



## THE WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL

Newsletter January 2015

### IS THE EARTH SPINNING TOO FAST?

By Mas Hashimoto, Editor

I'm 79 years of age, but lately, I've been feeling 80! I have muscle pain where, I swear, no muscle has ever existed. I am not a hunk, or is it "hulk" ... whatever.

Now, I must wear hearing aids. They are amazing! I can hear static more clearly, and the clocks are ticking so loudly that time and my life are passing by more quickly. I can prove it. It's already January 2015! One great feature of hearing aids? I don't have to wear them to read a book!

In a contest against an 80+ year-old and a 90+ year-old about whose rheumatoid arthritic fingers are the worst, I won hands down! I mean fingers down.

Only 7 hairs remain on the top of my nearly bald head, and Marcia has names for them starting with *Dopey* and then *Grumpy*. You know the rest ... *Happy*, *Sneezy*, *Sleepy*, *Doc*, and *Bashful*.

With global warming, man needs less body hair. So, why do those handsome hunks sport more hair--short, stubby beards? The future man will look more like me.

Growing up as a teenager, the philosophy and adventures of the *Boy Scouts* were important in shaping my life: "A scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, reverend." Marcia says 8 of 12 aren't bad. She thinks I'm not **obedient**—I don't listen to her; or **helpful**—she ends up doing all the work; **clean?**—she's always asking, "Did you wash your hands? (after you know what); and **thrifty**—I donate to too many causes. She's withholding judgment on **brave** for she's never seen me do anything brave. Wanna know what's not on the list of 12? Romantic! Now, there, I excel!

Most important, **Hardy Tsuda**, our fabulous BSA Scoutmaster, taught us to "Always leave the campsite better than you found it."

**Tom Brokaw** wrote of the "Greatest Generation"—which also included **Daniel K. Inouye**—those who lived through the Great Depression and World War II. They left the world better than they found it. Our *Issei* and *Nisei* certainly did their part for which we are truly grateful.

Today, there are serious doubts about our nation's future. Apathy and hatred seem to be the current trends. I was hoping to leave the world better than I found it.

Recently, at a local fund-raising event, it was rumored that I had passed away! To quote **Mark Twain**, "the report of my death was an exaggeration."

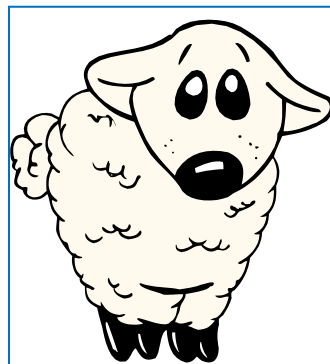
Let that be a warning. I must update my "bucket list" and revise my obituary, or is it the other way around?

Now, before I leave the house, Marcia will ask if I'm "zippered" up. Of course, she means my jacket.

She thinks the earth is spinning too fast, too.

### 2015—THE YEAR OF THE SHEEP

Elegant, highly accomplished in the arts, passionate by nature, a person born in the sheep year seems to be better off than others. They are gentle, thoughtful, shy, and a bit timid. They will help others without asking for recognition or thanks.



While they may be puzzled and uncertain about life, their passion for art and nature will sustain and comfort them. They will enjoy fashionable clothes, a bountiful table, and good friends.

Sheep people will have love and emotional problems in the second phase of their lives but during the third and final phase they will have extremely good fortune.

Sheep people were born in 1907, 1919, 1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003, and 2015.

### ADDENDA TO "A TRIBUTE TO THE MIS"

Two additional stories omitted from last month's presentation may be of interest to our readers.

The *Nisei* linguists of the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) were instructed to write leaflets in Japanese to be dropped on the islands and jungle where Japanese soldiers were still resisting. The leaflets encouraged them to surrender.

When captured, the soldiers had many copies of the leaflets. The MIS guys were proud of their work until they learned why the soldiers had so many. The leaflets made great "benjo no kami"—toilet paper.

There was a huge difference of interrogating styles of the captured Japanese soldiers. White officers wanted to treat them harshly—techniques that would border on torture--while the *Nisei* MISers treated the prisoners kindly with water, cigarettes, food and medical care. The MIS guys even sang Japanese songs which then brought tears to the eyes of the captured. The Japanese soldiers "opened up" to our MIS interrogators with valuable military information.

### **BALLOTS RETURNED ... THANK YOU!**

Eighty-five (85) members took the time to vote and mail their ballots. Most had to place a 49 cent stamp on the envelope! We can't tell you how grateful we are!

The candidates received votes numbering from 77 to 84. The five board members—**Dr. "Gini" Matute-Bianchi, Joe Bowes, Mas Hashimoto, Cindy Hirokawa Mine, and Victor Kimura**--are grateful for the confidence and support bestowed upon them. They will continue to work diligently on the issues of civil and human rights for all, for education, and cultural outreach of our greater community.

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2015 W-SC JACL OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS!**

**Marcia Hashimoto** has been re-elected to serve as President for the 2015 year by the W-SC JACL Board of Directors during its December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting. This will be her sixth term as President, having served previously in 2001, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2014. Officers are:

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President **David Kadotani**,

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President **Aimee Mizuno**,

Treasurer **Victor Kimura**, and

Secretary **Cindy H. Mine**.

Other assignments are as follows: Official Delegates **Mas and Marcia Hashimoto**; Alternate **Jeanette Hager**; Membership **Jeanette Hager and Marcia Hashimoto**; Scholarship **Dr. Brooke Kondo-Rains**; Youth **Kimi Kimura and Aimee Mizuno**; Day of Remembrance **Mas Hashimoto**; Civil Rights **Dr. Gini Matute-Bianchi**; Cultural Activities—**Joe Bowes, Bobbi Jo Palmer, and Aimee Mizuno**; Veterans' Issues **Mas Hashimoto**; Building and Maintenance **Gary Mine, Joe Bowes and Iwao Yamashita**; Senior Center Representatives **Iwao Yamashita, Paul and Carol Kaneko**; Website **Phil Shima**; Blue Cross representative **Cindy H. Mine**; Disaster Relief **David Kadotani and Marcia Hashimoto**; Newsletter Editor **Mas Hashimoto**.



Seated are **Aya Okuma, Paul Kaneko, Gini Matute-Bianchi, Marcia Hashimoto, Carol Kaneko, Cindy H. Mine, Aimee Mizuno, Kimiko Marr, Christine Bowes Iwao Yamashita, and Phil Shima**. Standing: **Takeshi Kaneko, David Kadotani, Kimi Kimura, Gary Mine, Victor Kimura, Jeanette O. Hager, Joe Bowes, Takashi and Kathryn Mizuno, and Norris Woodford**.

After the meeting we enjoyed a potluck dinner and good conversation, which was followed by games of bingo!



**Iwao Yamashita (rt)** calls the bingo numbers. **Paul Kaneko and Marcia Hashimoto** are hoping that their numbers will be called!



**Norris Woodford (center)** is waiting for that one more number before calling out "bingo!"

### **TRI-CHAPTER INSTALLATION OF 2015 OFFICERS**

The installation luncheon will be held on **Sunday, January 25, 2015** at the Old City Hall Restaurant, 7400 Monterey St., Gilroy, CA 95020 (408) 842-3454. It's a truly fine restaurant located in the heart of Gilroy. Thank you, host Gilroy JACL, for making all the arrangements.

(We erroneously stated in last month's newsletter that Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> was Super Bowl Sunday. The football game will be played on Feb. 1 in Arizona. "Go, ???")



You can enjoy *panko* chicken, pesto penne pasta, a tossed salad, garlic bread and beverage (lemonade, iced tea or coffee) for only \$20 (tax and tip included), and a great program.

We are fortunate to have as the keynote speaker the **Honorable Congressman**

**Mike Honda** of San Jose.

The JACL chapters of Gilroy, San Benito County and Watsonville-Santa Cruz will install their officers for 2015.

We'd love to have you join us and to congratulate our new officers. Please sign up with **Marcia Hashimoto** by calling (831) 722-6859 or leave a message at [hashi79@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hashi79@sbcglobal.net). The deadline to RSVP is January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Please make checks payable to W-SC JACL.



## OH, HOW FAR WE'VE COME ... Editor

What was our organization called before it became the **Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)**? And, why didn't it begin as the JACL?

The young Nisei living in the large metropolitan areas of San Francisco, Seattle, Fresno, Sacramento, *et al* had as titles for their local organization--"**American Loyalty League**" or "**Progressive Citizens League**." Reference to anything Japanese—including Japanese American--was discouraged so as not to be associated or confused with Japan and its militarist/fascist policies of the 1930s. The fundamental core of the organization common to all was that of American citizenship, so as to prove our loyalty to this country.



In the early 1930's, our Watsonville *Japan Society* leaders (*Issei* immigrants) suggested that the younger *Nisei* form a group. Thirty-five *Nisei* organized the **Watsonville Citizens League**. The first officers were President **Tom Matsuda**; Treasurer **Bill Shirachi**, and Secretary **Sam Hada**. In 1934, the group became a member of the National Japanese American Citizens League, which was founded earlier in 1929. In 2014, we celebrated our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

All the separate Japanese American organizations fought the prevailing racism and discrimination aimed at those of Japanese ancestry. Many *Nisei*, with their college/university degrees, were kept from employment. *Nisei* women lost their American citizenship for marrying an *Issei*, someone ineligible for citizenship! The new JACL fought for the rights of citizens. They fought against racist laws and pending additional racist legislation in the western states that were unfair, particularly against their *Issei* parents. They sought the assistance of enlightened legislators, none of which were Japanese Americans.

Above all, JACLers wanted to prove their loyalty to this country. One can say one is loyal, even sign a document, but the proof is always with the action. We, tens of thousands of us, went into "camp." Why? To prove our loyalty. It should come as no surprise to anyone that JACLers were "Yes, Yes" when the "loyalty questionnaire," with questions #27 and #28, was presented to those 17 and older in the camps in 1943.

National JACL Executive Secretary **Mike M. Masaoka** asked for the formation of an all-*Nisei* combat unit so as to prove our loyalty. He was the first to volunteer and is known as the "Father of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT." He wrote over 2,000 stories of the gallant 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> RCT whose deeds were published in the "Stars and Stripes" (Army publication) and in "local" newspapers. Their gallant military record might have gone unnoticed. Thus, the 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> RCT became famous and highly respected.

The 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup>/MIS (Military Intelligence Service), the tens of thousands, many of them JACLers, who *gaman'd* (persevered) the wartime incarceration proved their loyalty to this nation. The JACL has always been consistent.

We of the Nikkei nation are the beneficiaries of their loyalty, devotion, dedication and sacrifice.

## THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

We do not take your membership for granted, and we truly appreciate it. We welcome our newest members:

**Nita Gizdich**

**Dennis and Marilyn Kanemura**

**Martin Miyamoto**

Youth members:

**Ruby Etow Bracher**

**Grace Kitayama**

**Meghan Hashimoto**

**Sara Jay**

**Kelsey Kusaba Kusumoto**

## 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.

A membership form has been included in this newsletter for your convenience. We are a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, educational, civil rights organization, and our tax deductible federal ID is #94-2659895.

Yes, you don't have to be a Japanese American to be a member. You don't even have to be a US citizen. You must be an advocate for justice and for civil rights for all.

To those who have renewed their membership for 2015 and beyond, thank you! Please encourage family members, relatives and friends to join us for 2015.

To check your current membership status, look at the date after your name on the address label. For example:

**E. Txxx 10/14** means your membership expired after October of 2014. Please renew.

If you have moved or are planning to move, please let us know your new address. The newsletters are returned to us with first class postage due.

Our mailing address is:

**Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL**

**P.O. Box 163**

**Watsonville, CA 95077-0163**

**Please do not mail to our Kizuka Hall address on Blackburn Street.**

Thank you for reading this January 2015 newsletter.

This newsletter is the monthly publication of the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL, P.O. Box 163, Watsonville, CA 95077, and your comments are always welcome. Please write or email us at [hashi79@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hashi79@sbcglobal.net).

You can read our full color newsletter online at our website: <http://watsonvillesantacruzjacl.org>.

Onward!

**Mas Hashimoto**, Editor

## OUR MEMBERSHIP DUES ...

Our individual dues are \$80 a year; family/couple \$150, and Youth/Student, ages 14-25, is \$25. Of the \$80, our chapter retains \$20.

Our National JACL has a very small and dedicated paid staff. It is led by **National JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida**. Our regional director, **Patty Wada** of SF, is outstanding! They keep us informed on national concerns regarding not only Japanese and Japanese Americans but on other minority groups as well.

All of our elected national officers—led by **President David Lin**--are all volunteers who devote their expertise to the cause of justice.

So, is your \$20 spent wisely? We have no paid employees. All our board members are dedicated volunteers.

Most of our expenses involve maintaining the **Tokushige Kizuka JACL Hall** so that our Senior Center members and those who use the hall can do so in safety and in comfort.

Our board of directors take care of the lighting, heating furnaces, roof, gardening and the grounds, waxing the new floor, windows, toilets, water heater, parking lot, driveway, security and alarm system, kitchen, weekly garbage disposal, paper towels, soap, toilet paper, windows, blinds, insect control, maintenance of the fire extinguishers, insect and pest control, building and liability insurances, PG&E, telephone, property taxes, etc.

This monthly newsletter has an annual expense of nearly \$6,000 a year—paper, postage, and photocopier.

The \$20 does not begin to cover our expenses.

We, therefore, are grateful to those who donate ads to our **Community Directory of Businesses and Professional Services** and to our **Day of Remembrance Education Fund**—our two most important fundraisers.

We are also grateful to those who donate in general and in *memory* and/or in *honor* of loved ones--family members, relatives and dear friends.

#### **DONATIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED FROM ...**

In *memory* of **Betty Oda** from ...

**Yukio and Edna Nagata**

**Mary Okamoto** of Alexandria, VA

In appreciation for the newsletter from ...

**Paul and Sumi Ichiuji** of Salinas

**Irvin Matsuda** of Denver

From **Jennifer Gavin** ...

In *honor* of **Ed and Jean Kelly**. 2014 PV Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture's Lifetime Achievement Award

In *honor* of **Elizabeth Ivanovich's** new book

**Fujii Brothers Farm**

#### **2015 DIRECTORY OF BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONALS**

*Dear Members and Friends:*

**Happy New Year!** And, welcome to our Watsonville-Santa Cruz Japanese American Citizens League's 2015 Community Directory!

We gratefully acknowledge the professional services, businesses, organizations, and individuals who support our local chapter's outreach efforts in the areas of education, civil rights, cultural appreciation, and maintenance of a safe and comfortable meeting hall for our active Senior members, Watsonville Taiko, Watsonville Bonsai, and cultural summer school groups.

In this seventh issue, it is evident that most of our ad donors have thoughtfully and generously assisted our chapter for many years for which we are thankful. We also appreciate and are excited about our first-time contributors.

We encourage our members and friends to use this listing guide as a helpful reference. The W-SC

*JACL and greater community are fortunate to have the important services of our directory supporters.*

*Sincerely,*

**Marcia Hashimoto**, President

We have received these additional ad donations:

**Alan Uyematsu, CPA**

**Aspen Ten (shoji), Henry Nakata, Jr**

**Edna Nagata, Realtor**

**Ikenobo Ikebana Society,**

**Mitsuyo Tao & Fumie Hane**

**Irene Fujii, Attorney**

**KBK Insurance, John Kane III**

**Leslie Nagata Garcia, Realtor**

**Reed and Jamie Kuratomi, DDS**

**Senior Center Network, Brenda Moss**

**Sequoia Wealth Advisors, Inc. Kristina Kuprina**

**Shadowbrook/Crow's Nest,**

**Ted Burke & Chuck Maier**

**Steve Sugidono, Realtor**

**Steven Tanaka, DC**

**Watsonville Cadillac, Todd Millsagle**

**Wesley House Senior Care Home,**

**Jim and Janet Leon**

**Yamashita Market, Goro Yamashita**

We appreciate the generous support by the following who earlier donated an ad to our 2015 directory:

**A Accurate Overhead Door, Frank Nigro III**

**Arthur Hayashi, DDS**

**Central Electric Company, Steve Dufour**

**Coastal Eye Associates, Dr. Conrad Hamako**

**C&N Tractors, John Cooper**

**David A. South, MD**

**Espresso Metro Santa Cruz, Nik Chan**

**Hargis Home Improvement, Ron Hargis**

**Ichiro Sugidono, 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> RCT**

**Kadotani Auto Repair, David Kadotani**

**Kitayama Brothers, Robert Kitayama**

**Gerald Kondo, DDS**

**Brooke Kondo-Rains, DDS**

**Marty Franich Ford, Rocky Franich**

**Mas Hashimoto, Lecturer, "Liberty Lost ... Lessons In Loyalty"**

**McSherry and Hudson Insurance, Steve Duke**

**Mehl's Colonial Chapel, Claudia Mehl**

**Monterey Bay Physicians, Dr. Robert J. Weber**

**Morimoto's Automatic Transmission, Scott Morimoto,**

**Sambrailo Packaging, Mark Sambrailo**

**Scurich Insurance Services, Mike & Tony Scurich**

**Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County**

**Victor Kimura and Jeanette O. Hager**

**Stuart M. Sakuma, OD Family Optometry**

**Taiko Joe, Joe Bowes**

**Toriumi's Auto Repair, David & Kathy Toriumi**

**Watsonville Berry Co-Op, Tom Simmons**

**Watsonville Buddhist Temple**

**Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Senior Center**

**Watsonville Taiko Group, Ikuyo Conant**

**West Lake Fresh, Inc., Louis Ivanovich & Sam Gabriel**

**Westview Presbyterian Church**

## WORDS OF APPRECIATION 2014

by Paul Kaneko, Manager of the Senior Center

On behalf of **Iwao Yamashita, June and Sunao Honda, Carol Kaneko** and myself and the entire Senior Center, I want to thank all of our guests for coming to our Christmas Party today (Sun., Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>) and for supporting the Center again this year.

Once again we've seen how quickly another year has passed by. During the year, we've seen how important our Senior Center is to the entire community—providing our Seniors the opportunity to remain active, stay in touch with friends, celebrate special occasions such as birthdays, wedding anniversaries, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, and much more. You name it—we celebrate it! We find that our Seniors also love to eat. We estimate that the Center probably has on the average 7 to 8 special dinners or potlucks during the course of the year. Besides all that, we go on occasional trips to the casinos, special shows (e.g. Kristy Yamaguchi, Santa Cruz Symphony), and exhibits (Asian Art Museum, etc.), and the all important shopping excursion to SF Japantown and Cupertino's Marukai and Daiso. The Seniors also receive information on how to stay healthy and monitor blood pressure by Registered Nurse, **Cindy Mine**. We also do a little exercise, and receive information on various beneficial programs as well as scams and other threats to our well-being. Most important, I think we have a lot of fun playing bingo for donated prizes where no money is required or exchanged.

Our Senior Center is funded strictly by donations—we receive no funds from our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Chapter or any other entity or governmental agency in order to keep our programs going. The Center is run totally by volunteers—nobody receives a paycheck. So, a big thanks to everyone who made monetary donations this year and to all who donated the many bingo prizes.

Membership to the Senior Center is the cornerstone of what makes it so successful and vibrant year after year. We encourage all of you who are not already members to join us even if you think you are too busy, not old enough, or too old to stoop to spending your Thursday afternoons playing our brand of bingo for stuff like toilet paper. You may think that it's funny, but I find that a roll of toilet paper seems to be the most treasured of all the prizes that we give out. In fact, as we hand them a roll of toilet paper that they had just won, one of our seniors jokingly says on a regular basis: "Oh good, now I don't have to use newspaper."

Anyway, we invite all of you to come and join us. If membership is not your cup of tea, you can always just come to volunteer and help out in your own way. Everyone is welcome and accepted. You will find that we aren't picky; we won't bite; we accept anyone and everyone.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you, our major community partners who have supported the Center this past year. We thank **Reverend Hoffman** and the **Westview Presbyterian Church** and **Sensei Hanayama** and the **Watsonville Buddhist Temple** for your continued, loyal, and generous support of our senior center. The Seniors really appreciate your involvement with our programs and look forward to your occasional

visits throughout the year. A special thanks goes to our local JACL chapter for providing this building—Kizuka Hall for our use. Without this great facility, the Senior Center would have no place to meet and to call "home." I hate to think about what it would be like if we didn't have a building like this: can you imagine us having to meet out at Iwao's place, or our house in Santa Cruz. I don't want to think about that possibility.

As you can see, running this Senior Center is truly a community effort. It truly "takes a village." Since you are all here, I think our annual Christmas party is our Senior Center's best opportunity to thank you, the community, for your support during the year. So, to all of our community partners and supporters: on behalf of all of us at the JACL Senior Center: *domo arigato!* Thanks for coming today. **Meerrrry Christmas, and Happy New Year!**

[Editor's correction ... we apologize for this error in December's newsletter, Senior Center article:

**Haru Ishibashi**     10 bags of persimmons, not 0]

## SENIOR CENTER NEWS by Carol Kaneko

Regular readers of the Senior Center News may have noticed that **Kitako Izumizaki** did not write the November column. After many years of faithfully recording the happenings at the Senior Center, Kitako, age 93, has decided it's time to leave the writing to someone else and make time for other things. (She is currently visiting the Galapagos Islands.) We thank her for her dedication and the countless hours she put into this column for so many years. Until someone else steps forward to take on this responsibility, I will temporarily be the scribe of the Senior Center News.

December started with our annual Senior Center shopping trip to San Francisco Japantown and the Marukai store in Cupertino. Twenty-four Seniors and friends braved the rain to shop and have lunch in *Nihonmachi*, then shop some more at the Marukai store. Goodies were provided by **Jon** and **Alice Drier**, **Toshi Yamashita**, and **Rubie Kawamoto**.

The following Sunday was our *Christmas Party* at which we thanked Watsonville Buddhist Temple, Westview Presbyterian Church, and other friends who have supported the Senior Center this past year.



Westview Presbyterian Church donated the beautifully decorated cake, and **Helen Nakano** and **Susan AmRhein** decorated the hall with a variety of wooden Christmas Nutcracker Soldiers at each table and at the head table.



The stage held a beautifully decorated Christmas tree surrounded by many red poinsettia plants and a string of tinsel and lights along the edge.



From one angle it looked as if an angel appeared from atop Mt. Fuji.

Chairman **Iwao Yamashita** opened the program with a moment of silence for those Seniors who passed away this year.

Then, we sang *God Bless America*.

**Rev. Dan Hoffman** of Westview Presbyterian Church gave his Christmas message.



**Rev. Hoffman** was followed by the singing of Christmas carols by the **Westview Praise Team**, consisting of **Eiko Stewart**, **Joanne** and **Art Hayashi** (shy), **Edna Nagata**, **Diane Mio**, and **Rev. Hoffman**. The choir was led by **Lynn Nagata** (rt).



**Marcia Hashimoto** spoke of W-SC JACL chapter's appreciation to the members of the Senior Center and wished it continued success.

**Rev. Shousei Hanayama** followed with greetings and cheers from the **Watsonville Buddhist Temple**.



Next followed a ceremonial cake cutting by our Seniors 90 and over: **Miye Yamashita 96**, **Haruko Yoshii 97**, **Mitzi Katsuyama 94**, **Hide Nagamine 93**, **Michiko Hamada 93**, and **Kitako Izumizaki 93**. This photo is located on the *Seniors' Corner* page.

Absent were: **Nancy Iwami 100**, **Masako Miura 100**, **Yoshino Matano 99**, **Louise Sako 97**, **Frances Goon 95**, **Chiyoko Yagi 94**, **Tea Hashimoto 93**, **Carmel Kamigawachi 93**, **Akira Kodama 93**, **Sam Sugidono 92**, **Roland Johnson 92**, **Mitsue Tao 91**, **Fred Oda 91**, **Evy Kamigawachi 90**, **Betty Yagi 90**, and **Grace Fujita 90**.



The Christmas raffle numbers were called out by emcee **Paul Kaneko**, who was ably assisted by "Santa" **Rev. Hanayama** and his helpers **Dr. Art Hayashi** and **Sunao Honda**. **Toshi Yamashita** received her Christmas bag from **Dr. Art Hayashi**.





Bags of goodies were given with many hugs also given out.

**Joanne Hayashi** received a hug from **Sunao Honda**, with her husband, **Art Hayashi**, looking on.

**Paul Kaneko** then expressed the Senior Center's

appreciation to our many friends and supporters from our community. He listed the many activities and celebrations that happen throughout the year and invited everyone to join us, either as a member or a volunteer or just to play bingo with us. Special thanks went to our JACL chapter for allowing us to use Kizuka Hall as our meeting place and their ongoing support.

A special thank-you goes to the Christmas "bagging crew" that filled the Christmas bags and decorated the Christmas tree prior to our big celebration: **June and Sunao Honda, Eiko and George Stewart, Kimiyo Fujii, Nobue Fujii, Judy Hane, Mitsuyo Tao, Jean Akiyama, and Paul and Carol Kaneko.**



**Susan AmRhein** had a special surprise for those 20 seniors brave (or crazy?) enough to come to the Senior Center during the December 11<sup>th</sup> violent rain storm. In honor of her mother, **Helen Nakano's**, birthday (above photo with "friends") the hall was decorated with Helen's favorite things at each table: little boxes filled with oatmeal raisin cookies and candy kisses, coconut cake, and a basket of monkeys. Bingo was especially fun this day as there were many multiple winners.

The hall was decorated for our December birthday celebration with vases filled with red carnations and baby's breath surrounded by several tangerines at each table. The head table held a beautiful arrangement of bird of paradise, chrysanthemums, camellias, ferns, and other colorful blooms. We thank **Jean Akiyama, Hisako Kodama, and Nancy Kuratomi** for the beautiful decorations.

Birthday honorees were: **Grace Fujita 90, Kinji House, Roland Johnson 92, and Helen Nakano.** Absent was **Jim Kawamoto 88**, whose beautiful orchid plant, in honor of his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday, was given to his wife, **Rubie**, who donated the cake and ice cream in honor of his special birthday. **Grace Fujita's** family came out to celebrate Grace's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. We welcomed **Norman and Susan Uyeda and Kathy Fujita** and thank the Fujita family for the delicious cupcakes for everyone.

And there were more goodies that day: **June Honda** passed out delicious cupcakes, **Eiko Stewart** and her daughter **Emiko** passed out Christmas bags of goodies from **Westview Presbyterian Church**, and **Toshi Yamashita** provided everyone present with a 2-year pocket calendar. Thanks for treating us so well!

This was the last meeting of 2014, and **Susan AmRhein** presented appreciation checks to managers **Iwao Yamashita, Paul and Carol Kaneko, and Sunao and June Honda** for the many hours they devote to the running of our Senior Center. Paul's year-end message was a thank-you to all members who volunteer to do all the jobs necessary to keep our Senior Center program up and running smoothly. Each volunteer was given a poinsettia plant as a thank-you gift.

Following bingo the group met at *Hong Kong Gardens* for our end-of-the-year dinner. The food was delicious. Thanks to **June and Sunao Honda** for ordering and selecting the dishes.

**Carol** passed out the January-February 2015 schedule of activities, and has since noticed that there is an error on the schedule. Please correct the date of the tentative Table Mountain trip to **Tuesday, February 10.**

We continue to receive weekly dinners for several of our members from **Swingtime Catering**, and we thank **Peggy Triplitt** and **Antonette Wood** for their generosity.

Thanks to our December *toban* group **Nobue Fujii, Eiko Stewart, Nobuko Akiyama**, and other helpers.

Monetary donations were gratefully received from: **Shirley Nishimoto** (to purchase two new carts for the kitchen), **Tea Hashimoto, Jo Ann Vear, Kimiyo Fujii, Leigh Sakaguchi, Diane Mio, Eiko Stewart, Michiko Hamada, Kinji House, Helen Nakano, Grace Fujita, Sam Ichiro Sugidono, Roland Johnson, Jim Kawamoto, Sunao and June Honda, Norman and Susan Uyeda, Sam and Yae Sakamoto, Yamashita Market, and Paul and Carol Kaneko.**

Other donations gratefully received:

<b>Nancy Iwami</b>	<i>Kaki</i> for everyone,
	4 pkg green onions
<b>Chiyoiko Nerio</b>	lemons
<b>June/Sunao Honda</b>	8 pkgs <i>makizushi</i> , Christmas
	cupcakes for everyone
<b>Rubie Kawamoto</b>	2 lge <i>Cheez-it</i> , 6 <i>Kleenex</i>
<b>Terry Hirahara</b>	12 rolls tissue, 4 <i>Kleenex</i> ,
	2 <i>cheese crisps</i>
<b>Nobuko Akiyama</b>	5 <i>Kleenex</i>
<b>Miyeko Yamashita</b>	6 pkg <i>ramen</i>
<b>Chie Sakaue</b>	5 bags persimmons and lemons
<b>Eileen Byers</b>	6 <i>Dawn</i> soap
<b>Eiko Nishihara</b>	12 jars strawberry jam
<b>Yoshiko Nishihara</b>	14 <i>Dawn</i> soap
<b>Geo/Eiko Stewart</b>	6 rolls tissue, 6 rolls paper towels
<b>Mitsuyo Tao</b>	12 rolls paper towels



<b>Yae/Sam Sakamoto</b>	lots of persimmons
<b>Yaeko Cross</b>	12 rolls tissue, 1 bag <i>senbei</i> , 2 bags cookies, 2 bags <i>M&amp;M's</i> , 1 lge bag peppermint candy, 1 lge bag rice crackers with nuts
<b>Donna/Grace Fujita</b>	cucumbers for everyone at Christmas party
<b>Hide/Akira Nagamine</b>	4 shopping bags, 72 two-year pocket calendars
<b>Toshi Yamashita</b>	12 rolls tissues
<b>Jane Sugidono</b>	5 doz cupcakes for mother
<b>Donna/Kathy Fujita</b>	Grace's 90 <sup>th</sup> birthday <i>Martinelli</i> cider, 3 pkg note cards
<b>Kathy Fujita</b>	2 bags chips, 4 boxes <i>Kleenex</i>
<b>Kazuko Sakai</b>	5 bags snacks
<b>Jean Akiyama</b>	3 cans pineapple, mini can of cookies
<b>Eiko Ceremony</b>	6 <i>Dawn</i> soap
<b>Eileen Byers</b>	4 <i>Kleenex</i>
<b>Edna/Yukio Nagata</b>	<b>Okamoto</b> blanket, shower cloth, 2 toothbrushes & toothpaste, 2 bars soap, pkg wet ones, hand sanitizer, liquid hand soap, small hairspray, pkg tissue, lots of lemons
<b>Eileen Masuda/Carol</b>	50 scrubbies
<b>Emi Hirano/Yoshiko Nishihara</b>	3 big gingerbread men
<b>Dylan, Alex, Aubrie Matsuo</b>	Christmas goodie bags for all
<b>Westview Presbyterian</b>	

Please check out our Senior Center website:  
<http://kizukahallseniors.wordpress.com> to keep up with  
our activities, view photos, and check the calendar of  
upcoming events.

The Senior Center will be closed for the holidays on  
December 25 and January 1. The first meeting for 2015  
will be January 8. Stay warm and healthy and keep  
coming to Seniors!

Happy Holidays to all and see you next year!

## REMEMBERING THOSE WHO PASSED AWAY IN 2014 ...

Daisy Iku Nagamine  
Tomio Tsuda  
Frances Kathryn Korematsu  
Thomas W. Conant  
Sadayuki "Sid" Fujii  
Shoichi Kobara  
Richard "Dick" Shigeki Ishibashi  
Robert K. "Bob" Yamamoto  
Curtis Matthew Kulia Gavin  
Ruby Chiyeko Kizuka  
Frances Tsuda  
Edith Yoshiko Ichiuji  
Ray Kusumoto  
Joseph G. Myers  
Hiroko Shikuma  
Tamiko Matsui  
Enji Shikuma  
Chikiye Nakahara  
Betty Oda  
Fumiko Okamoto  
and "Champ"

## JACL IS DEEPLY SADDENED BY THE PASSING OF 12 YEAR-OLD RONIN SHIMIZU

by Jeffrey Moy, VP of Public Affairs



The loss of life  
at a young age is  
unfathomably  
tragic. **Ronin  
Shimizu**, the  
twelve year-old  
son of **Brandon  
and Danielle  
Shimizu**, took his  
own life on  
December 3, 2014  
following years of  
being bullied at  
schools he  
attended in  
Folsom, California,  
located near  
Sacramento.

Ronin's passing occurred despite aggressive attempts by  
his parents to intercede with school administrators,  
moving Ronin to a different school, and finally resorting to  
home schooling.



Ronin Shimizu, 12, took his life after friends say he  
was bullied for being the only male cheerleader on his  
middle school's team. His parents had previously  
complained to the school.

Ronin was a vibrant youngster who freely expressed  
his creative gift for art and fashion design. He enjoyed  
cheerleading as a member of the **Vista Junior Eagles  
Cheer Squad**, which, according to a family friend, he gave  
up due to constant harassment. The harassment directed  
at Ronin came in the form of slurs, name-calling, and even  
physical violence that began in elementary school and  
persisted through his middle school years.

The National Japanese American Citizens League  
(JACL) is deeply saddened by Ronin's passing, and we  
express our heartfelt condolences to Ronin's parents, his  
family, and friends. The National JACL is mindful that the  
bullying suffered by Ronin is a severe problem within our  
schools. It's a problem that can manifest itself in early  
childhood, and without intervention and prevention  
programs, it can persist.



In *Hate Hurts: How Children Learn and Unlearn Prejudice*, the **Anti-Defamation League** writes that children between the ages of six to eight first begin to learn about differences and human diversity. It is also a period when many children report their first encounter with racism and other forms of prejudice. The publication further states that between the ages of nine to twelve, children understand what racial stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination mean and goes on to say, "If their experience of differences has been positive, they will more readily accept differences as something to be valued. If their experience of differences is negative, they will likely become biased."

Despite increased awareness of bullying in schools, these types of incidents persist and in some cases increased levels are reported. In 2012, the **Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)** reported that 50% of Asian American students in New York City schools said they had been involved in a bullying incident. According to AALDEF, this is a 20% increase since 2009. A survey of more than 1,300 6th graders in California schools with predominantly Latino or Asian American students found that Asian Americans were the most frequently victimized ethnic group regardless of a school's racial composition.

In its 2013 **National School Climate Survey**, **Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN)** reported that schools nationwide are hostile environments for many LGBT students. Their survey, based on a sample of 7,898 students between the ages of 13 and 21 from all 50 states, found that 55.5% of LGBT students felt unsafe at school because of their sexual orientation; 49% experienced electronic harassment in the past year; 16.5% were physically assaulted; 61.6% of the students who did report an incident said that school staff did nothing in response.

Ronin Shimizu's brief life exhibited youthful joy and vibrant spirit. JACL hopes we have the wisdom to be uplifted by Ronin's spirit and to be mindful there is also a lesson about accepting the differences inherent within each individual in allowing them to safely be who they are.

### **The Family Thanks Friends, Community for Support During Their "Difficult Grieving Process"**

The family stated on social media:

*The tragic loss of our son has and will forever change our life. The love and support that we received from family, friends and the Folsom community has been immeasurable and words cannot begin to express our gratitude through this most difficult grieving process. The people close to our family know exactly who Ronin was, but since the story of this tragedy has spread worldwide, we want to take a minute to let the world know who he was.*

*Ronin was one of the most loving, compassionate, empathetic, artistic and funny kids to grace this earth. Ronin was a child who was not afraid to follow his heart, and we as his parents did everything in our power to allow him to pursue his passions, while*

*protecting him from the minority that could not understand the specialness he possessed.*

*As you already know, Ronin loved to do Cheer, but he also loved art, fashion, being a Scout and most recently crew/rowing. It is true that because of his specialness, Ronin was a target of bullying by individuals that could not understand or accept his uniqueness. Ronin was not just a target of bullying because of his participation in cheer, but for him just being Ronin.*

*We as his parents always knew that he would make an impact on the world, we just thought it would be in something like fashion design or art related. We had no idea that God and Buddha had a more important role for him, and we as his parents will make it our mission in life to turn this tragedy into something positive and hopefully prevent another senseless tragedy. In closing, please remember that education in regards to bullying prevention does not only need to occur in our schools but also in the home.*

**Brandon and Danielle Shimizu**

[Editor's note: Check out [nobullying.com](http://nobullying.com) for more information. Marcia and I are deeply saddened by the needless death of Ronin Shimizu. For many children, school is simply hell when it should be one of the most wonderful time of their lives.

We listed our telephone number and address in the local phone book so that our students and parents could call at any time. Some of our colleagues thought we were foolish--that we and our home were open targets!

Some students were suicidal. Some were bullied. Some were dying. Some were LGBT. Some were refugees and/or undocumented. All needed someone to listen and to help. We're still in the 'phone book, and now, we have [hashi79@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hashi79@sbcglobal.net).]

## **FAILURE OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM**

By National JACL Staff

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is deeply troubled by the grand jury's failure to indict Officer Darren Wilson for killing Michael Brown, an unarmed black teenager, in Ferguson, MO this past August. We support those who are working tirelessly to reform a broken system.

Though profoundly disturbing, the results of the grand jury are not entirely surprising, given a process that seemed wholly indifferent to securing an indictment, a legal system that rationalizes police brutality, and a society that continues to devalue black and brown lives. It is impossible to understand Brown's death outside the context of a society that rests upon deep foundations of anti-black racism; a broken system that works to economically, emotionally, and physically devastate people and communities of color.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) is conducting an investigation to determine whether federal civil rights charges can be brought against Darren Wilson. In addition, the DOJ is continuing its investigation

surrounding issues such as the training of police officers, racial profiling, and the use of force. JACL supports these initiatives and encourages our members to be involved in the conversations, locally and nationally, to create the systemic changes our country needs.

The struggle for racial equity does not end with Ferguson. JACL will continue to work alongside our partners for institutional change. It is important for everyone to stand together in the pursuit of justice, while respecting the voices and activism of those who are most affected.

**[Editor's note:** Several JACLers have objected to this statement by the National JACL for they defend the police officer and the grand jury's present system.

The function of a grand jury is to find whether there is sufficient evidence to warrant a trial, not to determine innocence or guilt. Cross examinations of the witnesses were virtually non-existent.

Cross examination of a witness is vital to the principles of justice. Example: Defense lawyer: "Did you see him bite his ear off?" Witness: "No, I didn't." Lawyer, "Then, how can you be a witness?" The prosecutor, in cross examination, asks, "Well, what did you see?" Witness: "I saw him spit it out." Very good circumstantial evidence, don't you think?

I wonder how the early founders of the National JACL, if they were alive today, would react to the killings and grand juries' finding in both Ferguson, MO and Staten Island (NYC), NY? My hope is that they would be upset.

"Everyone is entitled to his own opinion but not to his own facts." **Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan.**

"Without justice, there can be no peace."  
**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

### **WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL RESPONDS**

On November 29, 2014, the office of the National JACL issued a statement articulating its profound concern about the non-indictment (separate from a conviction) of a police officer in the death of an unarmed black youth, Michael Brown. The statement recognized the need for fixing a broken system that has allowed an incomplete investigation. It also has called on the U.S. Department of Justice to review what transpired to make an independent finding.

On December 20, 2014, the Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapter (W-SC JACL) Board of Directors discussed the event and decided to support the position of the National JACL in its call for change in a dysfunctional system that resulted in the questionable decision by the St. Louis County (MO) Grand Jury.

Also discussed at our meeting was a similar finding by a Grand Jury in New York in the case of Eric Garner who also lost his life at the hands of law enforcement.

Both instances indicate a need to revise a system that failed to allow cross examination of witnesses.

The judicial process needs to be reviewed and changed. The prosecuting attorney must represent the public, and in these cases that was not evident. The W-SC JACL agrees and supports National JACL's position on this point. To do nothing would be unacceptable as it is a threat to all of our civil rights, our liberties and our lives.

### **IN REMEMBRANCE ...**

**Fumiko Okamoto** died at her home in Royal Oaks on Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2014. She was 78.

Mrs. Okamoto was born in Kagoshima, Japan and immigrated to California in 1960, first settling in San Mateo and then moved to Watsonville in 1965. Her love for gardening influenced her in opening the **H. Okamoto Nursery** where she worked and grew carnations from 1968-1991. Even after her retirement she continued to keep an immaculate garden. She loved to spend time with her family,



especially around the holidays.

Mrs. Okamoto is survived by her children, **Noriko Ellen Okamoto (Tom Liu), Thomas Okamoto (Sherry) and Ben Okamoto (Miki)**; sisters, **Chie Sakaue, Aiko Hitao and Chizuko Ayuha**; brother, **Tetsuo Hatsushi**; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The memorial service was held at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple on Saturday, Dec. 13.

**Betty Yoshiko Oda** passed away on November 17, 2014 at the age of 87. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, **Fred Oda**, daughters **Becky Henry (Steve)** and **Diane Onizuka (Victor)**, grandchildren **Matthew, David, Lauren, Michelle and Ryan.**



She was a loving and generous person who enjoyed being in the company of family and friends. A Memorial in her honor was held on Saturday, December 27, 2014, 1:00 PM at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple, 423 Bridge Street, Watsonville, CA 95076, (831) 724-7860.

**Our deepest condolences to the Shimizu, Okamoto, Oda and Olsen families, relatives, and friends.**

### **WATSONVILLE TAIKO AND SHINSEI DAIKO** **By Bonnie Chihara**

*Watsonville Taiko* would like to thank everyone for their support again this year. We began the year with our **Anniversary Concert** at *Cabrillo College's Crocker Theater* and ended the year performing for the graduating class at *Five Branches University*.

We had 23 performances this year!



Our end-of-the-year *Holiday Party* on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> at the JACL Hall was great fun and so festive. We were joined by past and present members of *Watsonville Taiko* as well as members of the W-SC JACL.

We all did the "chicken dance" led by **Ikuyo Sensei** and business manager **Taeko D'Andrea**.



We were entertained by a bell ringing rendition of *Little Drummer Boy* by **Grey Bears** members **Pat Brown**, **Kathie Brown**, **Sue Berry**, **Sue Walter** and **Barbara Winston** and led by **Sensei Ikuyo**.



We had fun with stack 'em games. **Joe Bowes**, with wife **Christine** cheering him on, is stacking cups onto the fifth level. We did the "cake walk"--to *taiko* drumming of course!. Then, we ate and ate. We truly enjoyed a wonderful potluck dinner. Thank you, everyone.

Our *taiko* classes for beginners will start **Friday, Jan 9<sup>th</sup>** at Kizuka Hall, 150 Blackburn St., Watsonville, CA 95076. So, if you are interested in taking a class, please contact us for more info. Call **Taeko** at 831-435-4591 or email her at [info@watsonvilletaiko.org](mailto:info@watsonvilletaiko.org) or visit our website [www.watsonvilletaiko.org](http://www.watsonvilletaiko.org). You can also visit us on Facebook.

## **KAWAKAMI SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION**

By **Robb Mayeda**, Kawakami-Watsonville Sister City Association

**Thank you for supporting our fund-raising pancake feed at Applebee's on Sunday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>!**

Ten years ago, **Phyllis Nagamine** and I took over the **Watsonville-Kawakami Sister City** effort. I have witnessed the effect of visits upon more than a hundred children from our area. However, in the past two years I

have experienced my family history in a way that was made possible by my ties to sister city organizations.

This began several years ago when my children went away to college. With the now vacant bedrooms, we started hosting adults from Kawakami-mura. These included chaperones, their travel guides, and a contingent from the Kawakami-mura International Friendship Committee.

One of the chaperones, a science teacher, asked about the butterfly books that we had on our coffee table. My maternal grandmother had a brother named **Yukio Tabuchi**. He published many books about butterflies he studied on expeditions through the Japanese Alps in Nagano Prefecture. He would send these books and his large watercolor butterfly paintings to my grandmother. Since I was a biology major and a science teacher, many of the books and a couple of paintings were passed down to me. The Kawakami-mura science teacher informed me that there was a natural history museum dedicated to Yukio Tabuchi (my great-uncle). He said that it was in Nagano Prefecture, about an hour from Kawakami. I told him that whenever I went to Kawakami-mura, I would like to visit.

In 2013, I finally decided to make a trip to Kawakami-mura. I contacted a member of the Kawakami-mura Friendship Committee to ask her about visiting the museum. She contacted the museum, which in turn contacted a man named **Hotake**, the surviving offspring of Yukio Tabuchi. Apparently Yukio, being a mountain climber, named his children after famous mountain peaks. Since I found out that he lived in the outskirts of Tokyo and did not speak English, our travel agent said that he could arrange for a guide and interpreter for the day. We met our guide at our Tokyo hotel, and she helped us navigate through several train transfers and led us to a restaurant where we would meet and dine with my relative. We enjoyed our meeting and felt a real connection to my family's past. A couple of days later, after we joined the Watsonville students, some of our Kawakami friends in Kawakami drove us to the museum in Azumino City. The museum director met us and gave us a tour. Apparently, Hotake phoned him and ask that we receive the VIP treatment. I mentioned to the director that my relatives and I had several paintings of Tabuchi's. He was surprised and asked that I send him electronic photos of the paintings. Later, when we returned to California, we received a framed photo of one of Yukio Tabuchi's photos as it appeared on the cover of a photographic magazine.

Over the next year, **Kimiko** was the go-between for the museum staff and me. They were surprised to learn that there were nine of his paintings here in the US. They said that a **Mr. Teiichi Saito** was publishing a book about the butterflies studied by Yukio Tabuchi. Mr. Saito had an old photograph of him with three paintings, two of which were unaccounted for and presumed lost. Mr. Saito was happy to hear that these paintings were in my home in Aptos!

Fast forward to this spring, when Kimiko contacted me again and connected me with **Mr. Furuhashi**, a climber and butterfly collector who was writing the English summary. He asked that we send my three paintings to them for a press conference to announce the debut of Mr. Saito's book. We then decided to hand-carry the painting and tag

along with the Watsonville student trip to Kawakami. This time, we decided to go early and visit Tottori Prefecture, where my maternal grandmother and grandfather were born. Since I met my mother's Tabuchi cousin last year, this year I wanted to meet her Shinoda cousin. So once again, our sister city friend, Kimiko, helped to contact Hotake, who, in addition to Mr. Furuhashi, gave her contact information for the Shinodas in Tottori-ken.

Kimiko worked with our guide to arrange a meeting with the Shinodas. We took a train from Tokyo to Yagano City and met Kadomi Shinoda. He was also a friendly person, who drove us to the tiny 15-building village of Okuma. He showed us the house in which my grandfather Shinoda was born and raised. He also drove us to a tunnel and showed us two commemorative monuments. One was dedicated to my great-great-grandfather, who built the original tunnel in 1840, and the second to my grandfather, who donated the money in 1968 to modernize it. It would not have been possible to see these kinds of things without the help of my sister city friends and connections.



Newspaper clipping from press conference in Azumino. After our visit to Tottori-ken, we accompanied the Watsonville students on a four-hour bus drive to our sister city in Nagano-ken, where we spent two days. One day, when the students went to the Fuji-kyu amusement park, Kimiko and some of our other friends took us to Azumino City for the press conference. Mr. Saito made a 35-minute presentation about his new book and displayed our three paintings. After his presentation, Mr. Saito and Mr. Furuhashi hosted an hour-long Q&A session! My relative, Hotake Tabuchi, and I were interviewed. That evening, a segment was aired on the NHK station and an article appeared in a newspaper. All my experiences meeting relatives in Japan and learning about their family history were made possible through our Kawakami sister city ties.

## HAPPY 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY TO SHINGU AND SANTA CRUZ SISTER CITIES

On October 4th, Santa Cruz and Shingu celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their sister city relationship at the Santa Cruz Wharf. The anniversary was shared with the

100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Santa Cruz Wharf, and many came to the event in costumes to reflect that time period.

Approximately 100 people attended the ceremony including the Shingu delegation led by **Mayor Michitoshi Taoka** and Shingu Sister City Association Chair **Taku Iwasawa**, Santa Cruz **Mayor Lynn Robinson** and the rest of the Santa Cruz City Council, Santa Cruz Sister Cities Shingu Subcommittee Chair **Roxi Goin**, and **Consul General Masato Watanabe**. The attendees pledged to further develop the exchange between the two cities while continuing to grow their friendship for many more years to come.



A toast by Santa Cruz Mayor **Lynn Robinson**, Shingu Mayor **Michitoshi Taoka**, and Consul General **Masato Watanabe**. (Photo credit: City of Santa Cruz)

## THE JAPANESE CONSULATES' NEWSLETTER

The 12th issue marks the completion of the second year of the **Northern and Central California Sister Cities Newsletter**. There are now 100 sister and friendship city relationships between California and Japan!

We are updating our sister city contact list. This contact list includes the names and contact information of both the leaders of sister city committees/associations, and the point person for that association's submissions to the newsletter. We would appreciate if representatives from each committee/association could send this information to [kevin.odonnell@sr.mofa.go.jp](mailto:kevin.odonnell@sr.mofa.go.jp). Thank you in advance!

Have a story, opinion, or event you'd like to share? Submit it for the next issue of the newsletter, which is printed once every two months! The input from your organizations is what makes the newsletter informative and interesting. Questions about submissions and deadlines, please direct all questions to: [kevin.odonnell@sr.mofa.go.jp](mailto:kevin.odonnell@sr.mofa.go.jp)

## WATSONVILLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE NEWS

It was *mochi tsuki* time at the Temple on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, and the Sangha had a most wonderful, fun time. Gearing up for the New Year when the old year isn't quite finished may be confusing to some but not to us.

A New Year's celebration without eating mochi is just unthinkable! It's traditional with all of the Nikkei nation.

We had rice washers, rice cookers, "pokers," "pounders," "shapers," "tasters," and distributors. Please see the photos on **page 18** of this newsletter.



**Sam Sakamoto**, age 90, took great delight in pounding sweet rice into *mochi* using (1) the new granite bowl donated by the **Dooka Family** (shown here), (2) a new wooden mallet, and (3) the stand which Sam made. Thank you, Sam! And, thank you, Dooka Family.



The ladies--Jeanette Hager, Cindy Hirokawa Mine, Barbara Shingai, Ryoko Kozuki and Aileen Kawasaki (my apologies for not identifying the other ladies), who shaped the *mochi*, took a break while waiting for the next batch of pounded rice to arrive.



#### The Calendar for January 2015:

31 Wed	7 pm	Joyo E Service celebrating with soba traditional dinner
1 Thu	10 am	<i>Shusho E Service</i>
	12 pm	San Juan <i>Howakai</i> New Year
9 Fri	2 pm	San Juan <i>Howakai</i>
11 Sun	9:30 am	Japanese Service
	10 am	Sunday Service, <i>Shotsuki Hoyo</i> , Installation Service, New Year Potluck
13 Tue	7:30 pm	General Board Meeting
14 Wed	1 pm	BWA Meeting
15 Thu	10 am	ABA Meeting
18 Sun	10 am	Sunday & <i>Ho on ko</i> Service Dharma School
25 Sun	10 am	ABA Memorial Service w/Rev. Hoshu Matsubayashi & Luncheon
28 Wed	7:15 pm	Coast District Meeting Mt. View

#### Shotsuki Hoyo Service

10 am Sunday January 11, 2015

Let us gather to express our gratitude to our ancestors. The families of the following deceased of January are invited to attend the service and to *Oshoko* (offer incense). We look forward to seeing you at the service.

#### January Memorial List

Asa Akiyama	Michiko Dooka
Sadayuki Fujii	Ichijiro Fujita
Yeiko Fujita	Midori Fukuba
Tsui Hamai	Yoneichi Hamai
Sammy Hiraga	Suyeko Hamada
Manabu Hirahara	Shig Hirano
Yasube Hirano	Yutaka Ikeda
Sadao Itamura	Asako Iwamuro
Kintsuchi Izumizaki	Teruko Jeanne Kajihara
Masashi Kajisa	Haruno Kamimoto
Mary Yukiko Kimura	Sayoko Kimura
Yukiko Kinoshita	Rokuzo Koike
Satoru Kokka	Toraichi Kowaki
Takajiro Kunishige	Peggy Shizuko Kurimoto
Harumi Kay Kuroiwa	Tommy Toshiyuki Matsui
Kozo Maemura	Bob Manabe
Haruo Manabe	Suyeo Manabe
Harumi Marui	Shinichi Misumi
Umazo Morimoto	Helen Morimune
Sei Morishima	Tsui Morita
Mrs. Otomatsu Nagamine	Chiyuki Nakahara
Eijiro Nakase	George M Nakatani
Kohide Nishihara	Yamato Nishihara
Gladys Nishita	Frank Nishita
Sayoko Nishita	Tsune Nitao
Masaru (Buzz) Noda	Yooko Sakae
Bunichi Sakai	Takeichi Sakimoto
Shizuma Sasaki	Beulah Shinta
Hayato Sukekane	Masanosuke Sukekane
Masao Sukekane	Fukuichi Sumida
Roy Takamune	Lillian Teruo Tanimura
Tomoe Tao	Takashi (Butch) Tsuchiyama
Hardy Tsuda	Henry Tsutsui Toyoki
Shizan Uchimarui	Sumi Ura
Kaname Uyeda	Suyeko Ito Uyematsu
Shigeo Wada	Tatsu Wada
Barbara Sanae Wada	Harry Yagi
Kirino Yagi	Takimi Yamada
Jennie Yamamoto	Kichigoro Yamamoto
Ichisaburo Yamashita	Leland Toru Yamauchi
Hideo Yokoi	Wataru Yoshida

Thank you, Dharma School and YBA for the wonderful lunch provided to all the workers of the *mochi tsuki* event. We truly appreciated it.

In Nov., **YBA** sent 5 members to the CC conference in Fresno, and we hosted the CD meeting. We are looking forward to decorating the hall for the New Year potluck on Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

**ABA** will dearly miss **Betty Oda** who was always smiling and giving a friendly "Hi" to everyone! She was always so nicely dressed ... and she had the prettiest aprons! The memorial service will be held on Sat. Dec., 27 at 1 pm, and refreshments will be served following the service.

**BWA** announces its Cabinet officers for 2015:

President for the month—the **toban**.

Vice President: **Aiko Nitao**, January - June

**Kiiko Akiyama**, July - December

Treasurer: **Kumiko Nakatani**, January - April

**Ryoko Suruki**, May - August

**Hisako Kodama**, September - December

Auditor: **Fumie Yonemoto**, January - June

**Itsuko Okamoto** July - December

Advisors: **Reverend and Mrs. Hanayama**

For the New Year Potluck, we will prepare *sake* and tea from 9 am and donate \$200 toward the bingo prizes.

CDBWL Conference will be held on Thurs., Feb. 12, 2015, at the San Jose Betsuin from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The theme, "Buddhist Women: The Heart of our Temple," will feature keynote speakers--in English, **Dr. Paula Arai**, professor at IBS in Buddhist Women's Studies, sabbatical from Louisiana State University and in Japanese--**Prof. Chico Naito**, visiting professor at IBS, retired from Ryukoku University, Japan. A bus will be provided. This conference is open to all members of our Sangha. **BWA** will pay for registration and the bus. Please inform **Sensei Hanayama** if you are interested in attending this informative conference.

Thank you, **Judy Nagamine** for the *an* (special, sweet bean filling) for *mochi tsuki*. They were delicious!

**BWA** members and Sangha will be helping with *soba* preparation on New Year's Eve.

#### Board Meeting Notes:

There will be one Dharma School per month.

**Boy Scouts** held their *Court of Honor* presentation on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>. Friends and family were invited. During the winter break from school, they will attempt to hike up Mt. Junipero Serra in Santa Lucia Mountains.

The 2015 Temple budget was approved.

The 2015 Temple dues are due.

Thank you so much to the 2015 Board Members who have accepted to serve: **Sadao Matsunami**, **Perry Yoshida**, **Tracey Haneta**, **Barbara Shingai** & **Phyllis Nagamine**. The 2015 Board of Director ballots were mailed out for two additional members. Please return your ballot before the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. Installation of the new officers will take place on Sun., Jan. 11 at 10 am.

The 2015 Board officers are: **Alan Uyematsu**, Auditor; **Glenn Nagamine**, CFO; **Kenny Kusumoto**, Vice President. The position of Board President and President-Elect needs to be filled. **Ken Tanimoto**, **Kiyo Kawasaki**, **Gerald Kondo** & **Ryoko Kozuki** will try to find persons for the positions.

At our **annual general meeting**, Tues., Jan., 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 7:30 pm, everyone is welcome to come to voice their thoughts and concerns.

#### FROM OUT OF OUR PAST ...

The guys had just returned from either the European or Pacific war or released from "camp." The City of Watsonville had recreational leagues during the summer and winter months to keep our youths involved. Softball was played under the lights (nights) at Watsonville High School. The guys were tired after working all day in the strawberry fields but not so tired they couldn't play.



"The Watsonville City League B League Softball Champs of 1947." Back row (right to left): **J. Shoji**, **Saichi Kimoto**, **Shig Etow**, **Shig Morimune**; Middle row: **George Tanimasa**, **Bill Yamada**; Bottom row: **Dick Tada**, **Aki Arai**, **Tats Nagase**, **Coach George Ura**, **Tomio Tsuda**, **Sully Matsui**, **Ben Tada**.

Basketball was played in the Watsonville High School gym during the winter months and when no high school basketball games were scheduled.



The Watsonville City League Basketball B Champs, 1948-49 were: back row: **Saichi Kimoto**, **Ben Tada**, **Shig Morimune**, **Tomio Tsuda**, **Jiro Sugidono**; Front row: **Bill Mine**, **???**, **George Miyashita?**, **Johnny Maruyama?** Photos are the courtesy of **Jack Tsuda**.

There were other, younger guys now in their 70s and 80s, who also played in the city leagues in the 1950s.

We are grateful that the City of Watsonville continues a wonderful recreational program for our youths. It certainly helped us when we needed it.





**Emilie Grace Olsen, 13**

***PARENTS CLAIM RACIAL BULLYING CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEATH OF THEIR CHINESE AMERICAN MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT IN OHIO***

Photo Credit: Cincinnati.com

**Chicago, IL** - In response to the passing of **Emilie Grace Olsen**, a seventh grade student in Fairfield, OH, JACL Midwest Regional Director **William Yoshino** sent a letter to District Superintendent **Paul Otten** regarding concerns that racial bullying may have contributed to her death. Olsen was a 13 year-old Chinese American adoptee who died on December 11th, reportedly as a result of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Her father, **Marc Olsen**, raised concerns that racial bullying played a part in her death, saying that Emilie was bullied in elementary school and that physical and cyber bullying persisted into middle school. The investigation is ongoing, but the school district and police have claimed that Emilie was not racially bullied. Emilie Grace Olsen's death occurred only days after the bullying-related suicide of seventh-grader **Ronin Shimizu** in Folsom, CA.

In his letter, Yoshino notes his concern with the prevalence of bullying at schools with Asian American populations. He referenced surveys showing that 50% of Asian American students reported being bullied in certain school districts, as well as another survey among sixth graders in California schools with predominantly Asian or Latino students that found that Asian American students were the most frequently victimized ethnic group regardless of the school's racial composition.

### **WESTIVEV HIGHLIGHTS** by Leslie Nagata-Garcia



Two photos of Westview members and friends singing Christmas carols at local Senior Facilities on Saturday, December 13th.

### **Matching \$ Grant**

**Gretchen Warner,**  
**Leslie Hoffman's**  
**mom,** saw the budget

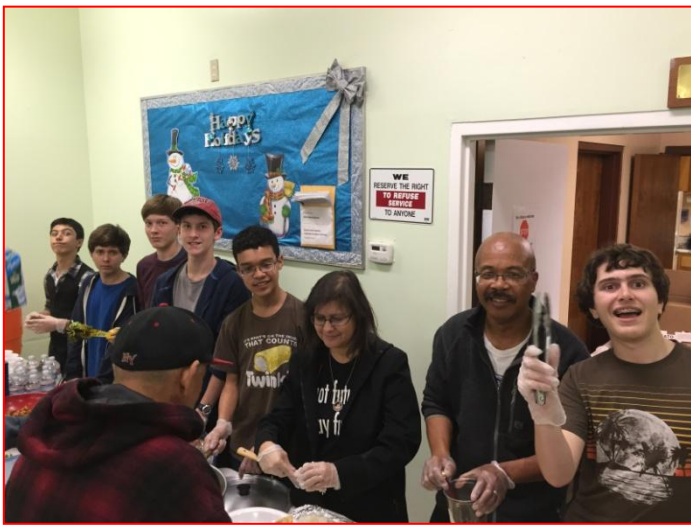
shortfalls published in our newsletter and graciously offered Westview \$3000 for a matching grant! You graciously gave \$3400 so Gretchen wanted to match that! Thank you, Gretchen and all who gave for a total of **\$6800** to help our budget and help us continue to be Jesus' light and love in Watsonville! - **Leslie Hoffman.**



Westview is preparing meals for the **Salvation Army** every first Friday of each month (photos from December on next page under December Events). If you are interested in volunteering, please meet at **Westview** at **2 p.m.** For the months of January and February we will be preparing the meals on **January 2nd** and **February 6th.**



Two photos from the **Salvation Army** meal held on December 5th.



**Pastor Appreciation Fund:** Our Pastor, Rev. Dan Hoffman, has been there for us. He has always exceeded expectations and has a wonderful heart. Due to a difficult financial time for Westview, we are unable to grant a merit increase for Rev. Hoffman at this time. We are expecting a balanced projection for 2015 but for now let us personally thank our Pastor. We are establishing a **Pastor Appreciation Fund**. Your gift to this special fund can make a big difference for him. Many thanks from your treasurer, David Kadotani.

**Youth/Family Upcoming Events:** *Youth Gym Nites* are usually the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month. Mark your calendars for the following dates and times:

- **January 2: 3:30 – 7 p.m. – Salvation Army Meal & California Snowy Winter**
- **January 16: 5:30 – 8 p.m. – Backwards Day! Wear your clothes backwards, play games backwards!**
- **February 6: 3:30 – 7 p.m. – Salvation Army Meal and Gym Fun!**
- **February 20: 5:30 – 8 p.m. – Game Nite. Bring your favorite non-digital game.**

**A Bible Club at our local school: Radcliff Elementary!** Child Evangelism Fellowship has been doing Good News Bible Clubs on school campuses after school for decades. This is a way for us to love the children of the community and their families and to be a bridge between us and the community!

We need 6 or more volunteers to form a team that leads a club 1 day/ week for 1 1/2 hours. Please prayerfully consider how you can help us love and care for local children and their families! Contact **Pastor Dan or Diane Mio** for more details.

**Wednesday Study Series:** We are reading and discussing *The Hope Quotient*, a fantastic book about nurturing hope in your life by **Rev Dr. Ray**

**Johnston!** You can order a book online at [Unleashinghope.com](http://Unleashinghope.com) or for \$15 at Amazon. Wednesday Study Series are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month, 6:30 p.m. at Westview. For the months of January and February we will be meeting on **January 14th, January 28th, February 11th and February 25th.**

**Grief Group:** Pastor Dan will be leading a **Hospice Grief Group** for VNA and Hospice at **Valley Heights** the **first Wednesday** of each month from **3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** Come receive the healing support of others. Come learn that you are not alone in the fog of grief as you recover from the loss of a loved one. Grief Groups will be held on the following dates: **January 7th, February 4th.**

**Sunday Message Series: "How to play the game."** Based on **John Ortberg's** book, *When the Game is Over, It All Goes Back in the Box*, we will learn vital lessons about how to play the **MOST IMPORTANT GAME EVER...**the game of life.

**BAY AREA JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS OF WWII AND KOREA HONORED IN EXHIBIT TO OPEN JANUARY 17, 2015 AT THE JAPANESE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF SAN JOSE**

**Tom Graves**, nationally recognized author of the award winning book, *Twice Heroes: America's Nisei Veterans of WWII and Korea*, will exhibit portraits and interviews of Bay Area veterans at the Japanese American Museum of San Jose (JAMsj), in a three-pronged salute to Nisei veterans entitled *Twice Heroes and More*. **The exhibit opens January 17, 2015 and runs through May 31, 2015.** Six new portraits and interviews of South Bay WWII and Korean War veterans will be on display for the first time.

Many of these veterans, now in their 90s, volunteered from the desolate War Relocation Center prison camps that held their families during WWII. Those who joined the 100<sup>th</sup> BN/442<sup>nd</sup> RCT went on to become part of the most decorated American military unit for its size and length of service. Twenty-one were ultimately awarded the Medal of Honor. Recently, the WWII Nisei veterans were awarded the *Congressional Gold Medal*, our nation's highest civilian honor. The lesser-known story of those who served in Korea will also be featured in the exhibit.

In addition, the amazing models of Nisei soldiers crafted by **Rian Ebesugawa** of Seattle will also be on display. Five figures representing a soldier in WWII dress uniform, one in 442nd battle gear, an MIS soldier, a medic and a Korean War soldier in winter battle gear will be featured.

Finally, an album of poignant letters WWII Nisei soldiers wrote back to members of the Crusaders will be shown for the first time. The Crusaders were a group of young women in the WWII confinement camps who wrote to Nisei soldiers to boost their spirits. The group was



organized by **Yuri Kochiyama** who later became a civil rights icon.

Author Graves and many of the veterans will be present at the opening event Saturday, January 17, 2015, at 1 pm. The event is open to the public with regular museum admission.

*Twice Heroes and More*, is hosted by the Japanese American Museum of San Jose (JAMsj). The museum showcases a unique collection of permanent and rotating exhibits on more than a century of Japanese American history, emphasizing the Greater Bay Area. Japanese American Museum of San Jose is located in historic San Jose Japantown at 535 N. Fifth St. and is open Thurs.-Sun. 12-4 pm. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$3 for students and seniors. Children under 12 are free. For additional information visit this website [www.jamsj.org](http://www.jamsj.org), email [mail@jamsj.org](mailto:mail@jamsj.org) or call 408-294-3138.

## "UMEBOSHI" FOR LONG LIFE

By Audrey Wilson

To all who have grown up eating *umeboshi* when we were kids this is more than you wanted to know. If you never had *umeboshi*, read on.

*Umeboshi* is a salty, sour pickle that we often eat in a *musubi* or rice ball or, when we are sick, with *okai* or *o-kahu* (rice gruel). In Japan, it is usually served with breakfast *gohan* or rice, with a cup of tea. Food authority **Robbie Swinterton** compares eating an *umeboshi* to the culinary equivalent of taking a cold shower. 'The abrupt, searingly tart, tangy, salty taste jolts the eyes open, shakes the stomach awake, sandpapers off any staleness from the taste buds, and gets the day off to an unforgettable start.'

We have always known *umeboshi* as a pickled plum but it is actually more closely related to a Japanese apricot, *prunus* or *Armeniaca mume*. If you examine the pit, it resembles an apricot more than a plum.

So how are *umeboshi* made?

From mid-June to mid-July, the rainy season in Japan, the fruit is soaked in water to get rid of its bitter taste. Then it's drained and wiped dry and sprayed with *shochu* or Japanese distilled rice liquor. They are then put in a container for pickling, mixed with salt and weighted down with a heavy stone.

Pressing the fruit down is very important in the making of *umeboshi*, which takes about six weeks. After that, perilla leaves (beefsteak) or *shiso* are washed, sprinkled with salt, all excess liquid squeezed out, leaves broken apart and combined with the salted *ume*. The heavy stone is again placed over the mixture, which is allowed to pickle for another week. During a sunny day at the end of July, the fruit is dried outside for three days and nights.

The center of *umeboshi* industry is in Ryujin village in Wakayama Prefecture on the main island of Honshu. Their traditional method of making *umeboshi* is a 'lactic-acid fermentation' process, one of the oldest and safest ways of preserving food. Wakayama *umeboshi* is mellow and not as salty as the typical *umeboshi* we know.

Lactic-acid-forming bacteria grows and creates an acidic environment and emits carbon dioxide that contributes to the favorable anaerobic condition and

further stimulates the growth of the good bacteria. Salt, rice vinegar and *shiso* leaves are added.

After a year of aging, the remaining red liquid is bottled and sold as *umeboshi* vinegar. This condiment is versatile for making dressing and is available locally at the natural foods stores and some supermarkets.

The best, most prized and most expensive *umeboshi* is called the *Kishu ume* from the Wakayama Prefecture. Aged 5 years, it has the thinnest skin, the smallest seed and a soft, thick fruit. Eight large, individually wrapped *Kishu ume* costs about \$30.

The first *umeboshi* was found in China, where a dried smoked plum, called *ubai*, was discovered in a tomb more than 1,000 years ago. It was used to prevent fatigue, purify water, rid the body of toxins and cure dysentery, typhoid and food poisoning. The first *umeboshi* appeared before the Nara period in the years 710-794, and was first introduced as a medicine.

During the samurai period, *umeboshi* flavored the samurai's rice and vegetables and purified his water and food. It also helped samurai suffering from battle fatigue.

About 200 years ago, the Japanese made a plum extract, or 'bainiku ekisu.' They made this extract by slowly cooking sour green *ume* fruit to obtain the most active ingredients in a highly concentrated form. The resulting dark, sticky, thick liquid is mixed with hot water and honey and drunk as a tonic. The dried form of this extract is formed into pills and called 'meitan.'

Because this extracting process contains no salt, it is a treatment for high blood pressure.

*Ume* extract, when applied to the skin, has been found to cure ringworms and athlete's foot.

Some touted health benefits of *umeboshi* include prevention of aging, purification of the blood, vitalization, as a preservative for food and helping with fatigue.

Saliva contains a hormone which prevents aging and when you just look at an *ume*, you will certainly salivate, thereby helping to prevent aging.

*Umeboshi* is an alkaline food, which helps to discharge wastes and clean our blood, and if our blood is clean, our bodies will be revitalized.

A *musubi* is made ahead of time to be eaten later. Adding an *ume* in the center of the rice ball will prevent the rice from going bad because it acts as a sterilizer and antibacterial agent.



hangover.

[Editor's note: Ye gads! Why wasn't this said in the first place! We need a Sake and *Umeboshi* Festival to start the New Year!]

The salt and citric acid in *umeboshi* helps ease fatigue. In addition, the pyric acid in *umeboshi* enhances liver function, helps break down the alcohol in the liver so drinking lots of green tea and *umeboshi* can help when one has a

**"HAPPY NEW YEAR" TO ALL FROM  
THE W-SC JACL OFFICERS AND  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS!**

# Seniors' Corner

January 2015 ck

## WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL SENIOR CENTER TRIPS

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### One Day Senior Trip

#### Table Mountain Casino, Friant

**Tentative Date: February 10, 2015 [Tuesday] 8:00 am to 7:30 pm**

**Cost: Active Senior Member \$30 and others \$40; \$5 e-cash**

**Reservations: Carol Kaneko (831) 476-7040 or Rubie Kawamoto (831) 854-2028**

**Non-Senior Center members are welcome to join us!**



December birthday honorees: **Grace Fujita 90, Kinji House, Helen Nakano, Roland Johnson 92.**  
Absent: **Jim Kawamoto 88.** Seniors 90 and over cutting the cake at the Christmas party: **Miyeko Yamashita 96, Haruko Yoshii 97, Mitzi Katsuyama 94, Hideko Nagamine 93, Michiko Hamada 93, and Kitako Izumizaki 93.** Photos by **Carol Kaneko.**

### Upcoming Activities at the Senior Center:

Thursday, Jan. 8	"Welcome Back" for 2015 Senior Center, regular bingo
Thursday, Jan. 15	<b>New Year's/Birthday Party, Miyuki's Buffet at 4 pm</b>
Thursday, Jan. 22, 29	Regular bingo
Sunday, Jan. 25	<b>JACL Tri-Chapter Installation Luncheon</b> in Gilroy.
	Call <b>Marcia Hashimoto (831) 722-6859</b> for reservations.

Please check out our Senior Center website: <http://kizukahallseniors.wordpress.com> to keep up with our activities.

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

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**HELP WANTED!** The Senior Center is always looking for able-bodied, caring, fun-loving volunteers (any and all ages welcome) to help out weekly (or once a month or so) with toban duties. We need your help on Thursdays from 12:30 to 3:15 pm to help our toban teams prepare tea, set out the tea and snacks, and clean up. You are invited to play bingo with us while you wait for clean up time – who knows what goodies you might take home! Let us know if you can help out on one or more Thursdays each month. Call **Susan AmRhein at (831) 724-9454** to volunteer and have some fun.



WATSONVILLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE SANGHA'S MOST"JOYFUL" MOCHI TSUKI TIME





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

## No Increase in the 2015 Membership Dues

Working toward our national goal of *Better Americans in a Greater America* is a worthy one. One does not have to be of Japanese ancestry to be a JACL member, but one must believe that safeguarding the rights of all Americans and legal residents is of utmost importance in this country.

Please join us today. We are the most proactive, oldest, and respected Asian American civil rights organization, and our programs include cultural appreciation and educational outreach.

Your membership is never taken lightly or for granted. We have worked diligently to earn your confidence and trust. Your active participation and membership can make a significant difference in what happens today in our community and in our nation.

Please help us fight **racial prejudice, discrimination, racial profiling, bigotry, intolerance and indifference.**

The 2014 National and local dues for our tax-deductible organization (ID #94-2659895) are as follows:

Family/Couples	___ <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).