

*Liberty
Lost...*

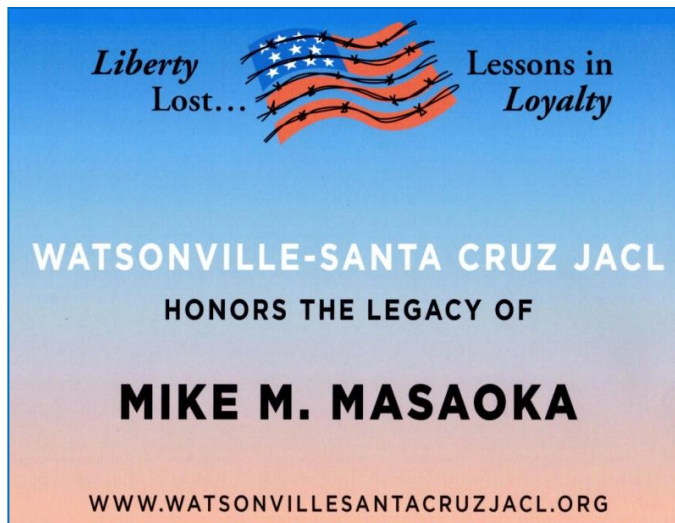


*Lessons in
Loyalty*

THE WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL

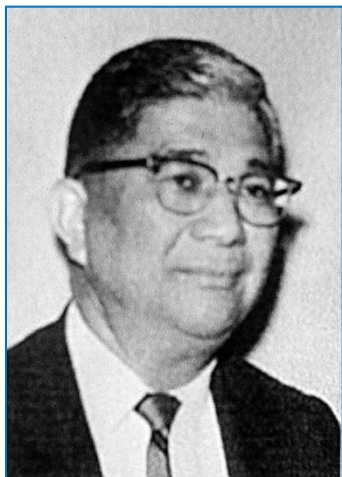
Newsletter May 2015

2015 JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION TO HONOR MIKE M. MASAOKA



Designed by **Phil Shima** for the JACL National Convention booklet in color.

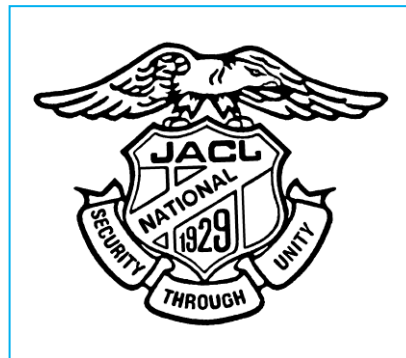
With a resolution initiated by our **Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL** and passed by the **Northern California Western Nevada Pacific District (NCWNP)**, the National JACL, at this year's annual convention in Las Vegas July 13-15, will honor the legacy and contributions of our Nikkei Nation's most important Japanese American ever—**Mike Masaru Masaoka**. Mike was born on October 15, 1915, nearly 100 years ago.



At age 26, Masaoka's role as a National JACL leader began before the attack on Pearl Harbor (December 7, 1941) by the Japanese military forces.

On May 9, 1941, the **Japanese American Creed**, which he authored, was written into the *Congressional Record*, and remains, to

this day, our guiding principles:



THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CREED

by **Mike Masaru Masaoka**

I am proud that I am an American citizen of Japanese ancestry, for my very background makes me appreciate more fully the wonderful advantages of this nation. I believe in her institutions, ideals, and traditions; I glory in her heritage; I boast of her history; I trust in her future. She has granted me liberties and opportunities such as no individual enjoys in this world today. She has given me an education befitting kings. She has entrusted me with the responsibilities of the franchise. She has permitted me to build a home, to earn a livelihood, to worship, think, speak, and act as I please--as a free man equal to every other man.

Although some individuals may discriminate against me, I shall never become bitter or lose faith, for I know that such persons are not representative of the majority of the American people. True, I shall do all in my power to discourage such practices, but I shall do it in the American way: aboveboard, in the open, through courts of law, by education, by proving myself to be worthy of equal treatment and consideration. I am firm in my belief that American sportsmanship and attitude of fair play will judge citizenship and patriotism on the basis of action and achievement, and not on the basis of physical characteristics.

Because I believe in America, and I trust she believes in me, and because I have received innumerable benefits from her, I pledge myself to do honor to her at all times and in all places; to support her Constitution; to obey her laws; to respect her flag; to defend her against all enemies, foreign or domestic; to actively assume my duties and obligations as a citizen, cheerfully and without reservations whatsoever, in the hope that I may become a better American in a greater America.

May 9, 1941

"A Better American in a Greater America" has been our JACLers' theme and basic mission.

At the outbreak of World War II, the National JACL, as the only representative organization for the Nikkei community, was forced to cope with the government's mandate of evicting and incarcerating all resident aliens and Americans of Japanese ancestry, including the elderly Issei, young Nisei, and infant Sansei, from the West Coast. As the JACL National Secretary, Mike Masaru Masaoka was sent to Washington, D.C. in an effort to mitigate the effects of the relocation and work towards the elimination of the internment camps. Before leaving for Washington, Masaoka wed **Etsu Mineta** of San Jose.

While in Washington, in addition to exerting pressure on the U. S. Government for the welfare of those Japanese and Japanese Americans incarcerated, Masaoka worked for the reinstatement of military service for the Nisei, many of whom were classified as "enemy aliens." His efforts resulted in the formation of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Masaoka, along with his four brothers and numerous other Nisei men, joined the 442nd, which served with honor in military campaigns in Italy and France.

While in military basic training, Masaoka envisioned a monument/memorial in Washington, DC to honor all Japanese Americans after the war. Today, the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism stands as a tribute to all those incarcerated and to all who fought in the US military during WW II.

After returning from military service, the JACL appointed Masaoka as its Washington Representative, a post at which he served full-time until 1952, and part-time until 1972. During his years as a lobbyist, Masaoka worked to reform immigration and naturalization laws, resulting in the repeal of the 1924 Japanese Exclusion Act and the abolishment of the National Origins Quota Immigration System. In addition, he lobbied for

reparations for losses suffered by Japanese Americans who had been relocated to the internment camps, which assisted in passage of the Evacuation Claims Act of 1948. With his leadership, in 1952 the McCarran-Walter Act was passed whereby Issei, who were previously prohibited, were encouraged to apply for their US citizenship! In the 1980s, he played a significant role in the proceedings of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, which investigated the topic of redress and reparations and in the ultimate passage of the Civil Liberties Act of August 10, 1988.

Throughout his years in Washington, Masaoka supported passage of civil rights legislation and was active in the development of smooth Japan-U.S. diplomatic and economic relations. In addition to his lobbying efforts on behalf of the JACL, in 1953 Masaoka established his own consulting firm, Mike Masaoka Associates. His clients included both American and Japanese manufacturing firms, as well as a variety of trade associations. All Japanese firms doing business in the United States owe Masaoka a debt of gratitude for his efforts. He was the first Nisei elected President of the Japan-America Society, a group with which he maintained a long association.

Masaoka was involved in a variety of Nisei veterans associations, including the "Go For Broke" National Veterans Association. In 1970, the Mike Masaoka Distinguished Public Service Award was established by the JACL as a way to recognize individuals who had made significant contributions to the well-being of the Japanese American community. He was the JACL "Nisei of the Biennium" in 1950, and the JACL has established the Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund to develop leaders in public service at the national level. In 1968, Masaoka was awarded the Third Order of the Rising Sun by the Emperor of Japan. In 1983, he was honored with the Second Class Order of the Sacred Treasure by the Emperor.

Masaoka was a lifelong public servant and active JACL member, serving as JACL's National Secretary, Field Executive, National legislative Director of JACL's Anti-Discrimination Committee, and our Washington D.C. Representative. He worked tirelessly to advance the causes of Japanese Americans during WWII, helping to form the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and abolish many discriminatory laws against Asian Americans.

Mike Masaoka passed away of heart complications in 1991 at the age of 76. No Japanese American did more for our Nikkei community.

Here is the resolution honoring Mike Masaru Masaoka, submitted by your Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL.

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE
46th JACL National Convention
National Council Meeting
Las Vegas, Nevada
July 14, 2015

A RESOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE TO HONOR MIKE MASARU MASAOKA FOR HIS VISIONARY LEADERSHIP TO THE NIKKEI COMMUNITY AND IN HIS FIRM BELIEF IN THE FOUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES IN THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WHEREAS, 2015 is the centennial celebration year of Mike Masaru Masaoka, who was born on October 15, 1915 in Fresno, California; and

WHEREAS, Mike Masaru Masaoka was the Executive Secretary of the National Japanese American Citizens League, 1941-1943 (prior and during the early years of World War II), and the Washington lobbyist for the National JACL from 1945 to 1953; and

WHEREAS, Mike Masaru Masaoka wrote the *Japanese American Creed*, read into the Congressional Record on May 9, 1941, seven months before the attack by Japanese Imperial Forces upon our nation; and

WHEREAS, the *Japanese American Creed* embodied the basic theme, "Better Americans in a Greater America," of the Japanese American Citizens League; and

WHEREAS, the *Japanese American Creed* was adopted by the Japanese American Citizens League as a part of its governing By-laws; and

WHEREAS, Mike Masaru Masaoka was instrumental in the formation of an all-Nisei military unit recognized today as the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT); and

WHEREAS, Mike Masaru Masaoka was the first Nisei to volunteer for the 442nd RCT and is the recipient of the Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit, and the Italian Cross for Military Valor; and

WHEREAS, while still in basic military training, Mike Masaru Masaoka envisioned, after the war, the building of a monument, National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, to be built in Washington, DC dedicated to the patriotism of the Japanese and Japanese Americans to this nation; and

WHEREAS, as a staff publicist with the 100th/442nd RCT, Mike Masaru Masaoka wrote over 2,000 stories of the heroics of the men of the 100th/442nd RCT to the "Stars and Stripes" (US military publication), to local hometown newspapers, and to the national press and movie "newsreels" shown in theaters throughout the nation which gained the appreciation, respect, and acceptance by the non-Nikkei (of Japanese ancestry) of our Nisei soldiers; and

WHEREAS, through the publicity efforts of Mike Masaru Masaoka, the 100th/442nd RCT became known as the most decorated unit for its length and service in U. S. military history;

and

WHEREAS, Mike Masaru Masaoka envisioned the formation of an organization, "Go For Broke" veterans' organization (currently the "Go For Broke" National Educational Center), dedicated to educating the public of the heroics of the 100th/442nd RCT; and

WHEREAS, Mike Masaru Masaoka persuaded the Congress to pass the Evacuation Claims Act of 1948 to compensate Japanese and Japanese Americans for a portion of their losses; and

WHEREAS, Mike Masaru Masaoka, when no Nikkei member was in the Congress, actively and successfully lobbied for immigration reform, with the passage of the McCarran-Walter Act of 1952, which, for the first time, made United States citizenship available to our Issei pioneer immigrants and parents; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of Nisei federal postal workers lost their jobs and rank as a result of EO 9066 and did, with the help of Mike Masaoka, have the U.S. Postal Service regulations amended to allow Nisei postal workers to be restored to civil service status following the war; and

WHEREAS, Mike Masaru Masaoka led the campaign to repeal the Japanese Exclusion Act of 1924 and the California Alien Land Law; and

WHEREAS, Mike Masaru Masaoka helped repeal the anti-miscegenation laws; and

WHEREAS, Mike Masaru Masaoka assisted many Japanese companies and corporations to be established in the United States and was the first Nisei President of the Japan-America Society; and

WHEREAS, at the JACL National Convention in 1956, Mike Masaoka outlined with foresight those civil rights issues he felt the JACL needed to address, such as school desegregation, public accommodations, anti-Japanese discrimination in housing, inter-racial marriages, the Nisei renunciants who had lost their citizenship, assistance to Japanese war brides in the U.S., and the establishment of a committee on Japan-America affairs and its impact on the Nisei; and

WHEREAS, Mike Masaru Masaoka whose timely advice and assistance were crucial in the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of August 10, 1988, which provided redress and reparations to those of Japanese ancestry who were unjustly incarcerated in America's concentration camps during World War II; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the National Council of the Japanese American Citizens League that tribute is hereby given to Mike Masaru Masaoka for his legacy of dedicated service and contributions to the welfare of the entire Nikkei community.

Sponsored by: Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL

Date: April 28, 2015

Approved by: Marcia Hashimoto, President

Title: President

Please join the JACL and our special guest, **Norman Y. Mineta**, in honoring **Mike M. Masaoka** at the 2015 JACL National Convention's *Sayonara Banquet*.

For more information, visit the Convention website to register: **www.jacl.org**.

JAPANESE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF SAN JOSE



A special panel gathered on Saturday, April 18, 2015, to present the rescue account of the "Battle for the Texas Lost Battalion" that included **Lawson Sakai**, a 442nd RCT participant of the battle; **Franz Steidl**, author of "Lost Battalions," who researched and wrote of the event; **Al Tortolano** of the Texas battalion who was rescued; and **Tom Graves**, master of ceremonies and photojournalist, author of "Twice Heroes," of the Nisei soldiers of WW II and of the Korean War.



During the discussion, **Sumi Higaki** (center) expressed her gratitude to the men of the 100th/442nd RCT, "for without them, where would our community (Nikkei) be today?"

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF NISEI VETERANS

By **Brian Shiroyama**

You are most welcome to join us--Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans (FFNV)--on **May 16th** at Roberts Park, East Bay Regional Park District in the Oakland Hills for our annual memorial service (12 noon) which will be followed by a potluck picnic.



At the toll booth, tell them you are with the veterans' memorial service, and there will be no charge for parking. Drive through the first parking lot to the

lower level to get to the "Bay Vista" picnic area. Please bring a dish or drinks to share.

[Editor's note: please bring a **warm** jacket, just in case. Last year, with bright sunshine, I froze because, unexpectedly, a cold wind blew in from the west. Wear comfortable walking shoes, too.]



There will be a band and color guard to honor our Nisei veterans, and a special program is planned.



Please join us at the *Congressional Gold Medal Dinner* on **Friday, June 12th** at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose. Please read the next article.

On **Sat., August 15th**, FFNV will be participating in the "Living Ship Day" aboard the **USS HORNET**, docked in Alameda, CA. This is a monthly event open to the public. 442nd RCT veteran **Lawson Sakai** will be the keynote speaker. The program starts at 1 pm and all veterans, family and friends are encouraged to attend and to view the special Nisei Veterans' Exhibit of the 442nd and the MIS (created by **Brian Shiroyama**) and to tour this historic ship. There will be no *bento* lunch this year but food may be purchased at the ship's snack bar.

FFNV has arranged for a group discounted admission of \$10 per person. Please email or call **Jean Hirasaki** at jthirasaki@gmail.com or phone (408) 842-6973, or write to 7210 Princeton Pl, Gilroy, CA 95020 by July 31st. Plan now to bring the children and grandchildren for they will love touring the ship with its many airplanes, the flight deck, flight control and war room, battle stations, **Apollo 11** space capsule, flight simulator, and our 100th/442nd/MIS exhibit!!

The annual **Las Vegas Reunion** will be held at the California Hotel, 11 E. Odgen Avenue., Las Vegas, NV on October 18-22nd.

If you wish more information about the FFNV and its programs, please contact **Brian Shiroyama** at bshiroyama@gmail.com or call at (408) 896-1021.

Congressional Gold Medal Dinner

June 12, 2015 at The Fairmont Hotel, San Jose



6 pm Cocktail Reception
7 pm Dinner
Attire: Cocktail

Proceeds will benefit the Congressional Gold Medal Digital Exhibition that is in development for the Smithsonian in 2016. A special update

on the progress of the exhibition will be presented by the National Veterans Network.

Dear friend,

You are cordially invited to the Congressional Gold Medal Dinner on Friday, June 12, 2015 that will directly support the Congressional Gold Medal Digital Exhibition to be unveiled at the Smithsonian in 2016. The dinner program will include a special thank you to **Secretary Eric K. Shinseki** for his service to his country and steadfast support to the Nisei veterans. All veterans will be recognized during the dinner.

The national dinner will take place at the Fairmont Hotel on Friday, June 12, 2015 in San Jose, California. We encourage early reservations.

A special room block rate of \$129.00 per night plus taxes has been secured at the Fairmont Hotel and will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis until **May 12, 2015**. Please see below for additional details.

Sincerely,

Christine Sato-Yamazaki

National Veterans Network (NVN)

How to purchase tickets or tables:

Online reservation on EventNow:

<https://nationalveteransnetwork.givezooks.com/events/congressional-gold-medal-dinner-san-jose-ca>

For more information: please email **Reiko Iwanaga** at riwanaga@ecopiafarms.com.

Tax deductible donations (checks) to **National Veterans Network/Tides Center, P. O. Box 1221, Torrance, CA 90505** are welcome if you are unable to attend this event.

BARNEY FRANK CAME TO SANTA CRUZ



Former Congressman from Massachusetts, **Barney Frank**, spoke at a book signing in Santa Cruz on April 20th to the delight of 500 (the event was sold out).

W-SC JACL members in attendance were **Gini Matute-Bianchi, Norris Woodford, Marcia and Mas Hashimoto**.

Congressman Barney Frank was a key player for our redress and reparations program. H. R. 442, our redress bill, was "stuck" in committee when the Republicans were in control of the House of Representatives. When the Democrats took control of the House, Barney Frank managed to get the bill onto the floor of the House for a vote, which then was passed onto the Senate for a vote:

"In January 1987, I became chair of the Administrative Law Subcommittee. It was something of a grab bag, with no jurisdiction over the most contentious judiciary matters. But it did handle an issue I cared a great deal about: the outrageous decision by Franklin Roosevelt to force tens of thousands of Japanese Americans out of their homes in 1942 and imprison them in internment camps. (He was urged to commit his blatant violation of civil liberties by among others, California attorney general Earl Warren, and he did it over the objection of FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. Go figure!) I had learned of this serious blot on America's record in a course on constitutional law, when I read the Supreme Court decision in *Korematsu v. United States* that upheld the constitutionality of Roosevelt's action. I decided then that if I ever had a chance to help atone for this, I would do so. Membership in the U. S. House of Representatives obviously provided that chance ... and chairing my new subcommittee an even better one."

Frank continues with the concerns that plagued the bill ... which makes for interesting and dramatic reading. I encourage you to purchase the book.

What an honor for us to have met Barney Frank! Marcia and I waited until the very last to have our book signed. He appreciated my two signs that I held up.

THANK YOU, BARNEY FRANK,
FOR H.R. 442,
WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ
JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS
LEAGUE

GRANT UJIFUSA,
Editor of *The Almanac*
of American Politics,
thanks you for
"Civil Liberties Act
of 1988"

Of the hundreds of books he signed only one was personalized and that was to Grant Ujifusa. It is evident that they have maintained their friendship since working on the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.



I had the opportunity to talk with Barney Frank. I told him I knew about Congressman Pat Swindall (GA) the ranking Republican on Frank's committee that Grant Ujifusa and Mike Masaoka had to get for the approval of HR 442. He told me that Swindall later went to jail for an unrelated reason.

Frank was as thankful to the JACL as we are to him.

Then, out of the blue, Frank asked me about George Takei's "Allegiance." I told him it was simply awful and that Mike Masaoka and the JACL were maligned in the musical. Frank volunteered that he knew something was amiss, and I confirmed that. Then, he asked, "Isn't Norm Mineta related to Mike Masaoka?" "Yes, brothers-in-law," I replied. Barney Frank needed to hear from someone associated with our wartime experience that Takei's play should not debut on Broadway as presented because it misrepresents Mike Masaoka and the JACL. Barney Frank highly respects both Mike Masaoka and the JACL.

SPEAKING ABOUT OUR UNJUST WARTIME INCARCERATION CONTINUES ...

Thanks to the invitations by UCSC Professors **Alice Yang Murphy** and **Alan Christy**, Mas spoke to their 200 students enrolled in the "Memories of WW II" class on April 20. Then, on April 22, he spoke to 17 Limited English Development students in **Rene Ohana's** class at Harbor High.

He is grateful to each and every invitation.

"I Lost a Hero Today— A Tribute to Kitako Izumizaki" by Larry Kistler, Feb 14, 2015

I lost a hero today,
She was only ninety three.
She was my wife's Auntie Kei
And she meant the world to me.

Her family and all their friends
Were farmers in Pajaro Valley
When Japan bombed Pearl Harbor
And left a smoking tally

Of three thousand dead...and sunken ships
Lying in the wake
Of the morning raid on the Island Chain,
Building anger that would not slake.

And because the farmers who picked the
Fruit and produce near Monterey
Looked like the bombers from across the sea
The haters got their say

In Congress that Spring of '42
That put Aunt Kei and all her folks
In prisons with barbed wire fence.
Moms, dads, babies, old folks too...
We'd lost our moral sense...

Victim to Fear, who rode the land
In crazy bloodlust caper
Fueled by yellow journalism
Of Randolph Hearst's newspaper.
These farmers, these victims of the war
That raged across the Earth
Gave their all to the country they loved
Including material worth.

One suitcase in each hand
Was all that they could take
From towns and farms across the West
In lines, they made the break

From community, church, and home in lines
Of frightened, weary folk
In a kind of Kafka-like journey
In the wake of the Hawaiian smoke.

Herded into racetracks,
Where the young who were physically able
Shoveled out the manure
From every racehorse stable

To bed their families, like dogs in the manger
And wonder, in their fear,
If life could get stranger still.

The trains arrived for the desert pens
And the people herded on
In the dark of night to be whisked away
Toward a scary desert dawn

Of barracks built from green pine boards
That shrunk in the desert heat
And let in the hoards of insects
And dust and piles of dust

The never ending dust that made life gritty
And made it hard for girls to be pretty

In the prisons we called camps.
The shock of losing home and friends
Was too much for some...
And they perished.

"Dust to dust" took on new meaning.
And in '44, near the end of the war
After their sons went off to fight
In Italy, in the 442, because they believed it was right

To defend their country no matter the cost,
They sent their sons...after all they had lost.

So in '44 they were allowed to go home
To towns and farms...to nothing.

With farm loans unpaid, the banks foreclosed
The people exposed and homeless.
What was stored had been thieved

Or broken open and heaved into the rain.
Shunned by locals, to add to the pain...
No friends, no work, no way to regain a life.

But I don't write to tell once more
Of the bad that was done during the war
To these people.

But instead to tell of Auntie Kei
And how she lived in her own way
An industrious, generous life.

She married Jim, who had fought in the war
And lost his brother, Henry, there.
In spite of the camps, in spite of the loss
They became an American heroic pair

Of civic leaders in their own home town
Working hard, seeking no renown
But simply doing what all good people do.

Serving on the library board
Teaching kids until they've scored
And learned success in life's big game.
Good folks like Kei and Jim abound
But rarely are they ever found
In television's hall of fame.

Kei lived a good, long life,
Of working and giving and rife
With helping other folk.
She looked to me
Like a mighty oak
Of generous service there.

But the reason she was a hero to me
Was that she seemed to be bitter-free
Of what our government did.

If any animus was there,
I never ever heard her share it.

She didn't see the hero
She only lived her life
Pillar of her local town...
Good mother, good citizen, good wife.

Kei was the Everywoman
Who made life good
Across our land
Of prairie, farm, or wood.

To me she was the best
Of a generation unique.
They were outstanding citizens...
Creative, hardworking, meek.

They defeated injustice
By becoming the best
Of what they could be...
Now let them rest.



Remembering those who founded our Watsonville JACL Senior Center over 30 years ago: **Frank Tsuji, Tom Nakase, Tokushige Kizuka, Paul Hiura, and Frank Wakayama.** Mr. Kizuka and Mr. Wakayama were the co-leaders of the Center.

SENIOR CENTER NEWS by Jo Ann Vear

Thirty seniors and friends traveled to **Table Mountain Casino** on March 31. Providing "goodies" for the trip were: **Cindy Mine, Lillian Etow, Yoshiko Nishihara, Eiko Nishihara, Kazuko Sakai, Rubie Kawamoto, Toshi Yamashita, Jackie Yamashita, Carol Kaneko, and the Senior Center.** Two DVDs, "Searchlight Serenade" about music in camp, and "You Don't Know Jack" about **Jack Suzuki Soo**, were shown on the trip. Thanks to **Kimiko Marr** for providing the DVDs. There were several "big" winners on the trip, but **Kinji House** generously paid the bus driver's tip.

A BIG thanks to our March *toban* group: **June and Sunao Honda** and **Eileen Byers.** Our April *tobans* were **Terry Hirahara, April Goral, and Donna Fujita.** Thank you so much ladies and gentleman, and all other helpers.

Susan AmRhein announced that "Mary Poppins" will be presented at Cabrillo College from July 24th through August 16th. She will research for a group to attend one of the matinee performances. If you are interested please talk with Susan.

Many donations were received from the members and appreciated by all:

Sunao & June Honda	3 pkgs. seaweed, 7 plates Easter cookies, 2 red velvet cupcakes, 7 plates <i>ume sushi</i> and <i>takana</i>
Dylan, Alex, Aubrie	2 boxes Girl Scout cookies, 4 tablets and cookies
Judy Hane	10 boxes facial tissues
Rubie Kawamoto	1 bag cashew clusters, 12 boxes <i>Kleenex</i> , 3 bags <i>chagashi</i> , 3 bags <i>arare</i>
April Goral	6 Easter candies, 4 plates chocolate cream cheesecake, box of candy, 4 pkgs. almond cookies, 4 utility bags
Hide Nagamine	18 bags cucumbers, 6 pkgs cucumber <i>tsukemono</i> , 8 bags cucumbers, 5 <i>Lysol</i> wipes, 2 glass cleaning cloths

Chie Sakaue	4 bags loquat, 2 bags lemon, 11 bunches flowers
Miye Yamashita	5 bags <i>senbei</i> , 4 pkgs. roasted seaweed, 5 bowls of instant noodles
Haruko Yoshii	6 rolls <i>Viva</i> paper towels
Pat Marr	3 boxes shortbread cookies, 5 bags cookies
Tea Hashimoto	24 toilet tissue
Gail Wurtenberg	7 bags lemon cookies, 30 rolls toilet tissue
Jo Ann Vear	4 bags Easter candy
Hisako Uemura	24 big rolls toilet tissue, 8 baskets organic strawberries
Grace Fujita	2 large pkgs plastic food wrap
Terry Hirahara	9 rolls toilet tissue, 3 boxes <i>Kleenex</i> , 180 napkins, 4 <i>Scotch Brite</i> , 4 bags <i>Chex Mix</i>
Westview Presbyterian Church	60 Easter bags
Ted Wada	6 bags lemons
Kitty Mizuno	6 rolls toilet tissue, 5 tiny pies
Yoshiko Nishihara	13 bottles <i>Dawn</i> dish soap
Eileen Byers	6 boxes <i>Kleenex</i> , 12 large rolls <i>Bounty</i> paper towels
Nobuko Akiyama	12 rolls toilet tissue
Aiko Harada/Karen Kurakawa	70 pkgs. greeting cards
Eiko Ceremony	3 big rolls paper towels, cake & ice cream, 5 mini jars of <i>Miracle Whip</i>
Phil Shima	1 bag crackers, bar soap
Akira & Hisako Kodama	12 jars <i>tsukemono</i> , 3 bunches flowers
Jane Sugidono	12 rolls toilet tissue
Jean Akiyama	3 bags plastic forks, 3 bottles <i>Dawn</i> dish soap, 6 rolls <i>Bounty</i> paper towels
Toshi Yamashita	8 rolls paper towels
Nobue Fuji	6 plates carrot cake, dish of <i>koya tofu</i>
Yaeko Cross	12 rolls toilet tissue, 5 bags doughnuts
Kobara family	Bamboo shelf in bathroom
Yukio & Edna Nagata	8 boxes <i>Kleenex</i> , 2 pkg. cookies, 12 rolls toilet tissue
Iwao & Jean Yamashita	12 cans tuna
Kimiyo Fujii	5 boxes <i>Kleenex</i> , 10 roasted seaweed
Eiko Nishihara	1 doz. strawberry jam, 9 jars strawberry jam
Mitzi Katsuyama	3 bags onions, 5 bags snacks
Donna Fujita	3 raffle gifts for Mother's Day
Nina Wagner	5 pot holders, 1 candle
Dolores LaMothe	1 pkg. green tea, 10 pocket size tissue
Mary Perez	2 coffee mugs with candy
Eiko & George Stewart	6 plates of California roll <i>sushi</i>
Aiko Harada	created 70 packages of beautiful greeting cards, which were given to members.

The April birthdays will be celebrated together with the May Birthdays next month.

At the *Hanamatsuri* celebration on April 9th, greetings were given by **Reverend Shousei Hanayama**, who was joined by family **Keiko, Shoren and Elren**.



The beautiful cake was donated by the BWA and was cut by Seniors 90 and over: **Grace Fujita 90, Hide Nagamine 94, Nancy Iwami 100, Haruko Yoshii 97, Mitzi Katsuyama 94, Michi Hamada 93, Fred Oda 91, Miye Yamashita 97, Ruby Nakamura 90, and Eiko Ceremony 90**. Photos by **Carol Kaneko**.

Guests attending from the BWA were: **Aiko Nitao, Kiiko Akiyama, and Riiko Yoshida**. Seniors were entertained by Watsonville BWA, and words of appreciation were given by **Iwao Yamashita**, followed by *obento* from *Sushi Garden*.



On April 16th, the Seniors Center members were surprised by **Eiko Ceremony** (left) who provided cake and ice cream for all. Thank you, Eiko!

Members were happy to see **Inako Johnson, Nobue Fujii, and Jane Sugidono** after a short absence.

We welcomed new members:

Nina Kikuko Wagner, Dolores LaMothe and Mary Perez this month.

New address: **Carmel and Evy Kamigawachi**, St. John's Retirement Village, 135 Woodland Avenue, #410, Woodland, CA 95695.

Please remember to bring prizes for the *Mother's Day* celebration to be held on May 7th.

Paul Kaneko announced that for \$30 per year you can receive fresh groceries every week from the **Grey Bears Brown Bag** program. If you are interested please ask Paul for a membership application.

Monetary donations gratefully received: **April Goral, Toshi Yamashita, Helen Nakano, Chie Sakaue, Iwao Yamashita, Roy and Emi Kaita, Watsonville Buddhist Women's Association, Kazuko Sakai, and Chiyeko Shikuma**.

Upcoming activities at the Senior Center:

- Thurs May 7** **Mother's Day Celebration; Hong Kong Gardens 4:15 pm**
Thurs May 14 **Shamisen performance; dessert reception; bingo**
Thurs May 21 **April/May Birthday Party** (Paul & Carol are on a trip to Turkey)
Thurs May 28 Regular Bingo and **Special Surprise!**

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

IN REMEMBRANCE ...

Helen Yukiko Kobara passed away on April 4, 2015 in her Watsonville home. She was preceded in death by her husband **Shoichi Kobara**, who passed away on March 6, 1914. She is survived by her family: **Bruce Kobara** (son), **Patt Takeuchi** (daughter), **Gordon Kobara** (son), **Heidi C. Kobara-Long** (granddaughter), **Traci Takeuchi** (granddaughter), **Allison Takeuchi** (granddaughter), **Bryan Kobara** (grandson), **Corinne Buchanan** (granddaughter), and **Stephen J. Buchanan Jr.** (great-grandson).



Helen was born on October 19, 1922, in Watsonville. She was a graduate of Watsonville High School. She was incarcerated in Poston Arizona from 1942 to 1944.

Helen was a talented artist, whose watercolor paintings and pencil etchings captured the beauty of the Kobara family farm, the California coastline, and the Santa Cruz County mountainside. She loved watching old western movies and nurturing her stunning orchids.

She was a member of the **Watsonville Buddhist Temple** and the **Watsonville Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)**.

The family will have a private burial in her honor. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the *Hospice of Santa Cruz County* and the *Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL*.

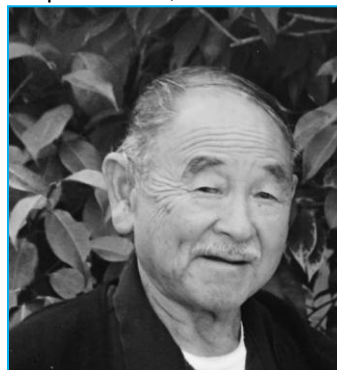
YUKIO SUMIDA, May 31, 1920-April 19, 2015

Yukio Sumida passed peacefully at his home in Monterey on Sunday morning. He is survived by his son, **Ray (Betsi) Sumida**, daughter, **Ann (Doug) Tsuchiya**, grand daughters **Erin (Simon) Phillips**, and **Carli (Jack) Harman**, grandson, **Benjamin (Macie) Tsuchiya**, great grandchildren **Alec and Ella Phillips**, **John and Noah Harman**, and **Nathan and Brooke Tsuchiya**.

He is preceded in death by his wife, **Mariko "Mollie"**, and grandson, **John Tsuchiya**.

Born in Watsonville on May 31, 1920 to **Toraichi and Setsuo Isono Sumida**, Yukio attended grammar school in Marina and graduated from Monterey High School in 1938. Following high school, Yukio enlisted in the United States Army and fought heroically as a member of the

highly decorated Japanese-American 442nd Regimental Combat Team in the European theatre. For his service he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, numerous Purple Hearts, and other military decorations.



In 1948, Yukio returned to the Monterey Peninsula with his family. Shortly thereafter, Yukio established **Cypress Garden Nursery** in 1952 at the original location, 1138 Cass Street. *Cypress Garden Nursery* remains a Monterey landmark at 590 Perry Lane.

Yukio was a man of quiet intensity, industry, patriotism, and loyalty. He leaves a legacy of hard work, commitment to family, and service to country and community.

He and Mollie were the producers of the film about the Nisei veterans of WW II, "**Beyond Barbed Wire**," which was shown to standing-room only performances. This 1996 film was written by **Terri DeBono**, directed by **Steve Rosen**, and narrated by **Noriyuki "Pat" Morita**.

The family will hold a private memorial service at a time to be determined.

We send our condolences to the Kobara and Sumida families, relatives, and friends.

RULES OF BEHAVIOR PREVENT BULLYING!

There are many rules -- the Constitution with its Bill of Rights, the Ten Commandments, the Eightfold Noble Path, and others.

In her Kindergarten class, **Marcia Hashimoto**, successfully enforced the following rules so that children would respect one another and, most important, keep one from bullying another.

Her simple but powerful rules were enforced from Day 1 to the end of the school year:

- (1) Sit quietly and listen (to learn).
- (2) Raise your hand (to ask questions).
- (3) Take turns (in class and in games—be fair and considerate).
- (4) **Never hurt anyone with words or action (no bullying or showing disrespect.)**

I, as a high school social studies teacher, had an additional rule:

- (5) Respect other people's property. Do not steal or graffiti whether the property belonged to the school, city government, or private (personal).

These rules would apply from grades K to post graduate students and beyond, and they are to be practiced everyday of one's life.

Consequences appropriate to the age level and rule infraction should always be understood and consistently administered. Documenting behavior is necessary when parents and support personnel are called.

What was most troubling? Parents, even as trustees of the school district, defended the actions of their child with excuses.

A high school student returning from a downtown restaurant (lunch) by himself may act normally. Another student may act the same. But, when the two of them get together, a third separate personality (a lower, “uncommon denominator”), and a violent one at that, may emerge, damaging property along the street or bullying a weaker student.

Too many students in this country have been, for whatever reason, victimized and bullied. Tragically, too many have committed suicide.

Bullying and racism must stop, and it begins with parents and with the schools. We must get a handle on it.

SCHOOL/STUDENT VOUCHER PROGRAMS

House bill 243 would create an Education Scholarship Accounts (ESAs) program, which are effectively voucher programs. ESAs transfer taxpayer dollars to families so they can send their children to private schools. **The House Ways and Means Committee has already passed this bill and it may be up for a House floor vote on Friday. Tell your State Representative to oppose this voucher scheme.**

Voucher schemes like these funnel taxpayer money to primarily religious schools, violating our country's commitment to the separation of church and state. In addition, study after study shows vouchers do not improve academic achievement or provide greater educational opportunities for disadvantaged students. Voucher schemes like these also lack accountability, oversight, and civil rights protections.

Georgia already has a voucher like program—its tuition tax credit program—that exhibits all the problems we expected and that we are sure to find in an ESA program.

First, there is no accountability or transparency for the taxpayers who fund it.

Second, it is mostly funding affluent parents who already send their children to a private school.

Third, it is funding schools that exercise and teach discrimination.

HB 243 would create a voucher program that will be ineffective and unaccountable to the taxpayers! Taxpayer money should go to public schools that serve all students, not private schools.”

Other voucher bills:

Mississippi SB 2695: No Taxpayer Money to Religious Schools

Nevada AB 165: Veto Tuition Tax Credit Bill

Oklahoma SB 609: Voucher Schemes are Unaccountable and Ineffective

Tennessee HB 1049 and HB 138: Oppose Private School Vouchers

Texas SB 4, SB 642, and SB 276: Voucher Schemes are Unaccountable and Ineffective

US CONGRESS:

The US Congress is poised to pass the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) without a measure that might have opened the door to a voucher plan.

During debate over the bill, some legislators pushed for a “portability” clause. “Portability” would allow Title I

funds, which are earmarked for public schools, to “follow the child” to private schools.

Critics, including Americans United for Separation of Church and State, condemned the policy as a thinly disguised vehicle for school vouchers.

However, US Rep. Bill Flores (R-TX) proposed a different measure that would, he so claimed, protect religious freedom in public schools. He asserted that the provision would allow teachers to say “Merry Christmas” and pass out candy to children in celebration of the holiday.

Opposing the Flores amendment was US Rep Bobby Scott (D-VA) saying, “Religious freedom means not only are students, teachers, and school administrators able to exercise their right to religion, but also that the students should be able to attend public schools free of unwarranted proselytization and coercion in the participation of religious activities.”

ESEA is now awaiting a final vote in the House. It is an annual funding bill, which means it must be re-authorized in order to ensure continued funding for public schools. If it passes the House, it will proceed to the Senate for a vote.

IDAHO REPUBLICANS REJECT “CHRISTIAN STATE” PROPOSITION

The Kootenai County, Idaho, Republican Central Committee has rejected, by two-thirds vote, a non-binding measure that would have declared Idaho a “Christian state.”

The measure would have declared that Christianity is “under strident attack” in the US and requested that Idaho be “formally and specifically declared a Christian state.” It also asserted that America is a Judeo-Christian country, as evidenced by the Declaration of Independence’s reference to God. Had it passed, it would have progressed to the state Republican Party for a vote.

Reuters news service reported that measure supporter **Jeff Tyler** argued, “We’re a Christian community in a Christian state and the Republican Party is a Christian Party. It’s important that Christians stand up and be unashamed to say they’re Christians.”

But other committee members considered the measure to be unnecessarily divisive. “Ultimately, I’m not in favor of dividing us by religion. I’m in favor of uniting us by freedom,” **Bjorn Handeen** told Reuters.

A recent nationwide poll, however, shows support for Tyler’s position among Republicans. According to Public Policy Polling, 57 percent of party supporters polled said they favor naming Christianity as America’s official religion.

[Editor’s note: The first amendment states, *Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; ...* Establishment means an “official” church. No official church is permitted in the United States. In countries where established churches exist, citizens, whether they are members or not, must pay to support that church and its ministers through personal taxation. And, in most of those countries, attendance at church services is low and participation is not enthusiastic.]

ATHEIST BLOGGER MURDERED IN BANLADESH

Islamic extremists hacked **Dr. Avijit Roy** to death in front of his wife in Dhaka, Bangladesh this February. Roy, an American citizen, had returned to his native country to attend a book festival that featured his writing on religion and atheism.

Dhaka police have arrested Farabi Shafiur Rahman in connection with the killing. Rahman made frequent death threats against the blogger on his public Facebook page.

"Avijit Roy lives in America. So it's not possible to kill him now. But when he returns home, he will be killed then." Rahman wrote in one posting. In another, he said, "It's a Bengali Muslim's holy duty to kill Avijit."

Roy had collaborated frequently with the **Center for Inquiry (CFI)**, a secular organization based in Amherst, NY. The organization mourned his violent death.

"Dr. Roy was a true ally, a courageous and eloquent defender of reason, science, and free expression, in a country where those values have been under heavy attack," CFI said in a statement.

'LONE WOLF' DOMESTIC TERRORISM ON THE RISE, A REPORT FROM SPLC

Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) reports in a new study of 60 domestic terror incidents in the past six years (April 1, 2009 to Feb. 1, 2015) that the vast majority of this violence is coming from "lone wolves" or "leaderless resistance" groups composed of no more than two people.

The study, which included violence from both the radical right and homegrown jihadists, also found that a domestic terrorist attack or foiled attack occurred, on average, every 34 days.

A timeline included with the report details a lengthy list of deadly attacks and plots across the country. Included were a 2014 rampage in Nevada by a husband and wife team with antigovernment views who left two police officers and another man dead; a 2012 attack on a Wisconsin Sikh temple by a longtime neo-NAZI who killed six victims; and a 2010 attack that left an IRS manager dead after a man who had attended radical anti-tax group meetings crashed his single-engine plane into an IRS office in Austin, Texas.

NEO-NAZI SKINHEAD SENTENCED

Santa Barbara, CA: A neo-Nazi skinhead faces sentencing for a hate crime in which he used a pair of scissors to stab an African-American man in the head.

Ryan Christopher Zielow-Brown, also known as Ryan Christopher Rosenbaum, pleaded no-contest on felony charges of attempted murder and mayhem. He faces up to 22 years in prison.

RACIST GANG LEADER PLEADS GUILTY TO KIDNAPPING

Orange County, CA: The ringleader of a white supremacist gang pleaded guilty to kidnapping, extortion, and aggravated assault.

Ruthie Christine "Big Mama" Marshall, a 45-year-old bartender who lived in Garden Grove has a lengthy record of violence and was one of three dozen reputed white supremacists gang members in Orange County,

which has the highest concentration of white supremacist gangs in the United States.

The 2010 arrests resulted from the work of a multi-agency task force called "Operation Stormfront." The operation targeted white racist prison and street gangs whose criminal reach spanned from the prisons and county jails to the streets.

Ruthie Marshall passed directions to gang members through a series of phone calls with her imprisoned husband, **Wayne Jason "Bullet" Marshall**, who has been in jail since 2008.

THE 29TH JAPANESE CULTURAL FAIR (JCF)

by Paul Kaneko

This year's Japanese Cultural Fair will be held on **Sat., June 6th** at Mission Plaza Park in Santa Cruz. This popular **free** event features many performances and activities for the benefit of the entire community. Our goal is to present the finest traditions of Japan with the hope that their practices will be continued by future generations.

We are grateful that the **Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL** is a co-sponsor of the Fair.

The chapter will be offering for sale green tea, bentos, fresh strawberries, assortment of ceramics, and much more. It will also have a display of our unjust wartime incarceration.

Please support our chapter, and if nothing else, come to just say, "Hi."



Fair website for more information:
<www.jcfsantacruz.org>. Thank you!

This JCF 2015 poster design of the "Year of the Ram" is beautifully illustrated by **Wendy King**, a renowned local ceramic artist.

The JCF is in need of donations to continue. Please send your tax deductible donations to JCF, P.O. Box 3458, Santa Cruz, CA 95063. They are very much appreciated.

Visit the Japanese Cultural

"Go For Broke National Education Center" Presents Essay and Video Contest \$6,000 in cash prizes! Deadline is Tues., June 30, 2015

Visit www.goforbroke.org for more information.

This is a wonderful opportunity to write a 250-500 word essay or submit a 3-5 minute video about a Nisei soldier of WW II or analyze what the Japanese American WW II experience can teach all.

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS and CURRENT COLLEGE STUDENTS

(and parents)!!

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL announces its Local Scholarships

Application forms are now available for high school seniors and graduate students who are members and their parents are members of our W-SC JACL and/or the Watsonville Buddhist Temple or the Westview Presbyterian Church. Students can download our scholarship application forms at <http://watsonvillesantacruzjACL.org/scholarships/>, and click onto **JACL Local Scholarship Application**. Or, pick up a form at the Temple or at Westview Church. The deadline is Tuesday, May 12th, 2015.

- Applicants will apply for scholarships by submitting generic application information that could apply to and satisfy all of the four scholarship funds.
- The JACL's Scholarship Committee will determine, based on factors such as meritorious performance; grades; participation in certain social activities and organizations; level of volunteerism; and length of membership in the JACL, the Watsonville Buddhist Temple, and/or the Westview Presbyterian Church, which applicants receive which scholarships.
- All scholarship recipients and their parents must be JACL, Watsonville Buddhist Temple and/or Westview Presbyterian Church members for a minimum of one year prior to receipt of scholarship.
- Unless there are extenuating circumstances, the scholarship recipient and/or his/her parents must be present at the awarding ceremony, which will take place at the JACL's annual community picnic, usually in the latter part of June of each year, and typically held at the Aptos Village Park in Aptos.

If you have questions, please contact **Dr. Brooke Kondo Rains** at brookekondo@gmail.com.

The 2015 local scholarships are:

(1) Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarship:

The then Watsonville JACL established this scholarship in memory of our 1987 President, **Kee Kitayama**, a respected leader who worked tirelessly for Redress and Reparations. In 1997, **Mrs. Keiko Kitayama's** generous donation in memory of her late

husband, established this memorial scholarship as a Trust Fund which provides needed financial support for our young scholars. Mr. Kee Kitayama's legacy of encouraging our youth in their pursuit of higher education lives on in this scholarship.

(2) Rekiso "Ray" and Hisako "Louise" Sako Scholarships:

The Sako scholarships were established in 2012 by **Louise** and the late **Ray Sako** to carry on their belief that education is the cornerstone to the future success of each new generation. These scholarships help local students who are actively involved with our JACL, Watsonville Buddhist Temple, or the Westview Presbyterian Church.

A four-year undergraduate scholarship may be awarded at \$1,000 per year. This scholarship shall not be limited to first-year undergraduates. For example, an undergraduate who has completed the first year of study may be eligible for a \$1,000 per year scholarship for up to three years.

A two-year graduate scholarship will be awarded at \$1,000 per year. This scholarship is not limited to a first-year graduate. For example, a graduate who has completed the first year of study may be eligible for a \$1,000 for a year.

(3) Frank Mito Memorial Scholarship:

This scholarship was established in 1994 in memory of **Frank Mito** by his son, **Dr. Ron Mito**, and assisted by family friends—**Mark and Patt Takeuchi**, one of the founders of *Kokoro no Gakko*. This scholarship mirrors Frank Mito's commitment to hard work, promoting education, and supporting youth who show exemplary community service. The W-SC JACL is honored to administer this scholarship. This scholarship carries the same criteria of other JACL scholarships, with *Kokoro no Gakko* participation preferred. This scholarship may be an additive to other scholarships awarded by the JACL.

(4) Dr. Francis B. Choy Memorial Scholarship:

This scholarship was established by **Dr. Conrad Hamako** with the help of Dr. Choy's wife, **Sharon**. **Francis Choy** was the son of **Dr. Bong Choy**, who taught in the Berkeley Unified School District after emigrating from Korea. Francis Choy graduated from UC Berkeley and UCLA Medical School where

he befriended Conrad Hamako and met and married Sharon, then a nursing student.

Dr. Choy was a well-respected dermatologist whose partner was **Dr. David South**. This may be the final year this scholarship is awarded.

YOUNG HISTORIAN AWARD

The Young Historian Award is made possible by a donor fund at the **Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County** and is administered by the **Pajaro Valley Historical Association**. This award was initiated in respectful memory of **Betty Lewis, Watsonville Historian, Alzora Snyder, Margaret Hayes, Hubert Wyckoff, Bernice Porter** and many others who have illuminated our heritage as the foundation of the future for the Pajaro Valley.

The Young Historian Award will be offered annually to an individual or group who has made a significant contribution to the study, conservation, preservation, or enhancement of the history of the Pajaro Valley. The award will be a single award of **\$500**.

The application is due May 28, 2015.

Questions? Contact the Pajaro Valley Historical Association at info@pajarovalleyhistory.org; phone (831)722-0305, or log onto the website for more information: www.pajarovalleyhistory.org.



YOUNG HISTORIAN AWARD
AGES 16 - 25
★ ★ ★
A prize of \$500 to the winning project
(research paper, video, volunteer work, performance, art piece, etc.)
enhancing the history of the Pajaro Valley
Application deadline: May 28, 2015
For information, please visit our website at:
www.pajarovalleyhistory.org
or call 831-722-0305
Sponsored by the Pajaro Valley Historical Association
The Young Historian Award is made possible by a donor fund
at the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County.

KAWAKAMI-WATSONVILLE SISTER CITY

"Our Busy Car Wash" – by Robb Mayeda

On March 28, our Sister City Association members, the Kawakami-bound students, and their parents, held a car wash at the City of Watsonville's Ramsey Park. The fathers challenged themselves to wash each car in two minutes! They met that challenge, but then an RV showed up! Except for a five-minute lull around 11 am, they continuously washed cars from 9 am to 1:10 pm! The students and mothers handled the drying and sent the cars on their way. It was a day of good clean fun and getting to work together.

To those who came to have their cars washed this year, thank you. Thank you, too, to you who supported our pancake feeds at Applebee's.

Our 14 students with 2 chaperones are scheduled to leave for Kawakami, Nagano-ken, Japan on May 12, flying from San Jose on the ANA Boeing 787, Dreamliners.



The two photos show the first car we washed, a 1951 Ford pickup, and the largest vehicle of the day, an RV.



WATSONVILLE TAIKO AND SHINSEI DAIKO by Bonnie Chihara

On April 12th we performed at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple's *Hanamatsuri*.

Our children's group included: **Amelia Katz, Medha Gelli, Aidan and Michael Gilbert, Skye Horton, Genji Nagel, Shoren and Elen Hanayama** and newest members, **Matthew, Aiko and Damian**.



Our children's group is growing, and they are working very hard every Friday, learning new music and perfecting the music they already know. They performed again in Morgan Hill on April 19th along with the adult community performers, advanced performers and members from our Monterey group **Shinsho Mugen Daiko**.

Our upcoming schedule:

April 25th Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival,
Memorial Park Cupertino
April 26th Big Sur Marathon, Big Sur
May 8th Pirate Day, Harbor High School
May 9th Human Race, Natural Bridges
May 17th Open Streets Watsonville, Brennan and
Union Streets
June 6th Japanese Cultural Fair, Mission Plaza
Park, Santa Cruz
June 27th Land of Medicine Buddha Festival,
Soquel
June 27th JACL Picnic, Aptos Village Park
July 4th Summer Concert Series, New Brighton
State Beach
July 26th Wharf to Wharf
Nov. 15th Watsonville Taiko's Boutique and Raffle

WATSONVILLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE NEWS

March and April are always busy, fun months for our Sangha.

First, there was the YBA's traditional "All You Can Eat" Pancake Feed fundraiser on the last Saturday in March. There was a nice turnout, and the YBAers appreciated your support.

Then, of course, there's *Hanamatsuri*, celebrating the birth of **Siddhartha Gautama** who later became the historic Buddha.

The chairpersons, **Perry and Kim Yoshida**, wish to "thank everyone involved in the beautiful and educational displays, the wonderful entertainment and demonstrations, vendors, and delicious food to help highlight the 2015 *Hanamatsuri* flower festival. Most of all, we want to thank all of our Temple members, organizations, and non-members that unconditionally donated and/or volunteered countless hours to help make this year's *Hanamatsuri Festival* a success! We couldn't have done this without each and every one of you!"

The YBA members and their parents carefully placed donated flowers to adorn the beautiful *hanamido*.



Left side: **Matthew Maemura, Aileen Kawasaki, Rev. Shousei Hanayama, and Shoren Hanayama.** Center back: **Alex Tao and Keiko Hanayama.** Right side: **Elren Hanayama, Yoshie Maemura, Sarah Nagamine, JoAnn Kato and Kim Tao.**



The guest speaker, **Edith Vessle** of Berkeley formerly of New York, spoke of her conversion and commented to the delight of the congregation on the similarities of the birth stories of the Buddha with that of Jesus Christ.



After meditation and pouring sweet tea (rain) on the statue of the Buddha in the *hanamido*, we adjourned to the Temple hall for the great festivities that awaited us.



Our Senior member, 100 year-old **Nancy Iwami**, poured sweet tea over the statue of the Buddha.

There were (1) foods--delicious *sushi* by BWA; chicken *teriyaki* by the Sangha; desserts and soft drinks by the YBA; cabbage salad by *Kokoro no Gakko*; (2) displays/exhibits—by our Boy Scouts, *Ikebono Ikebana*, Watsonville *Bonsai*, *Kimekomi* doll making, *Kokoro no Gakko*, and the Temple with archival photos—via photo albums and video (TV); (3) raffle, cook book, flower sales, and Nikkei Traditions; and (4) entertainment by *Tai Chi*, *Salinas Kendo*, **and** Watsonville Taiko.

All in all, it was a great day of fun. Boys' Day, May 5th, is coming up. Why did Japan change it to Children's Day? We need a day when we honor the *warui kozo* boys.

Next, it's *obon* in July.

Temple calendar for May:

3 Sun	9:30 am	Japanese Service
	10 am	Sunday & <i>Shotsuki Hoyo</i> Service
5 Tues	7:30 pm	Temple Board Meeting
6 Wed	1 pm	BWA Meeting
7 Thur	10 am	ABA Meeting
8 Fri	2 pm	San Juan <i>Howakai</i>
10 Sun	10 am	Sunday and Dharma School Service; Mother's Day
13 Wed	7 pm	Special Study Class with Rev. Jay Shinseki
		"Buddhism for Dummies"
17 Sun	10 am	Sunday, <i>Gotan E</i> & Late Bishop's Memorial Service, BWA luncheon
20 Wed	7 pm	Ministerial Meeting

24 Sun Memorial Services at the following:

9 am	Pioneer Cemetery, Freedom Blvd
10 am	PV Memorial Park, Hecker Pass Road
1 pm	Santa Cruz Cemetery
3 pm	San Juan Bautista
4 pm	Hollister Cemetery

27 Wed	7 pm	Special Study Class
31 Sun	10 am	Sunday Service

MAY SHOTSUKI HOYO SERVICE

Akiyama, Hideo	Akiyoshi, Jutaro
Akiyoshi, Fumiye	Aramaki, Fujie
Arao, Akiharu	Arao, Tamehachi
Chihara, Akino	Etow, Yayeno
Flanagan, Sharon	Fujii, Chiyoko
Fujii, Sumito	Fujii, Yuichi
Fujita, Jim Yoshio	Hashimoto, Hideo
Hashimoto, Noriyuki	Hayashida, Kichiji
Higaki, Mariko	Hirahara, Fumio
Hirahara, Takeso	Horibe, Frank Yoshimi
Ikedo, Somekichi	Iwami, Yasutaro
Izumizaki, Fumiyo	Kadotani, Haru
Kajihara, Ippei	Kato, Tadaaki
Kawasaki, Sakae	Kimura, George
Kuroiwa, Kichiemon	Maemura, Toshikazu
Marui, Youemon	Matsunami, Mitsuo
Misumi, Yoshino	Morikawa, Okon
Morimoto, Reymi	Morimoto, Yoshi
Morishima, Chieko	Muronaka, Hiroshi
Nishita, Betty	Ouchida, Misako Kawasaki
Sakamoto, Michiko	Sakaue, Yoshimi
Shibata, Hideji	Shirachi, George
Takamune, Masaki	Takamune, Rin
Takei, Iowa	Tawamoto, Hisa
Teshima, Akira	Tsuji, Yoshie
Tsuda, Frances	Tsuda, Matsue
Uchimarui, Gary	Uchimarui, George
Uchimarui, Shizue	Ura, Dorothy
Uyematsu, Teiko	Wada, Masao
Yamamoto, Emi	Yoshida, Masao

Yoshii, Senzo

Photos: (1) placing the flowers on the *hanamido*; (2) BWA ladies are happy. They sold out of *sushi*! (3) enjoying the *kendo* and *taiko*; (4) one of the newest **Watsonville Taiko** student; (5) doll making crafts with *ikebana* and *bonsai* displays in the rear of the Temple hall.

Photos of the Hanamatsuri Festival



WESTVIEW CHIMES HIGHLIGHTS by Leslie Nagata-Garcia

Parent's Appreciation Luncheon

Immediately after Worship Service on **May 31st**, the Guiding Ministry will host a parent's appreciation luncheon. This will be a great time for Fellowship and everyone is welcome to attend!



The Westview Church family is very grateful for three recent very generous donations that

will leave a legacy from **Joanne & Willie Yahiro**, **Herman Goon**, and **H.K. and the family of Tomiye Sakata**. Joanne Yahiro willed her life insurance policy to the church which has been used to start **the Joanne Yahiro Mission Fund for local mission**. Herman Goon visited our church as a guest several times and was part of our extended church family. He passed away recently, and we found out he had put our church in his will. **Doris Goon, Herman's niece worked hard to fulfill his wishes of benefitting several churches in town, one of which was Westview**. In addition, **Karen Matsushita Byers** worked very hard to arrange **the H.K. and Tomiye Sakata endowment** which gave the church a very generous **gift of stock** which will keep giving to the church each year through **dividends!!!** We are **VERY GRATEFUL** to these families for their generous donations and pray we can use them wisely as God works through our church to love the entire community and continue honoring the heritage of our 117 year-old church's ministry to so many of Japanese descent.

If you are interested in leaving a legacy by making a donation from your estate you can contact **Willie Yahiro** to learn of how his family arranged the donation of the life insurance policy or **David Kadotani** who can offer you the assistance of **Kristina Kuprina**, a certified financial planner, who has graciously (*pro bono*) helped our church in many ways to be good stewards of our investments.

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 – 8 p.m.**, at **Westview**.

Mark your calendars for the following dates:

- **May 1 – Gym Nite**
- **May 15 – Gym Nite**
- **June 5 – Beach Party at Manresa Beach, 4 – 7 pm.**
Hot dogs provided. Wear your swimsuit, bring your

boogie board and/or fun things to do. And, bring a snack to share!

- **June 19 – Gym Nite**

Photo: Serving the Salvation Army Meal, April 2, 2015.



Wednesday Study Series: Held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at Westview, 6:30 p.m.. 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** or for **\$15** at **Amazon**. For the months of May and June we will be meeting on **May 13, May 27th, June 10th and June 24th**.

Marlon and Evelyn Veal celebrate their 25th Anniversary!!



After Worship Service on March 29th, Westview celebrated the Veal's 25th Anniversary.

Congratulations to our Westview members **Marlon and Evelyn Veal** (photo at left).

We hope the next twenty-five will be your happiest yet!!

Sunday School: Don't forget that Sunday School is held during Worship Service in our youth room. **Laura Castillo** teaches our youth and **Kathy Crudge** teaches the children (Photo at right: **Kathy Crudge** teaching our children).



Tutoring Club: There is a group of us interested in starting a tutoring club to local students after school at Westview once a week starting in September. Please be in prayer about this for there are many needy families living near the church. Contact Pastor Dan if you are interested.

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.

Salvation Army Meals: April 3rd was our last meal until late fall. We will resume preparing and serving meals in December.

Hospice Grief Group: April was our last Grief Group for VNA and Hospice at Valley Heights. If you want a local Grief Group call Hospice of Santa Cruz at (831) 430-3000.

WATSONVILLE BONSAI CLUB by Don White

The Watsonville Bonsai Club will present its 42nd Annual Bonsai Exhibit on **Sunday, May 3, 2015**, from 10 am to 4 pm at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple, 423 Bridge St., Watsonville, CA 95076.

There will be over 50 *bonsai* trees of all types, all ages and all styles on display. Come view a 510?? Year-old potted California juniper. This is an exhibit for everyone--children as well as adults--and a wonderful learning experience for all. There will be docents available to discuss the nature of *bonsai*.

And, once again, the WBC is happy to announce that **Mr. Katsumi Kinoshita**, Club *Sensei* from Monterey, is back from his accident of last year, and will demonstrate the "Creating a Bonsai Out of Raw Material."

AUCTION CANCELLATION IS NEWS IN TOKYO, LONDON, AND SYDNEY AS WELL ...

The auction of our "camp artifacts" (wartime incarceration) which was to take place April 17 by the Rago Auction House of New Jersey was canceled due to the strong protest by the Japanese American community, which included many JACL chapters.

"Japanese American History: NOT FOR SALE" was the central theme that caught the attention of those who were incarcerated and by those interested in our history.

"These artifacts reflect personal family memories of one of the darkest periods in U. S. history. These items belong with the families, or in museums so future generations can learn from them," said **Congressman Mike Honda**.

This collection belongs in the **National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institute of Washington, DC** where it can be viewed, appreciated and studied by the hundreds of thousands who visit Washington, DC each year and by those in the three branches of the US Government—Executive, Legislative,

and Judicial--as a reminder that they must never again imprison anyone without cause.

We appreciate the **Ryan Family** for preserving the artifacts these many decades and for not destroying them.

DONATIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED FROM ...

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Greatest Need from ...

In *memory of* **Kitako Izumizaki** from ...

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Yoshiko Hiraga

Kitako Izumizaki

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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 2015. We are a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, educational, civil rights organization, and our tax deductible federal ID is #94-2659895. A form is included in this newsletter. 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.

Current members, please look at the date after your name on the address label. **E. Txxxx 3/15** means your membership expired in March of 2015. Please renew.

If you have moved or are planning to move, please let us know your new address.

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

Our new phone number is (831) 536-5297.

Thank you for reading this May 2015 newsletter.

Onward!

Mas Hashimoto, Editor

**WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ CHAPTER
JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE
P.O. Box 163, Watsonville, CA 95077-0163**



2015

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April 27, 2015

Dear Members and Friends:

For over 100 years the Japanese American families of Watsonville have enjoyed a traditional event known as the "community picnic." This was established by our immigrant Issei pioneers who struggled and worked tediously and who could afford only one day out of the year to relax and celebrate with gratitude the survival of another year.

Since the end of World War II, the Watsonville-Santa Cruz Japanese American Citizens League (W-SC JACL) has sponsored this important cultural tradition. As a community picnic everyone is welcome. Highlights of the picnic include a delicious barbecue lunch, the presentation of scholarships, fun races for all ages, free bingo for our Senior citizens and friends, entertainment by *Watsonville Taiko*, and an exciting raffle.

We cordially invite you and your family to join us at this year's picnic, which will take place at the beautiful Aptos Village Park, 100 Aptos Creek Road, Aptos, CA 95003 on Sat., June 27th, 2015 from 11 am to 4:30 pm.

Yours truly,

Marcia Hashimoto (s), Picnic Chair

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL

Tax ID #94-2659895

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	___ \$150 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	___ \$80 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	___ \$25 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**.

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.