CELEBRATING THE CIVIL LIBERTIES ACT OF AUGUST 10, 1988

“Liberty Lost ...” logo created by Andy Fukutome; poster designed by Phil Shima.

The Watsonville-Santa Cruz chapter of the National Japanese American Citizens League was privileged to have purchased Howard Ikemoto’s magnificent painting of the WWII incarceration camp guard tower.

We cordially invite you and your family to join us for the presentation of Howard’s painting on Saturday, August 11, 2018 at 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm at the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Tokushige Kizuka Hall, 150 Blackburn Street, Watsonville, CA 95076.

This celebration is in conjunction with the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Liberties Act of August 10, 1988 by President Ronald W. Reagan which provided redress (an apology) and reparations for those who, incarcerated in camp, were still alive on that date.

W-SC JACLer Sandy Lydon, Historian Emeritus, a highly regarded friend of our community and a colleague of Howard’s at Cabrillo College, will speak on the contributions Howard has made to a better understanding of the unjust wartime incarceration of 120,000 innocent persons of Japanese ancestry.

As an introductory story of our imprisonment, “Days of Waiting,” a 28-minute video on the life of Estelle Peck Ishigo by Steven Okazaki will be shown. In 1991, Okazaki won an Academy Award (“Oscar”) for this film in the category of Short Documentary.

The program will also highlight the struggles of those who secured redress and reparations for the Japanese American incarcerees.

We hope you and your family will be able to attend. There is no admission fee, and light refreshments will be served.

As seating is limited, please RSVP Marcia Hashimoto at (831) 722-6859 or email at hashi79@sbcglobal.net.

Sincerely,
Marcia Hashimoto, President

“WHAT IF . . .” Editor

“What If” not one Japanese American served in the United States military during World War II, and the war was won? Where would we of the Nikkei nation be today?

We thank the 30,000 Nisei who did serve and honor and remember the 811 who were killed in action.

Our W-SC JACL members are grateful to all those who served with our 201 local heroes in the European and Pacific theaters during WW II:

Women’s Army Corps
Women’s Nurse Corps
Florence Uyeda
Toshiko Etow
Iris A. Watanabe

59 from Watsonville-Santa Cruz who served with the Military Intelligence Service during WW II and/or the post war period in Japan

Bill Doi
Hideo Hashimoto
Tsuyoshi Hashimoto
Masaki Inouye
Minoru Iwami
Suama Iwanaga
Kaz Jofuku
Mike Kado
Joe Kamitani
Toshi Kimoto
Paul Kiyotoki
Suyeo Manabe
Kasuto Mayeda
Enge Mita
Roy Mori
Tom Murakami

Dave S. Fujita
Tadashi Hashimoto
James Ichikawa
Takeo Isobe
Nobuyuki Iwanaga
Tsugio Iwanaga
John Kado
Masato Kajikawa
Hideyuki Tom Kawano
Burt Kitahara
Sho Kobara
Jack Matsuoka
Bill Mine
Perry Mori
Harry Morimune
Satoshi Nagase

For our newsletter in full living color, log onto http://watsonvillesantacruzjacl.org, Newsletters, then the month.
Fred Nakagawa
George I. Nakamura KIA
Katashi Oita
Sam Ono
Frank Shimamoto
James Takehana
George Tani
Bill Tao
Tats Tominaga
George Wada
Mark Watanabe
Robert Yamamoto
Henry Yoshii
Haruki Yoshizume

74 from Watsonville-Santa Cruz in the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team

Haruji Akimoto
Tom Doi
Walt Eto
Tom Fujiki
Yoshio Fujita
Tom Goto
Eiji Hama
Louie Hayashida
Kenji Hirokawa
Paul Horiiuchi KIA
Frank Inmaru
Harvie Iyama
Henry Izumizaki KIA
Mitsugi Kawaguchi
Art Kitahara
Robert S. Kobayashi
Harry Madokoro KIA DSC
Bob Manabe
Nobu George Matsumoto
Ray Matsushita
Shig Morimune
Sunao Murakami
Paul Nakamura
Harry Nakao
Mas “Buzz” Noda
Mas Okamoto
Wataru Okino
George Otsuki
Sam Sakamoto
Hiroshi Shikuma
Jiro Sugidono
Shige Takemoto
Kenji Torigoe
John Tsukiji
George Ura
Roy Uyematsu
Saburo Yamashita

Henry Arao DSC
Mate Eto
Charles Fujiki
Nagatoshi R. Fujita
Sam Goto
Katsu Hada KIA
Mark Hashimoto
Shig Hirano
Buster Ichikawa
Yutaka Inouye
Arthur Izumizaki
Yoshimi Kagawuchi
Shig Kizuka
Larry Mametsuka
Irvin Matsuda
Pat Matsushita
George Morita
Aido Nakamichi
Mas Nakamoto
Mas Nitta
Yoshio Ogawa
Mas Okamura
William Ono
Issel Otsuki
George Sera
Ichiro Sam Sugidono
Kazuo C. Sukekane
Ken M. Tashiro
Mas Tsuda
Archie Uchiyama
Tom Tsunomiya
Yoshi Wada
Jim Yoshida

George Aihara
Shig Akiyoshi
Tetsuo Arao
Sadao Baishiki
Joe Fujimoto
Peter Goya
Yon Hamai
Nick Nakamori
William Nishimura
Jack Itsumi Oita
Isao Sakai
Min Takata
Satoru Takekoto
Hiroshi Tanouye
James Toda
Ben Umeda
Bill Waki
George Yamamoto
John Yamauchi
Jack Yoshino
Andy Hashimoto
Walt Hashimoto
Tak Higuchi
Henry Ikeda
Asaji Jotsuya
Jim Kamita
Jerry S. Kato
Franklin Kitahara
Jack Mametsuka
Sully Matsui
Shinichi Misumi
Chick Nakahara
Yamato Nishihara
Kongo Nitta KIA
John Oda
Zen Ota
Tommy Sakata
Kaz Sera
Enji Shikuma
Kay Takata
Charles Tanimura
Howard Tao
Tomio Tsuda
Tami Yagi
James Yamamoto
James Yoshimura
KIA
DSC
Killed in Action
Designer of the famed 442nd shoulder patch
Involve the members of your family.

And, “What if” many young adult Nikkei members in early 1942 protested the forced removal with demonstrations that led to violence and injuries to our elderly Issei, pregnant women, teenagers, young children and infants? Where would the Nikkei nation be today?

The National JACL’s wartime leadership correctly advised caution and cooperation as a show of unity and loyalty. It proved the proper policy to follow because we had no support from civil rights organizations, press, and community organizations. Only the Quakers supported us.

GRANDPARENTS, ATTENTION!

Have you written your life story for the children and grandchildren? They may not ask for it now, and they will regret not having asked. That’s the untold story unto itself in our Nikkei community. They must not be without the tangible history of your “clan.” Your story and that of your parents and grandparents must be available to the future generations. You’ve made a lasting contribution to our Nikkei nation, and it must be told (recorded).

Today, we have many instruments used in recording—video and digital recordings, filmmaking, written books, and others—at our disposal. The older grandchildren can help you with the newest technology.

Start first with an outline. Look for family photos and put them in order of your outline. Work on an appropriate title that is eye catching and explanatory.

Start today. Involve the members of your family. Make it a family project for the summer. Don’t delay.
NHK-JAPAN TV INTERVIEWED KIMIKO MARR

Recording the testimonies of Japanese Americans about their time in the incarceration camps is a lifetime mission for documentary producer Kimiko Marr.

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii President and CEO, Carole Hayashino, joined Kimiko Marr and NHK World's Miki Ebara to discuss their experiences.

Among those interviewed were:

Bryan Urakawa, "I was born at Camp Harmony, Puyallup, Washington, July 22, 1942."

Frank Kaoru Inami, "US Army soldiers came with rifles with bayonets fixed, they were courteous but said, 'You gotta go'."

Teiko Saito, "Coming here (to 'camp') began the healing process. Being able to let my mother go...'cause I finally feel her spirits around me...that was all I needed."

California is home to one of the largest populations of people of Japanese descent. World War II changed many of their lives.

Kimiko Marr volunteers at the W-SC JACL Senior Center where many who were incarcerated enjoy a weekly activity.

During the war, the US Government confined as many as 120,000 Japanese Americans in concentration camps. It's an experience Kimiko's grandmother went through. But Kimiko never asked her about it, and she has regretted it. "I was going through our photo albums and I'd say, 'Oh grandma, who's this?' And it was her as a child, and she couldn't recognize herself. Then I realized in that instant, I waited too long," she says. So, she started visiting camps with former internees and their descendants.

Last April, Kimiko organized a trip to Arkansas. Over 8,000 people were confined in the Rohwer and Jerome camps. For many, this was their first time back.

"I was born here 75 years ago, I don't remember anything but it's good to be back for the first time," says Jerry Ishii.

"Sometimes we tend not to pay a lot of attention to seniors but when they are on tour, we are, like, 'Tell me more! tell me more!' They are rock stars," says Kimiko.

On another trip, Kimiko took two university students to a site in California. Manzanar sits in the remote desert. It was the first camp established in 1942. It's a chance for people to come together and remember. It's also an opportunity for the younger generations to learn from the past and see for themselves what life was like for their ancestors. "One of the most amazing things I learned is the power of learning from your elders and learning from the youth so like a generation learning from each other," says Laurel Inouye.

Kimiko says preserving the legacy of the Japanese Americans is relevant to 21st century America. "This is an atmosphere where so many people are attacking different groups, it is really important for all of us to come together and push back and say no," she says.

Kimiko says this is an American story -- and one she hopes never happens again.

KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER 2018

On Thursday afternoon, June 14, 2018, several hundred Watsonville and Pajaro Valley residents came together at the Watsonville City Plaza to protest the separation of immigrant children from their parents by the US Government.

The Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL chapter participated, and retired high school US History teacher Mas Hashimoto spoke of the historical aspects in this country of separating children from parents starting with slave owners who routinely sold separately black children and their parents. Separating family members was wrong and inhumane then, and it remains so now.
This demonstration was part of a national movement to decry the Trump Administration’s policies of separating immigrant families.

Pajaro Valley High School counselor Ramiro Medrano spoke of waves of immigrants from Central America fleeing escalating violence and civil wars. He’s had moms with ankle bracelets crying in his office."

[Editor’s note: My student, David, from El Salvador, said that he was happy here at Watsonville High for he didn’t have to step over dead bodies to get to school. Civil wars and political and economic strife are common traits of El Salvador, Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, Panama, and other Central and Latin American states.]

Up until the present administration those who entered the US with children, in families seeking asylum, had the ability to have their children remain with them or be placed with relatives already living in the U.S. according to Watsonville’s immigrant attorney Doug Keegan.

There are about 10 Community Action Board-supported cases involving pending deportations in our county, according to project director Paulina Moreno of Thriving Immigrants Initiative at Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County. She remarked that this is happening in our community and not just at the border.

Marco Flores of Santa Cruz came to the US when he was 3 years old from Michoacán, a state in central Mexico. He had supported American patriotic ideals until now. He said the immigrants are trying to escape violence and death in their homelands.

As the group formed a large circle at the plaza, they raised their fists in solidarity. A sign read, “make America KIND again.”

INTERNMENT: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED? APPARENTLY, NOTHING ...
By Paul Kaneko. W-SC JACL, June 19, 2018

During World War II, 120,000 of our Japanese American community along the West Coast of the United States were stripped of their civil rights and suffered the indignity of being rounded up and shipped to parts unknown and imprisoned in concentration camps for the duration of the War. When allowed to regain their freedom, they were forced to rebuild their lives again—many from scratch. It was only as a result of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 that remaining survivors of the ordeal received an apology and modest reparations for their losses, not to mention three years of their lives. As a community, we thought that the country had learned its lesson. As a civil rights organization, the JACL vowed that the internment would never happen again to anyone else.

However, as a result of the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, some in the government almost made the same mistake of rounding up anyone who looked Middle-Eastern or Muslim and putting them internment camps. It was the outcry of Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, the JACL, the ACLU, and others who cautioned against the racist and unjust over-reaction that stopped the mistake in its tracks.

Overt racism appears again to be motivating certain people in the Federal Government to make the same mistake. Apparently, they have learned nothing from the past. This time they are picking on desperate families trying to escape violence and abuse in their own country. Refugees are coming to this country seeking safety and asylum. Instead of accepting them through a legal process, the Federal Government is now confiscating their children and incarcerating them in internment camps all over the country—some are reported to be held in cages like animals, in underutilized retail buildings, and/or tents in the middle of the hot desert many miles away. This will surely have long-term, psychological repercussions to the many children involved. Can you imagine how this is impacting the children (some are as young as toddlers) being separated from their mothers?

As one of the oldest civil rights organizations in this country, I have become increasingly incensed about what’s going on and think that it’s high time that the JACL sound the alarm, loud and clear, against this terribly unjust, inhumane incarceration of people. It must be immediately stopped! This is definitely not the America we have been fighting for.

[Editor’s note: we are grateful to Paul Kaneko for this article. A resolution addressing this issue will be placed before the delegates at the national JACL convention in Philadelphia, July 18-22, 2018.]
Laura Bush: Separating children from their parents at the border 'breaks my heart'

by Laura Bush, former first lady of the United States.

On Sunday (June 17), a day we as a nation set aside to honor fathers and the bonds of family, I was among the millions of Americans who watched images of children who have been torn from their parents. In the six weeks between April 19 and May 31, the Department of Homeland Security has sent nearly 2,000 children to mass detention centers or foster care. More than 100 of these children are younger than 4 years old. The reason for these separations is a zero-tolerance policy for their parents, who are accused of illegally crossing our borders.

I live in a border state (TX). I appreciate the need to enforce and protect our international boundaries, but this zero-tolerance policy is cruel. It is immoral. And it breaks my heart.

Our government should not be in the business of warehousing children in converted box stores or making plans to place them in tent cities in the desert outside of El Paso.

These images are eerily reminiscent of the internment camps for U.S. citizens and noncitizens of Japanese descent during World War II, now considered to have been one of the most shameful episodes in U.S. history. We also know that this treatment inflicts trauma: those who have been interned have been twice as likely to suffer cardiovascular disease or die prematurely than those who were not interned.

Americans pride ourselves on being a moral nation, on being the nation that sends humanitarian relief to places devastated by natural disasters or famine or war. We pride ourselves on believing that people should be seen for the content of their character, not the color of their skin. We pride ourselves on acceptance. If we are truly that country, then it is our obligation to reunite these detained children with their parents — and to stop separating parents and children in the first place.

People on all sides agree that our immigration system isn’t working, but the injustice of zero tolerance is not the answer. I moved away from Washington almost a decade ago, but I know there are good people at all levels of government who can do better to fix this.

Columnist Elizabeth Bruenig takes issue with the way Attorney General Jeff Sessions is using scripture to justify separating families at the border.

Recently, Colleen Kraft, who heads the American Academy of Pediatrics, visited a shelter run by the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement. She reported that while there were beds, toys, crayons, a playground and diaper changes, the people working at the shelter had been instructed not to pick up or touch the children to comfort them. Imagine not being able to pick up a child who is not yet out of diapers.

Twenty-nine years ago, my mother-in-law, Barbara Bush, visited Grandma’s House, a home for children with HIV/AIDS in Washington. Back then, at the height of the HIV/AIDS crisis, the disease was a death sentence, and most babies born with it were considered “untouchables.”

During her visit, Barbara — who was the first lady at the time — picked up a fussy, dying baby named Donovan and snuggled him against her shoulder to soothe him. My mother-in-law never viewed her embrace of that fragile child as courageous. She simply saw it as the right thing to do in a world that can be arbitrary, unkind and even cruel. She, who after the death of her 3-year-old daughter knew what it was to lose a child, believed that every child is deserving of human kindness, compassion and love.

In 2018, can we not as a nation find a kinder, more compassionate and more moral answer to this current crisis? I, for one, believe we can.

JACL Condemns Border Concentration Camps

June 19, 2018 Press Release
Contact: Jeffrey Moy, Vice President for Public Affairs, jmoy@jacl.org
David Inoue, Executive Director, dinoue@jacl.org

JACL’s fundamental purpose is to ensure Americans remain mindful of the civil rights errors of our past, that the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans serves as a glaring example of what should never happen again. Unfortunately, our government has once again established concentration camps, only this time to imprison children who have been separated from their parents who have come to our country, often seeking asylum.

The Speaker of the House, Paul Ryan, suggested last week that his proposed immigration bill might offer a legislative solution to put an end to the separation of children from their parents. Unfortunately, the proposed bill would do more harm to our nation’s immigration system, decimating avenues for legal immigration long used by Asian American and Pacific Islander families. More complicated, less inclusive bills are not the answer we need; a true solution, such as the clean and simple Keeping Families Together Act, should be able to pass on its own merit.

There are now approximately 2,000 children incarcerated at the border without the comfort of their parents. Health care providers including psychiatrists, psychologists, and pediatricians, as well as faith leaders, are universally opposed to these inhumane and immoral practices because of the likely long-lasting damage to these children.

Today, with 75 years of experience behind us, we have seen the effects of incarceration on Japanese American families. Some families were separated when a parent was
identified as disloyal without trial or conviction and sent to prison camps just as today’s immigrants are being imprisoned automatically at the border. Even for the families that remained together, the scars inflicted by the experience of mass incarceration were deep. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and other mental health effects of trauma, leading to anxiety, depression, or even suicide, were not uncommon in adults and children who experienced the camps. The impact of the camps further extended to and deeply affected the children of the incarcerees.

This was the legacy of the camps that challenged our community for many years, and still does today. And this is why so many of us stand today in opposition to this practice of separating children from their parents, cognizant of the long-term damage that is being done now and upon generations to come.

The trauma that our country is inflicting upon these children must end now!

The 2018 Japanese Cultural Fair – “Reflections” by Carol Kaneko

The 32nd annual Japanese Cultural Fair took place at Mission Plaza Park in Santa Cruz on Saturday, June 9. It was a cool day with winds picking up in the afternoon, blowing the colorful koinobori that were on poles around the perimeter of the park.

This fair is one of the most comprehensive presentations of traditional Japanese culture on the Central Coast, and the many people, both locals and out-of-town visitors, who attended the fair were treated throughout the day to performances on the main stage, martial arts demonstrations at Aikido of Santa Cruz, and demonstrations of Ikebana, Bonsai, kimono dressing, and tea ceremony at the Zen Center. There is never an admission charge.

The group shown is Sakura Ren of the East Bay Area. They were incredible! The outfits, colors, movement and live musical accompaniment swept the crowd away. These photos courtesy of Tarmo Hannula, Register-Pajaronian.

In addition to the performances, there were many opportunities to buy beautiful arts and crafts and delicious food from the many vendors there, as well opportunities for hands-on activities in the Kids Zone.

Kimono dressing demonstration by Keiko Takane. The models are Aimee Mizuno, Phil Shima, Tamarah Minami (a 6th grader), Marcia Hashimoto and Yutaka Kaneko.

Our W-SC JACL chapter is a major co-sponsor of the event, and our booth sold organic strawberries,
cucumbers, and daikon, green tea, two types of obento, and Hawaiian Sun drinks. The JACL picture boards of the Internment were arranged at the side of our booth and were viewed by many people who stopped by to chat with our chapter historian, Mas Hashimoto.

It was a fun day for our 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.

Kim (above) and Paul Tao donated their delicious organic strawberries which sold out quickly.

Thanks to the many friends and local businesses that generously donated to our booth: Tom Simmons of Berry Bowl and Paul and Kim Tao for organic strawberries; Janet, Hide, and Akira Nagamine for organic cucumbers and daikon; and Timmy Hunt from Pono Hawaiian Grill for the donation of the delicious food for our obento.

Many thanks to the following people who helped set up or worked at the JACL booth: Kimiko Marr, Jean and Iwao Yamashita, Shirley Inokuchi, Victor Kimura (also arranged for donation from Berry Bowl), Marcia and Mas Hashimoto, Amy Newell, Brooke and Lily Rains, Norris Woodford, Victor Patino and the Kaneko family - Takeshi, Aya, little Maki-chan, Tadashi, Yutaka, Paul, and Carol. Thank you to Norris Woodford, Jean Yamashita, Mas and Marcia Hashimoto, Victor Kimura, Gary and Cindy Mine, and Watsonville Taiko Group for loading and unloading the various vehicles and providing the transportation to and from Watsonville for all our equipment and supplies. And a special thank you to Kimiko, Tadashi, and Yutaka for assembling and delivering the 61 obento before the start of the fair. If we have forgotten to mention anyone, gomen-nasai.

Thanks to everyone who stopped at our booth to say hello or talk with Mas about our chapter and our history, and bought our delicious obento, green tea, strawberries, daikon, and cucumbers. We enjoyed having Hide Nagamine, Itaru and Aiko Nitao, Fumi Hane, and others who sat down in the shade of our booth to have lunch and chat. We are, as always, grateful for your continued support.

To everyone: Domo arigato gozaimasu! See you next year, Saturday, June 10, 2019!

Shirley Inokuchi sold the last daikon. We had so much fun at the cultural fair!

[Editor’s note: are these cultural events important today? Yes, very much so. The newspapers in the early 20th century wrote, and many people believed, that the Japanese race is an alien race which can never be assimilated into the American way of life. There’s nothing of value of Japanese culture. We are grateful that today’s public enjoy sushi, karate, teriyaki, Zen Buddhism, taiko, bonsai, ikebana, ninja turtles, wood block painting, Kabuki, karaoke and the list goes on. Japanese culture is enjoyed all over the world!]

WATSONVILLE TAIKO AND SHINSEI DAIKO
By Bonnie Chihara

At this year’s Japanese Cultural Fair our youth group performed taiko led by Sensei Ikuyo Conant. They played four songs- Yashiro No Uta, Takinobori, Right Hand Left Hand/Peach Tree and Yamakawa. Afterwards, they helped the adults in our food booth.

We have a new class scheduled for Saturday July 14th from 1-2 pm. This class is for children ages 4-6. It will be held at Cliffwood Estates Clubhouse, 3200 Cliffwood Dr. Soquel. Please contact Ikuyo Conant at kirintaiko@gmail.com to register your child for this fun class focusing on rhythm and movement with taiko. The cost is $10.
We have a senior taiko workshop on July 25th from 10-11 am. It will also be held at Cliffwood Estates Clubhouse. Cost is $15. Preregistration required.

We have classes for all ages. Our beginning children’s class is scheduled at 4:30 pm on Fridays and are held at the W-SC JACL Kizuka Hall, 150 Blackburn St. in Watsonville. Our beginning adult classes are scheduled for 7 pm also at Kizuka Hall. For times and locations for our other classes please contact Kay at 831 475 1088 or email us at info@watsonville.taiko.org.

Photos from the Japanese Cultural Fair in Santa Cruz.

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W-SC JACL SCHOLARSHIPS 2018

By Dr. Brooke Kondo Rains

Our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Scholarship committee reviewed scholarship applications from our local high school seniors, college undergraduate, and graduate students actively involved with the W-SC JACL, Westview Presbyterian Church, and/or the Watsonville Buddhist Temple. The 2018 scholarships were awarded on Saturday, June 23, 2018 at the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Community Picnic by First Vice President Maria “Gini” Matute-Bianchi, Ph.D.

The Sako Scholarship was generously established in 2012 to honor Rekiso “Ray” and Hisako “Louise” Sako for their leadership in the Japanese American community and determination to support our local youth in their endeavors to achieve higher education. The Sako multi-year scholarships are awarded to an Undergraduate student, for up to four years of study, as well as students accepted into a Graduate program for up to two years of study.

The 2018 Sako Undergraduate Scholarship was awarded to Ian Hoffman, son of Rev. Daniel and Leslie Hoffman. Ian recently graduated from Aptos High School, where he maintained an exemplary GPA, was active in several clubs, and continued to serve his community. Ian has spent the last eight years volunteering at Westview Presbyterian Church preparing and serving meals with the Salvation Army, as
well as helping with youth-nights, audio-visual technology assistant, and participating in week long mission trips.

In his essay, Ian reflected on the length of time, changing viewpoints, and action of the JACL that ultimately allowed the act to pass. “More and more people sought out ways of preserving their rights and liberties or exposing wrongs done by the government. This mindset and attitude expressed by the American people during this time is definitely one reason why passages of acts like the Civil Liberties Act were made possible.”

Kevin Mitchener, Ian’s Calculus teacher for the last two years, wrote a letter of recommendation stating, “Ian has demonstrated both the intelligence and maturity to succeed at the college level. I am confident that Ian has the necessary skills required to handle the rigors and challenges that he will encounter in the coming years.”

Ian plans to attend Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in the fall. He is interested in becoming an author or possibly pursue computer science.

We were pleased to present Ian Hoffman with the $1000 Ray and Louise Sako Undergraduate Scholarship, and the story (book) of the National Japanese American Memorial to “Patriotism, Perseverance, Posterity.”

We are honored to award Amanda Akiyama, daughter of Benjamin and Patty Akiyama, with the 2018 Sako Graduate Scholarship. As a high school graduate in 2013, Amanda received the Kee Kitayama and Sako Undergraduate Scholarships. Since then she has attained her Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Occidental College, while continuing to play water polo, performing research with the Vantuna Research Group, and volunteering over 300 hours at the Glendale Adventist Medical Center. Amanda wrote in her essay, “The importance of the Day of Remembrance is to remind us that in times of crisis national security should not override our rights as citizens. In crisis, we should band together rather than out casting a targeted group.”

Chelsea Williams was Amanda’s supervisor for her position at the Vantuna Research Group at Occidental College. She wrote an enthusiastic letter of recommendation stating, “I was consistently impressed with Amanda’s work ethic, dependability, and enthusiasm for marine science during her two and a half years with us. Amanda is an incredibly smart, highly organized, and meticulous individual. Her professionalism is impeccable. Amanda wrote about her core values and career goals in her personal statement, “Helping others is something I am passionate about and nursing in the military is one of the best ways to help people all over the world. More and more women are joining the armed forces, and I want to be one of those leaders that supports our country to make a difference for the better.”

Amanda Akiyama, received the 2018 Sako Graduate Scholarship of $1,000 to help advance her nursing education.

The 2018 Sako Undergraduate continuation scholarships of $1,000 each were awarded to the following:

Sarah Nagamine, daughter of Glenn and Judy Nagamine, who is entering her fourth year at the University of Massachusetts Amherst majoring in communication disorders with plans to attend dental school in the future.

Carter Garcia-Kimura, son of Victor Kimura and Karen Garcia Graham, who is entering his second year at Cabrillo College with a Biology emphasis.

KAWAKAMI - WATSONVILLE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION UPDATE by Robb Mayeda

We are preparing for fifteen Kawakami Junior High students who will visit Watsonville August 21-26. The group consists of eight boys, seven girls, two chaperones and a tour guide. Kawakami-mura Mayor Fujihara is expected to visit also.

Activities include a welcome dinner on Tuesday the 21st at the community room on the fourth floor of our city hall. The farewell event will be a beach party at Seacliff State Park Saturday afternoon on the 24th. The public is invited to both events.
Dear Gakko Friends,

We are super excited that the 28th year of Kokoro No Gakko started on Monday, June 25th. Thank you for all of your efforts in establishing, supporting, and keeping Gakko going all of these years!

On behalf of the Kokoro No Gakko Board of Directors, we cordially invite you to join us for the Annual Gakko Luncheon on Friday, June 29th, and the Open House on Friday July 6th! We hope to see all of you there, and if you can’t make either of these events, please feel free to stop by and say hello anytime during Gakko! We will be at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple from 9 am to 12 noon each day.

School Dates: June 25 through July 6, 2018. There is no school on Wednesday, July 4th.

Location: Watsonville Buddhist Temple (WBT), 423 Bridge Street, Watsonville. Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Monday through Friday.

Gakko Luncheon at WBT
Friday, June 29 at 12 noon
Gakko Open House at WBT
Friday, July 6 at 6 pm

Please feel free to call me at 408-205-3626 if you have any questions, thoughts, or extra time to hang out and participate in any activities! Attached below is the Calendar of Events

There are many other supporters I may have missed or don’t have contacts for so please let me know who they are, and I will reach out to them.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Janet Nagamine
Chair, Kokoro No Gakko

WATSONVILLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE ICHIMI

Office Telephone (831) 724-7860
Temple Office Hours are
9:30 am to 12:00 noon
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
Email: buddhist@wbtemple.org
Website: www.wbtemple.org

The July 2018 Schedule of Events:
June 25 – July 6  Kokoro No Gakko Program
July 1 – 4:  Temple Fireworks Booth (11 am – 8 pm)
No Sunday Services July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 –

No Meditation Sessions in July and August
Obon Odori Practice @ 7 pm  Mondays & Wednesdays, July 2, 9, 11, 16, 18

Sat., July 7  Hatsubon/Shotsuki Hoyo, 3 pm
Speaker: Rev. Matt Hamasaki from Sacramento

Thurs., July 12  ABA Meeting, 10 am

Other Temples’ Obon festivals you may wish to attend.
Monterey Sun. July 8 (noon to 5 pm)
San Jose Sat. July 14 (noon to 10 pm)
Mt. View Sun. July 15 (noon to 8 pm)
Salinas Sun. July 29 (noon to 8 pm)

HATSUBON: The Legend of Obon by Rev. Shinseki

We find ourselves on the verge of another Obon which marks another year that has gone by. And once again we will honor those members, family members and friends who have died since our last Obon. For many Obon is the festival and the Bon Odori (Obon Dance). But for our temple Obon is an important and meaningful religious gathering.

The legend of Obon is well known but bears repeating each year. Mogallana was a talented, intelligent and a devout follower of Shakyamuni Buddha. Mogallana was endowed with great insight and was able to see worlds beyond ours. One day while in deep meditation Mogallana was viewing various other worlds and while viewing the world of the Gaki or hungry ghosts he saw his mother suffering in the realm. She was suffering because of her selfishness in her previous life and Mogallana found her suffering from starvation. Beings in the realm of the hungry ghosts are depicted with large swollen stomachs and small pin sized mouths. The beings of this realm suffer there because of their insatiable greed which is never satisfied, thus the oversized stomach and the small mouth. Mogallana seeing his mother in this terrible state tried to feed his mother, but the food burst into flames.

Distraught over this Mogallana goes to see the Buddha and asks him what he can do to alleviate the suffering of his mother. The Buddha instructs Mogallana to visit the local Buddhist monks who were emerging from their annual retreat called Ango and make donations to the priests. Mogallana gives food and clothing to the monks and upon completing this selfless act of Dana, Mogallana’s mother is released from the suffering of the realm of Gaki. Upon seeing this Mogallana dances for joy.

Although a legend, the truth that is taught by this story is numerous for us today. The suffering of Mogallana’s mother reminds us that our greed and selfish behavior is the cause of our own suffering. Secondly...
Mogallana’s act of selfless dana or sharing is a practice that can replace greed and selfishness. When we practice a selfless act, it brings us joy and happiness. Finally, Mogallana’s devotion to his mother reminds us that we are all indebted to our parents and ancestors.

Obon is a time for Buddhist to practice dana and a time to memorialize those who have died this past year, this is especially true for those families who in the past year have lost a family member. Obon is also called Kangi-e or a gathering of joy. We celebrate our lives that is the result of many who have contributed to our lives and are no longer physically present. In contemplating our existence, we cannot help but feel gratitude to them and celebrate this life by truly living in the moment by eating, drinking, laughing and dancing for joy.

How grateful I am, Namoamidabutsu.

SAT., JULY 7TH SHOTSUKI HOYO SERVICE 3 PM

Akimoto, Keiko          Arao, Alan
Akara, Ted Tetsuo       Fujita, Asa
Hamai, Nobuko           Hamai, Sosuke
Hanayama, Shousei       Katsukiyoh
Haneta, Sumiko          Hattori, Kin
Higaki, Thomas Tsuyoshi Hirano, Isao
Ikeda, Midori           Inokuchi Takeshi
Iwami, Shige            Izumi, George
Kamigawachi, Carmel     Kawasaki, Fuji
Kawasaki, Sansosuke     Konishi, Aki
Kurimoto, Fusayo        Kusumoto, Amiko
Kusumoto, Satsuki       Matano, Yoshio
Mine, Isekichi          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   Tsuchiyama, Sunao
Uyeda, Sen              Wada, Utako
Wada, Hiroshi George    Wakayama, Hiroko
Yamaguchi, Tadayoshi    Yamamoto, Aiko
Yamamoto, Fuku          Yamaoka, Akei
Yamaoka, Kousaku Kay    Yokoi, Shizuka
Yoshizumi, Tsuru

VICKIE USUKI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Vickie Usuki Memorial Scholarship is awarded by the Watsonville Dharma School in memory of Mrs. Usuki, a Dharma School teacher. The scholarship is open to any graduating high school senior who plans to enroll in a college or university in the Fall. Qualified applicant’s family should be a member of the Watsonville Buddhist Temple.

Applicants will be considered based on their academic achievements, involvement with the Watsonville Buddhist Temple, and school or community activities. The recipient(s) will be awarded a $500 scholarship. Applications must be postmarked by July 10th.

If you have any questions, please contact Ken Tanimoto at mojaybo98@gmail.com.

Congratulations, graduates!

This year’s high school graduates were Matthew Maemura of North Salinas High and Kaitlin Sakae of Aptos High. Absent (still in school) was Hayley Sakae graduate of California State University, San Luis Obispo (“Cal Poly”).

We were delighted to have, as the Temple’s guest speaker on June 2nd, Prof. Enrique Galvan-Alvarez, who spoke on the practice of Shin Buddhism in England and North and South America.

BSA Troop 558 had its first “All You Can Eat Pancake Feed,” and it was very successful, thanks to all the patrons.

A tri-temple golf tournament is scheduled for the Crazy Horse Golf Course in Salinas at 1 pm on Aug. 26. See Rev. Jay Shinseki to sign up.

Our annual Chicken Teriyaki Take-Out Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, September 22. Reserve the date.

The historic Torii Gate from the first temple will be placed adjacent to the parking lot by the end of June.
ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE,
Friday, August 3rd from 8 am to 3 pm
Saturday, August 4th from 8 am to 1 pm
Items can be dropped off (at the back-gym door across from BBQ pits), starting Tuesday, July 24, 2018 to Thursday, July 26, 2018 from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm. Other arrangements can be made by leaving a message at Temple @ (831) 724-7860 or (831) 247-0300.
Items NOT Welcome: Mattresses, TV, computers, E-waste large appliances (washer, dryers, refrigerators) Anything broken, torn or dirty. If you are not sure if an item would be appropriate, please keep it. Please take some time in deciding what to donate. Remember, we are not a substitute for the landfill or the dumpster.
SORTING DAYS will be Sunday, July 29 starting at 8:30 am and the last sort day will be Wednesday, Aug. 1 at 9:00 am. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Sam Sakamoto, Iwao Yamashita, Paul Kaneko, Phil Shima, Sunao Honda, Gary Mine, and Franz Steidl.
First-time parents Takeshi Kaneko and Aya Okuma surprised Paul and Carol by arriving at the Senior Center with new baby Maki to share in our Father’s Day celebration. The Seniors enjoyed seeing Maki between games of bingo. (Nothing distracts our Seniors from their bingo games!)
Kimiko Marr showed a slide show of the Jerome/ Rohwer Pilgrimage and the NHK documentary which included her story of her work filming the various pilgrimages. The documentary included scenes of our Senior Center with our Seniors singing “God Bless America” and playing bingo. Our Seniors are now TV stars!

After several games of bingo, we were treated to a wonderful potluck dinner with many delicious dishes provided by our talented Senior Center cooks. A separate table was filled with a variety of delectable desserts. Thanks to Susan who cooked the barbequed steak and mushrooms main dish which was enjoyed by all. Thanks to all who provided the excellent food and to Susan for saying grace before we all ate and for the decorations/gifts for our Senior fathers.

June Senior Center News
by Carol Kaneko and Jean Yamashita
We ended the month of May with a surprise treat from Jean Yamashita and Shirley Inokuchi in honor of their father, Iwao Yamashita’s 91st birthday. Delicious mochi ice cream for all! Thank you, Yamashita family!
Father’s Day was celebrated on June 14, beginning with a moment of silence for those fathers who have passed away. All fathers were given a beautiful glass mug with a can of Dad’s Old Fashioned Root Beer inside and a package of “pop” corn and a red striped “pop” corn bag. Thank you to Susan AmRhein and Helen Nakano for the clever gifts for our fathers. Two of our five 88 and over fathers were honored--Sam Sakamoto 93 and Iwao Yamashita 91. Absent were: Jim Kawamoto 91, Akira Kodama 96, and Akira Nagamine 92. All gentlemen were then called up for a group photo.

Our June birthday party was held on June 21 with honorees: Norris Woodford, Sharon Bobo, Eiko Nishihara 92, Reba Condon, Judy Hane, and Leigh Sakaguchi.
Absent were: Gini Matute-Bianchi, Masako Miura, and Phil Snyder. Eiko was given a package of manju for being over 90, and one was taken to Dr. Miura, (photo left) who on June 29 turned 104. She enjoyed her manju very much and thanked all the Seniors. Thank you to Terry Hirahara for providing the beautiful flowers on each table for our birthday party.

The Japanese Cultural Fair took place on Saturday, June 9 at Mission Plaza Park. Thanks to the seniors and friends who stopped by the JACL booth or participated in the Ikebana demonstration at the Zen Center. A more complete report of the fair is elsewhere in this newsletter.

The JACL Community Picnic at Aptos Village Park was on Saturday, June 23. Many Senior Center members were there playing bingo, eating the delicious barbeque chicken lunch, buying raffle tickets, winning raffle prizes, and just having fun with family and friends. Thanks to all for your support of our JACL chapter.

Seniors were happy to see Sam and Yae Sakamoto back playing bingo this month and look forward to seeing them more often. Thank you to son-in-law Franz Steidl for driving them.

We welcomed guests Fumi Hane and Michael Idemoto this month. Michael knows many of our Seniors and won several bingo prizes.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Nancy Iwami, age 104, on June 22 in Reno. She lived an amazing life and brought much joy, laughter, and happiness into our lives. She was an inspiration to all of us. The Senior Center will miss her dearly. Her memorial service will be held at 11 am, Sat., July 7, 2018 at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple, 423 Bridge St, 95076.

Thanks to our June tobans: Gail Wurtenberg, Toshi Yamashita, and Sharon Bobo. Thanks to Jean Yamashita, June Honda, Judy Hane and all of our members who thoughtfully help out whenever needed. The new tobans schedule is posted in the kitchen.

Monetary donations for the month of June gratefully received from: Reba Condon, Judy Hane, Leigh Sakaguchi, Eiko Nishihara, and Gini Matute-Bianchi. Thank you also for these special donations: Sam and Yae Sakamoto for Father’s Day, Helen Mito and Daniel and Karen Nitta for the 1st year memorial for daughter and sister Joan Otsuji, and Paul and Carol Kaneko in celebration of their first grandchild.

Thank you for all the wonderful bingo prizes:

Jean Yamashita  1 box cutlery set, 1 bag Cheetos, 1 bag Chip Ahoy! cookies, 4 mini apple pies
Yoshiko Nishihara  18 bottles Dawn dish soap, large bouquet of flowers
Eiko Nishihara  12 jars strawberry jam
Kazuko Sakai  2 Reynolds Wrap
June/Sunao Honda  9 barbeque pork buns, 7 plates spicy California roll
Dylan, Alex, Aubrie Matsuo  1 btl Martinelli’s Sparkling Cider, 1 can fukujinzuke, 1 pkg noodles, 1 Dagoba candy
Judy Hane  14 bottles Dawn dish soap
Susan Aramaki Merchant  1 bag vegetable chips, 30 rolls bath tissue, 25 insulated bags, 4 chocolate cookies
Sharon Bobo  2 bags wafer cookies, 40 lunch bags
Gail Wurtenberg  100 small food containers, 5 bags lemon bars, 7 plates butterscotch cookies
Nobuko Akiyama  12 boxes facial tissue
Jean Akiyama  4 rolls Bounty paper towels
Bette Garcia  1 box cookies, 1 bag rice crackers, 2 pk bowl of udon, 6 plates banana bread
Marisa Sog  4 pkg cookies
Mary Perez  6 plates zucchini nut bread, 4 cinnamon rolls
Hisako Kodama  3 bunches of flowers, 6 rolls paper towels
Kumiko Nakatani  30 rolls bath tissue, 5 bags tomatoes
Rubie Kawamoto  6 boxes Kleenex, 3 doz organic eggs
Eileen Byers  10 Pirouline crème-filled wafers, 10 Blue Diamond nuts
Reba Condon  48 rolls bath tissue, 2 bags chagashi, 8 Korean sushi rolls
Yae/Sam Sakamoto  3 rolls paper towels, 1 btl Martinelli’s Sparkling Cider
Yaeko Cross  18 rolls bath tissue, 2 pkg cookies, 3 jars hand soap, (all homemade) 10 bags chocolate chip cookies, 7 plates blueberry muffins
Kim Tao  8 insulated bags
Chie Sakaue  25 snacks from Japan, 6 brownies
Toshi Yamashita  150 food containers
Pat Marr  10 bags horse beans
Jackie Yamashita  7 plates zucchini carrot bread
Eiko Stewart  4 boxes Kleenex, 4 plastic wrap, 4 chocolate cookies
Terry Hirahara  12 rolls paper towels
Hideko Nagamine  30 rolls bath tissue
Tea Hashimoto  14 bottles Dawn dish soap

Thanks for coming to the Senior Center! It’s important to stay active, visit with your friends, win bingo prizes, and have fun. Be sure to do your balance and heel lift exercises three times a day. See you next month!
Future Senior Trips
Cabrillo Musicals:
* RENT: Saturday, July 14th @ 2 pm
* THE PRODUCERS: Saturday, August 18th @ 2 pm
Cost for a Senior Premier seat is $45. Tickets for those who have signed up have already been purchased. If you are interested in going but have not yet signed up, you must purchase your own ticket.
* Table Mt. Casino one-day trip: Monday, August 20, 2018; 8 am to 7:30 pm; $30 for Senior Center members and WBT, $40 for others. We are taking sign-ups now – please contact Jean Yamashita if you are interested.

If interested or have any questions regarding the above Senior Trips, please contact Jean Yamashita (email: jeanyamashita@yahoo.com, or cell: 408-813-6539).

July/August Schedule:
Thurs July 5, 12, 26
Sat July 14
Thurs July 19
Thurs Aug 2, 9, 23
Thurs Aug 16
Sat Aug 18
Mon Aug 20
Thurs Aug 30
Regular Bingo
Cabrillo Musical – RENT @ 2 pm
July Birthday Party
Regular Bingo
August Birthday Party
Cabrillo Musical: THE PRODUCERS @ 2 pm
Table Mt. Casino one-day trip 8 am to 7:30 pm
Regular Bingo

Again, beware of scams related to the new Medicare card. Learn more about the new Medicare card by visiting the CMS website, or beginsat50.com. The new Medicare cards have started to arrive.

Please check out our Senior Center website to read the Senior Center News, see pictures of our seniors in living color, and see our calendar of events: kizukahallseniors.wordpress.com.

In Remembrance …

KIYOKO “NANCY” IWAMI: May 20, 1914 to June 22, 2018 by Paul Kaneko

Nancy Iwami was born “Kiyoko Tada” on May 20, 1914 in Watsonville, CA to Kumakichi Tada and Hana Eguchi, both from Okayama, Japan. She picked up the name “Nancy” when her classmates had trouble with her Japanese name. It stuck and remained for the rest of her life.

Nancy was the oldest of seven children: 5 girls and 2 boys. Her parents were sharecroppers when they first came to the U.S.

Nancy graduated from Watsonville High School in 1933.

She married Charlie Iwami in 1936. He was the eldest in the Iwami family and had one brother and three sisters. He was a barber who owned and ran his own shop referred to as: “Charlie’s Barber Shop.” He passed away in 2003.

On December 7, 1941, Charlie and Nancy were busy fixing up their newly purchased home when they heard the news about the attack on Pearl Harbor. They immediately stopped what they were doing after realizing the possible implications of the event.

As a result of EO 9066, Nancy and her family were evacuated to the Salinas Assembly Center where they stayed from April to July of 1942. The temperature there was in the 60’s. They were moved to the Poston Internment Camp in July, where it was 120 degrees when they arrived at their barrack. She endured the indignity of living in a horse stall and uncertainty of not knowing where they were going and what was going to happen to them. She remembered that it was a very scary time.

While in Poston, Nancy worked first as a waitress, then as a dietician in the mess hall of her Block 213. Charlie worked in a camp warehouse.

After one year, Nancy and Charlie were allowed to leave Poston to go to Denver, CO as they were sponsored by Charlie’s brother. While in Denver, Charlie worked on a golf course and then in a drug company’s warehouse. Nancy worked for a bookbinding company.

After the war, Nancy and Charlie returned to Watsonville. They were able to move back into the house that they had purchased before the war. To support themselves, they found themselves working in the fields again picking strawberries, lettuce, and apples. Charlie became a gardener and Nancy became a domestic housekeeper for a husband and wife who were both doctors.

Nancy and Charlie had one daughter, Nancy Jean, who was born in 1953. Nancy Jean is married, a registered nurse, and lives in Reno with her husband, Marvin Mattson. They had two children.

Nancy continued to live alone in the house that she and Charlie purchased, until she moved to Reno a few years ago to be with her daughter and son-in-law.

Nancy was a member of the Japanese American Citizens League and a very active member of the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Senior Center. In spite of her age, she remained one of four Senior Center...
Bingo Callers who announced the numbers in both English and Japanese. Up until she moved to Reno, she also managed to go on the Center’s many trips to casinos and elsewhere. In fact, she was honored as the Center’s official “navigator” on all trips because she always sat in the front row of the tour bus.

On May 20, 2018, Nancy Iwami celebrated her 104th birthday. The Center was blessed by her surprise presence for the monthly birthday party. We are all very saddened by Nancy’s passing for we have lost a truly beautiful woman inside and out, a friend, and an inspiration of how we all should live.

Kiyoko Nancy Iwami by Nancy and Marvin Mattson
Watsonville - A bright soul departed our presence as Kiyoko Nancy Iwami entered the Pure Land of Amida Buddha on June 22, at the age of one hundred and four.

Born to Kumakichi and Hana Tada in Watsonville, California in 1914, Kiyoko, or "Nancy" as many knew her, was the eldest of seven children. She graduated from Watsonville High School in 1933 and married the love of her life, Charlie Hideo Iwami in 1936. They were partners in life for sixty plus years of marriage.

During WWII Nancy and Charlie were sent to the internment camp at Poston, Arizona, where Nancy worked as a nutritionist. After their release, Charlie and Nancy lived in Denver, Colorado where Nancy worked for a bookbinding company. Upon returning home to Watsonville, Nancy worked in various agricultural jobs before becoming a domestic housekeeper. Many employers, including Drs Taine and Janet Bell family, and the Woolperts of Graniterock family, regarded her as a beloved and valued family member.

Following retirement, Nancy and Charlie traveled far and wide, including journeys to Japan, Canada, and throughout the United States. When Charlie passed away in 2003, one would think that Nancy would slow down, but nothing stopped this vivacious spirit. Like a cat with multiple lives, Nancy set about managing her social calendar. Her later years were spent with friends from Watsonville Buddhist Temple, and especially the Watsonville/Santa Cruz JACL Senior Center. Her visits to Kizuka Hall to play Bingo and socialize with friends were the highlight of her week. She had countless luncheon dates and would often say "Oh gosh, I’m triple-booked for lunch...I’m gonna have to disappoint someone." Nancy was fiercely independent, living on her own and driving well past her one hundredth birthday. An avid SF Giants fan, she celebrated her one hundredth birthday at PacBell Park and actually rose from her seat to get a closer look at Buster Posey.

As one door closed and her life in Watsonville ended, another door opened, and she began the final chapter of her life in Reno, Nevada, where she relocated to live with her daughter and family. At one hundred plus years of age, Nancy tended her Reno garden, and fed her wild bunnies and birds. She performed with Reno Taiko, rode a tandem bicycle, participated in the Virginia City Outhouse Race parade, pounded mochi rice cakes with the Reno JACL, cruised in a hot rod for Hot August Nights, and for her, the most fun of all -- went out to lunch and to play penny slots.

Nancy is survived by her daughter Nancy Mattson; son-in-law Marvin Mattson; grandchildren Kelly, and Tyler (with Julia), numerous nieces and nephews, and a myriad of dear friends who have not only helped her thrive, but in whose hearts her spirit will always abide.

In Nancy’s words..."Don’t be sad...be happy for me. I lived a good life." As she once said, “I eat well, I sleep well, and I have fun...what more could a person want from life"...what more indeed.

Published in Reno Gazette-Journal on June 24, 2018.

LILLIAN ETOW by Carlin Schelstraete
Longtime resident of Watsonville, Lillian Etow passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her family on June 10th, 2018. She was born Chiyoko Yoshizumi, the fourth and youngest child of Heigoro and Tsuru Yoshizumi
on June 16th, 1929. A daughter of sharecroppers, she spent her early childhood in Watsonville attending elementary school in Hall District. At the age of 13, she and her family were sent to the Salinas Rodeo Grounds in 1942 after the start of WWII. There they were detained for four months before being transferred to Poston II internment camp in the Arizona desert, where she lived in Block 216 #7 for over three years. While interned in Poston, she made many lifelong friends.

After their release in 1945, the Yoshizumi family moved to Hayward to work at a flower nursery. Lillian finished her high school years in Oakland. After graduation she and her family moved back to Watsonville to pursue strawberry farming. Here she would meet her future husband Shigeru (Shig) Etow. As it turns out he had also been interned at Poston II just a few barracks away yet they had never met. They were married on January 6, 1952 in Watsonville and had five children.

While raising her kids she helped work in the fields of Shig’s strawberry farm for many years.

Lillian’s love of children and work ethic brought her to apply at the Pajaro Valley Unified School District where she became a teacher’s aide for Calabasas, Bradley, Amesti and Ohlone elementary schools. Working with the kids in her later years was her calling. She had a love for teaching young students to read and had an amazing ability to celebrate small accomplishments. Her positive encouragement was often a catalyst for young readers to gain the confidence required to achieve their goals.

After more than 50 years of marriage Shig passed away in 2004. In her later years, Lillian developed a love for gardening, learning to tend to the 50-year-old fruit trees, roses and numerous flowers & shrubs that Shig cultivated during their life together. Lillian joined the Adult Buddhist Association (ABA) at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple where she enjoyed volunteer work for church fundraisers, went on group trips to the Chukchansi Casino and began learning Tai Chi. Lillian loved people. Through the ABA, she was able to reconnect with old friends, meet new people and make new dear friends. She once said, “Smiling at a stranger is like giving them a hug.”, and that is how she approached life, with an open heart.

Lillian was adored by her family. Her son came over constantly to help with home repairs and the heavy lifting in the garden. Her daughters came over almost every weekend with her grandchildren. Nothing brought Lillian more joy than watching her grandchildren grow, and she was the first to celebrate their achievements. All holidays, birthdays, graduations, baby showers, etc. were celebrated at Gramma’s house. She was a big part of their lives, giving them only encouraging words, warm hugs and lots of food. Lillian was the quintessential “Gramma”, right down to knitting them sweaters and baking the best apple pie in the world! She was delighted to ‘be promoted’ to ”Great Gramma” last Christmas and was able to hold her first Great granddaughter, Charlotte, in April of this year.

Lillian’s constant kindness, selflessness, warm smile, sincere optimism, great sense of humor and easy laughter defined who she really was, not only to her family but to everyone she knew. She was loved by so many and will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

Lillian was preceded in death by her husband Shigeru Etow, her sister Kay Shimonishi, and grandson Christopher Alan Levy. She is survived by her brother Harry Yoshizumi (Mitsue), sister Florence Matsushita, son Richard Etow (Mary), daughters Carole Bayne (Bill), Julie Etow (Charles Bracher), Lisa Etow, Jennifer Etow Levy (Carlin Schelstraete), grandchildren Katie, Chloe, Brett, Connor, Ruby, Augustus, great-granddaughter Charlotte and numerous nieces and nephews.

Private graveside services were held at the Pajaro Valley Memorial Park.

There will be a Celebration of Life party held on Sunday, July 29th at 1:00 pm at Hikari Farms, 2783 Freedom Blvd., Watsonville, CA.

We invite you to share your memories, photographs and stories on Lillian’s online guestbook. You can find the guestbook by searching for Lillian Etow on this site: http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/santacruzsentinel/browse

Lillian’s family would like to thank Hospice of Santa Cruz for their kind support.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Hospice of Santa Cruz or your favorite charity.
Eulogy for Dianne Kiyomoto

Given on June 2, 2018 by Marlene Shigekawa.

I’d like to share with you a quote by Thornton Wilder:
“We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures.”

I think all of us can agree that Dianne was truly a treasure. I had the privilege of getting to know her over the last 10 years while she was a loving board member of the Poston Community Alliance. Dianne was special—she had a passion and a fire within that was unstoppable in bringing Poston’s history alive. She was extraordinary in unearthing many facets of Poston for all generations, some who knew little about their families’ experiences in Poston. I was impressed by her way of finding lost photos, names and stories. She had a knack of finding personal collections of photos that nobody knew about.

Her passion and drive were contagious. She created a new way of documenting Poston’s camp life with her Camp Books, divided by Camp which listed in which Block families lived. This took hours and hours of research, and she told me how she would come home from work and get started on researching and compiling these books.

These Camp Books are now considered family treasures as now Poston descendants have concrete information, evidence, about the lives of lost ones.

I think every photo she discovered was imprinted in her mind because when asked she could give tell me who was in a photo and their family name. When we were burning the midnight oil in preparing the various events of our Poston Pilgrimage, I would ask her for a photo – of high school student or of babies or soldiers - and she would email them to me instantly and give me the background on which camp and often the names of those in the picture. With her burning desire to help others find their relatives who were at one time lived. In addition, if a person had a house made of

I am grateful to her for bringing awareness of the Poston Camp experience to all people who viewed our Poston blogsite and our Facebook site, not just Japanese Americans.

She not only reached out to those who are a part of Poston’s tribal community but developed lasting friendships with many them. Because she kept up to date on Tribal news, we connected and involved Tribal members with our Poston events.

She was a crucial part of our Poston team. As our archivist, she treasured every artifact and every story. She wanted to illuminate the forgotten and reveal legacies.

Dianne discovered many treasure – both Poston historical treasures and deep and lasting friendships. And because of this, she will be forever treasured by all those she touched, especially me. Because of her hard work, we will continue to weave together Poston’s legacy. I miss her dearly but know that her spirit lives on.

We send our deepest condolences to the lwami, Etow, and Kiyomoto families, relatives, and friends.

WESTVIEW “CHIMES” by Leslie Nagata-Garcia

WPC Puerto Rico Mission: The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it! –John 1:5

I had the privilege of going to Puerto Rico June 11-18 with 26 people ages 11 to mid-60’s from the San Jose Presbytery to do hurricane relief work. Three from our church went which included my son, Ian, and his friend, Kris Church (ages 18 & 17).

Puerto Ricans speak of Sept 20, 2017 like the rest of the United States speaks of 9/11. It changed everything. Hurricane Maria was the 8th strongest storm in Atlantic history. As a category 4 storm it had sustained winds of 130-156mph with gusts that were much higher!

We have heard news reports that electricity is on in almost 100% of the island and this is close to true as about 90% is on. However, it took until February for many communities—which is 6 months without light, refrigeration of food, medical devices and more. Pastor Eber who works with the Disaster Response Team said 30,000 are still without power. We went to Puerto Rico to do hurricane relief 9 months after the hurricane, and I was shocked at how much more recovery is needed: roads washed out, and many displaced families with destroyed homes. We saw firsthand how the hurricane would blow the doors and windows out on a concrete home and then swirl all the contents inside the home like a salad spinner destroying everything inside—even the interior doors would be shredded! In addition, roofs were torn off and the interiors were flooded with rain. We would drive down the road (and this is months after the hurricane) and we would still see piles of rotted things on the side of the road from the interior of the home. In addition, if a person had a house made of
wood, it was often totally obliterated—nothing left in its place!

Furthermore, the loss of life has been updated according to a Harvard study to be over 4,600 rather than the initial 64 that was reported.

I was told that about 30% of the homes were destroyed or unlivable! Nine months after the hurricane we came to communities that were in deep mourning. Many residents, who now have no home to live in, have moved to other places and many have just left the island altogether for mainland USA. Farmers saw their crops and mature trees flattened. Neighborhoods and churches are mourning the loss of community, loss of loved ones, and loss of homes, loss of employment due to destruction of business and farms, loss of their former lives. The suicide rate has gone up 29% and during the first 3 months after Maria it was up 39%!—adults, children and even pastors!

Despite this darkness, we saw much light! We met several individuals who had lost much but were lights of hope in their communities as they sought to care for others in the name of Jesus. We met Wilmare, the director of a Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center on the West side of the island, who was able to get a generator and provided ice for local families to keep their food from spoiling, procured several washing machines so people could come do laundry, found a psychologist who would provide free counseling, and was a ray of hope in many other ways to her community!

We got to work in a very poor community of the East side of the island, which took the worst hit from Maria. We met Millie who has organized her community to help each other rebuild homes while she herself still has her own home sitting in disrepair and uninhabitable. She helped us lead a Vacation Bible School to bring hope to the children and had us fix other peoples’ homes through sealing roofs, painting walls, and installing doors. I got to lead, with 2 other pastors, a retreat for about 10 local pastors who just needed some care and someone to listen to their stories of grief. Almost all of them cried as we listened to them and prayed for each of them one by one.

We saw much despair, destruction and darkness, but we definitely saw that, “The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it!”

All who went on this mission trip were profoundly impacted by the power of Christ’s love made incarnate in the lives of those who sacrificially loved their neighbors! Many Puerto Ricans told me that a benefit of the hurricane is that Puerto Rico is now known by most in the U.S. to be not another country but part of our country as a commonwealth. I hope that we will now better embrace and care for our Puerto Rican brothers and sisters as our own. My hope is that our Fall Harvest Banquet will be a benefit for several of these recovering Puerto Rican communities. Please keep our Puerto Rican brothers and sisters in your prayers, especially as they are now in yet another hurricane season.

I appreciate you, and may you each be Christ’s light and love to all those around you who are in darkness and despair!

Pastor Dan
Photos from Puerto Rico: Ian and Chris are repairing a roof.

Youth performing a skit in a church.

Our team with the Puerto Rican community.

Tutoring Club Update: We continue to serve several students on a one-on-one basis at different times during the week. It is a delight to reach out with love and care for our neighbors. If you would like to participate in any way please contact Pastor Dan, Susan Manabe, or Mary Lou.

Sergio and his dad at one of Westview’s tutoring club sessions; Sergio holding up perfect score papers from class.

June Westview Photos:
On June 3rd, Westview had a farewell celebration potluck for Carmine Wilson as she is moving to Oregon. Westview will miss her but wishes her the best!!

Salvation Army Dinners: Westview will resume serving the Salvation Meals in December.

Sunday Message Series: “The 7 Deadlies: warning signs to keep us on the road to abundant life!”

Wednesday Study Series: We will take a summer break and resume in September.

Help Your Youth/Children Grow a Strong Foundation in Christ!!

Youth/Family Upcoming Events:
Gym Nites: Mark your calendars for the following dates: July 6th and July 27th, 5:30 – 8:00 pm,

Our W-SC JACL August 2018 issue will include coverage of the:
(1) traditional annual Community Picnic, held on Sat. June 23;
(2) honor presented to the 100th/442nd RCT by the CA legislature on Mon. June 25;
(3) all donations and list of new members.

Thank you for understanding.
Mas Hashimoto, Editor
Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapter
National Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)

$5 Increase in the 2018 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 2018 National and local dues for our tax-deductible organization (ID #94-2659895) are as follows:

Individual Member  $85 This includes National dues, local chapter dues, and our monthly JACL newsletter.

Family/Couples  $155 This includes two National dues, local dues, and our monthly JACL newsletter, and all children under age 14 to be included.

Youth/Student  $30 for each of ages 14 to 24, National and local youth/student membership, and our monthly JACL newsletter are included. Youth membership is required for scholarship consideration.

Please note: Free email subscription to the Pacific Citizen, the official paper of the National JACL, is provided via your email address. Subscription to a printed, hard copy requires an additional $17 annually payable to the National JACL, 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115, (415) 921-5225.

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

P.O. Box 163, Watsonville, CA 95077

Thank you so much for your support.

Check out our websites: http://watsonvillesantacruzjaclo.org and Jaclo.org.