Happy New Year of the Mouse!

In the Japanese zodiac, 2020 is the “Year of the Mouse!” Best wishes for this new year!

The Bridge Family
See you next in March!

DONATIONS

Thank you to those who have generously donated since our last issue.
- Lester and Michelle Aoki in appreciation
- Greg Caput
- "Go For Broke Legacy Fund"
- Douglas and Sharyn Nakashima in appreciation
- Shirley Nishimoto donation of 24 rolls of tape for the newsletter
- Patt and Mark Takeuchi in "Celebration of birth of grandchild, Christopher Shoichi Slade"
- Watsonville Taiko in gratitude for use of Kizuka Hall

Look for our website:
WatsonvilleSantaCruzJACL.org
WATSONVILLE - SANTA CRUZ JACL UPDATE

A New Year, A New Decade  By Marcia Hashimoto

Happy “2020” New Year to all our W-SC JACL members and friends.

Thank you to our National JACL chapter members who returned their ballots and elected Bonnie Chihara, Gary Mine, Sean Sheehan, and Marcia Hashimoto to serve on the W-SC JACL board for a term of three years.

We are fortunate to have the continuity of Gary’s positive support and assistance in all of our projects and programs. Bonnie and Sean have been JACLers for several years. We are excited to welcome them, and we look forward to the new energy they will bring to our team which will also include Kenny Kusumoto.

Bonnie has been an active member and a leader of Watsonville Taiko. Sean has a strong commitment to our community as he is also serving on Kokoro no Gakko’s board. We are very pleased to welcome Kenny who was a popular write-in nominee. Kenny's history with the W-SC JACL includes serving as our young President in 1989.

Thank you, and congratulations to our 2020 Officers and Board of Directors. It is a privilege to work with an outstanding group of individuals who continue to dedicate their efforts in service to our supportive membership and greater community.

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<th>Officers</th>
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<td>President: Marcia Hashimoto</td>
<td>Bonnie Chihara</td>
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<td>1st VP: Joe Bowes</td>
<td>Jeanette Otsuji Hager</td>
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<td>2nd VP: Norris Woodford</td>
<td>Mas Hashimoto</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary: Cindy Hirokawa Mine</td>
<td>Carol Kaneko</td>
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<td>Treasurer: Victor Kimura</td>
<td>Kenny Kusumoto</td>
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<td>Gary Mine</td>
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<td>Sean Sheehan</td>
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The five Monterey Bay area JACL chapters--Gilroy, Monterey Peninsula, Salinas Valley, San Benito County and Watsonville-Santa Cruz--Installation of 2020 Officers and Board Members will be hosted by the San Benito County JACL. The luncheon will be held at the San Juan Oaks Golf Course on January 19, 2020. The Keynote Speaker will be Sandy Lydon, Historian Emeritus at Cabrillo College. His presentation will be "On the Occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the End of World War II: It Ain't Over..."

UPCOMING JACL CALENDAR

Day of Remembrance Observance

Salinas Valley JACL will host the 2020 Day of Remembrance event on Sunday, February 23. The program will begin at noon at the DOR Japanese Memorial Garden, 1034 N. Main Street, formerly the Salinas Rodeo Grounds, the initial "relocation" site of the Japanese and Japanese Americans who resided in the Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito and southern Santa Clara counties. The program will continue at the Lincoln Avenue Presbyterian Church, 536 Lincoln Avenue in Salinas (near Salinas High School).

We encourage all family members and friends to attend.

Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapter Board Meeting

Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapter Board Meetings: Monthly chapter board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday (except in November and December) at the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Kizuka Hall, 150 Blackburn Street, Watsonville, CA 95076 starting at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.
We, in 1942, were imprisoned without charges, attorney, trial, or due process of law by those who swore, with their oath of office, to uphold the Constitution of the United States! They didn’t!

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

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

Howard Ikemoto’s camp guard tower; Topaz, Utah wired camp fence; 100th/442nd patch.

Our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL is truly grateful to its members and friends who have donated to this year’s 2020 Day of Remembrance Education Fund (DOREF). Thank you. To those who haven’t, please help with what you can. Each donation helps to preserve our Nikkei history and legacy.

Donations to this DOREF help maintain a safe hall/dojo for our elderly Seniors and cultural groups—Watsonville Taiko, Bonsai and Kokoro no Gakko; honors our young scholars with the scholarships; supports the educational presentation of our unjust incarceration; and supports this newsletter

2020 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE EDUCATION FUND (DOREF)

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

- Greatest Need
- Education/Scholarship
- Newsletter

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

Your name(s):

Address:

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

Name(s):

(An acknowledgment, unless you request otherwise, will be sent to:)
Name of person(s) to be notified and address(es):

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

Thank you!

W-SC JACL is a non-profit, educational, civil rights organization.
Tax deductible #ID 94-2659895
2020 Directory and Cover Photo  By Marcia Hashimoto

We are very grateful to our supporters who have generously donated ads in our 2020 Directory of Businesses and Professional Services. The Directory will be published in February, and we hope it will be a useful resource for our members and friends.

The Directory cover will be a photo featuring a painting of the famous 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team’s shoulder patch, designed by Mitchie Miyamoto of Watsonville who served with the valiant 100th/442nd RCT. The painting of the patch as a flag was a gift from Peggy Mizumoto who had it specially made for Sam Sakamoto, a member of the 100th/442nd RCT during World War II. Peggy is the daughter of Robert Kazumi of Hawaii who served with the 100th Battalion of the 442nd RCT.

Sam had the painting beautifully framed by Dr. Bob Kay. Sam then presented it to our W-SC JACL with an engraved plaque. Our board member, Joe Bowes, with the assistance of Franz Steidl (Sam’s son-in-law) and Dr. Kay, secured the patch painting on the wall at the Tokushige Kizuka JACL Hall. Franz, Sam, Joe and Bob are in the foreground of the photo taken by Mas Hashimoto.

Thank you, Sam Sakamoto, for the memorable gift that will always remind us of how proud and grateful we are to the 100th/442nd RCT, the Military Intelligence Service (MIS), and all Nisei who served in the United States military during World War II and who protected our legacy. You are the true heroes.

National JACL Announces 2020 Scholarship Program

SAN FRANCISCO -- The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is kicking off its National Scholarship and Awards Program for the 2020 academic year. The JACL annually offers approximately 30 college scholarships for students who are incoming college freshmen, undergraduates and graduates, and those specializing in law and the creative/performing arts. There are also student aid scholarships for those in need of financial assistance in this era of rising tuition costs.

Scholarship Program guidelines, instructions and applications can be found on the JACL website, www.jacl.org, by clicking “Youth” on the menu bar.

Freshman applications must be submitted directly by the applicant to the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL, c/o Marcia Hashimoto, P. O. Box 163, Watsonville, CA 95077 with a postmark no later than March 2, 2020. Freshman applicants should contact Membership Assistant Tomiko Ismail at tismail@jacl.org or by calling the Membership Department at (415) 921-5225, extension 26 for information details and the application form.

Our W-SC JACL chapter will then have one month to evaluate their freshman applications and forward only the most outstanding ones to the National JACL Freshman Scholarship Committee, c/o Seattle JACL, P.O. Box 18558, Seattle, WA 98118, no later than April 1, 2020.

Applications for the “other” scholarship categories—undergraduate, graduate, law, creative/performing arts, and student aid—are to be sent directly by the applicant to the National JACL Scholarship Committee, c/o JACL Midwest District Council, 10604 Killarney Drive, Union, Kentucky 41091, with a postmark no later than April 1, 2020.

All those applying to the National JACL Scholarship Program must be a youth/student or individual member of the JACL; a couple/family membership does not meet this requirement. Applicants must be enrolled in school in Fall 2020 in order to be eligible for a scholarship.
Winter 2019 Kakehashi Project  By Bruce Arao

Okage Sama De (おかげさまで) means I am what I am, because of you. This is a saying to honor those who have come before me, and allowed me to enjoy the life I am so fortunate to live. This was our slogan for the 2019 Winter Kakehashi Project group. Nearly 100 Japanese-American college-aged students and I had the incredible privilege to go to Japan and see the country from new perspectives. From a homestay in the countryside, to touring Tokyo, and presentations by Japanese officials, the Kakehashi Project allowed me to reconnect with my Japanese heritage in a way that I had never experienced before. Prior to this experience, I had been a part of the Kokoro No Gakko program here in Watsonville, as well as attended JACL events, but never felt truly Japanese. Since I did not speak, I felt like I was American more than Japanese-American. But throughout my experience, I learned how much of my own identity and culture were built from Japanese traditions through the similarities I found with my fellow participants, and the comfort I felt when interacting with Japanese students, officials and family members. Thus, I realized that I was a lot more Japanese than I thought, and can proudly say I am Japanese-American.

I want to thank the JACL, the Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE), and everyone else who made this unforgettable experience possible. It was truly once-in-a-lifetime and one that I wish every Japanese-American youth could experience.

Kakehashi 2019  By Melissa Tao

What an experience! I want to express my deepest gratitude to the JACL National, MOFA, and JICE, for allowing me to participate on this years December Kakehashi Project. As a Gosei Japanese American “Nikkei” woman, this project was truly eye opening and empowering. Throughout my experience, I was not only able to learn more about my Japanese culture, but I met other like minded individuals and got to learn about their own family history. I felt a deep connection to my family and our history while visiting the overseas immigration museum, traveling to the rural country of Fukui & Aichi, participating in a home stay, and while having meaningful and impactful discussions throughout it all. The main goal of the Kakehashi project is 架け橋 (Building a Bridge for the Future) & that is exactly what it did for me.

Kakehashi Trip 2019  By Alex Tao

My experience on the 2019 Kakehashi trip was an excellent one. My group went to the Fukushima prefecture and visited the city of Kitakata. We painted akabeko (red cow sculptures made of paper mache), visited the Yamatogawa Sake Brewery, and stayed at a host family’s home for two nights. My favorite part of the trip was the home stay because the family I stayed with was so humble and kind. Our host family also cooked home cooked meals from their homegrown vegetables on their farm which was delicious! Overall the experience opened my eyes to the culture in Japan and it really connects Japanese-Americans to their roots.
California 2019 Hall of Fame  By Todd Tsukushi, courtesy of Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston

JEANNE WAKATSUKI HOUSTON  (b. 1934)
Inductee October 16, 2019

California Connection:
* Born in Inglewood

Achievements:
Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston is best known as co-author of the widely acclaimed book Farewell to Manzanar, written with husband James D. Houston and originally published in 1973. Based upon her personal experiences during and after her family’s imprisonment at Manzanar, the memoir was one of the first publications to discuss the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. She also co-wrote the screenplay for the NBC television adaptation, for which she received the Humanitas Prize and an Emmy Award nomination. The book, which is assigned reading in schools throughout the U.S., has sold over 1 million copies and is now in its 79th printing.

Houston is also the author of three other books, along with numerous essays, articles and reviews often focused on themes of ethnicity and diversity. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from San Jose State University and pursued graduate work at San Francisco State University and at the Sorbonne in France. In 1984, Houston was one of 14 American women to receive the Wonder Woman Award, an honor given to women over the age of 40 who have made outstanding achievements in the pursuit of truth and positive social change.

Awards/Recognition (partial list):
* Women of Achievement Award, National Women’s Political Caucus, 1979
* Carey McWilliams Award, California Studies Association, 2000
* Certificate of Commendation for Literature and History, California Senate, Legislature and City of Los Angeles, 2001
* Japanese American of the Biennium Award for achievement in Arts, Literature and Communication, Japanese American Citizens League, 2004

MEDICAL THOUGHT  By Cindy Hirokawa. Mine
I am just sharing information that I did not know about...
“Feather duvet lung” is an inflammatory reaction to goose or duck feathers in linen. It is a form of a lung condition hypersensitivity pneumonitis (H.P).

Some causes of (HP) listed could be:
• Products that contain down (feathers) like duvets, pillows, mattress covers, sofas, sleeping bags, (gloves, coats, vests & jackets) and can be more allergenic as the product ages or breaks down.
• Exposure to fungus.
• Close contact to birds
• Exposure to dust by your hobby or occupation

For further resource information, see November 19, 2019 on CNN.com -
“The man whose duvet nearly killed him.”
Watsonville hosts fundraiser for spring student exchange

Happy New Year from the Kawakami Watsonville Sister City Association! On Saturday, December 14 KWSCA held its first fundraiser of this year at the Applebee’s in Watsonville. The restaurant staff prepared the food, the parents provided the service, and the students greeted our customers. We sold 250 tickets and served just short of 200 meals in two hours. We have fourteen students who will travel to Tokyo and Kawakami-mura (Nagano-ken) on May 13. The students attend E.A. Hall Middle School, Lakeview Middle School, Rolling Hills Middle School, Cesar E. Chavez Middle School, Pajaro Middle School, Linscott Charter School, Alianza Charter School, and Kokoro no Gakko Cultural Program.

Kawakami Sister City News  By Robb Mayeda

Happy New Year from the Kawakami Watsonville Sister City Association! Thank you for your support at our Applebee’s Flap Jack Breakfast. We hope that you enjoyed the food and company. We have 14 students who will travel to Tokyo and Kawakami-mura on May 13. The students attend the following schools: E.A. Hall, Lakeview, Rolling Hills, Cesar E. Chavez, Pajaro, Linscott, Alianza and Kokoro no Gakko. Thank you again.

Kokoro no Gakko 2020!  By Zooey Io

Save-the-Date for Kokoro no Gakko 2020! Please join us for the annual summer session of Kokoro no Gakko! Kindergartners (who have completed kindergarten by June 2020) through 6th graders may enroll. The session is June 22 through July 2, 2020, Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple. The cost is $275 per child for returning families and $290 per child for new families. Registration will open in February and end on March 15th. Please visit our website for more information on the Gakko program and how to register: http://www.kokoronogakko.org. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Registration at kokoronogakkowatsonville@gmail.com.

Seniors Wanted! Kokoro no Gakko is a two-week summer program at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple dedicated to the culture and arts of Japan and founded to pass on an understanding of Japanese American culture. We are seeking help from seniors in particular to: help with Japanese pronunciation and arts in kindergarten through 6th grade classrooms; share stories of Japan or immigration; prepare food in the temple kitchen with others; and help instill a sense of respect and appreciation for our elders. The program runs Monday through Friday 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM from June 22 to July 2, 2020. If you are interested and available one day or even the whole two weeks, please contact Janet Nagamine (jmnagamine@gmail.com; 408-205-3626).
2020—A Pivotal Year?  By Mas Hashimoto

When I was 17 and a junior at Watsonville Joint Union High School (yes, that was the official name) in 1951-1952 (I’ll do the math for you. I’m 84 years of age now) studying U. S. History under “Bud” Rowland, I was first introduced to the great civilizations of the past—the rise and fall of the Egyptians, Chinese, Greeks, and Romans. He pointed out that each fell from within when political corruption, greed, and hatred ruled. Of the United States civilization, then less than 200 years (1776-1952), Mr. Rowland stated no foreign power will destroy us. Our decline will surely come from within.

Back then, World War II (1939-1945) was in our textbooks but not the Korean War (1950-2020+---we have only a “cease fire” and not a peace treaty).

And, of World Geography we studied at that time, along with the established countries, were French Indo China, Belgian Congo, Portuguese Angola, Dutch East Indies, British West Indies, Spanish Morocco, British Hong Kong, et al. All the modern powers had possessions (colonies). The United States, after World War II, gave its former colony, the Philippines, its independence in 1946 but elected to keep Guam, the Hawaiian Islands, and Puerto Rico.

After my college graduate year which was followed by a tour of duty with the US Army, I was hired in 1960 by Mr. Rowland to teach social studies -two classes of US History, two classes of World Geography, and one class of “Orientation” (an introductory semester course for incoming freshman on high school traditions and requirements for graduation). A novice, I admit I was one page ahead of the students I was teaching.

In 1963, a pivotal year, I spent the summer days touring the United States, along with Tets Hojo, a sophomore at Stanford University. We experienced first-hand the political corruption, greed, and racial hatred in the Deep South and eastern coastal states before the Civil Rights Movement of the Sixties began in earnest. I learned that all men were not created equal (that some men were more “equal” than others), the pledge for “liberty and justice for all” was not advanced, and wondered where was the “land of the free and home of the brave.” Five months later, just before the Thanksgiving weekend, on November 22, President John F. Kennedy would be assassinated in Dallas, Texas. Our Country was in a state of total shock and mourning. Three years later, Martin Luther King, Junior would be tragically assassinated followed by the unbelievable loss of Robert F. Kennedy. The Nation was overwhelmed with grief and disbelief.

In 1967, another pivotal year, with my former Latin teacher, Tony Sanchez, I spent the summer days circling the world--Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Bangkok, Agra, Istanbul, Athens, Jerusalem, Dubrovnik, Belgrade. Moscow, St. Petersburg, London, Amsterdam, Capri, Rome, Venice, Florence, Budapest, Vienna, Berlin--to name a few, and ending in Paris. We celebrated the end of the June Seven Days War in Israel with praying at the Wailing Wall followed with a visit inside the Dome on the Rock and the 50th anniversary of the Communist Revolution (1917-1967) in the Soviet Union. I sent a telegram to Marcia from Moscow - “From Russia with love.” The clerk reminded me I had three more words available.

My marriage to Marcia in 1970 was, of course, the most notable change of my life—a most pivotal year. It goes without saying. She edited (censured) out everything I wrote here about our life together.

In 1984, we had been invited to dinner at a publisher’s home in Cape Town, South Africa. In attendance were bankers, manufacturers, businessmen, medical doctors and their wives. During the discussion on the upcoming election-- the blacks and colored were to be allowed the vote--the men were noticeably uneasy and most uncomfortable. The conservative men even doubted that blacks could function with blue collar jobs.
January 2020

(i.e. driving a truck or bus). Their wives, far more progressive, visualized the benefits of having free and fair elections. When the discussion turned to travel, we were included. While the wives had visited and shopped in UK, France, USA, Hong Kong, and elsewhere, the men stayed home in South Africa. These women had a global outlook. When given the opportunity to contribute to the discussion, we spoke of assurances that they had little to worry for we had gone through the Sizzling Sixties in our nation with the passage of the Civil Rights Voting Acts of 1960s. Of interest? Nelson Mandala was still in prison and would remain there for another six years. He was finally freed in February of 1990.

A friend recently quipped, “Isn’t the United States the greatest country in the world!” I reviewed my travels to over 50 countries and circling the globe twice and visiting 45 states more than once. I asked him, “What countries have you visited?” After a brief pause, he offered, “I’ve been to Hawaii.”

Will this year, 2020, be a pivotal year for the United States and for the world? There is an election coming up in November. What do you think?

Onward! — Mas Hashimoto

SENIOR CORNER - November Senior Center News  By Carol K. Kaneko and Jean Yamashita

On November 7th, the Seniors celebrated October/November birthdays honoring October honorees: Nobuko Akiyama and Toshiko Yamashita and November honorees: Yaeko Cross (93) and Fumi Tanimasa (88). Absent were Juanita Lopez and Satoko Yamamoto (94). Yaeko Cross and Satoko Yamamoto (over 90) received a box of manju, and Fumi Tanimasa, who turned 88, was presented a lovely orchid plant. Fumi Tanimasa also generously provided the delicious birthday cake. Thank you so much, Mrs. Tanimasa! Teruko Hirahara arranged all the lovely fall flower decorations for the front table and individual tables. Thank you, Teruko!

Wally Osato drove over from San Jose and brought kaki and pomegranates for everyone. Thank you very much, Mr. Osato!

Willie Yahiro stopped by for a visit. Thank you, Mr. Yahiro, for all the delicious pizzas you’ve provided for the Seniors this year!
On November 7th, several Watsonville City leaders came to the Senior Center to talk to the Seniors about renewing funding for Measure G in 2020:

David Honda  Watsonville Police Chief
Matt Huffaker  Watsonville City Manager
Nick Calubaquib  Watsonville Parks & Community Services Director
Rudy Lopez  Watsonville Fire Chief

“Measure G funding will expire soon unless renewed by voters. Our City Council is considering a renewal of the half-cent sales tax measure for the March 2020 election. This renewal would:

- Maintain after-school and summer programs to keep youth safe and out of trouble
- Support anti-gang and youth violence prevention efforts, Police Activity League and parks and recreation programs
- Maintain lifesaving 9-1-1 fire and paramedic emergency response times
- Continue neighborhood police patrols”

Thank you to Police Chief David Honda for organizing this informative presentation.

Kizuka Hall was dressed in lovely fall colors for the Seniors’ Thanksgiving celebration on November 21st. Many thanks to Susan AmRhein who creatively decorated the hall and also baked the clever turkey cupcakes for everyone and prepared all the main dishes for the Thanksgiving potluck!

The talented Eileen Byers skillfully handmade all the candy filled Thanksgiving favors for everyone – thank you, Eileen!

The tables were overflowing with all the scrumptious dishes our Senior cooks generously prepared – thank you, all! We had a very special treat of freshly caught crab donated by Alan Yagi – yum!
Rob Kawamoto (Rubie Kawamoto’s son) brought all the delicious pumpkin pies and whipped cream for the Thanksgiving potluck in memory of Rubie - thank you, Kawamoto Family! It was so nice to have Rob join us as we shared fond memories of Rubie Kawamoto, who sadly passed away on November 10th. Very touching stories were told by Rob Kawamoto, Marcia Hashimoto (Marcia also read a “Remembrance of Rubie” letter from Carol and Paul Kaneko), Teruko Hirahara, and Cindy Mine bringing tears to the eyes of many as we remembered the kind Rubie. We will miss her very much.

When it was time to dine, Susan AmRhein said grace along with a thoughtful Thanksgiving message. We all then proceeded to feast upon our Thanksgiving bounty. We had such a wide variety of dishes, that the plates were soon piled high with food. Everything was so delicious!

“Recipe of cookies Rubie made on trips” created by Cindy Mine

Thank you all for making this Thanksgiving a very memorable one!

SENIOR CORNER - December Senior Center News  By Carol Kaneko and Jean Yamashita

On December 5th, the Seniors were treated to delicious “Peperachi Combo” pizzas from Corralitos Pizza, generously donated by Willie Yahiro. The Seniors were truly grateful for all the pizzas that Willie provided for the Seniors throughout 2019 - a Thank you card was circulated and signed by all. Thank you so much, Willie Yahiro!
HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

On December 12th, the Seniors celebrated December birthdays honoring December honoree: Jim Kawamoto (93). Absent were Grace Fujita (95), Kimiko Marr, and Riiko Yoshida. Grace Fujita and Jim Kawamoto (over 90) received a box of manju. Hisako Kodama brought the lovely flowers that brightened every table, and Teruko Hirahara provided the holiday arrangement on the front table. Thank you, Hisako Kodama and Teruko Hirahara!

In the holiday spirit, Susan AmRhein taught the Seniors how to make cute whimsical reindeer ornaments made out of clothespins. With glitter and glue flowing, the Seniors had fun creating their unique reindeers.

Thank you to Seniors for participating and many thanks to Susan for all her efforts in leading this holiday activity!
On December 12th after the weekly Senior gathering, Senior volunteer elves busily filled Christmas bags and decorated the Christmas tree for the Senior Christmas Party on December 15th. The tasks were completed quickly thanks to our very efficient helpers! Thank you to Goro Yamashita for delivering all the goodies from Yamashita Fish Market.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, Dec 15th turned out to be a splendid day for a Christmas Party! Many of our Seniors and special guests were festively dressed in Christmas attire and were delighted with the Senior Center holiday décor.

It was wonderful to have Reverend Dan Hoffman (Westview Presbyterian Church) and Reverend Jay Shinseki (Watsonville Buddhist Temple) join us as they both presented engaging Christmas messages.
We then honored our 90 and over Seniors who posed with the beautiful Christmas cake provided by Westview Presbyterian Church. We are so fortunate to have 27 Senior members 90 and over who continue to inspire and guide us.

Santa’s Helpers (Reverend Hoffman, Reverend Shinseki, Leigh Sakaguchi, Sharon Bobo) enthusiastically passed out the Xmas goodie bags from the Senior Center to all our Seniors and guests. 8 lucky guests received an extra prize of Martinelli cider and a sparkly Christmas pin (pins generously donated by Pat Marr).

Paul Kaneko then spoke of our appreciation to those in our community who support our Senior Center through their many contributions. He also reflected on the goals and mission of the Senior Center and the role our W-SC JACL plays. The 48th Senior Center Anniversary slideshow was then replayed for Seniors who missed the first showing in October and to introduce guests to the Senior Center activities throughout the year. The Senior Christmas Party concluded with merry games of bingo until nightfall.

Many thanks to all our gracious speakers, Westview Presbyterian Church for the delicious Christmas cake and wonderful caroling, Paul Kaneko for doing a great job chairing the event, and all the Seniors and special guests for attending our jolly Christmas party!  HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
Special treats were brought in for the Seniors from:
- **Bobby Higaki**: Persimmons for everyone
- **Kathy and Harry Ishikawa**: Satoimo
- **Grace Patiño**: Two big bags of walnuts
- **Alice and Ken Tanimoto**: Assorted cookies

Everyone also received special holiday treats made by:
- **Eileen Byers**: Lovely holiday cups filled with candy
- **Susan AmRhein**: Reindeer food (edible by humans)
- **Reba Condon**: Assorted Christmas cookies
- **Jean Yamashita**: Rolo Christmas trees

**Paul Kaneko** gave his thoughtful year-end message of appreciation to all our volunteers and thanked all the generous donors of bingo prizes throughout the year. The Senior Center could not exist without the participation and support of all its members so everyone was presented with a lovely poinsettia plant to take home for the holidays.
Celebrating their momentous 50th Anniversary this weekend (December 21st) are the Senior Center leaders: **Paul and Carol Kaneko**! Ken Tanimoto spilled-the-beans, and the beaming couple were congratulated for reaching this golden milestone! [Thank you to **Yoshiko Nishihara** who brought the gorgeous flowers!]

Senior crocheters were busy this fall and made 6 items for our first year-end Senior raffle.

Lucky raffle winners were:
- Pot holder (made by **Kim Tao**; put together by **Susan AmRhein**): Won by **Sam Sakamoto**
- Scarf (made by **Susan AmRhein**): Won by **Kim Tao**
- Blanket (made by **June Honda’s mom**; put together by **Susan AmRhein**): Won by **Juanita Lopez**
- Afghan blanket (made by **Susan AmRhein**): Won by **Kazuko Sakai**
- Afghan blanket (made by **Susan AmRhein, Connie Dimas, Judy Hane, Eiko Stewart, Kim Tao**; put together by **Susan AmRhein**): Won by **Judy Hane**
- Afghan blanket (made by **Susan AmRhein, Connie Dimas, Judy Hane, Eiko Stewart, Kim Tao, Jean Yamashita**; put together by **Susan AmRhein**): Won by **Haru Ishibashi**

Seniors had fun playing bingo for the last time in 2019 winning many donated holiday treats.
Taiko club donated tea gift basket (won by Yaeko Cross) and potted plants (Eiko Stewart won a plant).

It wasn’t long before the Happy Garden buffet meal arrived (thanks to June Honda for ordering the delicious dishes and Mas and Marcia Hashimoto for picking up the meal!). Susan AmRhein said grace, and we all enjoyed a yummy Chinese food fest.

Thank you to all our Seniors who helped with the cleanup of our last 2019 gathering and for consistently lending-a-hand throughout the year! Happy New Year!

It is with great sadness that we announce the unexpected passing of Marvin Byers (husband of Eileen Byers) on December 17, 2019. He was a vibrant, kind man who will be missed. The W-SC JACL Senior Center extends its deepest sympathies to the Byers Family.

A "Celebration of Life" will be held on Saturday, February 1, 2020, 1 pm, at Kizuka Hall.
SF JAPANTOWN TRIP - By Toshi Yamashita

21 Seniors and friends had a fun, relaxing, and productive shopping day in San Francisco’s Japantown on Tuesday, December 3rd. It turned out to be a lovely day after a very rainy week. Lunch was enjoyed at various restaurants, and time was spent perusing all the unique and wonderful shops in the area. Sadly, the familiar May’s Coffee shop was gone, but there were two new vendors selling takoyaki and mochi donuts – yum! Goodies for the long bus ride were kindly provided by: June Honda, Alice Drier, Nancy Kuratomi, Kim Tao, Mitsuyo Tao, Reba Condon, Lylian Pressel, and Toshi Yamashita. We were thrilled to have our favorite bus driver, Don Cox, driving us, who always has entertaining stories to tell of past Senior trips. Thanks to all who supported our Senior Center by attending this merry one-day trip!

January Schedule:

Sun., Jan. 19  JACL Quad-Chapter Installation Luncheon, San Juan Oaks
Thur., Jan. 23  January Birthday Party
Thur., Jan. 30  Regular Bingo

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

WATSONVILLE TAIKO AND SHINSEI DAIKO  By Bonnie Chihara

We ended our year as usual with our annual holiday party. We enjoyed a wonderful potluck with the centerpiece being the delicious fried turkey made by Joe Bowes. Entertainment was provided by Ethan Ward, Matthew Mathers and his mom Chihiro and the Crowbear family. Sensei Ikuyo Conant led us in a short "song and dance."

As we prepare for the new year, we are gearing up again for our busy performance schedule from now until the end of April. In between performances we will be studying and practicing for our 30th Anniversary Show coming in 2020!

We now have classes at Pathways Dojo located at 2724 Soquel Avenue, Suite D/E. On Tuesday mornings from 9:15-10:15 we have our Taiko for Health classes. From 10:15-11:15 we have a beginners class for seniors. On Wednesday nights from 7:30-9pm we have a class for adult fast learners. We have classes for all ages at our dojo at Kizuka Hall in Watsonville.
**CHILDRENS CLASSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Class</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:30-5:10pm</td>
<td>Beginners Children 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:10-6:00pm</td>
<td>Beginners Children 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00-7:00pm</td>
<td>Intermediate Youth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ADULT CLASSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Class</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00-8:00pm</td>
<td>Beginners Adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00-10:00pm</td>
<td>Intro to Performance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please contact Kay at 831 475 1088 or email us at info@watsonvilletaiko.org if you are interested in taking any of our classes.

**Watsonville Taiko upcoming schedule**

- January 15th-Bayview Elementary School, Santa Cruz
- February 22nd-UCSC Japanese Student Association Spring Matsuri, UCSC
- April 5th-Watsonville Hanamatsuri, Watsonville Buddhist Temple
- April 18th-Santa Cruz Bonsai Kai, Santa Cruz MAH
- April 19th-Morgan Hill Haru Matsuri, Morgan Hill Buddhist Community Center, Morgan Hill
- May 30th-Redwood Mountain Fair, Roaring Camp, Felton

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**WATSONVILLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE**

**New Year’s Greeting** - Happy New Year, everyone! At the beginning of this Year, I would like to extend my best regards to you all.

Last year again, following the year before, Japan, as well as many other countries in the world, was struck with multiple natural disasters. I would like to convey my deepest condolences to those who lost their lives through those disasters and express my sympathy to everyone affected. In addition, we must never forget that armed conflicts and terror attacks as well as severe starvation is making it difficult to live, and lives are being lost every day.

Last September I had an opportunity to make an official visit to the temples of the Buddhist Churches of America as Monshu for the first time. This allowed me to complete the first round of visitations to all of the overseas districts which include Canada, Hawaii, South America, and the US mainland.

Although every temple and district has its own history and background, many of the overseas Jodo Shinshu temples were established and have been cherished by the Japanese immigrants and their descendants. Reflecting on how sincerely our predecessors entrusted themselves to the Buddha Dharma and how importantly they thought of their temples while facing many difficulties such as World War II, I cannot help but feel grateful and even awe for their tremendous efforts as well as many other wondrous circumstances that have allowed the Jodo Shinshu teaching to be handed down to us today.

However, a considerable amount of time has passed since the Japanese emigrated overseas, and the lifestyle of their descendants, as well as the world situation have changed greatly. In accordance with these changes, quite a few people who are not of ethnically Japanese origin have also come to appreciate the teaching clarified by Shinran Shonin, and attend our overseas temples.

What caused this is nothing but the universality of the Jodo Shinshu teaching that transcends time and space. In order words, Amida Buddha’s compassion equally reaches and non discriminatively embraces everyone in the midst of all sorts of pain and agony.

In this year, let us continue to listen to the Dharma, considering it is directed to each one of us, and keep moving forward to share it with many other people as possible.

January 1, 2020
OHTANI Kojun
Monshu
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha
Happy New Year!

On behalf of my family, we extend to all of you and your families a Happy New Year. We thank you all for your patience and kindness in 2019 and look forward to a new year filled with new memories and more opportunities to share the Dharma with you.

As we move into a new decade I ask for your support as we embark on some new initiatives for 2020. Our temple board has designated 2020 as The Year of the Eco Sangha. Throughout the year we will be examining our daily practices at the temple and implement ways in which we can lessen our carbon footprint. At the same time we will show how the Buddhist teachings can help us better understand ourselves and how we can contribute to a cleaner and more sustainable world.

One of the first projects is for our temple to go solar. By doing this we not only reduce our costs, but reduce the carbon output of our temple. You will also notice the absence of plastic bottles at our events. We hope to do more and learn more as a Sangha in 2020.

Gassho,
Rev. Shinseki

New Year’s Installation

The Watsonville Buddhist Temple has declared 2020 The Year of the ECO Sangha. We will demonstrate active and responsible practices at all our Temple activities that are sustainable and protect and preserve natural and social environments.

Watsonville Buddhist Temple Schedule of Events:

January 2020

Sunday, Jan. 19, 10:00 a.m. Shotsuki Hoyo ABA Memorial Service + Luncheon
Guest Speaker: Rev. Ken Fujimoto

Friday, Jan. 24, 2:00-4:00 p.m. & 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Movie Night: “Shoplifters” from Director Hirokazu Kore-Eda

Sunday, Jan. 26, 10:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Tri-temple Hoonko Service at Buddhist Temple of Salinas
Monterey, Salinas and Watsonville sponsor the Hoonko service at 14 California Street, Salinas, CA. Join the Sanghas of Salinas, Monterey and Watsonville as we commemorate this Special Memorial Service for our founder, Shinran Shonin. Special guest speaker for the memorial will be Rev. Brian Nagata. A carpool list will be available for sign-ups at the Temple office or call 831.724.7860.
Introduction to Jodo Shinshu Buddhism

Shinran Shonin (1173-1264) is credited as the founder of the True Pure Land School of Buddhism (Jodoshinshu), which became the largest school of Buddhism in Japan and possibly the world. We will look at the life of Shinran and the development of what became a revolutionary form of Buddhism.

Cost: Members $25; Non-Members: $50

February 2020

Sunday, Feb. 2, 10:00 a.m. Shotsuki Hoyo February Memorial Service
Sunday, Feb. 9, 10:00 a.m. Sunday Service
Sunday, Feb. 16, 10:00 a.m. Nirvana Day & Pet Memorial Service
Sunday, Feb. 23

No Service (BCA National Council Meeting in Seattle)

Office Telephone (831) 724-7860
Temple Office Hours: Wednesday mornings, 9 a.m.-noon
Other times by appointment only
Email: buddhist@wbtemple.org

WESTVIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHIMES

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil 4:13)

Written on the bottom of a seventh grader’s shoes.

I got the privilege on Sunday to sit with Jackson Fukutome, a seventh grader, who shared with me his favorite verse and how he wrote it on the bottom of his shoes so that it was always with him. It takes courage to be a seventh grader emerging from the cocoon of elementary school and trying out your wings at a junior high. He loves basketball and art. He is currently working on his portfolio to get into an art magnet school—regular school doesn’t come easy for him. Even at the young age of 12 he is having to have courage to be himself and pursue his interests. I’m proud of him!

As the new year is upon us we all will need to take courage to reflect upon our lives, pray, and seek to make the needed changes we know we need to make in order to flourish, and love, and live well—often these are things we put off year after year! This type of reflection and action takes lots of courage. Franklin D Roosevelt was to be a promising politician until he got polio and his legs were crippled. He went to a dark place trying to recover and overcome, and it took great courage! He ended up being one of our presidents, leading us through the Great Depression and World War II. He says this about courage: “Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the assessment that something else is more important than fear.”

Nelson Mandela led South Africa through the very difficult struggle of dismantling apartheid. He said this about courage: “I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.”

I pray we all can have the courage to reflect and pray upon our lives seeking the needed changes that we need. If needed, we might want to take the advice of a courageous seventh grader and write an encouraging verse on the bottom of our shoes! “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!” Lean on our God and our Savior who loves you and is shaping you into the beautiful person you are!

As I reflect on the year, I am reminded of how grateful I am for the Westview Church family! You care well for each other and teach me much about the love of Christ. I see the light of Christ in you! God bless you with a wonderful, joyful and Christ-filled New Year!

Love in Christ,
Pastor Dan

P.S. That Hebrew scriptures instruct us to write scriptures on our doorposts and on our foreheads so that we will not forget the instructions and promises of God. So you may want to write it on your forehead!

Holiday Event Photos (above from left to right): First two are from Westview’s Christmas worship service, the last two photos are Westview members and friends Christmas caroling at Valley Heights.
Westview Presbyterian will be worshipping at United Presbyterian Church (UPC) on 1/5/20, 10 am for their final worship service before closing (112 East Beach St). We will not have worship at Westview that day. United is closing their doors and a commission was formed by the Presbytery to discern how the building and their remaining funds could be used as a blessing to the community through new ministries. Please keep the UPC members in your prayers as they close and find new places of worship. We will likely be graced by several of their members as they become part of the Westview family.

Salvation Army Meals: Westview has resumed preparing and serving Salvation Army meals and will continue every first Friday of each month through April. Volunteers are always welcome!! Call Marlon or Pastor Dan for details. Always a worthwhile and fulfilling experience!! (Photo at right: Volunteers serving the meals).

For the month of February Westview will prepare and serve these on February 7th.

SonRise Kitchen

What a joy to see men, women and even some children enjoying a hot breakfast after a cold night outside! “When we feed the hungry we are serving and encountering Christ! (Matthew 25)

On November 25 Margo Loehr resumed this vital ministry (as we were able to use United Presbyterian’s kitchen - thank you UPC!) that provides breakfast to those in need Monday through Friday. We cook at the church and serve at River Park (just a few blocks from the church). Thank you to our many faithful volunteers like Jane, Julie, Micky, Joanne, Sheri, Erica and many others (left photos)!

If you would like to help regularly, or even just one morning a week, or on an occasional basis, or would like to donate to this worthy cause, please contact Pastor Dan or Margo.

This worthwhile ministry will always be in need of funding for operational and food costs. Checks can be written to Westview Presbyterian Church and write “SonRise Kitchen” in the memo.

Tuesday Study Series: What does God’s voice sound like? How do you discern God’s direction/leading in our life? The study series takes place every 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 4 pm, at Paloma del Mar Senior Apartments. Mark your calendar for the following dates in January: January 14, January 28th

Thank you to:
• All the Contributors
• Marcia Hashimoto: Proof-reading
• Mas Hashimoto: Photographer
• Jeanette Hager: Formatting and Contribution
• Cindy Hirokawa Mine: Newsletter Coordinator and Editor
• Glenn Akiyama: Website