutant’s office, such as in writing award recommendations.

3. How did Mike carry out these duties?

Mike carried out his duties in a businesslike fashion. He told me some things, others I learned by watching him. Some of points he taught me: respond to deadlines promptly, if you can’t meet it tell the person to whom you committed. Arrive for appointments on time, do your business, and take your leave. Be fully prepared for your meeting. Be courteous, don’t make excuses, don’t cover up and if you find you misstated a fact be sure to correct it lest that person makes a decision on flawed information. There are other points that don’t emerge readily but this gives you a glimpse of Mike’s operating style. He sat with me to discuss my written work, making changes in grammar and style. He was patient, and I was never more challenged and eager to learn. In other words, he was true to his word: “we will teach you”. He did.

4. Describe Mike’s traits, values, personality.

To summarize, Mike was a very intelligent, highly articulate, caring and thoughtful person.

Traits: Hard worker, arealist. Mike said Japanese Americans were a small minority and our numbers were politically inconsequential.

While on duty with JACL before he entered the army, government officials ignored Mike, talked down to him. E.G. COL Bendetsen told Mike “You (ethnic Japanese) have two choices: cooperate or we will do it our way”.

Mike said they had the guns and the tanks, and Mike was convinced they would have used it at the slightest perceived provocation. Thus, Mike advised the Nikkei population to peacefully obey the evacuation orders, not to resort to violence, and to seek restitution after the war.

Values: Friendship, high quality work, perfection, integrity. Working with him for around a half a year, and giving me no clue, he arranged with the regimental commander that I succeed him in rank and position. On his last visit to the Commander’s office there was a small informal ceremony to bid Mike goodbye. In Mike’s remarks he announced I would be his successor. I felt like a boy asked to do a man’s job. Mike did one more thing for me. The following year when the regiment was ordered to return to the States for the review by President Truman, my regimental commander told me I did not have enough points to return with the RCT but he wanted me to return on duty status to handle Regimental public relations. I told the Commander the same thing I told Mike the year before, I did not have the PR experience, etc, so suggested that one of the officers do the PR work. The Commander said you better read this letter. It was a letter from Mike to the Commander. The Commander said in a stern voice: I am ordering you to return with the Regiment. Reply: Yes Sir.

Personality: Easy to approach, considerate, good listener, follow through on promises, makes friends easily, family oriented, little impatient at times, adjusts easily to level of person he is talking to, e.g. a soldier, Italian farmer or nobility. He was Mike to everyone, and he was treated with respect.

5. Why did Mike think it was important to reinstate Selective Service for Nisei?

Because when WW II began all ethnic Japanese were viewed by the people and federal officials as being disloyal and as collaborators and saboteurs of Imperial Japan. The government changed the Nisei draft classification from 1-A (eligible for military duty) to 4-C (alien, unfit for military duty). 4-C was tantamount to the government telling the Nisei, we don’t want you. All Mike wanted was a return to the status quo.

Mike was convinced that a strong performance by Nisei in combat was our strongest weapon to defeat the disloyalty issue so he encouraged the Nisei, individually and in groups, to petition the government to allow them to serve in combat.

Washington, not familiar with the mentality of ethnic Japanese, saw something terribly sinister about the Little Tokyo and Japan Towns and felt that breaking them up and integrating them into America’s main stream was the solution to the “Japanese issue”. A study of General George C. Marshall, US Army Chief of Staff, papers reflect this view. Marshall watched the 100th closely, especially their loyalty. The 100th’s training and later combat record convinced Washington to form the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a segregated Japanese American unit. Documents at the National Archives show that many Nisei in camps were opposed to serving in a segregated Japanese American unit. They viewed this as discrimination. Assistant Secretary of War John J. McCloy told Mike there will be millions of Caucasian Americans in the Army and a few thousand Nisei sprinkled among them would have no visible impact. Mike quickly saw the soundness of Washington’s decision for a segregated unit, endorsed it, and told McCloy he wanted to be the first to volunteer. Mike said he supported the War Department’s rationale to get 2,500 volunteers from the mainland, largely from internment camps, and 1,500
from Hawaii, however, the War Department and the WRA bungled on the writing of the loyalty questionnaire, Question 27 and 28, that angered the Nisei and resulted in only 1,500 mainlanders volunteering.

6. What were Mike’s vision and goals for the Japanese American community?

Based on my knowledge of what Mike said, I would say his vision was to obtain equality for the ethnic Japanese -- a level playing field. Mike frequently talked of what he needed to do after he returned to the States. As noted above, we in PRO worked and slept in the same tent. After dinner, Mike, Tak and Shig would talk about evacuation, internment, and 442nd frequently late into the night. I sat with these “seniors,” and I listened. During the day when Mike and I were together I would ask him questions derived from the night before and discuss issues. I was fortunate because Mike, himself, wanted to discuss the issues. Mike answered my questions fully. Mike sometimes looked worried, sometimes deep in thought, most always preoccupied and serious. I don’t think I saw Mike in a happy-go-lucky party mood. Sometimes I would ask him why he looked so pensive, so worried. He said during the heat of crisis immediately after war began he made certain statements and took positions that the ethnic Japanese public accepted. Now, with the war behind us, he will be expected to deliver make the corrections he had committed to. “I made commitments and took positions, the people followed; now I must deliver.” Mike said he did not know if he could deliver some things, such as jobs for college graduates, but he will have to do his utmost.

The issues that concerned him the most while in Italy are listed below. Let’s call them goals:

“A”. My most important goal is get the disloyalty stigma removed, Mike said. President Harry Truman’s statement to the 442nd at the Ellipse on July 15, 1946 (“you fought the enemy abroad and prejudice at home and you won”) is an affirmation of Nisei loyalty to their nation. Truman’s affirmation was based on the combat and service record of Nisei who served in the US Army. This is the highest level effort to remove the stigma of disloyalty. Attitudes did not change immediately but they have changed over a space of time. I don’t know exactly what Mike did to get President Truman to review the 442nd troops but what I do know is things don’t just happen in WDC. I am convinced Mike had a hand in getting this presidential review.

“B”. Mike said he appealed to the ethnic Japanese to obey the government orders, to refrain from violence, and to seek redress after the War. Mike wondered aloud occasionally in Italy what his redress package will be. Mike may not have realized then a political evolution that would occur in America that would bring Japanese Americans in the US Congress. Thanks to Nisei political leaders such as Congressman Norman Mineta, Senators Spark Matsunaga and Daniel Inouye and activists such as Grant Ujifusa, who would become the backbone for the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which contained a national apology and reparations for the internment, this goal was achieved.

“C”. Mike said he owed it to our immigrant parents to obtain citizenship rights for them. This needed to be done as soon as possible because time was running out on them. He talked about his own immigrant father who was cheated in a real estate deal. Years later, Marty Higgins, Commander of the trapped Battalion of the 36th Texas Division, which was saved by the 442nd, said that Mike had contacted him several times to get him to persuade his senators to support the Walter-McCarran Bill which became law in 1952 to provide citizenship rights to Japanese (Issei), Korean and Chinese immigrants.

“D”. Mike felt it was his duty to build a monument to memorialize the Nisei who died in line of duty. He spoke frequently of his brother who was killed in combat and the others he encouraged to volunteer for combat duty. Mike encouraged Nisei to volunteer for combat because he was convinced that was our strongest weapon to defeat the disloyalty issue. He envisaged a monument built in the nation’s capital alongside the other war memorials. Mike died before the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism during WW II was finished near the US Capitol Building where Mike spent a good deal of his time.
“E”. Remove discriminatory state and federal laws. While Mike noted this as one of his post war goals and Mike, Tak and Shig discussed at length discriminatory laws that affected them, I do not recall Mike’s discussions. Also, I am not familiar with the role Mike played in causing the repeal of these laws. Federal and state, but the process began relatively soon after the war and continues to today.

“F”. Mike was seized with the issue of lack of job opportunities for Japanese American college graduates. He worried how to correct this anomaly. The solution to Mike’s dilemma came from a totally separate unanticipated source. It came from the 442nd Mike helped create. The 442nd and Tuskegee Airmen combat records contributed to the post war climate for reforms which created a level playing field for minorities to compete for any job and rank. Japanese Americans competed well in the military, government, US Congress, academia, business, and space. Three Japanese Americans reached the highest rank in the armed forces – four stars. One Nisei US Senator served in a position that put him third in line for the US Presidency, two ethnic Japanese became astronauts.

7. Please discuss the relationship between Mike and Etsu.

Mike spoke dearly and constantly about Etsu. I wonder what Etsu is doing now; he would muse during an idle moment between deadlines. He wrote a letter daily to Etsu and when he did not get one he would go the mail clerk to check if her letter was stuck in the mail bag. When an Italian nobility told him about Richard Ginori dinnerware and that it was sold in the US exclusively by Tiffany in New York City, Mike went to the factory in Florence, which was close to our campsite, to have a set made and shipped to Etsu. When I was first introduced to Etsu in 1946 following my discharge and return to WDC, I told Etsu I feel I had known her for a long time. She told me that is the same impression she had about me.

8. How should Mike be remembered, what is his legacy?

Mike Masaoka should be remembered for his wisdom, vision, courage and steadfastness during the darkest period in Japanese American history when he advocated the precept that a strong performance by Nisei in combat was our best weapon to defeat racism and the disloyalty issue and to place Japanese Americans in America’s mainstream. He encouraged the Nisei, individually and in groups, to petition the government to allow them to serve in combat to prove their loyalty.

Another precept Mike got JACL to adopt was the announcement to all persons of Japanese ancestry on the Pacific coast to obey the government’s evacuation orders, however distasteful, and to seek restitution after the war. To the ethnic Japanese’s credit, there was no violence and no blood was shed in the evacuation. And, to Washington’s credit they reviewed the petitions and activated the 442nd combat team whose performance the Army said was unsurpassed and which, in turn, along with the Tuskegee Airmen contributed to the climate for post WW II reforms thereby leveling the playing field for minorities to compete for any job and rank.

The acid test of Mike’s work is seen today. During the past 70 years, Japanese Americans, operating on a level playing field and competing with the best of the best, have achieved ranking positions in the public and private sectors and they have contributed to the Greatness of America. From the very beginning of the catastrophe, December 7, 1941, Mike diligently endeavored to make the Constitution work like the Founders of our nation had intended it to work. A Man of Destiny, Mike Masaoka’s legacy will impact our lives forever.
TO OPEN IN SAN JOSE

By Luis Valdez

It has been a while since our glorious May fundraiser at Carmen and Alcario Castellano's beautiful home in Saratoga, but we have great news. Given the financial support that you all so generously contributed to El Teatro Campesino, we are happy to announce that "Valley of the Heart" is finally coming to San Jose!

We are proud to be co-producing the world premiere of my long awaited play with our esteemed friends and partners at San Jose Stage Company, under the artistic leadership of Randall and Cathleen King. As the third offering of their 2015-2016 season, the play will run from Saturday, February 13, 2016 through Sunday, March 6, 2016 at the Stage’s exquisitely intimate playhouse at 490 South First Street, San Jose, CA 95113 (408) 283-7142, an Off Broadway style theater.

Local casting is already under way, with some of the multicultural cast coming from New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and, of course, San Jose. The play will commence rehearsals after the New Year, opening in February and running through March.

Please reserve your seats now, as my ETC executive producer Phil Esparza is predicting that every house during the entire run will be sold out. As our most revered loyal supporters, we shall accommodate you all at your convenience. But our most fervent hope is to attract fans and patrons, old and young, who represent the New American audience we are determined to serve.

If the last 50 years have taught us anything, it is that theater is a creator of community, and that community is the creator of theater. You are our community and our familia. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of Alcario and Carmen Castellano, and all of you--our donors and supporters--a new era of El Teatro Campesino is about to begin in celebration of our 50th anniversary! Our evolving partnership with the San Jose Stage Company is only the beginning of a beautiful friendship. With your enduring help, we shall continue to give grace, form, power and substance to the dreams of all future theater artists in this, our "Valley of the Heart’s Delight." See you at the Stage!

Abrazotes!

This cast (with Luis Valdez) performed to full houses at CSUMB's "World Theater."

[Editor's note: This is the production not to be missed. All, including Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL members, are encouraged to make their reservations as quickly as possible by contacting Phil Esperza at (831) 801-6029 or pesparza@csumb.edu.]

WATSONVILLE MULTICULTURAL CELEBRATION

For the past four years, members of our diverse cultural and ethnic communities have come together for an event called, “Holiday Traditions in the Plaza.”

Recently, the name of this event has been changed to “Watsonville’s Multicultural Celebration.”

This year, on Sunday, December 6th, in conjunction with the annual “Tree Lighting in the Plaza,” we will highlight our beautiful cultural diversity with enriching activities, wonderful entertainment, and delicious cuisine from various ethnic groups. Our event provides an opportunity to build unity and promote understanding and appreciation of other cultures.

We are in the process of raising funds for liability insurance, city permits, portable restrooms, security, publicity, and rental of a public announcement system.

We hope our community friends will support this cultural celebration by attending a fundraising event—a
pancake breakfast at Applebee’s on **Saturday, October 24**th from 8 am to 10 am.

Tickets are not required, but please contact Marcia Hashimoto (831) 722-6859 or hashi79@sbcglobal.net if you would like to purchase tickets (at $10) for the Applebee’s breakfast benefit.

Thank you, and please plan to share a fun afternoon and early evening with us on December 6 at the beautiful Watsonville Plaza.

Marcia Hashimoto, W-SC JACL rep on the Multicultural Celebration Committee

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**Thank You, Joe, Gary and Members ...**

Joe Bowes and Gary Mine replaced a section of the wooden fence at our Kizuka JACL Hall that was dry rotted and infested with termites.

Cindy and Gary Mine trimmed the bushes and took out the weeds around the Hall.

Joe, along with Bonnie Chihara, Hiroshi Musselman and Christine Bowes, installed sound proofing curtains over the Hall’s windows. Joe hung a blackout curtain over the rear doors to keep sunlight out of Iwao Yamashita’s eyes when he calls out the bingo numbers!

On October 2**nd**, Gary and Joe will clean the Japanese Memorial Garden at the Salinas Assembly Center site.

Joe and Christine will be attending the Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans convention in Las Vegas in October.

Thank you to the management of the apartments in the back of the Hall who sealed the driveway and painted parking spaces in our front parking lot! We have great neighbors!

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**Watsonville Taiko and Shinsei Daiko**

By Bonnie Chihara

After taking August off, our kids’ classes have resumed with the focus being our anniversary show scheduled for **April 16**th and **17**th, 2016 at the Crocker Theater Cabrillo College in Aptos. Soon we will all be practicing for this show. Please mark your calendars and save the date!

Recently, we worked on installing some sound absorbing curtains at the hall to cut down on the sound we make when practicing.

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Christine and Joe Bowes (above), along with *taiko* members Hiroshi Musselman and Bonnie Chihara, spent a Sunday afternoon putting up new brackets for the curtains. Thank you, Joe and Christine for all your help.

Bonnie Chihara and Hiroshi Musselman have begun sewing the raffle quilt for Watsonville Taiko’s Holiday Raffle and Boutique. Besides the quilt, we will have other great raffle prizes along with our gift baskets for purchase. We will also have a small bake sale with goodies made by our members. Local crafters will be joining us again this year selling their unique wares. The date for the Holiday Boutique and Raffle is **November 15**th from noon to 5 pm at Kizuka Hall, 150 Blackburn St.

For more information about our boutique or questions about classes please contact our business manager Taeko D’Andrea at (831) 435-4594 or email her at info@watsonvilletaiko.org.

Our upcoming schedule:

- **Sept. 26**th: Discovery Learning Center Summer Concert Series
- **Oct. 3**rd: Alzheimer’s Walk, La Selva Beach
- **Oct. 11**th: Santa Cruz Open Streets, West Cliff Drive
- **Nov. 8**th: Big Sur Half Marathon, Asilomar
- **Nov. 15**th: Watsonville Taiko’s Annual Boutique and Raffle
- **Dec. 6**th: Watsonville’s Multi-Cultural Celebration, Watsonville Plaza
SENIOR CENTER NEWS by Jo Ann Vear

Several guests were in attendance on August 27th to hear Eiji Natsuki entertain us with his beautiful singing. Iwao Yamashita welcomed our guests and invited them to join us every Thursday. Chie Sakaue’s daughter Teruyo introduced Mr. Natsuki. He was very happy to be with us and invited all to his future performances in San Francisco. After the entertainment, desserts were provided by many of the Seniors, and everybody enjoyed the delicious goodies.

Helen Nakano with singer Eiji Natsuki. Photos by Carol Kaneko.

We all want to extend the invitation for more people to join our Senior group on Thursdays. We always start with a rousing rendition of ‘God Bless America.’ We have a brief exercise routine, sometimes a birthday cake or a special treat provided by one of the members. Then, we always have Bingo, and you can see from the list of donations, our prizes are a lot of fun. There are no attendance requirements so you don’t have to be there every Thursday, but once you start coming, I think you will want to be there every Thursday. You’re missing out on great conversations and good friendships.

A small group of Seniors thoroughly enjoyed the Santa Cruz Follies on September 18. Jean Akiyama, Sumi Yamada, Reiko Yamamoto, Paul and Carol Kaneko enjoyed “Those Were the Days” - sixty years of song and dance. They ran into Shizue Shikuma while having lunch in the SC City Hall patio, and she joined them for dinner at Mayflower Restaurant in Capitola after the show. A fun day for all! Please try to join us next year!

Enjoying the “Follies” were Sumi Yamada, Reiko Yamamoto, Jean Akiyama, and Carol Kaneko.

On September 22, forty-three Seniors and friends went on a one-day trip to Table Mountain Casino. Goodies and water for the long bus ride were from: Alice Misumi, Carol Kaneko, Rubie Kawamoto, Toshi Yamashita, Yoshiko Nishihara, Eiko Nishihara, Kimi Kimura, Jean Yamashita, Kazuko Sakai, Jean Akiyama, Yaeko Cross, and Cindy Mine. One generous winner, whose name shall remain anonymous, provided the bus driver’s tip. Looks like our casino friends may be going back to Chukchansi in the near future (if, as rumors say, the casino opens soon).

Cindy Mine is updating all the medical data forms for all Senior members. These are the “In Case of Emergency” information forms. She needs an update regarding your medications, doctor’s name, etc. Please see Cindy if you have not updated your information recently. This is very important IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY. We all hope that if something happens to any of us, those around us will know what to do.

On September 17 the September birthday honorees were presented with cake and ice cream which was enjoyed by all. We sang Happy Birthday to Fred Oda – 92, Jane Sugidono, Mitsuyo Tao and Pat Marr. A big birthday wish is for those who couldn’t attend: Susan AmRhein, Donna Fujita and Akira Nagamine – 90.

Kimiko Marr treated everyone to homemade lemon blueberry muffins in honor of Pat’s 75th birthday. A special thank you to Mitsuyo Tao, Hisako Kodama, Nancy Kuratomi and Jean Akiyama for all the flowers on the tables for the September birthday party. A BIG THANK YOU to the September Toban ladies: Terry Hirahara, Kimiko Marr, Gail Wurtenberg, and Pat Marr and everyone else that helps in the kitchen.
Many thanks for all our donations of bingo prizes:

- **Satoko Yamamoto**: 12 rolls toilet tissue
- **Haruko Yoshii**: 21 rolls toilet tissue
- **Miye Yamashita**: 2 bags arare
- **Susan AmRhein**: 9 bags tomatoes
- **Terry Hirahara**: 12 rolls toilet tissue, 4 boxes foil, 2 bags Cheez-it
- **Hisako Uemura**: 8 pkgs Kabucha
- **Paul/Carol Kaneko**: 6 rolls paper towels
- **Kazuko Sakai**: 3 boxes crackers
- **Hideko Nagamine**: 1 sponge cloth, 100 tea bags, 6 rolls paper towel, 15 bags cucumber
- **Jean & Iwao Yamashita**: 22 bags vegetables, 4 Dawn soap dish, bag of Jpn melon & zucchini
- **Rubie Kawamoto**: 6 boxes Kleenex, 6 bags arare, large box Cheez-it
- **Kimiyo Fujii**: 4 Dawn dish soap, 4 box Kleenex
- **Mitzi Katsuyama**: 12 rolls toilet tissue
- **Eileen Byers**: 8 rolls Bounty paper towels
- **Tea Hashimoto**: 100 bags of green tea
- **June/Sunao Honda**: 10 plates chocolate mochi Brownies, case of water, 5 banana nut bread
- **Jane Sugidono**: 2 large bags organic kettle corn, 6 plates lemon cake
- **Hisako/Akira Kodama**: 12 rolls Bounty paper towels, 5 bags green beans
- **Chie Sakaue**: 12 boxes Kleenex
- **Jo Ann Vear**: 100 Birthday napkins & plates, 7 boxes Kleenex, 100 forks
- **Mitsuyo Tao**: 6 pkgs. strawberries
- **Yaeko Cross**: 15 jumbo rolls paper towels
- **Jane Sugidono**: See’s candy bars for everyone in honor of Jane’s 80th birthday
- **Nobue Fujii**: 2 boxes Kleenex, 6 Dawn dish soap
- **Michiko Hamada**: 1 bag rice crackers, 8 bags Rice Crispy Treats
- **Jean Akiyama**: 6 Dawn dish soap
- **Eiko Nishihara**: 12 jars strawberry jam
- **Yoshiko Nishihara**: 12 Dawn dish soap
- **Kumiko Nakatani**: 30 rolls bath tissue
- **Yaeko Cross**: 100 tea bags
- **Nobuko Akiyama**: 5 Epidendrum orchid plants
- **Donna Fujita**: 100 tea bags, 60 birthday candles
- **Eileen Byers**: 6 rolls paper towels
- **Kimiko & Pat Marr**: Lemon blueberry muffins for all, 1 shopping bag, 2 pkgs sticky notes, 2 notebooks, 2 7-day pill organizers and 2 8-packs of tissue.

Monetary donations were gratefully accepted this month from: Sachi and Phil Snyder, Helen Mito, Mitzi Katsuyama, Pat Marr, Arthur and Joanne Hayashi, Cindy and Gary Mine, Mitsuyo Tao, Jane Sugidono, Fred Oda, Chiyoko Yagi, Helen Nakano, Susan AmRhein, Hiroko Sakimoto, Donna Fujita, Akira Nagamine, and Toshi Yamashita.

We will be celebrating the 44th anniversary of our Senior Center on October 8 with an obento from Imura Restaurant. Don’t miss it.

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**KAWAKAMI STUDENTS’ VISIT**

By Robb Mayeda

On Tuesday, September 9, eighteen visitors (fifteen students and three adults) from Kawakami-mura arrived in Watsonville.

They toured the police department, public library, and fire department. Photos by Robb Mayeda.

At the end of the tour, Mayor Nancy Bilicich, council members Rebecca Garcia and Jim Dutra met them in the city council chambers along with council members Trina Coffman-Gomez and Karina Cervantez-Alejo. Mr. Itaru Nitao served as the interpreter for the afternoon.

When the Kawakami Junior High students arrived at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple, they were
greeted by the Watsonville students (in above photo) who visited Japan last May. The welcome dinner was a traditional American Thanksgiving dinner, complete with turkey, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, gravy, and stuffing. The meal was catered by the Turkey Boat Restaurant of Pajaro. As in most Nikkei dinners, rice was added to the menu. After a few brief speeches and songs by Bob Gomez, the students left for home with their host families.

The next day, Pajaro Middle School hosted a welcome assembly for the Kawakami students and their host students. After that the group boarded a Pajaro Valley USD bus for the Monterey Bay Aquarium and Cannery Row.

Thursday was a school day at the various host middle schools (six this year). Robb Mayeda took the Kawakami chaperones to the host schools to observe classrooms and check-in with the students.

After school, Dorothy Mayeda guided the chaperones on a walk through the redwoods at Henry Cowell State Park.

Superintendent Kobayashi emerging from the Fremont Tree in Henry Cowell State Park.

After that, the students, chaperones and some parents were treated to Cassidy's Pizza lunch courtesy of Esther Ura!

The good eating continued that evening, when Mr. and Mrs. Akira Nagamine treated the chaperones, the Mayedas, and the Nitaos to a nine-course dinner at Happy Garden Restaurant.

L-R Itaru Nitao, Japanese language teacher Mr. Kurane, Aiko Nitao, superintendent of schools Mr. Kobayashi, Hideko and Akira Nagamine, Robb and Dorothy Mayeda. Photo taken by travel guide Junko Sakai from Nagano City (so not pictured).

Saturday was the time for the beach party at Seacliff State Beach. One may recall that Kawakami-mura is located in a mountainous area at the center of Honshu. This means that the village is the farthest community from the ocean in Japan! This year the students were treated to an up-close view of dolphins and thousands of diving birds just 50 feet from shore.

On Sunday, the group from Kawakami-mura gathered at the Buddhist Temple for final photos before departing for San Francisco International Airport. Photos courtesy of Robb Mayeda.

On Friday, the students visited the Ag History Museum at the Santa Cruz County Fair Grounds. This generated so much interest, forty-two people attended. Since the group was split in two, Rev. Hanayama and Mr. Nitao provided interpretation.

California Legacy Voice Network:
2015 JAMsj Workshops
Saturday, October 10, 2015, 9:00 a.m.
Japanese American Museum of San Jose
535 N. Fifth Street
San Jose, CA 95112
The California Legacy Voice Network has scheduled a professional development workshop for teachers and administrators in Region 5 (Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Monterey Counties) at the Japanese American Museum of San Jose (JAMsj) in San Jose's Japantown. The workshop will be held Saturday, October 10, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, followed by lunch and a museum tour. JAMsj is one of eight regions in California collaborating to promote awareness of the WWII concentration camps. There is no cost for this event.

Guest speakers Karen Korematsu and others will address four critical areas:

- California's assembly centers
- The Japanese American internment
- Fred Korematsu's story
- The family stories of local Legacy Voices

Participants will receive materials to share with students and colleagues at their schools and school districts, thus preparing them to become Legacy Voices. This Japanese American Confinement Sites grant is sponsored by the National Park Service, the Korematsu Institute for Civil Rights and Education, and JAMsj.

Pre-registration deadline for October 10 workshop has passed but please call anyway with Name, Address, E-mail Address, Phone (home), Phone (cell), School/Grade Level, School District, if retired, district and grade level; Send registration information to: Contact info@jamsj.org (attention: Shirley Ota and Judy Kaita Tokubo) or call (408) 294-3138 to reserve a spot.

WATSONVILLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE NEWS

Thank you for supporting our 54th Annual Chicken Teriyaki Dinner! It was a huge success thanks to the patrons and to our hard working Sangha members.

Sangha members, young and older, are placing the chicken, tsukemono, rice, peas, and fortune cookies into the take-out container.

October 2015 Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Japanese Service</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td>Sunday Service, Shotsuki Hoyo</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 pm</td>
<td>BWA Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td>ABA Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>2 pm</td>
<td>San Juan Howakai</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td>Sunday Service &amp; Eshinni ko</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td>Sunday Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>9 am-3 pm</td>
<td>Nembutsu Family Conference in Monterey CD Activity Day</td>
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October Memorial List

Akiyoshi, Masao
Arao, Phyllis
Fujii, Masayuki
Haneta, Ate
Hayashida, Yaye
Hiwatashi, Jioji
Ikeda, Kazuo
Kikuchi, Hisato
Kobara, Kathy
Kowaki, Glenn
Manabe, Masako
Mayeda, Kazue
Mino, Tadashi
Nakahara, Yoshiyo
Nakamura, Kazume
Nishita, Dennis
Nitao, Kuniyoshi
Phillips, Susan Tsukino Itaya
Shibata, Matsue
Sumida, Mamoru
Tada, Hana
Tada, Richard
Tao, Minoru
Tao, Tom Tamatsu
Teshima, Takeshi
Tsuji, Frank
Yamashita, Tokizo
Yoshida, Goro

Aoki, Sharon Harumi
Chihara, Mitsuye
Fujimoto, Suyeno
Hayashida, Miyeko
Higaki, Bengo
Izuzhita, Tsuroko
Kadotani, Masataka
Kimura, Yoshiko
Kohara, Yoshihiro
Mametsuka, Tom
Manabe, Tsugie Dorothy
Mine, Elizabeth Libby
Nagata, Reihi
Nakamura, Betty
Nakamura, Tadao
Nishita, Wayne
Nitta, Fred
Sasano, Fuyu
Shirachi, Masajiro
Suzuki, Fumiko
Tada, Kazue
Taniguchi, Sadakichi
Tao, Shigeo
Teshima, Chiyoko
Tsuram, Masato
Yamashita, Masayuki
Yorita, Tsunesaburo
Yoshii, Jukichi
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YBA: We have a very small membership this year. If you know anyone who is interested in joining us, please contact us through Jackie Yamashita, Temple Secretary, info@WBTemple.org or call, 724-7860.

Our new cabinet officers are: Co-presidents are Matthew Maemura & Kaitlin Sakae, pictured with Rev. Hanayama; Vice President & Treasurer is Brian Yamaoka; Secretary is Kaitlin Sakae; Religious chairperson is Matthew Maemura. The new officers were installed September 13th. Photo, courtesy of Richard Uyematsu.

At our first Coast District YBL meeting, Kaitlin Sakae volunteered to serve as CD secretary.

YBA helped out with the drive-through at the Chicken Teriyaki Dinner Fundraiser on September 26th.

ABA: October 11th, at the Eshinni ko Service ABA will provide the luncheon.

On October 25th at the Nembutsu Family Conference, ABA will cover the registration fee for ABA members. Attendees will receive a free T-shirt. The Seminar workshops will be led by Johnny Nori and George Abe.

On February 27, 2016 there will be an Appreciation Dinner provided by ABA and performance by the Chidori Band of San Jose.

In March 2017, Reverend Hanayama will head up a Japan tour to the Kyoto Honshu to celebrate the new Monshu.

BWA: BWA donated $300 to the Temple from its successful Obon sushi sales.

On Oct. 11th, the Eshinni, Kakushinni, Ourakatasama Service will be held with Reverend Fujikawa of Salinas Temple as the speaker. Lunch will be provided by ABA and dessert by BWA.

There will be a Japan Tour retirement of the Gomonshu in March of 2017.

For the Nembutsu Convention in Monterey Temple the BWA purchased a half page ad for $50. BWA will pay for BWA member’s registration.

Thank you to BWA members for Chicken Teriyaki preparation.

Board Meeting Notes September 2015

We are grateful that the Annual Temple Rummage Sale went very well and made a good profit. Thank you to all who helped.

Building & Maintenance: Perry Yoshida installed a lock box to hold the garage keys, please be sure to put them back when you are finished. A crew will get together to screw in the ceiling tiles in the rooms that have them. Perry suggested purchasing scaffolding for the ceiling job as well as many other times when scaffolding with rails would be much safer than the ladders.

Historian: Sensei is gathering photos of Temple events from everyone who has them digitally. He will make them available on “The Cloud.”

Fundraising: the fireworks sale’s final net income was slightly less this year because of the dry season. There were some product issues, but it was a job well done. Perry would like to set a date for a Chidori band show. ABA would like to provide a Steak Dinner in Appreciation for all Temple members.

Temple’s Funeral Guideline Booklet: The finalized booklet was passed around to be looked over by board members. A number of booklets will be printed for distribution in the case of a death in the Temple.

Apartment #3: The refurbishing has been completed and is now occupied. The board thanked Ryoko Kozuki & Kim Yoshida.
IN REMEMBRANCE …
RODERICK Y. KObara

Saratoga, CA

On August 20, 2015, Roderick Y. Kobara passed peacefully surrounded by his family in Hawaii, after a sudden bout with pneumonia. He would have been 90 in September.

His life was the classic Japanese-American/Nisei story. Rod was born and raised on a poor farm outside of Watsonville, California in 1925. He and his family were incarcerated in Poston, Arizona during World War II. While his dream of being a doctor was interrupted by the inadequacy of the internment camp schools, he joined and served in the US Army and studied business. He ultimately graduated from UC Berkeley where he met his wife Tomi.

He became one of the first Japanese-American CPAs in California, overcoming post-war discrimination. He loved accounting and helping other people navigate and negotiate the American tax system through his own firm. He maintained his accounting practice near and around the J-Town area of San Jose for 5 decades. He helped hundreds of families realize their dreams. He was a self-made man who succeeded by valuing his Japanese-American heritage, education, hard work, service to the community and his family.

He was married to Tomi Kobara for almost 64 years. He raised four children John, Mitch, Katie, and Tomi in Saratoga, California. He loved his eight grandchildren Jenna, Gia, Malia, Anna, Bobby, Joe, Izumi, and Brisa. All of his immediate family thrives because of his support.

Rod was an avid golfer and loved the sport. He taught his sons how to play and was able to play many of the best courses around the world.

He supported his artist wife Tomi by becoming a critic and an amateur art valuator. He always volunteered in the community. He helped start a senior center for Issei, served as a leader with the Lion’s Club, the YMCA and a proud member of the West Valley San Jose Japanese American Citizens League (JACL). In his retirement he became a SCORE counselor for the SBA and served on the board of directors of the Windward Artists Guild on Oahu.

In lieu of any gifts and flowers we ask that you send a donation in Rod’s honor to support the JACL.

BEN KUROKI …

Ben Kuroki, who overcame the American military’s discriminatory policies to become the only Japanese American to fly over Japan during World War II, has died. He was 98. Kuroki died Tuesday at his Camarillo, California home.

The son of Japanese immigrants who was raised on a Hershey, Nebraska, farm, Kuroki and his brother, Fred, volunteered for service after the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor.

They were initially rejected by recruiters who questioned the loyalty of the children of Japanese immigrants. Undeterred, the brothers drove 150 miles to another recruiter, who allowed them to sign up.

At the time, the US Army Air Corps banned soldiers of Japanese ancestry from flying, but Kuroki earned his way onto a bomber crew and then flew 58 bomber missions over Europe, North Africa and Japan during the war [Editor’s note: after 25 missions, one may be discharged from military service.] He took part in the August 1943 raid over Nazi oil fields in Ploesti, Romania, that killed 310 fliers in his group. He was captured after his plane ran out of fuel over Morocco, but he managed to escape with crewmates to England.

Because of his Japanese ancestry, he was initially rejected when he asked to serve on a B-29 bomber that was to be used in the Pacific. But after repeated requests and a review of his stellar service record, Secretary of War Harry Stimson granted an exception.

Crew members nicknamed him “Most Honorable Son,” and the War Department gave him the Distinguished Flying Cross. He was saluted by Time magazine in 1944 under the headline “HEROES: Ben Kuroki, American.”

He was hailed a hero and a patriot at a time when tens of thousands of Japanese Americans were confined in incarceration camps amid fears of a Japanese invasion of the West Coast.

After the war, Kuroki enrolled at the University of Nebraska, where he obtained a journalism degree. He published a weekly newspaper in Nebraska for a short time before moving to Michigan and finally to California, where he retired as the news editor of Ventura Star-Free Press in 1984.

In 2005, he received the U.S. Army Distinguished Service Medal, one of the nation’s highest military honors.

“I had to fight like hell for the right to fight for my own country,” Kuroki said at the award ceremony in Lincoln, Nebraska. “And I now feel vindication.”

He is survived by his wife, Shige; his daughters Julie Kuroki, Kristyn Kuroki and Kerry Williams; a sister, Rosemary Ura; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

THE IMMORTAL YOGI BERRA, 1925-2015
In addition to his sublime play on the diamond, Yogi Berra, the legendary Yankee who passed away at the age of 90, was known for his memorable quips.

His quirky sayings helped sculpt his lovable image and made him a celebrity who transcended baseball, even though he sometimes denied having said some of the phrases attributed to him, once saying, “I really didn’t say everything I said.”

Whether or not he said them verbatim, one thing is certain: Berra's quotes have entered the American lexicon like few athletes before him, and they helped make him one of the most beloved figures of his time.

As we remember Yogi, here is a sampling of some of the most famous sayings that have been attributed to the Yankee’s icon.

- "If people don’t want to come to the ballpark, how are you going to stop them?"
- "We made too many wrong mistakes."
- On the great Sandy Koufax: "I can see how he won 25 games. What I don’t understand is how he lost five."
- On lining up for a Spring Training drill: "Pair ‘em up in threes."
- On the 1973 Mets: "We were overwhelming underdogs.
- On being honored in his hometown of St. Louis during his rookie season: "I want to thank everybody for making this day necessary."
- On pregame preparation: "I usually take a two-hour nap from 1 to 4."
- On advising a young player trying to emulate the great Frank Robinson's swing: "If you can't imitate him, don't copy him."
- On his hitting approach: "I can't think and hit at the same time."
- "He hits from both sides of the plate. He's amphibious."
- "When you come to a fork in the road, take it."
- "The future ain't what it used to be."
- "I'm not going to buy my kids an encyclopedia. Let them walk to school like I did."
- On economics: "A nickel ain't worth a dime anymore."
- "Pie a la mode, with ice cream."
- "I wish I had an answer to that, because I'm tired of answering that question."
- "Never answer an anonymous letter."
- "Always go to other people's funerals. Otherwise, they won't come to yours."
- And last but certainly not least: "It's deja vu all over again."

We send our deepest condolences to the Kobara, Kuroki, and Berra families, relatives, and friends.
Help your youth/children grow a strong foundation in Christ!

Youth/Family Upcoming Events

Kris, Will and Ian are enjoying a Youth Beach trip on a warm fall evening.

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:

- October 2nd – Gym Nite
- October 16th – Gym Nite
- November 6th – Gym Nite
- November 20th – Gym Nite

Sunday School During Worship Service in our Youth Room

Youth with Youth Leader Hanna Kasik
Children with Kathy Crudge

Salvation Army: Westview will resume serving Salvation Army meals again in December. Contact the Deacons or Pastor Dan to help.

GILROY'S HOT SPRINGS EVENT

Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs
Henry W. Coe State Park

“Landmark 20th Anniversary”
Saturday, October 24, 2015
9:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs became a designated national historic landmark in October 1995. Come & celebrate with us!
We’re inviting those who helped accomplish this feat.
Bring a picnic & friends (pack-in/pack-out); parking on site.
* Cost for the event is $15.00 per person / under 12 free with adult
* For reservations call (408) 314-7185 or email: infoGilroyYamatoHotSprings.org
* Please carpool. Limited parking will be available.
* Call (408) 314-4185 to request special accommodation.

If walking is good for your health, the postman would be immortal. And they tell us to exercise? I don't think so. Now that I'm older, here's what I've discovered:

1. I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.
2. My wild oats are mostly enjoyed with prunes and all-bran.
3. Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.
4. If all is not lost, then where the hell is it?
5. It was a whole lot easier to get older than it was to get wiser.
6. Some days, you're the top dog, some days you're the fire hydrant.
7. I wish the buck really did stop here; I sure could use a few of them.
8. Kids in the back seat cause accidents.
10. It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.
11. The world only beats a path to your door when you're in the bathroom.
12. If God wanted me to touch my toes, he'd have put them on my knees.
13. When I'm finally holding all the right cards, everyone wants to play chess.
14. It's not hard to meet expenses. They're everywhere.
15. The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.
16. These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter…. I go somewhere to get something, and then wonder what I'm "here after".
17. It is a lot better to be seen than viewed.
18. When I'm in a rut, either I can stop digging or move in and furnish it.
19. Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.
20. Have I sent this message to you before … or did I get it from you?

DONATIONS, GRATEFULLY RECEIVED ….

In memory of Rod Kobara from …
Chiyo Shikuma

We welcome new W-SC JACL National members!

Yoshino Matano 100 years young
Bobby Tamaki
Jeanette Crosetti
Irene and Raymond Potter of Millbrae
Brandon and Mia Potter
Henry and Debbie Izumizaki of Gig Harbor, WA

JOIN US—WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL

We’d love to have you, your family members, relatives and friends join us for 2015-2016. A membership application is included in this newsletter for you and your family. 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.

Thank you for reading this October 2015 newsletter.
Onward!
Mas Hashimoto, Editor
Tentative One-Day Trip to Table Mt. or Chukchansi Casino (if open) in late October or early November. Stay tuned for more information.

September birthdays: Jane Sugidono, Fred Oda 92, Pat Marr, and Mitsuyo Tao. Absent were: Susan AmRhein, Donna Fujita, and Akira Nagamine 90. Photo by Carol Kaneko.

Upcoming Activities at the Senior Center:
Thurs., Oct 1, 22  Regular Bingo
Thurs., Oct 8  44th Anniversary Celebration; Imura obento
Thurs., Oct 15  October Birthday Party
Thurs., Oct 29  Halloween and Regular Bingo

Please check out our Senior Center website: http://kizukahallseniors.wordpress.com to keep up with our activities, see photos, and check our calendar.

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

HELP WANTED! The Senior Center is always looking for able-bodied, caring, fun-loving volunteers (any and all ages welcome) to help out weekly (or once a month or so) with tobان duties. We need your help on Thursdays from 12:30 to 3:15 pm to help our tobان 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 have some fun.
**Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapter**
National Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)

**No Increase in the 2015 – 2016 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.