

## THE WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL

### Newsletter August 2017

#### W-SC JACL—A COMMUNITY BRIDGE ...

Our W-SC JACL chapter continues to be a leader in the JACL and greater community, thanks to its officers, dedicated board of directors, and a devoted and active membership.

(1) Our chapter is fortunate to have a **hall** to host the “Senior Center” dedicated to our elders for their weekly social and health activities. Our JACL KIZUKA HALL is also **Watsonville Taiko’s** dojo and a workshop and storage facility for the **Watsonville Bonsai Club** and **Kokoro no Gakko’s** cultural program. Your membership and generous donations are important in helping with utilities, tax payments and building maintenance expenses.

(2) Our W-SC JACL continues to organize a local Nikkei tradition that’s over a century old--the annual community picnic--for our children, parents and grandparents to enjoy.

(3) For the past 25 years, our chapter has published a monthly Japanese American community newsletter for all our members and friends to enjoy. We keep them informed of what’s important to the community. We try to keep everyone up-to-date on our major concerns and achievements.

(4) Our scholarship program assists both undergraduate and graduate college students in attaining their educational goals.

(5) Our chapter has a teaching program about the unjust wartime incarceration of Japanese and Japanese Americans that has reached thousands (40,000) of Monterey Bay and Silicon Valley students and adults for the past 20 years.

(6) Our chapter board members—Joe Bowes, Gary Mine, Victor Kimura and Iwao Yamashita--regularly care and maintain the Memorial Garden of the Salinas Assembly Center, our first prison.

(7) We, the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL, shouldn’t be one of the largest chapters in the National JACL, but we are--the 5th largest. Santa Cruz County’s total population is only 250,000. Our non-Nikkei members firmly believe in the civil rights and social justice work to which we are committed.

(8) Our chapter, locally, is in the forefront of the major civil rights issues in our Santa Cruz County, Pajaro Valley, and the country. We work cooperatively with LGBTQ, Muslim, Jewish, and other communities here. They can and have called upon us for support and participation.

(9) Our chapter was the first in the nation (a) to honor the high school Nisei graduates of 1942 in 1992 and (b) to dramatically reenact our unjust incarceration with “Liberty Lost ... Lessons in Loyalty” in April of 2002.

(10) Our W-SC JACL chapter supported the redress and reparations campaign that led to the passage of Civil Liberties Act of August 10, 1988; building the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in Washington, DC (2000); *Congressional Gold Medal* campaign for the 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup>/MIS Nisei soldiers of WW II (2011); and a US Postal Service commemorative stamp for the Nikkei Nation (2010).

Our work is far from over, and we thank you for your membership and continuing support.

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL

#### 2017 YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Dear Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL,



Thank you so much for awarding me with the Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarship. I am deeply honored and very grateful for this support! This award will help in allowing me to pursue my educational and career goals at one of the best universities in the nation: the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). Also, thank you for the “Patriotism, Perseverance, Posterity; The Story of the National Japanese American

Memorial” Book. It really gave me a better sense of the history of the JACL and all the steps it takes to leave a mark on history.

Since I was seven years-old, I have always attended the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Picnic, and it has taught me a lot about the kind of person I would like to become.

Through the Picnic, I have learned about generosity, community, my rich Japanese heritage, and so much more. I remember when I arrived at the Picnic for the very first time and felt so scared. I knew my grandmother had friends at the Picnic, but I was new, and so I was unsure if I could find people my own age that I would feel comfortable with at this new place. However, I was instantly accepted by everyone and encouraged to participate in the children’s games. By the end of the day, I had made some new friends through teamwork and friendly competition and was already excited to return next year.



[Photo, front: Grandmother **Kiyo Arai**, seven-year-old **Bruce**, back: parents **Yoshiko and Jim Arai**, uncle **John** and aunty **Lois Arai**.]

Fast forward to my middle school years, I had come to the Picnic for many years but I had grown a little more mature and started to see the Picnic through a different lens. For the first time, I finally read the pop-up board and I was shocked to find out how much of my own history I did not know. It was interesting to understand my grandparents' experiences of incarceration and feel a drive to never let the same mistakes happen again. I also realized just how much work is involved in organizing and putting on the Picnic: a bigger task than I had expected.



My friends and I started to help run the children's games instead of participating in them: adding a sense of responsibility. [Photo: far right, Bruce is holding the string while the boys are trying to take a bite, using no hands, out of the powdered white donut.] And, seeing my grandmother who had not been out of the house in a while light up when she saw her friends at this annual Picnic again was heartwarming.

As I look back on my time at the JACL Picnic, I have so many fond memories with my friends and family. I was always touched by the welcoming atmosphere created by the whole JACL community and how committed everyone was to remembering and honoring the Japanese-American experience. My most recent insight into the generosity of the community came when I learned that the Watsonville-

Santa Cruz JACL does not look to make a profit off of the Picnic. Instead, all of the hard work of preparation, cooking, administration, and clean-up is to provide the community a wonderful time to celebrate and come together. While I may only be one person, I will strive to be as generous, community-oriented, welcoming, and memorable as your organization and its people have modeled for me.

Thank you so much for everything!

Sincerely,

**Bruce Arai**

UCSB Class of 2021

## ***HOW MUCH DID THE US GOVERNMENT SPEND (WASTE) BY IMPRISONING 120,000 PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY DURING WW II?***

By Stanley D. Stevens,

**Librarian Emeritus UCSC (1965-1993)**

[Editor's note: This is a worthy project for someone researching our wartime experience. Perhaps, someone or a committee will apply for a National Park Service grant or the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program. A list of past CA grants can be found at this site: <http://tinyurl.com/y9asffwz>. The URL for the CCLPEP is: <http://tinyurl.com/yd5zm9q>. A final report would be of great service to all including the US Government.]

**Angus MacBeth's** 1983 *Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC)* report, "*Personal Justice Denied*," concluded that "race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership" led to our unjust incarceration. It was instrumental for the successful passage of the Civil Liberties Act of August 10, 1988.



We are grateful to Stan Stevens for this initial research and report. **Stan and Carli Stevens** are members of our W-SC JACL chapter, shown here playing bingo at our annual community picnic in Aptos.]

Stan writes:

I spent an hour or more searching for some publication that might answer the question: What was the total cost of establishing and maintaining the Japanese concentration camps during WWII, in the U.S.

I am loath to confess that I have not found the answer. What I did find are bits and pieces, but no firm answer.



You have probably done this yourself, but I share these tidbits for your interest. I'll continue to search, but it looks like no one has done the dirty work that needs to be done. Here's what I found:

Arkansas's Farm Security Administration chief, **Eli B. Whitaker**, acquired the land for the Arkansas camps. It was situated in the marshy delta of the Mississippi River's floodplain and was originally tax-delinquent lands in dire need of clearing, leveling, and drainage.

Two camps were selected and built in the Arkansas Delta, one at Rohwer in Desha County and the other at Jerome in sections of Chicot and Drew counties. .... The cost to the federal government alone in 1942–43 was **\$9,503,905**.

On February 13, 1943, the Arkansas state legislature passed the Alien Land Act "to prohibit any Japanese, citizen or alien, from purchasing or owning land in Arkansas." This act was later ruled unconstitutional, and after the camps closed, several families remained in Arkansas, though all but one (that of **Sam Yada**) left within a year's time to escape the system of peonage that was common for agricultural workers. **Governor Adkins** was particularly opposed to letting Japanese Americans attend college within the state, fearing that allowing such would pave the way to the integration of higher education in Arkansas. All Arkansas colleges turned away Japanese Americans save the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville (Johnson County), which allowed one Nisei male to enroll in the autumn of 1945, as the war was coming to a close.

<http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=2273>

*Last Updated 3/29/2017*

### **Laying Some History On You: The High Cost of Internment Camps**

Posted on 3 August, 2011 by s.e. smith

[Editor's note: spelling is in the English style.]

When President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 in 1942, he set off a chain of events that reverberates to this day. With a sweep of the pen, Roosevelt condemned thousands of Japanese-Americans to internment for the duration of the war in crowded conditions that led to mental health conditions, disease, and the denial of opportunities. Despite legal challenges [1. For those interested in those challenges and the laws surrounding internment, this archive is a good legal resource to start with.], the Executive Order held, and the only way out was to agree to sign a humiliating 'loyalty oath' and perform military service[2. Many Japanese-American service members performed with valour and won commendations for their service.].

When the order to transfer people to the camps was issued, it set off a wave of problems. Japanese residents in places like California could not own property and occupied land as tenant farmers, not as property owners in their own right. In regions of the United States where they did have property rights, they were faced with the choice of selling up in a hurry and taking a loss, or hoping they could find trustworthy tenants to occupy their property. Neither solution was ideal and families took substantial losses across the United States not just on real estate, but also on their personal property, which was looted and destroyed in many cases. This, of course, was considered justified and

reasonable, since Japanese-Americans were 'the enemy' and thus people could strike a blow at the heart of the axis by rooting through the homes of their former friends and neighbours.

In California, where Japanese tenant farmers were a significant part of the agricultural landscape, with 225,000 acres under cultivation, the internment nearly triggered a food crisis. The San Francisco News reported in 1942 that crops in California were under threat:

Acting through the Army's Wartime Civilian Control Administration, nearly 6000 farms formerly held by Japanese have been listed as available for farming by Americans. But so far only about 1000 farmers have expressed interest in operating the lands. The Japanese farms are worth nearly 70 million dollars, not counting crop values.

Like other Asian-Americans in California, Japanese residents had a fragile and uncertain security before the war, mediated by the balance between outright hatred and the need for their labour. The inability to own property enshrined in the law was only one example of the discrimination California residents faced, even after being in California for multiple generations. Racism was both de facto and de jure, and undoubtedly many residents feared something like internment as soon as the news about the attack on Pearl Harbour broke.

That it happened so swiftly after that attack is testimony to the stranglehold racism held on the American government, and to the contempt that white Americans held for their Japanese counterparts; communities, rather than resisting internment, made sure to out every Japanese resident. This was made easier by the fact that most Japanese populations tended to cluster in limited communities, another result of racism. They could only rent or buy property in limited areas, and were effectively trapped in these regions, making them easy prey for the 'evacuation' teams that came to collect them and forced them to leave their property behind.

The erasure of the camps from many narratives of US history is disturbing. So is the concealment of the cost. Internment was extremely costly for many Japanese-Americans, and some never fully recovered from the losses they took during this period. A commission on the camps in the 1980s found that '**...total property loss is estimated at \$1.3 billion [1983 dollars], and net income loss at \$2.7 billion.**' That is a truly staggering amount.

This was not limited to the United States. Canada also interned Japanese residents and Japanese-Canadians and their property losses were significant as well. Despite government pledges to preserve their property, many people left the camps and came home to nothing; many had no homes to come home to. An entire generation of people lost almost everything because of the actions of the United States government.

In 1948, the government established a framework to compensate for property loss. It was not a rousing success. Many records were lost or incomplete, which made it difficult to establish or verify claims. Consequently, numerous families clearly didn't receive adequate compensation. And, of course, the government still didn't apologise for its actions. It maintained the line that internment had been justifiable and reasonable for far too long.

Forty years later, it deigned to issue an apology for its actions, at the same time that Canada did. While formal apologies are important, this one would have carried far more weight if it had happened immediately, in time for most camp

survivors to be alive to hear it. The apology also came with additional attempts at reparations, a \$20,000 payment for Japanese-Americans who had been interned and managed to survive to 1988 to hear the apology and get their reparations. This included Japanese Latin Americans who had been wrenched from their homes and deported to the United States in the name of national security, though they were only entitled to \$5,000.

The camps had a profound impact on the United States and sweeping them under the carpet doesn't make that go away. For a population that had been living under systemic racism long before the war, the camps were a reminder of how little the US government and people respected or honoured civil rights. Internment was not just a betrayal of the values the United States claims to hold dear, it was a fundamental human rights violation that proved fatal for some and devastating for others. It is hard to say what the United States has learned from the camps; perhaps that the government should keep racialised prisoners off US soil to avoid offending delicate sensibilities in an era of extraordinary rendition?

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The U.S. government eventually disbursed more than \$1.6 billion (equivalent to \$3,240,000,000 in 2016) in reparations to 82,219 Japanese Americans who had been interned and their heirs. <sup>[22]</sup> <sup>[24]</sup>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internment\\_of\\_Japanese\\_Americans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internment_of_Japanese_Americans)

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[Mas: here's something you already know, but I didn't. sds]:

In the **1930s** the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI), concerned by Imperial Japan's rising military power in Asia, began conducting surveillance on Japanese-American communities in Hawaii. From 1936, at the behest of President Roosevelt, the ONI began compiling a "special list of those who would be the first to be placed in a concentration camp in the event of trouble" between Japan and the United States. In 1939, again by order of the President, the ONI, Military Intelligence Division, and FBI began working together to compile a larger Custodial Detention Index.<sup>[32]</sup> Early in 1941, Roosevelt commissioned Curtis Munson to conduct an investigation on Japanese Americans living on the West Coast and in Hawaii. After working with FBI and ONI officials and interviewing Japanese Americans and those familiar with them, Munson determined that the "Japanese problem" was **nonexistent**. His final report to the President, submitted November 7, 1941, "certified a remarkable, even extraordinary degree of loyalty among this generally suspect ethnic group."<sup>[33]</sup> A subsequent report by Kenneth Ringle, delivered to the President in January 1942, also found little evidence to support claims of Japanese-American disloyalty and argued against mass incarceration.<sup>[34]</sup>

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The State Department told the Latin American countries to round up their Japanese. The United States paid for the cost of the hemispheric evacuation. More than 2000 Japanese were shipped from more than a dozen Latin American countries to detention camps in the United States. Most were sent by Peru, which wanted to permanently eliminate all Japanese and refused to allow reentry of those held in the U.S. after the end of the war.

[http://www.ihr.org/jhr/v02/v02p-45\\_weber.html](http://www.ihr.org/jhr/v02/v02p-45_weber.html)

## **Kawakami Sister City Update By Robb Mayeda**

Mark your calendar: This year's group from Kawakami-mura will arrive in Watsonville, **Tuesday, September 5.**

There is a location change for the night's welcome dinner. This event will be held at the Watsonville Civic Center's Community Room. The exact time of the dinner is dependent upon the group's arrival from Japan.

You may park (free) in the city's multi-story parking lot on Rodriguez Street and driving up the ramp to the roof. You can enter the Community Room from the parking lot. Please join us for a turkey dinner, an American tradition.

## **WATSONVILLE TAIKO AND SHINSEI DAIKO**

**By Bonnie Chihara**

*Watsonville Taiko* had a full schedule on the weekend of July 15-16. On Saturday, we played at the *Relay For Life* at Watsonville High School supporting the fight against cancer.

On Sunday, we played at the *Watsonville Buddhist Temple Obon Festival*. We always look forward to playing at this festival. We enjoyed the good food, shopping at the farmer's market and joining in the dancing.



We will be having two workshops on Fridays in August at Kizuka Hall, 150 Blackburn St., Watsonville, CA 95076:

1--We will have a **craft workshop** from 4:30-5:30 pm on August 11th, 18th and 25th. Cost is \$45 plus \$10 materials fee. This is open to children ages 8-12. Contact **Bonnie Chihara** at [kyoko55@hotmail.com](mailto:kyoko55@hotmail.com).

2--We will have a **power drumming** workshop for children on the same Fridays from 5:30-7 pm. Cost is \$45. Contact **Sensei Ikuyo Conant** at [kirintaiko@gmail.com](mailto:kirintaiko@gmail.com).

Photo: Ikuyo sensei was very pleased with the children's performance at the Obon Festival.





Have you ever thought about learning *taiko*? We have classes for all ages. Our beginning children's class is scheduled at 4:30 pm on Fridays and are held at Kizuka Hall 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@watsonvilletaiko.org](mailto:info@watsonvilletaiko.org).

Our upcoming schedule:

July 23<sup>rd</sup> Wharf to Wharf, Capitola  
 Aug. 6<sup>th</sup> Cabrillo Music Festival, Santa Cruz  
 Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> Asian Night, Senior Community Center.  
 Scotts Valley  
 Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> Jacobs Heart, Watsonville Plaza  
 Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> **Watsonville Taiko's Annual Holiday Boutique and Raffle**

## KOKORO NO GAKKO REPORT



By Dr. Janet Nagamine

We just finished another great summer session of Gakko! At the annual Gakko Luncheon on Friday June 30<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the fact that this was the 27<sup>th</sup> year of Kokoro no Gakko. We had the honor of being joined by founding members of Kokoro no Gakko **Mark and Patt Takeuchi**,

**Gayle Uyematsu, Joanne Hayashi**, and visitors from the Consulate General of Japan San Francisco Deputy Consul General **Shouichi Nagayoshi** and **Ms. Ai Hiyama**, Advisor for Community Affairs.

Deputy Consul General Nagayoshi shared these thoughts after the visit:

*"Thank you very much for inviting me to Kokoro no Gakko, which I was amazed has been held for the last 27 years. I was really impressed with its history and the passion and enthusiasm for this educational program. I came to realize the program has served as a precious opportunity not only for Japanese American but also those with no Japanese connection to learn in depth about Japan and its culture."*



Photo: The first Gakko group picture of 1990.

After almost three decades, we are so fortunate to have many of the original *Senseis* involved, including **Marcia Hashimoto** who still teaches in the Kindergarten class, *Sensei Eiko Stewart* and *Sensei Carol Clouse* returning for a second round, *Sensei Sandy Momii* assisting her daughter *Sensei Michelle Momii-Hernandez*, and *Sensei Melissa Eguchi Song*, who was a student in the first year of Gakko and now teaches Gakko 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders!

A big thank you to all the dedicated teachers, parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles, volunteers, and donors for making it possible to continue this wonderful program! It has

been wonderful to see so many new Gakko families and 2nd generation Gakko families returning with their children and grandchildren! Photo: 2017 Gakko group photo.



Above: second graders pound rice into *mochi*, assisted by **Robb Mayeda**. Below: the students rejoice eating the *mochi* they made. Photos contributed.



Mark your calendars----Kokoro no Gakko 2018 dates are June 25, 2018 to July 6, 2018. We hope you will join us!

## 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The W-SC JACL Board of Directors will not be meeting in August. The next board meeting will be held on September 28<sup>th</sup>. The November and December meetings will be held on the third Thursday because of Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. The meetings begin at 6:30 pm, W-SC JACL Kizuka Hall, 150 Blackburn Street, Watsonville, CA 95076, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Please consider supporting **Watsonville's Multicultural Festival, Sunday, December 3: Watsonville Plaza from 2 pm to 4:30 pm**. Our chapter's booth is a favorite of the children and adults who attend.



## W-SC JACL 2017 OFFICERS

President **Marcia Hashimoto**  
1<sup>st</sup> VP **Dr. Gini Matute-Bianchi**  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP **Aimee Mizuno**  
Treasurer **Victor Kimura**  
Co-Secretaries **Cindy Hirokawa Mine**  
**Kimiko Marr**  
Board of Directors **Joe Bowes, Jeanette O. Hager, Mas Hashimoto, Carol Kaneko, Gary Mine, Dr. Brooke Kondo-Rains, Philip Shima, and Jean Yamashita.**  
Senior Center Rep. is **Iwao Yamashita.**

**SMITHSONIAN EXHIBIT:** Please note this website: <http://americanhistory.si.edu/righting-wrong-japanese-americans-and-world-war-ii> of the new Smithsonian Exhibit, "Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and WWII." Check it out.

## DOROTHEA LANGE PHOTOS OF CAMP ...

Check: <https://anchoreditions.com/blog/dorothea-lange-censored-photographs>. The accompanying written article gives new life to the photos.

Also, visit the "Dorothy Lange: Politics of Seeing" Exhibit at the Oakland Museum before August 13, 2017.

## IN REMEMBRANCE ...

Joan Nitta Otsuji passed away on Sunday, June 25, 2017. Joan was born in Watsonville, CA; graduated from Watsonville High School in 1959; and earned a BA degree and elementary teaching credential from San Jose State University. She was an elementary teacher for about 30 years in the San Jose area.

Joan is survived by her loving partner of over 20 years, **Ron Iyama**; daughter, **Jill Otsuji Kahihikolo (Kelly)**; her son **Travis Otsuji**; her mother **Helen Mito**; her brother **Dan (Karen) Nitta**; step-brother **Ron (Millicent) Mito**; and many cousins. She was preceded in death by her father **Fred Nitta** and son **Kyle Otsuji**.

A memorial service was held on July 22, 2017 at the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin.

## Mary Nobuko Okamoto

MCLEAN, Va. — Mary Nobuko Okamoto died peacefully in her sleep on Monday, June 12, 2017 in McLean. She was 96.

She was born on Aug. 14, 1920 in Sacramento. She grew up in Imperial, CA and moved to Onomichi, Japan as a teenager. She returned to Imperial prior to World War II. She was incarcerated in Poston, Arizona where she met and married the late **Fred K. Okamoto**, of Watsonville.

In 1946, she moved to Watsonville, where she lived until 2006. She was active in the Watsonville Buddhist Temple, Watsonville Bonsai Club, Ikenobu Society (ikebana), and the Pajaro Valley Historical Association. In 2006, Mary moved to Alexandria, VA to be near her only child.

She was known for her kind and caring heart. She always considered the needs of others first and foremost. Mary lived a long and fruitful life and will be missed greatly by her family and by all who knew her.

She is survived by her daughter, **Arlene Minami (Wayne)**; one granddaughter and four great-grandchildren; four siblings, and many nieces and nephews.



**Mary Okamoto** is shown here with **Marcia Hashimoto** at the 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup>/MIS Nisei soldiers' *Congressional Gold Medal* dinner in Washington, DC November 2, 2011.

**We send our condolences to the Otsuji and Okamoto families, relatives and friends.**

## Congratulations! Ten Attorneys from Minami Tamaki LLP Named 2017 Super Lawyers



**SUPER LAWYERS 2017** (Photo by **Gary Wagner**) – back row, L-R: **Seema Bhatt** (Rising Stars); **Donald K. Tamaki** (10-plus years); **La Verne A. Ramsay**; **Suhi Koizumi** (Rising Stars); **Sean Tamura-Sato** (Rising Stars); **Olivia Serene Lee** (Rising Stars); **Heather Osuna**; **B. Mark Fong** (Super Lawyers); front: **Jack W. Lee\*** (10-plus years); **Lisa P. Mak** (Rising Stars); **Minette A. Kwok** (10-plus years); **Dale Minami** (Top 10, Top 100, 10-plus years).

We're proud to announce that all of Minami Tamaki LLP's Partners and more than 70 percent of our Associates were selected as Northern California Super Lawyers for 2017. Super Lawyers is a rating service of outstanding lawyers who have attained a high-degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. Three of our Partners have been named Northern California Super Lawyers for the last 14 consecutive years. Dale Minami was named to the Top 10 and Top 100 lists.

MinamiTamaki LLP's address is 360 Post Street, Floor 8, San Francisco, CA 94108; phone: 415-788-9000.

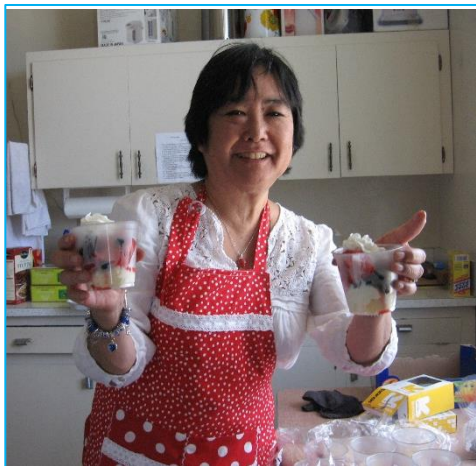


## SENIOR CENTER NEWS By Jo Ann Vear

**Paul and Carol Kaneko** are in Hawaii until August 7<sup>th</sup>, and they surely are missed. When I asked **Jean Yamashita** "when are the Kaneko's returning?", she replied with "not soon enough." ☺ We all miss you Paul and Carol!

Thank you to July *Toban* workers – **Judy Hane, Leigh Sakaguchi, and Jo Ann Vear**. Many thanks to all the other helpful volunteers!

July Fourth was celebrated with a bang with **Susan AmRhein** treating everyone to a delicious red-white and blue dessert of vanilla ice cream with red and blue berries topped with whipped cream and an American Flag.



Susan prepares yummy 4<sup>th</sup> of July desserts

Everyone also received a small party favor of *M&M's* topped with an American flag from **Jean Yamashita**. Jean also organized a new game which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. It was a version of "hot potato" but played with patriotic paper straws. Seniors stood in a circle and passed the straws around while Neil Diamond's "America" played in the background (thanks to Susan AmRhein for lending a hand!).



Seniors in a shrinking circle, anxiously pass around paper straws. Above right: **Yaeko Cross**, first place winner. Second place winner was **Chiyeko Shikuma**. Each received a small prize.



Seniors were happy to see **Rubie Kawamoto** return after a scary fall at the JACL picnic. She spent two nights in the hospital, but now she is fine and driving herself around again.

Glad to have Rubie Kawamoto back playing bingo!

Will good fortune befall our Seniors traveling to Table Mountain on July 24<sup>th</sup>? Fingers crossed ...

After the screening of the documentary "Obachan's Garden" at the Minidoka Pilgrimage, an insightful question and answer session with the director, **Linda Ohama**, occurred with an audience. **Kimiko Marr** will be presenting this moving director Q&A session after the senior center gathering on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, around 4 pm (at Kizuka Hall). Everyone is invited to attend.

August 12<sup>th</sup> is the Cabrillo College performance of "Beauty and the Beast". A number of Seniors are attending and going out to dinner after the theatre.

**Kristi Yamaguchi's** "Golden Moment" ice skating show will be on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, and several Seniors are attending. Dinner will be in San Jose Japantown following the show.

Falling can seriously impact an elderly person's life. Balance and strength exercises can help prevent falls by improving a person's ability to control and maintain body positioning. **Iwao Yamashita** received balance and strength exercise instruction and notes from a physical therapist that Jean Yamashita is sharing with the Seniors. The exercises are supposed to be practiced three times a day. We truly hope our seniors benefit from these exercises!

We were all sorry to hear our good friend **Helen Nakano** has moved to Monterey. Not only will we miss her on Thursdays, but we will also miss all her beautiful and creative decorations she prepares for every event held at Seniors.



March 2017: St Patrick's Day creations by **Helen Nakano**, pictured here with daughter, **Susan AmRhein**

Watsonville Buddhist Temple will be having their annual rummage sale on August 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Please drop off your unwanted items at the gym, and please plan to do some shopping at the sale. WBT also thanked everyone for participating in the *Obon Festival* on July 16<sup>th</sup>.



July birthdays were held on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Happy Birthday to **Phil Shima, Nobue Fujii, Kumiko Nakatani, and Michiko Hamada** (96). Unable to attend were: **Sunao Honda, Mary Perez, Floy Sakata** (92), and **Chiyoko Yagi** (97). We wish all of you a very Happy Birthday! Beautiful flowers were provided by: **Hisako Kodama, Jean Akiyama, and Nancy Kuratomi**. Photos, courtesy of Jean Yamashita.



Monetary donations gratefully received this month:  
**Diane Mio** and **Cindy H. Mine**--in *memory* of **Evy Kamigawachi, Hiroko Sakimoto** (Senior Center donation), **Chiyoko Yagi, Sunao Honda, Michiko Hamada, Nobue Fujii, Floy Sakata, and Kumiko Nakatani.**

Thank you for all the wonderful bingo prizes:

<b>June/Sunao Honda</b>	3 coconut <i>mochi</i> , 3 peanut butter <i>mochi</i> , 6 barbeque pork buns, 8 cups brownies, 5 plates plum galette, 1 plate raspberry galette
<b>Dylan Matsuo</b>	1 large bag <i>Kettle</i> corn
<b>Rubie Kawamoto</b>	3 bags <i>senbei</i> , 100 tea bags, 6 boxes <i>Kleenex</i>
<b>Jean Yamashita</b>	4 bags coconut pecan cookies, small candy favors for everyone, 5 bags chocolate cookies, 4 bags green tea pound cake, 2 bags cucumbers, 19 bags assorted veggies (cucumbers, squash, beans)
<b>Kazuko Sakai</b>	100 lunch bags, 175 dinner plates
<b>Toshi Yamashita</b>	4 boxes facial tissue, 12 rolls bath tissue, 4 cans <i>Spam</i>
<b>Mary Perez</b>	12 pineapple and cherry cookies
<b>Reba Condon</b>	12 rolls bath tissue
<b>Yaeko Cross</b>	3 bags chips, 2 pkgs. cookies, 6 rolls bath tissue, large bag <i>Kettle</i> corn
<b>Kim Tao, Mitsuyo Tao</b>	4 bags ginger <i>senbei</i> , 4 boxes chocolate Pocky sticks
<b>Shirley Inokuchi</b>	10 bags apricots
<b>Judy Hane</b>	30 rolls bath tissue
<b>Sharon Bobo</b>	3 bags plums, 4 bags squash
<b>Hide Nagamine</b>	8 bags cucumbers, 3 boxes <i>Kleenex</i> , 20 cucumber <i>tsukemono</i>
<b>Mitzi Katsuyama</b>	2 dozen eggs
<b>Kumiko Nakatani</b>	24 rolls paper towels, 10 boxes <i>Kleenex</i> , 8 cantaloupes
<b>Susan AmRhein</b>	Ice cream and berries for everyone
<b>Miyeko Yamashita</b>	3 bags <i>chagashi</i>
<b>Eiko Nishihara</b>	1 dozen jars strawberry jam
<b>Yoshiko Nishihara</b>	18 bottles <i>Dawn</i> dish soap
<b>Jean Akiyama</b>	6 bottles hand soap, 2 boxes <i>Glad</i> cling wrap, 3 boxes <i>Reynolds</i> wrap
<b>Tea Hashimoto</b>	30 jumbo rolls bath tissue
<b>Bette Garcia</b>	2 cans <i>Spam</i> , 2 cans mandarin oranges, 2 pkgs. roasted seaweed, 1 bag rice crackers, 1 bag mini pretzels
<b>Victor Kimura</b>	24 packs <i>Ramen</i> noodle soup
<b>Pat Marr</b>	2 packs Nail clippers
<b>Jo Ann Vear</b>	9 pkgs. <i>Kleenex</i> , 40-ounce bag candy
<b>Nobue Fujii</b>	2 bags <i>Goldfish</i> crackers, 5 plates chocolate fudge brownies
<b>Kimiyo Fujii</b>	12 boxes <i>Kleenex</i>
<b>Eiko Stewart</b>	5 plates zucchini bread, 6 rolls bath tissue
<b>Phil Shima</b>	5 organic spaghetti noodles
<b>Edna Nagata</b>	12 rolls bath tissue
<b>Nancy Kuratomi, Jean Akiyama, and Hisako Kodama</b>	Flowers for July birthday celebration

Stay healthy, and we'll see all of you on Thursdays.

## WATSONVILLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE NEWS ...

On Sat. July 8<sup>th</sup>, at 4 pm, the WBT held a triple memorial service: **Hatsubon, Shotsuki Hoyo**, and the **Rev. Shousei Hanayama** 1<sup>st</sup> year memorial service.



The *Hatsubon* service, chaired by **BCA President Ken Tanimoto**, was held for those *Sangha* members who passed away from July 2016 to June of 2017.

White paper lanterns were placed in front of the altar for:

**Rev. Shousei Hanayama**, July 15, 2016

**Aiko Yamamoto**, July 17, 2016

**Sumiko Haneta**, July 23, 2016

**Ben Umeda**, August 12, 2016

**Yoshino Matano**, October 6, 2016

**William Wobber**, November 21, 2016

**Betty Yaeko Arai**, December 25, 2016

**Phyllis Masaye Teshima**, December 28, 2016

**Fujiye Idemoto**, January 26, 2017

**Yoshiye Kaita**, April 26, 2017

**Evelyn Yukie Kamigawachi**, May 14, 2017



The guest speaker was **Rev. Hiroshi Abiko**, retired BCA minister, and ministerial assistant **Bill Wurtenberg** led the *Sangha* (photo, next page) reading of the *Three Treasures*.







#### 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY FIREWORKS REPORT

This successful fun and fundraising event was once again chaired by **Perry and Kim Yoshida**, who did a wonderful job of organizing the *Sangha* members with work shifts and lunches/dinner for July 1<sup>st</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup>.



The group celebrated **Shoren Hanayama's** July 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday with "Happy Birthday Shoren," and this photo was emailed to Shoren in Japan. Photos contributed by members.

Front row: **Shirley Inokuchi**, **Sadao Matsunami's** grandson; 2<sup>nd</sup> row: **Alice "Lady Liberty" Tanimoto**, **JoAnn Kato**, **June Honda**, **Janice Tao**, **Toshi Yamashita**, **Itaru Nitao**; 3<sup>rd</sup> row: **Sadao Matsunami**, **Phil Shima**, **Phyllis Nagamine**, **Lori Yoshida**, **Iwao Yamashita**, **Sunao Honda**; Back row: **Ryan Wobber**, **Richard Uyematsu**.



Alice Tanimoto had different colorful and spirited outfits each day, supporting America with its red, white and blue colors. Photo right: Who is the "Uncle Sam" that "wants" you?



Thank you, fireworks chairs **Kim and Perry Yoshida!**

#### TEMPLE'S 2017 OBON

Watsonville Buddhist Temple hosted its annual **Obon Odori Festival** on Sunday, July 16, 2017. A large crowd turned out for this festive event, celebrating and honoring our ancestors. The day was filled with delicious Japanese foods, including *sushi*, *udon* (noodles), *korokke* (potato panko fried patties), chicken *teriyaki*, cabbage salad, beef skewers, teriyaki burgers, curry rice, *spam musubi*, corn, not to mention the delicious strawberry shortcake. Various Asian vendors sold their merchandise and children's games were coordinated by the *Kokoro No Gakko* (Japanese cultural school) volunteers.

Entertainment consisted of delightful *koto* players, led by **Yugari Sakaguchi**, using a stringed instrument that is widely used in traditional Japanese music.

*Watsonville Taiko* also performed, with drummers of all ages performing a number of pieces with leader **Ikuyo Conant** explaining each piece beforehand. Younger drummers ran with rhythm instruments and flags to liven up the crowd.

The courtyard behind the temple was filled with many dancers from near and far to participate.

"This is a moment of joy", said **Barbara Shingai**, President of the Watsonville Buddhist Temple. "Through our dancing, we are expressing gratitude for the life we have received and to honor our ancestors." Obon is a Japanese custom, meant to honor the spirits of one's ancestors and celebrate the gift of life. Many thanks to this year's chairperson, **Dennis Ikegami**, who made sure things were running smoothly overall.

Buddhist Women's Association college scholarships for \$1,000 each were presented to **Christopher Inokuchi**, who is attending UCLA majoring in Computer Science Engineering and **Kevin Yamaoka**, who is attending Arizona State University majoring in Biological Sciences.

Christopher's grandfather, **Iwao Yamashita**, graciously accepted this award for Christopher.

The Temple announced that **Rev. Jay Shinseki** has been appointed the new resident minister for Watsonville and Monterey Buddhist Temples, effective August 1, 2017.

All in all, it was a wonderful day, filled with delicious food, special traditions, and festive activities. Most of all, the event was made possible due to the numerous volunteers who came out to help throughout the week in preparation for this annual event.

Captions to the *Obon* photo page:

- 1—Proudly flying our US and Buddhist flags on festive days.
- 2—**Jackie Yamashita** and **Bruce Yamamoto** are in charge of *udon* sales.
- 3—Part of the crowd enjoying the delicious foods.
- 4—Making a sale are **Susan Ikegami** and **Barbara Shingai**.
- 5—*Obon* is “homecoming” for 103-year-old **Nancy Iwami** (center) with daughter **Nancy Matteson** of Reno, NV and **Nobue Fujii**.
- 6—Friends enjoying BWA’s delicious *sushi*.
- 7—Master of ceremonies **Ken Tanimoto** welcomed all.
- 8—**Rev. Jay Shinseki** (left) thanked everyone for participating. **Temple President Barbara Shingai** presented the scholarship award to **Iwao Yamashita**, who accepted on behalf of his grandson, **Christopher Inokuchi**.
- 9—Our *obon odori sensei* **Akemi Ito** with **Janice Tao**.
- 10—The dancers in *kimono* and *happi* coats.
- 11—**Christine Bowes** plays the *taiko* during *Tanko Bushi* dance.
- 12—An overview of the dancers.
- 13—A happy *obon* chair **Dennis Ikegami** (right) relaxing now that it is over, with friend, **Tom Kato**.

Next up: **The Temple’s Annual Rummage Sale**, Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup> and August 5<sup>th</sup>. It’s an event the community members look forward to for the bargains are fantastic.

#### Shotsuki Hoyo Service

**10 am Sunday, August 6, 2017**

The families of the following deceased are invited to attend the August service and to *Oshoko* (offer incense).

#### August Memorial List

<b>Akiyama, Chou</b>	<b>Akiyama, Matajiro</b>
<b>Akiyoshi, Shigeo</b>	<b>Arimura, Ken</b>
<b>Aoki, Mieko</b>	<b>Arita, Sadako</b>
<b>Nadamoto, Champagne Sumie</b>	<b>Etow, Kenzo</b>
<b>Fujimoto, Zenkichi</b>	<b>Hashimoto, Ikuta</b>
<b>Hamada, Teruo</b>	<b>Hatsushi, Kisae</b>
<b>Hirano, Mary</b>	<b>Jofuku, Kazushige</b>
<b>Jyoji, Masaru</b>	<b>Kajihara, Eiji</b>
<b>Kimura, Kawano</b>	<b>Koda, Evelyn Misao</b>
<b>Koda, Wakataro</b>	<b>Kowaki, Hama</b>
<b>Kusumoto, Masumi</b>	<b>Kusumoto, Yoshiharu</b>
<b>Maemura, Matsu</b>	<b>Matsui, Tamiko</b>
<b>Matsumoto, Isaku</b>	<b>Matsunami, Iwao</b>
<b>Morimoto, Joe Kazumi</b>	<b>Morimune, Harry Sozo</b>
<b>Muronaka, Tooru</b>	<b>Murakami, Hisami</b>
<b>Nakase, Sen</b>	<b>Nakase, Tom</b>
<b>Nakashima, Junko</b>	<b>Nishimoto, Hamaichi</b>
<b>Nishita, George</b>	<b>Oita, Motosuke</b>
<b>Okamoto, Haruo</b>	<b>Okamura, Hiseto Harry</b>
<b>Ota, Teruzo</b>	<b>Saiki, Kimiye</b>
<b>Sakamoto, Juzo</b>	<b>Sakata, Namiko</b>
<b>Sasano, Iwataro</b>	<b>Shirachi, Maxine</b>
<b>Sukekane, Noboru</b>	<b>Tachibana, Masao</b>
<b>Tanaka, Minoru</b>	<b>Tsuchiyama, Ai</b>
<b>Tsuchiyama, Uta</b>	<b>Tsuji, Misu</b>
<b>Tsukiji, May Takako</b>	<b>Umeda, Ben</b>

**Wada, Gozaemon**

**Yamakoshi, Kyotaro**

**Yamamoto, Hiromi Henry Yamaoka, Tony Masami**

**Yonekura, Hisaye**

**Yorita, Kenjun**

#### Watsonville Buddhist Temple Calendar

**August 2017**

- 1 Tues NO Temple Board Meeting
  - 4 Fri 8 am-3 pm Rummage Sale
  - 5 Sat 8 am-1 pm Rummage Sale
  - 6 Sun 1 pm Sunday Service & Shotsuki Hoyo
  - 7 Mon 7 pm Tri Temple Mtg in Monterey
  - 9 Wed 7 pm 110<sup>th</sup> Meeting
  - 10 Thu 10 am ABA Meeting
  - 13 Sun NO Sunday Service
  - 19 Sat 3-6 pm Tri Temple Lecture in Salinas with Dr. Tanaka
  - 20 Sun 10 am Tri Temple Rennyō Shonin Service in Salinas with Dr. Tanaka
  - 27 Sun NO Sunday Service
- Important upcoming Temple events:
- Sat., Sept. 23 Annual Chicken Teriyaki Take-Out**
- Sat., Nov. 4 Temple’s 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**TEDx Monday, August 14, 2017 at the Rio Theater, 1205 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz**

**TED** is a licensed program that helps independent organizations share ideas. **x** means an independently organized event which, in this case, is developed by **Merit Academy**, a highly respected college prep program/school founded and directed by **Susan Tatsui-D’Arcy**. Susan is a W-SC JACL member, and she and her daughters participated in our 2002 reenactment, *Liberty Lost ... Lessons in Loyalty*.

On Monday, August 14, at 7 pm, at the Rio Theater in Santa Cruz, CA, ten presentations will be given, each 8 to

# TEDx

## MeritAcademy

x = independently organized TED event

**August 14, 2017**

**7:00 pm**

Tickets \$15 (\$18 at the door)  
Buy tickets at [tedxmeritacademy.com](http://tedxmeritacademy.com)  
831.462.5655

**Rio Theatre**  
1205 Soquel Ave  
Santa Cruz, CA

18 minutes in duration. Six speakers will focus on climate change, overpopulation, carbon emissions, renewable energy while others will speak about designing an

innovative classroom environment, the consequences of black holes in the galaxies, exploring learning theories, and how the Japanese American incarceration and discrimination of Muslims post 9-11 are founded in hate and racism and of the need to protect the civil and human rights of all.



Several of the speakers—**Logan Conover, Pascal Costa, Hannah Faris**--are brilliant high school students. Other speakers—**David Vasquez, Joe Jordan, Tim Niemier, Gregory Gavin, Martin Glaskell, Allen Dale Green**, and **Mas Hashimoto**--are educators, researchers, innovative artists and university professors.

**This exciting program will be a most important educational experience for middle school, high school, and university students as well as adults.**

Tickets, \$15 online, \$18 at the door, are available via Merit Academy: [tedxmeritacademy.com](http://tedxmeritacademy.com); or Brown Paper Tickets <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3023520>.

## **A VERY BRIEF HISTORY OF THE JAPANESE AND JAPANESE AMERICANS IN WATSONVILLE**

**By Mas Hashimoto**

Thank you, **Watsonville Rotary**, for the invitation to speak to you today (Wed. July 26, 2017).

Two years ago, at a train station in Scotland, I noticed beautiful flowers in planter boxes. They were donated by the local Rotary Club.

At the Franich Park, I've admired the trees planted by your Rotary to enhance the beauty of our community--"Service Above Self." Thank you.

And, thank you for your work in the eradication of **polio** in the world. When I was in the Chemical Section of 6<sup>th</sup> Army Headquarters in the late 1950s, we were working with dead polio viruses. We learned the Russians were working with live polio viruses to be used as a possible weapon of mass destruction

How many of you were born and raised in Watsonville? Show of hands please. How many of you graduated from WHS? How many of you have visited Japan?

A brief history of the Japanese in our country.

Let's begin with the Tokugawa Shogunate, 1600 to 1868. **Ieyasu Tokugawa** unified Japan, and there was to be over 250 years of peace. Japan isolated itself. No Japanese was to leave. If they did, they were declared dead. If they returned, they were put to death. Foreigners who shipwrecked in Japan were put to death.

There were, of course, exceptions to contacts with the outside world with China and with the Portuguese where one ship annually could trade at Nagasaki. Tempura – deep fat frying—is Portuguese. Catholicism was introduced but was considered a threat to the Shogunate. Hiroshima and Nagasaki were to become the two centers of Christianity in Japan.

Tokugawa's: what do you do with samurais when there's no fighting? You make them teachers of art, culture, education industry, banking, & science.

After Adm. Perry's arrival in Japan in 1853 (Japan was also thought to have plenty of coal, and would, therefore, serve as a coaling station for US ships), there followed a civil war between the Shogunate and the Emperor, and the Emperor's forces won.

Japan decides to westernize with compulsory education for the children. Many who emigrated here had college degrees.

It saw what the imperial European powers were doing to Africa, Asia and elsewhere—"French" Morocco, "Belgian" Congo, "British" India, "Dutch" East Indies, West Indies, "French" Indo China, Hong Kong, Macao. The US had its

*Manifest Destiny* and went on to take Hawaii and the Philippines.

Japan sent their best students to study abroad. Who had the best navy? The British. The best army? French, but then they lost a war to the Prussians. Learn the German language. Industry? The United States. Government? Oh, no, not the US. The American form of a republic was a curiosity but not for Japan. European powers had constitutional monarchies with a Parliament.

Japan, too, will adopt an imperialist policy.

Soon, industrial Japan had a surplus population. They will emigrate for the US and several Central and Latin American countries. There are more of Japanese ancestry living in Brasil than the US.

The first colony in America, north of Placerville, was the **Wakamatsu Silk and Tea Colony** of 1868—150 years ago. It failed. A young girl, only 19 years old, **Okei Ito**, was the first Japanese to be buried in the United States. Her tombstone is revered by all of us. My mother always cried when she heard the name "Okei-san" because she understood the hardships of a teenager living in a strange country.

My father and his first wife arrived in 1899 in Hawaii. The US had just taken it away from the Hawaiians in 1898. The work in the sugar fields was so hard, his first wife divorced him and returned to Japan. Brokenhearted, he left Honolulu on the SS Alameda for SF on the day of the SF earthquake in April 18, 1906.

My mother, a "picture bride," married my father in 1914 when she got off the boat in SF, seeing him for the first time. They were to have 7 sons. I'm the 7<sup>th</sup> and the only one remaining.

Watsonville's Japantown was already established by 1914, and it included those living and working in Pajaro ... in Monterey County.

The first known Japanese here in 1885 was **Sakuzo Kimura** who spoke some English. He might have been a Catholic from Nagasaki. He organized a labor force. He died in 1900 and is buried in the Catholic cemetery on Freedom Blvd. The Japanese laborers worked where the Chinese left off ... first in the railroad and lumber industries.

At first, Japanese workers were cheated out of wages and hours by the growers and others. Next time, they didn't work as hard, and Emperor Meiji heard that Japanese workers did not have a very good reputation. He decreed that all will work diligently and fulfill any and all contracts regardless. Our reputation changed dramatically.

The *Issei* (immigrants—first generation) formed a **Japanese Association** for mutual benefit. There were dues and a paid secretary. The dues were often spent on funeral expenses. Monthly contributions were required. The Association was a "bank" where members could borrow since local banks wouldn't lend them any money.

The center of Japantown is where Burger King on Main Street is located. The area flooded often. The whites lived first on Maple Ave and later on East Beach Street. Their houses are very ornate. Several were designed by William Weeks. The police station was located at 231 Union Street, in Japantown. We've always had a friendly working relationship with the police chiefs.

The Japanese Presbyterian Church was located where the Salvation Army is situated on Union St. It moved to the west side on First Street in 1929 and changed its name to Westview Presbyterian Church.

It's older than the Buddhist Temple which was built on the corner of Union and Bridge (now Riverside) streets in 1906. In 1956, the city required it relocate because of parking requirements. It is located now at the corner of Blackburn and Bridge Streets. Visitors from other cities are surprised that our Temple isn't protected by high security fences.

On lower Main Street, mixed together with Chinese businesses, were Japanese restaurants, pool hall, laundry, photo studio, boarding houses, drug store, grocery stores, auto shop, and other businesses.

The Japanese community hall—Toyo Hall and Japanese language school was located near the Union Street entrance to Burger King. There's one redwood tree left that the Japanese Association planted, dedicated to education. There was also a baseball field on the corner of Union and Front Streets.

The Japanese Association, following Japan's donation of cherry trees to Washington, DC, donated hundreds of cherry trees to the city and to the schools of Watsonville. During WW II, many trees were vandalized. Upon our return, only three had remained—one at Watsonville High and two at Mintie White. This winter, the last tree died at Mintie White. I donated a tree to replace the one at WHS but it, too, had been vandalized. We're waiting to see whether it will survive.

The Japanese Association participated in Watsonville's 4<sup>th</sup> of July parades in the 1930s with floats to show their appreciation and patriotism.

In the mid-1930s, there was a Japanese graduate student ... of Meiji University ... studying at the University of Southern California. During the summer months, he stayed at the Hayashi boarding house on First Street, and my father fed him like a member of our family. He enjoyed his summer break here and learned of our history and struggles. He worked in the fields. He learned social dancing. He appreciated the American lifestyle. I was an infant, but this story was told over and over by my family members.

He returned to Japan in 1937 and was elected to the Parliament. He ran against Hideki Tojo's militaristic party and won! During WW II, he was under house arrest for his pro-America views. After the war, assisted by Kan Abe, grandfather to the current Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe, he was elected 19 times to the Parliament and served in ten different cabinet positions, most notably as Foreign Minister, before becoming the **Prime Minister of Japan** in 1974.

Which Prime Minister of Japan once lived in Watsonville? **Takeo Miki**, nicknamed "Mr. Clean." He tried to clean up his political party and the government from corruption, most notably the bribery scandals by the Lockheed Corporation of California. Alas, he was to serve only one term.

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, it was said in the newspapers, other tabloids, the entertainment field (movies), patriotic organizations (Daughters of the American Revolution and Native Sons of the Golden West, Elks Clubs), some churches, and most certainly by politicians 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."

To make sure we didn't assimilate, laws were passed against Asian immigrants. It was done to the Chinese in 1882 with the Exclusion Act, Japanese in 1924. To make sure we didn't stay here—Asian immigrants could not own property, Asians could not marry whites; and Asians could

not become citizens of the United States. It took a century to have these laws repealed or overturned.

Nothing of value of Japanese culture. Sushi? Tofu? Teriyaki? Sake? Sashimi? Taiko? Ikebana? Bonsai? Karate? Haiku? Origami? Zen? Love of nature, harmony, honor, loyalty, never to bring shame to the family, yourself and community.

In the late 1930s and early 1940s, one-third of the graduates of Watsonville High School were Japanese Americans. Today, perhaps just one.

Once the Japanese population in the US was the largest among Asians, but now, the Chinese, Filipinos, Indians from India (Caucasians), Koreans, and Vietnamese outnumber us in this country.

Watsonville is famous among Japanese Americans for many families got their start here. After our wartime incarceration, only a third returned to Watsonville. Many were welcomed in Minnesota, Illinois, NJ, and NY.

Of over 100 chapters, our Watsonville-Santa Cruz chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest in the nation.

Today, only Yamashita Market on Union Street and H&S Garage on First Street remain of our Japantown. Of the 46 Japantowns in California, there's only 3 left—SJ, SF, and LA.

For more information, please refer to **Sandy Lydon's** "The Japanese in the Monterey Bay Region" 1997 and **Eleanor Johnson's** "The Japanese and Japanese Americans in the Pajaro Valley," 1967.

Here, we live quiet lives in harmony, peace, respect for others and for the love of nature. Loyalty and devotion to family, friends and community service is high on our list of duty.

Thank you for inviting me to speak today about a part of Watsonville's history, and thank you for this delicious lunch.

**WESTVIEW CHIMES** By Leslie Nagata Garcia  
*Discovering in Cuba a joyful faith  
that cannot be squelched by adversity!*



**Youth Mission Team in Cuba with their host Amanda.**

We stepped back into the 50's: Charming beautiful cars meticulously maintained since the 50's; a warm friendly people not addicted to their cell phones; alive with music: Salsa, Cha-Cha-Cha, Mambo, Rumba; 17<sup>th</sup> century architecture in the downtown; some of the world's best, pristine beaches. However, weighing on this was the heavy burden of a communist dictatorship and a 57-year embargo that has left the country extremely impoverished. Pushed down also was the church. Since the Revolution of 1959 it



has been illegal for the church to expand. New churches met in secret in house churches, slowly growing under the radar of the government. Pastors would expand on their house with a new “living room” in order to accommodate the growing church. Up until recently if you were a Christian you could not hold a government job and you were persecuted.



Photo above: Cuba

This is the situation we stepped into on our youth mission trip to Cuba July 13-21. We have a wonderful team of Kris, Hazel, Ian,

Izabel, Jordan, and Rev. Hoffman. We went with the

Experience Mission agency working alongside local churches near Veradero, Cuba. We got the honor of meeting “Bennie,” (name changed to protect him) a Cuban pastor. He shared with us about what it was like to grow up as a Christian in the 1960’s in Cuba. On his first day of school, when in 3rd grade, his tall menacing teacher stood in front of the class and asked Bennie to come forward and stand beside him in front of all the students. He asked Bennie if he was a Christian, to which he replied “yes” and smiled proudly. The teacher said, “Well then, let’s see if this God you believe in is real,” and he proceeded to pray for a bike for Bennie. He waited, then announced, “where is the bike? There is no bike! You are a fool to believe in a fictitious God. Bennie is a fool.” Then the teacher proceeded to explain further how foolish it is to be a Christian. Bennie then sat down humiliated, but even worse this demonstration gave permission for all the other kids to bully him from that day forward...and bully they did! He was always getting beat up. He found protection with another student who too had been bullied and then found his way into a gang and drugs. Bennie, now in his 50’s, is a very charismatic pastor who’s calling is to help connect ministries and people. We got to work on his organic farm, the proceeds of which supports many house churches and a ministry to families who have special needs children. He beams with God’s love and a joy that cannot be squelched even by the poverty they face, the government that continues to limit their growth, or the many obstacles in their path.

I learned so much in Cuba, but one lesson definitely stood out for me: Faith grows in adversity. Pastor Bennie and all the Christians we met had a vibrant, alive faith that guided their lives, fed them, and spilled out through their actions of love to others!

How have my comforts stifled my faith? How do I shy away from difficult situations and hence keep my faith from growing? How can I step into the difficulties set before me with more faith and more joyful trust in my Good Father?

I hope my faith can be filled with as much confidence in God, and my life can be filled with as much joy in spite of difficulties, as my Cuban brothers and sisters. I definitely feel blessed by them far more than anything we did for them as we did a kid’s club for the special needs persons, worked on a concrete foundation for a ministry center, and listened to and prayed for the many house church pastors.

Please keep Pastor Bennie and the Cuban Christians in your prayers. I am grateful for all you who supported our youth mission with your prayers, time, and donations! You are an amazing church family and we felt very supported by you! God bless you and may you walk through your next difficulty with an even more profound sense of a strong faith in God that is your firm foundation, and a sense of God’s deep joy that cannot be squelched by adversity!

Much love,  
Pastor Dan



*Photos are two special needs people the Youth Mission Team visited and delivered food.*



*Youth Mission Team visiting a Cuba Special Needs Kids Club and delivering food to a grateful mother in tears.*

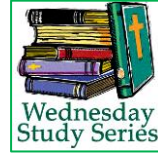
*Help Your Youth/Children Grow a Strong Foundation in Christ!!*  
**Youth/Family Upcoming Events:**

**Gym Nites** are usually the **1st** and **3rd Friday** of each month, from **5:30 – 7:30 pm**, at **Westview**. Mark your calendars for the following dates (**Please note that dates for August are the 2nd and 4th Friday**):

- **August 11th:** Gym Nite, Westview, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
- **August 25th:** Date, time and location TBA

**Sunday Message Series:** - In **August** we will **begin** a series "**None Like God**" based on a **book by Jen Wilken**. God is self-existent, self-sufficient, eternal, immutable, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, sovereign, infinite, and incomprehensible. We are NOT, and that is a good thing. We will learn about the qualities God has that we do not and learn to celebrate the freedom that comes when we rest in letting God be God!

**Wednesday Study Series:** We are taking a break in June and July and will **resume** with **Chapter 7** on **August 9, 6:30 pm** every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at **Paloma Del Mar 2030 Pajaro Lane in Freedom**. We are **studying John Ortberg's book, The Life You've Always Wanted**. We are studying how to grow the spiritual practices in our lives in this modern world that will be the center and fount from which we live and thrive! It has been a delight to make new friends and be a church with them at Paloma Del Mar! Please mark your calendar for the following dates in August: **August 9th, August 23<sup>rd</sup>**



We will **resume** tutoring again in **August**. Many of our students have much need for help in math and reading! Our Tutors are awesome!—  
 Mary Lou Hoffman, Diane Mio, Susan

Manabe, Pastor Dan, and Joanne Hayashi and Eiko Stewart! If you want to join us **Thursdays 3:45 – 5:00 pm** let us know! It has been a delight to reach out with love and care for our neighbors.

**WELCOME, NEW MEMBER**  
**Masahiro Kamei of Felton, CA**

**DONATIONS, GRATEFULLY RECEIVED FROM...**

In memory of **Mary Okamoto** from ...

**Edna Nagata**  
**Jennifer Tsuyuki and Family**  
**Watsonville Taiko**

In memory of **Ernie Ura's 25<sup>th</sup> Memorial** from ...  
**Bill and Ida Akimoto**

For use of the JACL Hall from ...  
**Watsonville Taiko**  
**Kokoro no Gakko**

**JOIN US--WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL**

If you are not now a member of the National JACL, we'd love to have you join our W-SC JACL chapter.

Please encourage family members, relatives and friends to join us for 2017. We are a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, educational, civil rights organization, and our tax deductible federal ID is #94-2659895.



# WATSONVILLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE 2017 OBON FESTIVAL





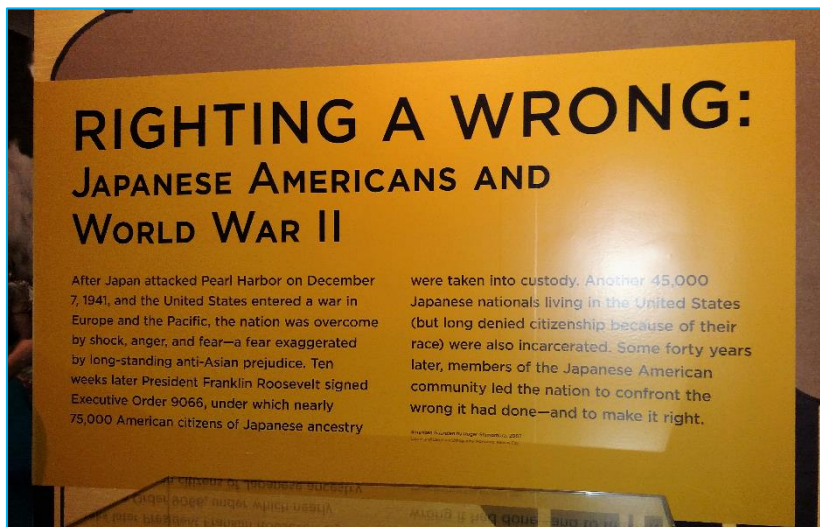
## **JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION, WASHINGTON, D. C., JULY 6-9, 2017 by Victor Kimura**

Never having attended a JACL National convention before, despite my decades of JACL involvement on the local Watsonville-Santa Cruz board, I didn't quite know what to expect. All I knew is that I'd had countless conversations and email exchanges with prominent national JACLers whom I had never met.

The layover in Minneapolis from Mineta Airport in San Jose was terribly unexciting, unless one is fascinated by the number of lakes in Minnesota, and the return layover in Atlanta was similarly uninteresting. I looked for one of Jimmy Carter's peanut farms, but couldn't see past the back of airport buildings. All I know is that hurriedly switching airplanes in large airports is not my idea of excitement. And taking the Washington, D. C. metro train late at night reminded me of being a gopher emerging from the deep bowels of a strawberry ranch.

The National Board meeting was quite interesting. I was impressed by how JACL's president Gary Mayeda ran the meeting, and the intelligent and thoughtful contributions of the entire Board. National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC) Chair Kota Mizutani's energy and coordinative abilities boosted my confidence that the JACL will have a continuing and bright future. Patty Wada, Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific (NCWNP) District Regional Director and Carol Kawase, NCWNP District Governor, both demonstrated their incredible value and importance in representing our 31-chapter district.

Both Gini Matute-Bianchi, my co-delegate from the Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapter, and I attended the delegate orientation on Thursday afternoon, where we were instructed on standing rules, proposed resolutions, voting cards, and speaking protocols. That evening convention members were invited to a reception at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. [Photo of "RIGHTING A WRONG."



Early Friday morning I attended the first half of the National Council meeting, which lasted almost three hours. The afternoon session lasted another three hours. There Council members summarized activities such as the Executive Director's (ED) successful search culminating in the hiring of David Inoue, with special thanks to Stephanie Nitahara who served as interim ED and who coordinated the Washington, D. C. National convention; the general operations of the national organization; public affairs; Pacific Citizen newsletter; NY/SC activities, including

congratulations to Stephanie Nitahara, now the Associate Executive Director (from interim); planning and development; membership; the 2018 budget; and the \$5 membership increase in 2018. In between the two National Council meetings, a panel discussion on "Resolve: A Dialogue on the Current State of AAPI Civil Rights" was conducted by Zaki Barzinji, Nisha Ramachandran, and Heather Skrabak. A late evening reception was held at the Japanese Ambassador's residence where the Governor Ralph Carr Award for Courage was presented to Wade Henderson, former president and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and the Foreign Minister's Award was presented to former JACL Executive Director Bill Yoshino.

On Saturday, the purpose of delegates attending the National JACL meeting arrived. Prior to Saturday, however, late Friday night (after the Ambassador's reception) 30-40 of the delegates huddled in Gary Mayeda's suite to clean up some of the language in the eight resolutions proposed for adoption Saturday morning. Some mediative wordsmithing was required, but, in the end, objectionable phrases and potential workload issues were resolved to the satisfaction of almost all of the delegates. These resolutions (and late emergency resolutions) included the following:

R-1: JACL opposition to the reliance on mass incarceration and private for-profit prisons

R-2: JACL condemnation of religious and racial prejudice in asylum policies of the United States



R-3: JACL opposition to the marginalization of Native American peoples regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline on Standing Rock Sioux tribal land

R-4: Support for maintaining JACL's presence as a national organization by reinstating the Midwest District Council's office and staff

R-5: JACL acknowledgement of the contributions of the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Colony in Northern California, the first Japanese colony in North America

R-6: Continuing to sustain the JACL's teacher training workshop programs

ER-1: JACL support for the Amache Preservation Society's application to the U. S. Department of the Interior to designate the Amache incarceration camp as a national historic site

ER-2: JACL support for the preservation of the Snoqualmie Falls Lumber Company site, where Japanese workers harvested and milled timber and helped build forest rail lines from 1917 until 1942

In late morning, a workshop on "Building Bridges: Sharing Our Experiences" was held with panelists Manubu Ota, Samantha Mori, David Nakamura, and Emi Kamemoto participating. I was unable to attend the afternoon workshops on "AAPI's Portrayal in the Media and Arts" and "Building Coalitions Across Intersecting Identities and Communities" because the morning's National Council meeting had to spill over into the afternoon.

That evening the Sayonara banquet was held, with Joie Chen serving as mistress of ceremonies. At the banquet, the President's Award was presented to Joan Bernstein and Angus Macbeth (honored posthumously) for their work with the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, and a special recognition was given by the National Board to former Congressman Mike Honda.



The 2017 Legacy Fund grants were awarded to the following chapters: Snake River, Sonoma County, New Mexico, Twin Cities, Philadelphia, Boise, San Diego, Ventura, Salt Lake, Puyallup Valley, Alaska, and to the National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC). [Photos by Victor Kimura.]

A follow-up National Board meeting was held early Sunday morning to noon where members and staff discussed the volume of Pacific Citizen articles; the need for a representative from every district for the United States/Japan relations committee; improved communication among board members, similar to the system employed by the NY/SC; records retention policy requirements; resolutions committee requirements; development issues; possible rebranding of the JACL; capital projects (improvements to the National office in San Francisco); and next board meetings.

The next national JACL convention will be held in Philadelphia.

Following the conclusion of my first national JACL convention, I left feeling very impressed with the competence and dedication of the National Board, National Council, National staff, and fellow delegates, leaving me on an optimistic high note concerning the future of the JACL.

# Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapter National Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)

## No Increase in the 2017 – 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 2014 National and local dues for our tax-deductible organization (ID #94-2659895) are as follows:

Family/Couples	___ <b>\$150</b>	This includes two National dues with one subscription to the <i>Pacific Citizen</i> , local dues and our monthly JACL newsletter, and all children under age 14 to be included.
Individual Member	___ <b>\$80</b>	This includes National dues with subscription to the <i>Pacific Citizen</i> , the official paper of the National JACL, and local chapter dues and our monthly JACL newsletter.
Youth/Student	___ <b>\$25</b>	for each of ages 14 to 24, which includes a subscription to the <i>Pacific Citizen</i> , local youth/student membership, and our monthly JACL newsletter. Youth membership is <u>required</u> for scholarship consideration.

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

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last Name) (First Name) (Middle Name)

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last Name) (First Name) (Middle Name)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your check payable to **Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL** and mail ASAP to:  
**Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL**  
**c/o Jeanette Otsuji Hager, Membership Chair, P. O. Box 163, Watsonville, CA 95077**  
Thank you so much for your support.  
Check out our websites: <http://watsonvillesantacruzjacl.org> and [jacl.org](http://jacl.org).