

*Liberty
Lost...*



*Lessons in
Loyalty*

THE WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL

Newsletter January 2019

HAPPY NEW YEAR, 2019!

It's the
Year of the
Boar!

Chivalrous
and gallant,
Boar people
are always
flying the
white banner
of purity.
Whatever
their



ambition, they do what they must with all the
inner strength they have. There is neither left
nor right or retreat when a boar person sets out
to do something. He has tremendous fortitude
and great honesty!

Boars don't talk much, but when they do, they
let it all come out at one time. Boars have a great
thirst for knowledge and are generally well-
informed.

While Boars are quite short-tempered, they
hate to quarrel or argue. They are advised not to
get into lawsuits for, being impulsive and honest,
they will lose the suit to someone who is
unscrupulous.

Boars are affectionate and kind to their loved
ones. They are shy and will keep the torment
they're going through to themselves. They will
not ask for outside help but will seek solutions to
problems by themselves.

With their simplicity of soul and their sensual
appreciation of nature, Boars always seek the
authentic and the true in personal relationships.

These intimate relationships are what Boars
value most. They are very family-oriented. Once
married, the Boar strives to maintain a
harmonious, lasting family relationship. They are
loving and loyal to their mates and caring and
considerate towards those they love. With the
right partner, these generous, warm-hearted
individuals will enjoy happy and contented lives.

Boars don't make many friends, but when they
do, they make friends for life. Anyone having a
boar-year friend is indeed fortunate.

Boar years are 1899, 1911, 1923, 1935, 1947,
1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, and 2007. There are 12
favored animals in the Asian zodiac calendar--
Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse,
Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Boar.

All right, you boars — lets have fun this year.
Let's ham it up.

HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYONE!



"Hey, boars, let's not rush into things." The
above pig race photo was taken at the 2018 Santa Cruz
County Fair. The three in front are named Lawson Sakai
(1923), Mas (1935) and Marcia (1947) Hashimoto.
Kidding.

Order of the Rising Sun Conferment Ceremony and Reception Honoring Mr. Lawson Iichiro Sakai

Remarks by Consul General Tomochika Uyama
Sunday, December 9, 2018, Kotei



Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. My name is **Tomochika Uyama**, Consul General of Japan in San Francisco.



It is an honor and a privilege for me to host you here today where **Mr. Lawson Iichiro Sakai**, 95, will be presented with the *Order of the Rising Sun, Gold & Silver Rays*, from His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, in recognition of his contributions to

improving the status of Japanese Americans in the United States and preservation of Japanese American veterans' history. I am sure that I do not need to tell you in this room about Mr. Sakai's many accomplishments, but please indulge me, nonetheless.



Nisei soldiers fought for the United States and in doing so, were able to prove their unquestionable loyalty. Eventually, they were able to significantly lift the status of Japanese Americans in the US with their actions. They have contributed to the Japan-US relationship through their community service, language skills, and otherwise outstanding civic accomplishments.

As squad leader of E Company in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Sakai distinguished himself throughout the war in Europe including the liberation of Bruyeres, rescue of the "Lost Battalion", and breaking of the Gothic Line. He was wounded four times and thus received four Purple Hearts, in addition to being awarded two Bronze Star Medals for his distinguished combat service.

After his return to the United States, Mr. Sakai married his love, wife **Mineko**, and soon began helping her father with another point of pride in Japanese American history—agriculture. He helped run the **Hirasaki's** vegetable packing and shipping business in Gilroy for several years, before moving on to other endeavors.

After first organizing and leading a group of retired veterans from E Company of the 442nd for over 30 years (a member of E Company was US Senator **Daniel K. Inouye** of Hawaii) Mr. Sakai founded **Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans (FFNV)** in 2005 with the goal of not only educating the public about contributions made by Nisei soldiers, but also to preserve their proud legacy fighting to prove their loyalty, even while their families were confined in camps. Mr. Sakai soon

opened FFNV membership to veterans of the MIS to further promote camaraderie and unity of Nisei soldiers. After inviting more and more companies of the 442nd to join, he was able to build FFNV's membership from less than a hundred to over 400, and they now hold regular reunions.

He did not stop there. He also organized and led seven trips to Europe to visit historic 442nd battle sites and promoted outstanding, enduring, and sincere friendships with citizens of Bruyeres, France, which was liberated by the 442nd in October 1944.

In 2010, when the national-level Japanese American veterans' organizations began their ultimately successful drive for the *Congressional Gold Medal* to be given to Nisei veterans, Mr. Sakai readily organized local efforts to assist. In February



2011, when he learned of a fellow 442nd veteran in hospice care at a local VA hospital, he approached the VA

leadership and procured permission to present this veteran with a certificate that authorized the awarding of the *Congressional Gold Medal*, since the medals had not been minted yet. Mr. Sakai held a ceremony at the hospital, acting as both the speaker and presenter of the certificate for the veteran, who ended up passing away just two days later. He eventually would organize local conferment ceremonies for several other Nisei veterans who were not able to travel to Washington, D.C. for the larger ceremony due to their health.

In another major accomplishment, he led a project beginning in 2006 to create a Japanese American history and Nisei Veterans Exhibit aboard the *USS Hornet Aircraft Carrier Museum* anchored at Alameda, California. I have heard that it is truly a unique exhibit that draws thousands of visitors each year as there is no other similar exhibit anywhere in the United States. I hope to visit myself

sometime next year. Does anyone know someone who could be my tour guide?

Today, we have over 40,000 Japanese nationals living in the Bay Area. None of them would be able to live as comfortably here as they do if Mr. Sakai and others had not blazed the trail for them and made the idea of being Japanese respectable and honorable. He helped lead the way by preserving and promoting Japanese American history throughout his life. He has contributed to building a strong Japan-US relationship that we can all enjoy and benefit from today.

Mr. Sakai has dedicated a lifetime of selfless



service and the purest passion to his own community. His leadership, humility, and humanity must be acknowledged in the widest manner, both here and in Japan. Mr. Sakai, thank you very much for your tireless work, and for being an effective leader and model citizen to us all. The Government of Japan is proud to recognize your contributions in an official capacity today. Before I present the decoration itself, I would like to read the Patent of Decoration, or the written portion, in Japanese, followed by the English translation.

Mr. Sakai has been the most sought-after speaker about Japanese American history and Nisei veterans in all of Northern California. He has spoken to students at all levels, church visitors, civic groups, various active and retired military members, fraternal organizations, and more. He has even helped with several documentaries about the 442nd as an advisor.

As a young man of 95, Mr. Sakai continues to work hard to preserve the Nisei's proud legacy of fighting to prove their loyalty to America, in spite of most having their families confined to internment camps. He has also widely and successfully promoted camaraderie and unity among Nisei soldiers, in an admirable and courageous display of standing up to racism and discrimination. He is a kind and gentle soul, just like many of the other Nisei I have met since arriving in California earlier this year.

日本国天皇はアメリカ合衆国人ローソン・イチロウ・サカイに旭日双光章を贈与する。皇居において璽（じ）をおさせる。

平成30年11月3日 内閣総理大臣

The Emperor of Japan does hereby confer upon Mr. Lawson Iichiro Sakai, United States of America, The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays. In witness thereof, the Seal of State has been affixed to these presents at the Imperial Palace."

It is dated the 3rd day, the 11th month, the 30th year of Heisei, and it also has the stamp and seal of the Prime Minister.

Congratulations!



Editor: Lawson Sakai who was born in Los Angeles on October 27, 1923. He graduated from Montebello High School, attended Compton College in Los Angeles, and Mesa College in Colorado. He is an inductee to Montebello High School's "Hall of Fame."

On December 8, 1941 (the day after Pearl Harbor), he tried to enlist in the US Navy with his Caucasian American friends and was singularly rejected based on a government classification that he was an "enemy alien, 4-C." His family evacuated to Colorado in early 1942. In March 1943, enlistment opportunities opened up for Japanese Americans to serve in a segregated unit. Lawson immediately volunteered for 442nd Regimental Combat Team. He was overseas in May 1944 until November 1945.

While overseas, he served in all of the 442nd campaigns in Italy and France, including the liberation of Bruyeres, France, and the rescue of the "Texas Lost Battalion" where he was seriously injured.

During the war he was wounded four times, and received two Bronze Stars, four Purple Hearts and a Combat Infantryman Badge. In December 1945, he was honorably discharged from the US Army. After leaving the service, he attended Pepperdine College and operated a travel agency in San Jose, California. Lawson has been very active in the 442nd RCT reunions. He led a group of 53 to Bruyeres, France for the 60th anniversary of the town's liberation. Next year, the group will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Bruyeres, France. Today, he lives in Morgan Hill, California.



442nd RCT veteran **Sam Sakamoto**, **Mineko** and **Lawson Sakai**, French Resistance Fighter **Odette LePendou**, and **Consul General** and **Mrs. Tomochika Uyama**.



Offering toasts of congratulations were daughter **Joanne Sakai** and friend **Tom Graves**.



[Editor's note: the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL adds its congratulations and gratitude for all that



Lawson I. Sakai has done for us all. He may be the only American to have received the *Congressional Gold Medal* from the US Government, the *Legion of Merit* from the French Government (shown left) and now the *Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays* from the Japanese Government.]

ABOARD THE USS HORNET ON DEC. 7TH

Two days earlier on Dec. 7th, **Lawson Sakai** was the principal speaker this year at the annual Pearl Harbor program aboard the **USS Hornet**.

As an 18-year-old, he remembers vividly that "Day of Infamy." He always speaks without notes and covers both the 100th/442nd RCT as well as the significant role the Nisei soldiers of the Military Intelligence Service played in the Pacific Theater of Operations during WW II.



MORGAN HILL LIBRARY PRESENTATION

Then, in the evening of Dec. 12, **Lawson Sakai** was asked to speak to a small group gathered at the library. Here, he spoke of the history of racism



against our *Issei* pioneers and of other minorities and of their struggles against racist laws.

We are indeed fortunate to have **Lawson Sakai** as our *Nikkei* spokesperson.

GEORGE SAKAE FUJITA by Reba Condon

On most days of his retirement, my Dad, **Henry Arao** (photo below), would awaken before sunrise to



pick up his fishing buddy, **George Fujita**. [Editor's note: we apologize for not having any photo of George Fujita or any member of his family.]

These two fishermen knew the Watsonville coast well, but they usually chose the beaches of Pajaro Dunes or Seacliff to cast their lines. A successful morning's catch would be celebrated by stopping at *Burger King* for lunch, then it was back to George's house on White Street to clean the fish. Surf fishing can be a solitary pastime. Since each fisherman stakes out his own stretch of whim strikes.

For many years these two friends, both men of few words, shared the beach day in, day out, catching so many surf perch but always dreaming of that elusive striper.

George Fujita passed away in April 2006. He was 79 years old. From his Watsonville home he had filled orders for the famous "No-Name" fishing lure. This lure had been developed by his older brother **John** during the family's incarceration in Poston II, Block 220. George had never married but was survived by two nieces and two nephews.

Over the years, my family would take flowers to the cemetery, first for my mom and then for Dad, too, but also for George because he was Dad's buddy. George's temporary cardboard grave placard faded with time until it was unreadable. But a permanent headstone never replaced the temporary one.

From time to time, inquiries were made at the cemetery office. **Ms Ann Peters**, the office manager at *Pajaro Valley Memorial Park*, had tried several times to follow up with obtaining a headstone from the Veteran's Administration because George had served in the US Army. But she had been ignored/denied each time because she was not a qualified next of kin!

Our local W-SC JACL chapter stepped in upon hearing this story. No one knew how to contact

George's nieces/nephews, so **Jean Yamashita** (W-SC JACL Senior Center) enlisted the help of her contacts at the Veterans Administration (VA).

Joe Crawford at the VA provided detailed instructions on how to obtain George's military record data for the headstone application. A new application submitted by Ann Peters was again denied in July 2018, again because Ann was not an authorized applicant, i.e. not next of kin.

Jean again asked for help from the VA. **Jason Cameron**, Monterey County Veterans Services Officer, was instrumental in helping Ann to properly fill out the necessary paperwork to resubmit.

On October 3, 2018, George Fujita's headstone arrived at *Pajaro Valley Memorial Park* and was installed in time for Veteran's Day this year. Ann Peters gives full credit to the tenacity of Jean Yamashita in finally receiving a permanent marker for



George after 12 years. But, it was the joint effort of many people in our W-SC JACL chapter that

accomplished what one person could not. Many JACL board members helped to seek out George's family, look up military records, family and obituary records, and offer suggestions in the quest for his headstone. I am grateful that the W-SC JACL took up this small cause, so that this quiet man no longer lies in an unmarked grave.

Ann Peters, Office Manager, *Pajaro Valley Memorial Park* helped a lot with the paperwork.

A number of folks from the VA helped when we were hit by a roadblock.

James Bogan was my main point-of-contact at the Monterey VA. He was the first person I talked to about the headstone. Whenever we hit a roadblock, I'd go to him, and he was always able to give me a name and number of someone I could contact who could help

keep the task moving forward (e.g., Joe Crawford and Jason Cameron).

Joe Crawford: gave me information on how to get the military record data.

Jason Cameron: made the successful request for the headstone as the Monterey County Veterans Service Officer. He was super nice (accommodating) in working with Ann Peters in getting the request paperwork properly filled out and submitted.

Jason's title:

Jason M. Cameron

Director - Veterans Service Officer

Military & Veterans Affairs Office

[Editor's note: We are grateful to all and to **Reba Arao Condon** for the protective cement border placed around the grave marker. Thank you.]

HENRY Y. ARAO by Editor

Henry Arao is a distinguished *Nisei* war hero.

Born in Santa Cruz, he had to leave Santa Cruz High School in his sophomore year to work in the brussel sprouts fields to support the family.

He, among 5,000 other *Nisei*, was drafted in the nation's first peacetime draft in 1940-1941. He had done so well in training that he hoped to become a part of the cadre (instructors) in an anti-tank unit. Instead, after Pearl Harbor attack, he was digging ditches and toilets. "They didn't trust us," he said.

He, in Oct-Nov of 1944 with frozen trench foot, fought with the 100th/442nd RCT in the *Rescue of the Texas Lost Battalion*. During the battle, he was wounded with shrapnel which remained lodged permanently in his body.

During the *Battle of the Gothic Line* in Italy in April 1945, while the 442nd RCT climbed a steep 3,000-foot mountain at night in total darkness, the 100th Bn participated in a flanking movement to protect the left (west). The 100th Bn, however, was bogged down, unable to advance.

When the squad leader was wounded, Arao, as the most experienced soldier, took over. He told the men to stay low and quiet. Arao crawled through a landmine field, took out two machine nests, crawled back through that landmine field to his men and told them to follow him. The 100th Bn broke through to protect the 442nd RCT on the left.

The 100th/442nd RCT broke through the Gothic Line in 32 minutes, something the US military, with all of its firepower, couldn't do for five months!

Arao was awarded the *Distinguish Service Cross*, the nation's second highest military award. I believed the Congressional Medal of Honor was in order.

He told me, "Mas, I saw the Statue of Liberty when I left, and I saw the Statue of Liberty on my return. A lot of guys didn't come back."

I asked Arao, "Was it worth it?"

He replied, "Yeah, it was worth it. We did what we had to do. We had to prove that we belonged in this country. There's nothing as good as the United States."

Whenever I'm at the Statue of Liberty, I think of Henry Arao and of all the guys and gals who didn't come back.



Years later, he misplaced his DSC. So, W-SC JACL got another and placed it with his Purple Heart and campaign medals in a case. His family added the *Congressional Gold Medal*.

Help Honor WWII Nisei Soldiers

Merrill's Marauders were a special operations jungle warfare unit who fought in Southeast Asia during WWII. Among them were a group of 14 Nisei interpreters serving in the **Military Intelligence Service**, many of whom volunteered from the internment camps.

Two bills are currently before Congress, *H.R. 667* and *S.2114*, which would award the *Congressional Gold Medal to Merrill's Marauders*. We need your help to see that these bills are passed before the end of the 115th Congress.

Please look up your representatives and call either to urge their sponsorship or to thank them for their support.

Thank you.

[Editor's note: A Hollywood film, "Merrill's Marauders" starring **Jeff Chandler**, was made in 1962. None of the 14 MIS Japanese Americans were in the film! They had a Filipino soldier who supposedly spoke Japanese.

It's time to make a correct historic film on the contributions of the MIS and Merrill's Marauders.]

"I Remember Mama," Part 2 Editor

My *Issei* mother grew up in poor, rural Fukuoka-ken, Japan. She grew up eating *soba*—buckwheat—which was much cheaper. She rarely ate rice for it was too expensive.

There were times here in Watsonville in the early 1940s our family didn't have enough food to eat. My widowed mother did the best she could for her six remaining sons (her #2 son was in the Japanese Imperial Army).

And, there was this Caucasian fisherman who came peddling small buckets of perch, squid and shrimp for 25 cents a bucket.

At dinner, my brothers would leave the shrimp tails on their plates so everyone could count the number each ate.

I, the baby of the family, would eat the tail, too. I ate more than my brothers, and no one knew!

To this day, when I order shrimp *tempura*, I would eat the tail ... a reminder of the days when we went to bed hungry.

One lesson we learned at dinner was never to say to my mother, "I don't like this (**broccoli**, maybe)." Now, if one was allergic to broccoli, that's a different story. But, "I don't like this"? **Never!**

If you did, you would be eating that dish or vegetable for a week. She would serve dinner very late purposefully so that you were really hungry and would eat anything and then learned to like it.

Her lesson: you may be invited to a family dinner where that dish was their specialty. You had to eat it, and be appreciative — "arigatai." Yes, be forever grateful.

The *Issei* generation was our greatest generation for they sacrificed and suffered all their lives for not only their children but grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They never demanded anything for themselves.

Whatever honors and achievements we may have made, we owe it to the *Issei* pioneer parents.

The *Nisei* and *Sansei* may get the honors, but it was the *Issei* who did all the work, who laid the foundation that the current *Nikkei* nation all over enjoys today. Yes, even the Japanese Government appreciates the *Issei* generation.

Someday, I hope the *Nikkei* nation, led by the National JACL with its 100 chapters, will reflect and honor the *Issei* generation.

"Stop the Tears / No más lágrimas"

By Irene McGinty

Three community organizations -- **Pajaro Valley Rapid Response, Community Action Board, and Indivisible South County** -- co-sponsored a peaceful protest on December 2 at the Watsonville City Plaza against the administration's cruel and unjust policies and actions against immigrants here and at the border. They acted on a national call for protest "Stop the Tears / No más lágrimas" following recent attacks at the border.

On November 25th, border agents fired tear gas and rubber bullets on a group of immigrants, including children, who were crossing into San Diego from Tijuana, Mexico.

Among the organizers were **Teresa Rodriguez, Irene McGinty, and Judith Gonzales.**



The people who were targeted have the human and legal right to seek asylum in the U.S.

Our local community organizers chose to expand the message of the protest to call for steadfast opposition to the ongoing injustices against immigrants and refugees locally and nationally as well as supporting refugees at the border.

EMPOWER WATSONVILLE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, SAT., DEC. 8, by Lisa Martin

On a Saturday, at Watsonville High School, the first annual "Empower Watsonville" conference was held with several hundred students in attendance. It was sponsored by the **Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance, Inc.**, a non-profit educational organization that assists students in class and in future planning.

Mas Hashimoto was one of the speakers, and here is his introduction:

As a Prisoner of War, (federal prison number 12524 D), Mas Hashimoto was incarcerated as a child for 3½ years by his own country, the United States, during World War II—without charges, attorney, trial or due process of law. Mas later worked in the fields from age 10 as a farm worker for 13 summers, and was later drafted into the US Army and served in the top-secret Chemical Section of 6th Army Headquarters (1958-1960). He was a US history teacher at Watsonville High School from 1960 to 1996. Since his retirement, he has been teaching to students and adults about the racism that led to the unjust imprisonment of 120,000 innocent persons of Japanese ancestry in this country, most of whom were US citizens.

Overcoming racism and imprisonment: A cautionary tale



The incarceration of Japanese and Japanese Americans during World War II is one of the most shameful human rights abuses in the history of the United States.

Many families in the Pajaro Valley were affected by this deprivation of rights. Today, we see attempts by our government to demonize 'others' as the enemy, and to pit individuals in our communities against one another. There are lessons to be learned from dark period in American history. Mas Hashimoto will share not only his own story of internment, but his cautionary warning about today's divisive atmosphere.

Future speaking engagements include a retired senior citizens' group in San Jose in January, 2019 and at Aptos High School in March. Teachers and program chairs can call at (831) 722-6859 (please leave a message and a telephone number to call) or email at hashi79@sbcglobal.net. There is never a charge or honorarium accepted. Students and teachers may email questions about our wartime experience. They will be answered quickly for we, as former teachers, we are keenly aware of essay project deadlines.

One may wish to view this **TEDx** (19 minutes):

[Racism and America's Concentration Camps - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RO8RI9Wqms)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RO8RI9Wqms>



W-SC JACLeRs **Marcia Hashimoto** and **Takashi Mizuno** participated with "We Are All A Family of Immigrants" and "Asylum & Love, Not Tear Gas & Hate" signs and another that read, "Refugees Welcome; Bienvenido Refugiado."

The speakers at the rally offered important information, perspectives and inspiration to continue this struggle. They included **Xitlali Cabasas**, **MariaElena De La Garza**, **Francisco Estrada**, **Mas Hashimoto**, **Adriana Melgoza**, and **Jenny Sarimiento**.



Engaged and committed community members rallied together. Among others, members from the Brown Berets, the City Council, the Watsonville-Santa Cruz Japanese American Citizens League, the Immigration Task Force Monterey County, the *Revolunas*, and Santa Cruz County Immigration Project were present.

RADCLIFF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ... Editor

Willie Yahiro, former PVUSD trustee, took Marcia and me on a tour of this K-5 school on Rodriguez St. In the open quad, the students, mostly Hispanic Americans, were enjoying playtime.

One young girl stared briefly at us strangers. Holding back tears, I thought of 7-year-old **Jakelin Caal**, an immigrant from Guatemala, who died in Texas. Jakelin should have been studying and playing here.

National JACL Announces 2019 Scholarship Program

Deadline to apply: March 1, 2019

San Francisco - JACL announces its National Scholarship and Awards Program for the 2019 academic year. Each year, the JACL offers approximately 30 college scholarships for students who are incoming college freshmen, undergraduates and graduates, and those specializing in law and the creative/performing arts. There are also student aid scholarships for those in need of financial assistance in this era of rising tuition costs.

Scholarship Program information, instructions and applications can be found here:

<https://jacl.org/jacl-national-scholarship-program/>.

College freshman applications must be submitted directly by the applicant to **W-SC JACL Scholarship Chairperson, Dr. Brooke Kondo Rains, c/o P. O. Box 163, Watsonville, CA 95077** with a postmark no later than **March 1, 2019**.

W-SC JACL also has its local scholarships—college freshman, continuing, and post-graduate awards. Be sure to ask about the **Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarship, Frank Mito Memorial**, and the **Ray and Louise Sako Scholarships**.

WATSONVILLE TAIKO AND SHINSEI DAIKO

by Bonnie Chihara

On Dec. 14th we enjoyed the company of friends and family at our annual Holiday Party.

Thank you to everyone who joined us on this festive evening!

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to all.

We now have classes at **Pathways Dojo** located at 2724 Soquel Ave. Ste. D/E in Santa Cruz, CA.

On Tuesday mornings from 9:15-10:15 am, we have our **Taiko for Health** classes. From 10:15-11:15 we have a beginners' class for seniors. On Wednesday nights from 7:30-9 pm we have a class for adult fast learners.

We also have classes for all ages at our **dojo** at Kizuka Hall, 150 Blackburn Street in Watsonville.

CHILDRENS' CLASSES on Fridays:

4:30-5:10 pm - Beginners Children 1

5:10-6:00 pm - Beginners Children 2

6:00-7:00 pm - Intermediate Youth

ADULT CLASSES on Fridays:

7:00-8:00 pm - Beginners Adults

8:00-10:00 pm - Intro to Performance

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

Our upcoming schedule:

April 6th, 2019 Santa Cruz **Bonsai Kai** event
MAH Santa Cruz

MULTI-CULTURAL FESTIVAL

by Marcia Hashimoto

This year's Multi-Cultural Festival at the Watsonville City Plaza (Sat. Dec. 1) was canceled due to rain. I appreciated the support of **Debbe Chan; Kitty, Takashi, and Aimee Mizuno; Julie Etow; Janet, Jamie Nagamine-Sakuma and Stuart Sakuma; Sharyn Nakashima; Mia Norton; Jane Yamaguchi; Mas Hashimoto; and Watsonville Taiko** for their enthusiastic willingness to assist and participate at this cultural sharing event.

We hope for better weather next year.

WATSONVILLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE ICHIMI

by Barbara Shingai

Message from the President



To the Temple Members:

Having served as the Temple President for nearly the past two years, it is hard to believe that my term is coming to a close.

During this time, my goals were to lead by example--represent the Temple at various events, evaluate processes and/or events with a fiscal mindset and try to enhance attendance at temple events. I have tried to implement processes which ensure consistency and fiscal accountability. Whenever possible, I have encouraged participation from temple members, friends, and community members.

I feel fortunate to have served the Temple "as your faithful leader" the past two years. The support I received from all of you is heartfelt and much appreciated. Please extend the same kind of support you gave to me to our incoming President, **Perry Yoshida**.

With deepest appreciation,
Barbara Kaita Shingai

Joya-e Service

We will observe the New Year with the ringing of the temple bell 108 times on December 31st at 6:00 pm which is called *joya-e no kane* or the bell of the last night. Come join us!

It is the symbolic ringing away of the 108 passions which afflict us and bind us to the world of delusion. We ring the bell to be reminded of who we truly are. Not what we want to be ... or don't want to be ... but who we truly are.

New Year's is a time to reacquaint ourselves with the most important people and things in our lives. New Year's is a time to awaken to the very meaning and significance of this life. You do not need to make resolutions, it is a time to simply meet the most important person in the world ... and that is you.

Therefore, the floral arrangement helps us realize how fortunate we are, the *mochi* reminds us to look honestly and sincerely at ourselves. And the ringing to the bell is to remind us that we are not perfect ... none of us are.

And yet, the Buddha reminds us that the struggle between what is good and bad about me is awakening itself, it is growth itself. Each of us holds the power to change

our lives good or bad, through our thoughts, words and actions we can influence 2019 and beyond.

Happy New Year everyone.

Gassho, Rev. Shinseki

Joya-e: For our family an important tradition at the year-end is cleaning the home, in order to start the New



Year with a sense of freshness. *Toshi-koshi soba* or year-bridging buckwheat noodle soup is eaten on New Year's Eve because the buckwheat noodles cleanse

the palate for the feasting to come. It is also believed that the cleaning takes place on a deeper level within the inner self. Whether true or not, the act of eating the *soba* on New Year's Eve can raise our consciousness of the self and what needs to be done to cleanse the self.

Japanese tradition gives numerous reasons for eating the tasty buckwheat noodles, among them; the length of the noodle assures a long life; the noodle is easily cut signifying the cutting off of past misfortunes; the buckwheat noodle cleanses your body allowing for a fresh start in the coming year.

At our *Joya-e* or "last evening gathering", temple members and guests are invited to attend the service followed by the serving of *toshi koshi soba*. Please take a respite from your busy year end activities to sit quietly at the service and express gratitude for the past year and allow our family to thank you for your support and kindness in 2018.

Gassho, Rev. & Mrs. Shinseki and family

Congratulations to the 2019 Temple officers

New incoming President	Perry Yoshida
President-Elect	Ken Tanimoto
Corporate Secretary-	Susan Ikegami
Treasurer-	Norman Uyeda
Past President-	Barbara Shingai

The Installation of Officers

The installation of the officers will take place on Sunday, January 6th at the annual potluck luncheon.

As we approach the end of 2018, it is a time of reflection. The past year was full of change, and we said goodbye to some dear friends and family members. We can turn to the truth taught by the Buddha to find some comfort at our losses. The Buddha taught that by attaining enlightenment, we shall enter *Nirvana*. The advantage of enlightenment lies in the comprehension of the transiency of all our bodily existence while at the same time the permanence of our spiritual nature.

Impermanence is a common theme in our *dharma* talks, and we have a long tradition of funeral and memorial services that remind us of this truth. However, we live day- to-day like we will live eternally.

This is the plight of human beings. We live day-to-day not realizing the shadow of death that follows us everywhere we go. If we lived each day as if it were our last, we would feel

sincere gratitude for each breath, for all that we receive and all that is done for us by others.

Thankfully, we conduct *dharma* gatherings regularly to remind us of our limited selves and the infinite wisdom and compassion of Amida Buddha that embraces us. Annually at



the end of the year we place on the altar "*kagami mochi*" the pounded sweet rice that is shaped into the form of an ancient mirror. Atop the *mochi* is placed a "*daidai*" or tangerine. The mirror represents self-reflection a practice encouraged by the

Buddha throughout his life. It is only through self-reflection that we are able to see that self-true and real.

The *daidai* represents the new life we are given with each



breath. Each breath, each moment of life is an opportunity for us to awaken to the truth of our life and begin to live a life of thankfulness and gratitude.

"Rare is it to obtain human life, and difficult to encounter a Buddha's appearance in the world; Hard is it to attain the wisdom of entrusting: Should you meet with and hear this teaching, pursue it with diligence. If a person, hearing and never

forgetting this dharma, sees, reveres, and attains it, and greatly rejoices, then he or she is my excellent, close companion; therefor awaken aspiration for enlightenment! Even when the world is filled with a great fire, pass through it and seek to hear the dharma; then you will unfailingly become a world-honored one and free all beings from birth, aging and death."

Shinran's True Teaching, Practice, and Realization.

December-January 2019 Schedule of Events

Mon., Dec. 31	New Year's Eve/Joya-e Service, 6 pm
Tues., Jan. 1	New Year's Day Service/ <i>Shusho-e</i> , 9 am
Sun. Jan. 6	Sunday Service/Installation & New Year's Potluck, 10 am
Tues., Jan. 8	Board Meeting, 7:30 pm & General Meeting
Thurs, Jan. 10	ABA Meeting, 10 am
Sun., Jan. 13	Sunday Service, 10 am
Sun., Jan. 20	<i>Shotsuki Hoyo</i> , ABA Memorial Service, Guest Speaker: Rev. Hiroshi Abiko , Minister Emeritus at 10 am
Sun., Jan. 27	Tri-Temple HOONKO Service &

Luncheon, Guest Speaker:
Rev. Yoshihide Matsubayashi,
 Minister *Emeritus*, at 10 am
 Annual "All You Can Eat" Udon Feed,
 4 pm to 7 pm

Office Telephone (831) 724-7860
 Temple Office Hours: TBA
 Email: buddhist@wbtemple.org

JANUARY SHOTSUKI HOYO FAMILY MEMORIAL

Sunday, January 20, 2019 @ 10:00 am

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

Our *mochi tsuki* event was a huge success. Thank you everyone! **Happy New Year!** *Mochi tsuki* photos, courtesy of **Jean Yamashita.**



WESTVIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHIMES



24 Questions for the New Year and for LIFE!

What might be a meaningful New Year's resolution this year?—one that truly can have a positive impact on you?



The New Year is a great time to stop and reflect and take stock of your life. A great exercise is to grab a cup of tea and a notebook or journal and prayerfully ask what you appreciated about last year and what you hope for/want to change in the New Year. The vast majority of people on their deathbed wish

they had done things a little bit differently, so it is good to reflect along the way on this journey of life!

In the book, *Resisting Happiness*, Matthew Kelly reveals what he learned from having lunch with hospice nurses after he asked them the most common things dying people tell them they wish they could change. Here is the list he wrote of the 24 Top Regrets of the Dying. It is a very insightful list to reflect upon in the New Year.

24 TOP REGRETS OF THE DYING (Note: these regrets are in no particular order.)

- I wish I'd had the courage to just be myself.
- I wish I had spent more time with the people I love.
- I wish I had made spirituality more of a priority.
- I wish I hadn't spent so much time working.
- I wish I had discovered my purpose earlier.
- I wish I had learned to express my feelings more.
- I wish I hadn't spent so much time worrying about things that never happened.
- I wish I had taken more risks.
- I wish I had cared less about what other people thought.
- I wish I had realized earlier that happiness is a choice.
- I wish I had loved more.
- I wish I had taken better care of myself.
- I wish I had been a better spouse.
- I wish I had paid less attention to other people's expectations.
- I wish I had quit my job and found something I really enjoyed doing.
- I wish I had stayed in touch with old friends.
- I wish I had spoken my mind more.
- I wish I hadn't spent so much time chasing the wrong things.
- I wish I'd had more children.
- I wish I had touched more lives.
- I wish I had thought about life's big question earlier.
- I wish I had traveled more.
- I wish I had lived more in the moment.
- I wish I had pursued more of my dreams.

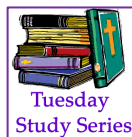
Which 3 resonate with you the most? How can you address them in your life?

It may look a bit different from this vantage point. Like, if you wish you had more children, but can't, you could consider a reading buddy at a local elementary school or being a CASA advocate (or Big Brother/Big Sister) for a young person who needs a caring adult (or a neighbor child or niece/nephew).

I pray God's Spirit will be with us as we reflect with our Loving Father about our lives. Mary Oliver wisely asked, "Tell me what you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"

I appreciate and love you all. What a wonderful church family we have. I am curious how God will continue to lead us into meaningful ministry in this new year as God

continues to call us to be light and love wherever we may be! Pastor Dan



Tuesday Study Series: What does God's voice sound like? How do you discern God's direction/leading in our life? Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday 4:00pm at Paloma Del Mar, 2030 Pajaro Lane in Freedom. We are studying *Hearing God* by Dallas Willard. Join us! It has been a delight to make new friends and "be church" at Paloma Del Mar! For the month of January: **January 8th, January 22nd.**



Westview has resumed **preparing** and **serving Salvation Army** meals on **every first Friday** of each month **through April**. Volunteers are always welcome!! Call Marlon or Pastor Dan for details. Please mark your calendars for **January 4th.**

SonRise Kitchen: "When we feed the hungry, we are serving and encountering Christ!" (Matthew 25). Margo Loehr is in a ministry that provides breakfast to those in need Monday through Friday. We **cook at the church 7-8am** and **serve 8:15-9am at River Park, 100 E. Front St., Watsonville** (just a few blocks from the church). **Clean up** is from **9-9:30am. Wednesday** is **"food bank, chop, and freeze day!"** which takes a few more hours - many hands make light work, so come help if you can! If you would like to help regularly, or even just one morning a week, or on an occasional basis, or would like to donate to this worthy cause, please contact Pastor Dan or Margo. Checks can be written to Westview Presbyterian Church and write "SonRise Kitchen" in the memo.

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

On **January 4th**, come help prepare the Salvation Army Dinner and serve the needy this Holiday Season!!

4:30 pm, Westview



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

Sunday Message Series: In **January** we will do a series on **"The Gift of Sabbath and The Gift of our Community Life."** Then in **February** I plan to start a series on **"The Tough Questions about our Faith we're often too afraid to ask."** I won't claim to have all the answers but I hope to at least refer to other wise people and begin to shed some light. I can't wait!

Pastor Appreciation Fund: Our Pastor, Rev. Dan Hoffman, has been working very hard for us and has

always been available for our spiritual needs. We are taking a collection for the Pastor Appreciation Fund. Let's share some happiness with Reverend Dan!!

December We Will Always Cherish and Remember

Photos: Our **Christmas Carolers**; **Lynne** singing carols to **Dr. Miura**; **Joanne and Lynne** with **Emily**; **Louise Sako**; our carolers at the Senior Center; the over 90 crowd at the JACL Senior Center; Christmas party at Paloma Del Mar. (Tuesday Study Series); last two are our wonderful volunteers preparing the Salvation Army Meals.



KAWAKAMI SISTER CITY

by Robb Mayeda

Happy New Year from the Kawakami Watsonville Sister City Association! Thank you for your support at our Applebee's Flap Jack Breakfast. We hope that you enjoyed the food and company.

We have 18 students who will travel to Tokyo and Kawakami-mura in May. The students attend the following schools: E.A. Hall, Lakeview, Rolling Hills, Cesar E. Chavez, Pajaro, Linscott, Alianza and Kokoro no Gakko.

Thank you again.



INSTALLATION OF JACL OFFICERS PAST

In the 1950s-1980s, the Watsonville JACL's installation of officers took place in the banquet room of the Resetar Hotel, the Watsonville Elks Club on Martinelli Street, and the Seascope Golf Course in Aptos. It was a dress up affair with dinner, a special program, and dancing. Yes, dancing!

The combo (musicians) consisted of **Henry J. Mello** at the piano, **Alex Stepick II** on the bass, and can't remember who was on the drums. Farmer and State Senator Henry Mello (WHS Class of 1941) was an accomplished musician of jazz and the "oldies" of the 1940s, and Alex Stepick II was the owner of *Stepick Camera Shop* on Main Street.

The *Kayo Club* (singing group) members enjoyed the dinner-dance. **Isamu and Kiiko Akiyama** and **Fred and Betty Oda** were fine ballroom dancers.

The speakers? Congressman **Robert Matsui** (who was born in "camp"), Hawaiian **Jan Yanehiro** of SF bay area TV fame, and **Sandy Lydon**, *Historian Emeritus* of Cabrillo College were among those who headed outstanding programs.

While the Watsonville JACL might appear to be a fun-loving group, we were seriously engaged in the future:

1. Purchasing the hall on Blackburn Street for our elder members (the Senior Center members),
2. Assisting the Watsonville Community Hospital with major fundraising,
3. Contributing to the successful redress and reparations campaign with the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of August 10, 1988,
4. The first to honor the Nisei Class of 1942 in 1992 with a graduation ceremony,
5. The completion of the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in Washington, D. C.,
6. The first and only re-enactment of the forceful removal of all Japanese and Japanese Americans from the West Coast, and
7. Insisted the MIS be included to the 100th/442nd RCT's Congressional Gold Medal.

JOINT CHAPTER INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

The **Gilroy JACL** will be hosting the 2019 Installation of Officers for the following Chapters: Gilroy, Monterey Peninsula, Salinas Valley, San Benito County, and Watsonville-Santa Cruz.

The guest speaker will be **Tim Kawakami**, Editor-in-Chief of *The Athletic*.

Date: Sunday, January 27, 2019

Place: Morgan Hill Buddhist Community Center
16450 Murphy Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA

Time: 11:30 am Registration/Social Hour
with Lunch Served at 12:30

Cost: \$30 per person for buffet of chicken and salmon, salads and dessert; \$15 for students.

For reservations, please leave **Kimiko Marr** a message at wsc.jacl@gmail.com by January 21, 2019. Senior Center members may RSVP with **Carol Kaneko**.

We'd love to have you join us.

2019 W-SC JACL OFFICERS

Election Results by **Kimiko Marr**

Kimiko Marr, Carol Kaneko, Mia Norton and **Norris Woodford** received the top votes for board members this election.

During the Dec 13th board meeting, officers were elected as follows:

Kimiko Marr, President

Gini Matute-Bianchi, 1st Vice President

Mia Norton, 2nd Vice President

Victor Kimura, Treasurer

Cindy Hirokawa Mine, Secretary

The remainder of the board members are:

Joe Bowes

Carol Kaneko

Brooke Kondo-Rains

Marcia Hashimoto

Gary Mine

Norris Woodford

Our by-laws allow for a maximum of 15 board members, so we have space for four more. If you are interested in becoming a board member, please contact **Kimiko Marr** at wsc.jacl@gmail.com. We need your help!

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OBSERVANCE

On **Sunday, February 24, 2019**, from 1:30 pm to 4 pm, the five Monterey Bay area JACL chapters will be observing "**Day of Remembrance 2019**" on the 77th Anniversary of Executive Order 9066 at the site of the "Salinas Assembly Center" on North Main Street in Salinas. Our host, San Benito County JACL chapter, has planned an exciting program.

THE 2019 BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DIRECTORY by Marcia Hashimoto

In February 2019, the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL will present its annual *Business and Professional Services Directory*.

We hope this will continue to be a helpful resource for our members and friends.

We are extremely grateful to the businesses and professional services who annually support our W-SC JACL with their thoughtfully generous ad donations.

We appreciate **Sean Parker** of *Pajaro Valley Printing*, for his professional guidance and patience in formatting and printing our directory. Owner Dan Carrillo has also given wonderful encouragement.

Pajaro Valley Printing was awarded the "Business of the Year" in 2017 by the Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture.

IN REMEMBRANCE ...

Jeri Leiko Kaita of Gilroy passed away on Nov. 9, 2018 at the Stanford Hospital after a battle with cancer. She was 57.

She was born on May 9, 1961 in Honolulu, Hawaii to **Shigeto and Helen Narikawa**, the third of four children. She attended Aiea High School, Aiea, Hawaii. Being the trailblazer that she was, she moved to California to follow her dreams. She had a successful career as a software engineer in the Bay Area. She was an avid golfer, bowler, and enjoyed martial arts. She was also an amazing cook and a barbecue master. She will be remembered for her wit and sparkling personality.

She was happily married for 22 years and is survived by her husband, **Bruce Kaita**, and son, **Grant Kaita**.

A celebration of life reception will be held on Sat. Jan. 12 at 11:30 am at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple, 423 Bridge St., Watsonville.

DONATIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED FROM

Mary Ellen Martinelli of Carmel Valley

Wayne & Arlene Minami of VA in memory...

Nancy Iwami,

Edna Nagata, and'

Helen Nitta Mito

In memory of **Jeri Kaita** from ...

Esther Ura

The Greg Pavlovich Family

For Kizuka Hall maintenance from ...

Watsonville Taiko

Day of Remembrance Education Fund

Greatest Need from ...

Mits and Mary Mihara

Newsletter from ...

Nancy & Gerald Yamada of VA

SURVEY RAFFLE

Ticket # 172366



If you have the other half of this ticket, please email us wsc.jacl@gmail.com or call **Kimiko Marr** at (818) 415-0685.

AN HONOR TO HAVE SERVED ...

by Marcia Hashimoto

It has been an honor to have served as president



of the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL for nine terms.

I am extremely grateful to our membership, Board, and friends who have supported and

continue to support the civil rights, education, and cultural outreach programs of our local chapter, district, and national organizations.

As past president, I would like to express appreciation to Mas Hashimoto for his outstanding newsletter. For over 20 years our W-SC JACL newsletter has been truly a community publication thanks to the leaders of various organizations who contributed articles. Thank you members and friends for your supportive and constructive comments in regards to our newsletter, programs, and events.

I am delighted to congratulate Kimiko Marr as our new, young President. And, again, my thanks to our W-SC JACL board for their dedicated service to our community.

COMMENTS ABOUT OUR NEWSLETTERS RECEIVED PRIOR TO THE 'SURVEY' Editor

"I pass the newsletters onto family and friends."

"It's too long."

"Thank you for your hard work and preserving part of our history."

"I read the newsletters cover to cover."

"Thank you for including the veterans."

"Enjoy the Senior Center News section."

"The newsletters are great because they cover our community."

"I've learned a lot by reading the newsletters."

"Keep up the good work!"

"The format is outdated."

"The newsletters should be directed more toward our youth members."

Yes, it is time for a change—emphasizing the new direction and to be led by our younger board leaders.

I asked permission to write/edit just one more—this January 2019 issue—to include, among others, the story of one very special Nisei veteran of WW II—**Lawson Sakai**.

I am grateful to the W-SC JACL board for the opportunity to have served 21 years as the editor. It has been a wonderful educational adventure!

PUBLISHING A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Our newsletters in the 1980s were published quarterly, and it contained announcements of the installation of officers, the Day of Remembrance observance, the picnic, scholarships, family bowling tournament, Senior Center tours and financial updates on donations. They were one-or-two pages issues.

In the past, **Rosie Terasaki** was the editor and publisher. After undergoing major surgery in 1990, she was no longer able to continue.

In the late 1990s the issues became more inclusive of community activities, and published monthly.

After our re-enactment of 2002 and thanks to **Marcia** and **Andy Fukutome** for "Liberty Lost ...," we now had a logo that identified our unique chapter.

Many may believe that publishing a monthly newsletter entails writing and re-writing articles, adding photos, receiving columns from various organizations, formatting, printing, and getting it the mail before the month's end.

It's not that simple. It's a team effort.

Treasurer **Victor Kimura** keeps tab on bulk rate Permit 311 (\$225 annual fee) and making sure we have enough funds in our postal office account. Each

mailing of 280+ newsletter costs over \$50. He is also responsible for the lease of the Konica-Minolta photocopier lease from Caltronics about \$320 a month. Under our contract, the toner (ink) is included, and it must be ordered on a regular basis. The photocopier has worked perfectly the last 22 issues.

The unusual size paper—11" x 17"—is more expensive. Each month's publication is \$30 plus. We used re-cycled paper but impurities (tiny metal staple parts in the paper) jammed the photocopier.

Scotch Magic tape: **Marcia Hashimoto** is sure to get them on sale. We tried cheaper transparent tapes, but they were more work and were unsatisfactory. **Jeanette Hager** and **Marcia** will keep our total memberships up-to-date with correct and forever changing addresses.

We are grateful to the columnists from Kawakami Sister City Association **Robb Mayeda**; *Westview Chimes* by **Leslie Nagata-Garcia**; *Watsonville Taiko* by **Bonnie Chihara** and **Ikuyo Conant**; *Watsonville Buddhist Temple Ichimi* by **Jackie Yamashita** and **Barbara Shingai**; *Senior Center News* by **Carol Kaneko**, **Jean Yamashita** and **Jo Ann Vear**; *Nisei veterans* by **Brian Shiroyama**, **Lawson Sakai**, **Sam Sakamoto** and **Franz Steidl**; *Kokoro no Gakko* by **Dr. Gerald Kondo**, **Mark Takeuchi**, **Dr. Stuart Sakuma**, **Dr. Janet Nagamine**, and **Irene Fujii Potter**; *Watsonville Bonsai* by the late **Don White**; *Watsonville Ikenobo Ikebana* by **Terry Hirahara**; **Grant Ujifusa**, **Yoko Umeda** and the late **Ben Umeda** on history of redress and reparations; the late **Harry Honda** editor of the *Pacific Citizen*; scholarships by **Dr. Brooke Rains**; donation contributions by **Victor Kimura**, and **Marcia** for proof reading. My apologies for not remembering all who contributed to the newsletters over the many years.

We've also included articles in the past which were pertinent to our mission from the Southern Poverty Law Center, American Civil Liberties Union, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, People for the American Way, Common Cause, National Japanese American Historical Society of San Francisco, Fred Korematsu Institute, Campaign for Justice, American Friends Service Committee, Planned Parenthood, the National JACL, National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, National Veterans Network, and many others.

THANK YOU FOR MY SECOND RETIREMENT

My first retirement was after 36 years (1960-1996) of teaching US History at my alma mater, Watsonville High School. I am now beginning my second retirement.

As a member of the National JACL since the 1960s and a board member of the W-SC JACL from the 1970s, President four terms (1988—year of the Civil Liberties Act; 1992—first Class of 1942 Nisei grads' ceremony; 1997—fund raising to establish the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in Washington, D. C.; 2002--re-enactment of our wartime incarceration with "Liberty Lost ... Lessons in Loyalty,") and as editor of the monthly newsletter for over two decades, I wish to express my gratitude to the W-SC JACL board for the opportunity to serve our *Nikkei* community and others of Santa Cruz County, Watsonville, and Pajaro Valley. Thank you!

Concentrating on wellness and devoting the remaining years to my passion (photo), I hope to snow ski to age 85



(2 more ski seasons). Never again to ski double black diamonds, over moguls, or to race, but skiing gracefully and living quietly with gratitude (I am "boar headed" about

this) will be my most important goals.

Thank you! And Onward!

Mas Hashimoto

THE FUTURE OF OUR WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL NEWSLETTER

by Kimiko Marr, President

The board would like to extend its gratitude for the over 20 years of service that Mas Hashimoto has given as the Editor-in-Chief of the newsletter. Now that he is retiring from the position, the future of the newsletter is uncertain.

We would like to continue a newsletter in some form, but we need volunteers to help us. Mas did an incredible amount of work each month in crafting the newsletter and he will not be easily replaced. It will take a team of people who are willing to help us.

If you are interested in becoming the new editor or in contributing articles, please email us at wsc.jacl@gmail.com. We can't do it without you!

WHY JOIN OUR W-SC JACL?

Our W-SC JACL is blessed with dedicated board members and members who voluntarily serve our community. No one associated with our non-profit organization/chapter is a paid employee. They are dedicated to our JACL mission of social justice and civil rights for all.

You are most welcome to attend and participate in our monthly board meeting, which is held on the fourth Thursday (except Nov. & Dec.) at the Tokushige Kizuka JACL Hall, 150 Blackburn St in Watsonville, CA 95076 from 6:30 pm. We also encourage you to become a member of our board.

If you are not now a member of the National JACL, please consider joining our W-SC JACL chapter. We will do our best to serve you and our local community.

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

And, a most grateful "thank you" to those who renew before the expiration month of their membership!

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 social justice and for civil rights for all.

Current members, please look at the date after your name on the address label. **E. Txxxx 8/18** means your membership's expiration month (August 2018). **Marcia Hashimoto**, who sends renewal reminders, will be very grateful.

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 mailing address is: W-SC JACL, P. O. Box 163, Watsonville, CA 95077.**

Thank you for reading this **January 2019** newsletter. To see our newsletters in our full, living color, log onto <http://watsonvillesantacruzjacl.org>, click onto "Newsletters," then the month.

Onward!

Mas Hashimoto, Editor

EARLY SENIOR CENTER LEADERS ...

The earliest leaders of the Senior Center were Tokushige Kizuka, Frank Wakayama, and Ichiro Yamaguchi. They were followed by Shig Kizuka, son of Tokushige Kizuka. Today's leaders are Paul and Carol Kaneko, Sunao and June Honda, and Iwao and daughter Jean Yamashita, and we are grateful for their dedicated service to our community.

In the 1980s, **Tamaye Hamagiwa** was the musical choir director of Westview Presbyterian Church and a member of the Senior Center. She introduced the singing of "God Bless America" to the members of the Senior Center, most of them who were elderly *Issei*, now US citizens. She wrote the lyrics in *katakana*--ゴッド (God do) ブレス (Bu re su) アメリカ (Ah me ri ka)---(thank you, Takashi Mizuno, for this translation).

The Senior Center "choir" became quite famous and were featured in a number of films/videos including our reenactment of 2002.

December Senior Center News

By Carol Kaneko and Jean Yamashita

Photos by Carol Kaneko and Jean Yamashita



HAPPY 69th ANNIVERSARY, YAE AND SAM SAKAMOTO!



On November 29th, **Yae and Sam Sakamoto** celebrated their 69th Wedding Anniversary at a surprise event at the Senior Center planned by **Franz Steidl and family**. **Franz** began the festivities by congratulating the beaming couple and presenting them with a truly extraordinary cake with **Yae and Sam's** wedding picture on it! The **Sakamoto Steidl family** then generously treated all the Seniors to a delicious *Imura* bento box. Congratulations to **Yae and Sam**

Sakamoto - we wish you many more years of happy times together! Huge "Thank you!" to **Franz and the Sakamoto Steidl family** for sharing this momentous occasion with the Seniors!



Sakamoto-Steidl family: Franz Steidl with daughter Katie, Donny Sakamoto next to his parents, Yae and Sam Sakamoto.



Special treats of persimmons and yummy donuts from **Sam Sakamoto** and **Franz Steidl** were enjoyed by all.

HAPPY 55th ANNIVERSARY, JUNE AND SUNAO HONDA!

On December 6th, **June and Sunao Honda** celebrated



their 55th wedding anniversary with the Seniors! The couple exchanged their vows 55 years ago at the Westview Presbyterian church, had their reception at the Resetar Hotel, and drove in a white Corvair to Las Vegas for their honeymoon. They have two adopted children (**Kent and Kris**) and three grandchildren: **Dylan** (10 ½) and twin girls, **Aubrie**

and **Alex** (7). The lovely couple surprised the Seniors with beautiful orchid plant decorations, a delicious cake, and the cutest *maneki-neko* cookies!

Congratulations to **June and Sunao Honda**! We wish you a long and wonderful journey together for many more years to come! Thank you so very much for all your generous treats for the Seniors to enjoy!

Kimiko Marr



On December 13th, December birthdays was celebrated. Our December birthday honoree was our young "Senior", **Kimiko Marr**. Absent were: **Grace Fujita (94)**, **Jim Kawamoto (92)**, and **Helen Nakano**. Thank you to **Teruko Hirahara**

and **Hisako Kodama** for providing the gorgeous flowers for all the tables. Special "Thank you!" to **Patricia Marr** and **Kimiko Marr** for the huge candy bars for everyone in celebration of **Kimiko's** birthday!

On Friday, December 14th, our dedicated crew of Santa's elves gathered at Kizuka Hall to pack Christmas gift bags and to decorate the Christmas tree for our upcoming Senior Christmas party. After our tasks were done, we were rewarded with **Toshi Yamashita's** popular chicken dip and the traditional Christmas cake baked by **Carol Kaneko** (so good!) from a recipe handed down many years ago from **Louise Sako**.

Thanks to our bag packing/tree decorating crew: **Eileen Byers, Jean Yamashita, June Honda, Jean Akiyama, Judy Hane, Toshi Yamashita, and Reba Condon.** Carol and Paul Kaneko (who are not in photo) also helped.



Thank you to **Goro Yamashita** for delivering all the goodies from **Yamashita Fish Market.**



On December 13th, all the Seniors received a bag of delicious tangerines from **Hisako Kodama.** "Domo arigato!" to **Hisako Kodama!**

Special thank you to **Dorothy Nishikawa** who came to visit the Senior Center for the first time just a couple of weeks ago and was very kind to help in the hall setup on the morning of the Christmas Party

(December 16th), along with **June and Sunao Honda** and **Carol and Paul Kaneko.** (Jean is relieved that she didn't scare **Dorothy** away with her ramblings.)



Marcia Hashimoto, Dorothy Nishikawa, Carol Kaneko

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Christmas carols with the Seniors joining in.

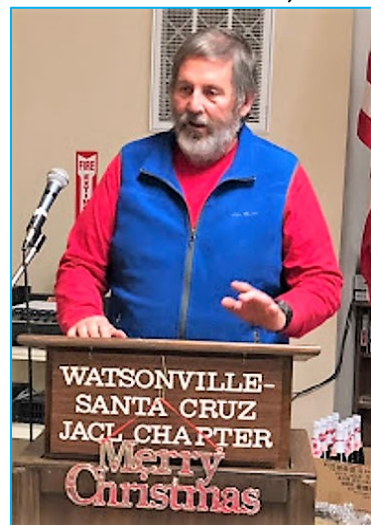
Ho-ho-ho! Happy Holiday greetings from the Senior Center! Unfortunately, Jack Frost delivered wet stormy skies for the Senior Christmas Party on Sunday, December 16th, but the Christmas Spirit brought plenty of happy smiles and warm hearts to the Senior Center. **Reverend Dan Hoffman** delivered a Christmas message from Westview Presbyterian Church. and the Westview Choir, led by **Lynne Nagata**, joyously sang



Marcia Hashimoto, retiring President, gave greetings and spoke of the warm relationship between the W-SC JACL and the Senior Center over the decades.

Bill Wurtenberg delivered greetings from the Watsonville Buddhist Temple on behalf of **Reverend Shinseki**, who was unable to attend.

Our 90 and over Seniors were called up to cut the beautifully decorated Christmas cake which was generously donated by Westview Presbyterian Church. We have 27 Seniors who are 90 and over and those in attendance were: **Hideko Nagamine 97, Chiyeko Shikuma 93, Sam Sakamoto 93, Haruyo Ishibashi 92, Eiko Nishihara 92, Yaeko Cross 92, Rubie Kawamoto 91, and Iwao Yamashita 91.** (Photo is on the next page.) Cake cutting followed.





Paul Kaneko then spoke of our appreciation to those in our community who support our Senior Center through their many contributions. He also reflected on the goals and mission of the Senior Center and the role our W-SC JACL plays.

Christmas goodie bags were then distributed to all Senior members and guests by Santa's helpers: **Leigh Sakaguchi**, **Sharon Bobo**, **Bill Wurtenberg**, and **Paul Kaneko**. Ten lucky guests received an extra prize if they found a candy cane in their goodie bag.



Six talented Seniors participated in the 2018 "Christmas Creation Contest". The entries were required to be all hand drawn and were very creative, unique, and beautifully done! All the guests at the Christmas Party enjoyed admiring the works of art and found it difficult voting for their favorite entry.



When voting completed and votes counted, winners were announced: 1st Place: **Kim Tao**, 2nd Place: **Mitsuyo Tao**, and 3rd Place: **Toshi Yamashita**. The winners received lovely gifts

generously donated by **Watsonville Taiko**. Many thanks to all our participating Senior artists!

The Christmas cake was served and enjoyed by all while enthusiastic games of bingo were played. Thanks to everyone for attending our merry Christmas party!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



SO LONG 2018. 2018 just flew by! Can't believe we had our last Senior gathering of 2018 on December 20th. **Paul Kaneko** gave his year-end message of appreciation to all our volunteers and thanked all the generous donors of bingo prizes throughout the year. The Senior Center could not exist without the participation and support of all its members so everyone was presented with a lovely poinsettia plant to take home for the holidays.

Lots of holiday treats were donated, so many jolly games of bingo were played until the *Happy Garden* buffet meal arrived (thanks to **June Honda** for ordering the delicious dishes and **Mas and Marcia Hashimoto** for picking up the meal!).

Grace was said by **Susan AmRhein** and then we dived into the food.



It was wonderful to enjoy a delicious meal with our Senior friends. Many thanks to **Helen Nakano** for providing the gorgeous snowflake table decorations and to **June Honda** and **Susan AmRhein** for baking yummy Christmas cookies for everyone!

Thanks to **Susan AmRhein** and **Jackie Yamashita** for providing persimmons for everyone.

Carol Kaneko passed out the new January/February schedule of activities. Please see **Carol** if you did not receive your copy.



Bingo donation table filled with Christmassy prizes. Pictured: **Toshi Yamashita** and **Sharon Bobo**.



Thank you to all the kind volunteers and **June and Susan** who helped with the cleanup of our last 2018 gathering.



Haru Ishibashi



Eiko Stewart

In December, the Seniors were happy to see **Haru Ishibashi** feeling better and back at the Senior Center as well as **Eiko Stewart**! We missed both of you!

A get well card was circulated for **Nobue Fujii** who is recovering from a back procedure for a compression fracture. We wish her a speedy recovery!

SENIOR TRIPS:

On December 1st in Emeryville, the **J-Sei** organization

presented the "Topaz Toddler Art Project". The program presented a collection of art work created by preschool children who were incarcerated in Topaz, Utah. One goal of the project was to try to reunite the artwork with their little artists. One of the artists was **Patricia (Masuda) Marr**, shown here with younger sister, whose drawings, created when she was 4 years old, were displayed. (Thank you to **Kimiko Marr** for providing the photos.)



The Topaz Toddler Artists gathered in Emeryville.

Twenty-five Seniors and friends had a fun, relaxing, and productive (shopping wise) day in San Francisco's Japantown on Tuesday, December 4th. Lunch was enjoyed at various restaurants and time was spent perusing all the wonderful shops in the area. Goodies for the long bus ride there and back were provided by: **Sumi Yamada, Rubie Kawamoto, Alice and Jon Drier, Jeanette Crosetti, Jean Akiyama, Reba Condon, Kim and Mitsuyo Tao, Nancy Kuratomi, Hide Nagamine, Toshi Yamashita, Gail Wurtenberg, and Kay Sjulín**. We had our favorite bus driver, **Don Cox**, driving for us and the people in the front of the bus enjoyed hearing his entertaining stories of past Senior trips with our group. Thanks to all who supported our Senior Center by attending this one-

day trip! Please tell your friends and family to join us next year for a relaxing day away from home.



Seniors' Jolly Jaunt to SF Japantown.

Kimiko Marr announced that a Poston Pilgrimage is planned for October. Stayed tuned for more info!

Thank you to our December *toban*: **Eileen Byers, Reba Condon, and June Honda**. **Iwao Yamashita** was in charge of opening up this month. Thanks to the thoughtful volunteers who helped out when needed. The *toban* schedule is posted in the kitchen.

Monetary donations for the month of December gratefully received from: **George Stewart, Sachi and Phil Snyder, Kimiko Marr, Jim Kawamoto, Donna Fujita, and Grace Fujita**. Special donations from: **Hisako and Akira Kodama, Iwao Yamashita, Nancy and Reed Kuratomi, Riiko Yoshida, Itsuko Okamoto, Kiiko Akiyama, and Tea Hashimoto**. Thanks to all who have paid their 2019 Senior Center membership dues and made their 2018 anniversary and birthday donations. It is through your generous donations that we can continue to provide all the activities we enjoy at the Senior Center. Thank you!

Thank you for all the fabulous bingo prizes:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| June/Sunao Honda | 4 plates <i>Spam musubi</i> ; 55 th Anniversary cake, ice cream, <i>maneki-neko</i> cookies, orchid plants; 7 bundt cakes; 3 Christmas treat boxes; Christmas cookies for all |
| Toshi Yamashita | 2 packages Seasoned <i>Nori</i> ; 2 bowls <i>Ramen</i> ; 8 boxes facial tissue; 8 rolls paper towels; 8 Christmas treat buckets |
| Jean Yamashita | 4 cans <i>Campbell</i> Chicken Noodle Soup; 4 mini blueberry pies; 4 brownies, 2 bag eggplant; 3 packages <i>Pocky</i> sticks; <i>origami</i> Santas and <i>Kit-Kats</i> ; mini bear claws |
| Gail Wurtenberg | 3 bottles hand soap; 5 bags of Christmas candy |
| Hideko Nagamine | 1 box foil sheets; 6 cans soup |
| Mary Perez | 6 bags oatmeal cookies; 3 bags tangerines; 4 bags kiwi |
| Reba Condon | 2 bags cookies; 6 rolls paper towels; 9 bags cereal mix; 8 bags cookies; box of huge persimmons; 6 rolls paper towels |
| Connie Dimas | 6 rolls paper towels; 3 cans green beans |
| Kumiko Nakatani | 4 bags persimmons |

Teruko Hirahara
Hisako Kodama
Kim Tao

Yoshiko Nishihara
Eiko Nishihara
Rubie Kawamoto

Jeanette Crosetti
Jean Akiyama

Eiko Stewart

Angie Guzman

Bette Garcia

Pat Marr

Pat Marr/Kimiko Marr
Wally Osato
Judy Hane
Sam Sakamoto/Franz

Eileen Byers
Helen Nakano
Susan AmRhein

Jackie Yamashita
Aimee Mizuno

4 bags mini apple *strudel*
94 bags tangerines
10 cans Tropical fruit; 10 plates home-baked dark chocolate cupcakes; 8 plates home-baked blueberry muffins; 8 plates of banana-date-walnut tea cake
18 bottles of *Dawn* dish soap
12 jars strawberry jam
1 container chocolates; 3 dozen eggs; 4 bags *Pepperidge Farm* cookies
3 boxes cookies
3 jars peanut butter;
4 bags snack mix
6 bags cookies and pens; 6 *Angel* towels; 6 rolls toilet paper
1 roll paper towel; 1 box popup foil; 1 box sandwich bags;
1 box freezer bags
1 bag *senbei*; 6 rolls toilet paper;
6 boxes cookies
1 bathrobe; 4 Christmas pins; 6 bags cookies; 8 packages snickerdoodle cookies
candy bars for everyone
2 bags 15 pound rice; box of baggies
8 rolls paper towels
persimmons and donuts for everyone
8 rolls paper towels
Snowflake table decorations
Assorted Christmas cookies;
persimmons for everyone
persimmons and pomegranates
snacks

Thank you for coming to the Senior Center! Have a safe, healthy, and happy holiday break. It's important to stay active, visit with your friends, win bingo prizes, and have fun so we hope to see everyone back at the Senior Center next month (January 10th)! Be sure to do your balance exercises three times a day ☺.

January Schedule:

Thurs, Jan 10, 2019	First day back for Senior Center! Regular Bingo
Thurs Jan 17	New Year's Celebration, Miyuki Buffet at 3:30 pm
Thurs Jan 24	January Birthday Party
Sun Jan 27	JACL Joint-Chapter Installation Luncheon, Morgan Hill Buddhist Community Center, 11:30 am
Thurs Jan 31	Regular Bingo

A REMINDER: Please protect the Senior Center membership list and do not volunteer Senior information (name, address, phone number) to anyone you do not know.

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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!
Hope to see everyone back at the Senior Center on Thursday, January 10, 2019.

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

2019 Membership Dues

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

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

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

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

The 2018 National and local dues for our tax-deductible organization (ID #94-2659895) are as follows:

Individual Member	___ \$85 This includes National dues, local chapter dues, and our monthly JACL newsletter.
Family/Couples	___ \$155 This includes two National dues, local dues, and our monthly JACL newsletter, and all children under age 14 to be included.
Youth/Student	___ \$30 for each of ages 14 to 24, National and local youth/student membership, and our monthly JACL newsletter are included. Youth membership is <u>required</u> for scholarship consideration.

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

For **Thousand Club**, **Century Club**, and **Millennium Club** and **Life** membership categories, please contact our membership co-chairs **Jeanette Otsuji Hager or Marcia Hashimoto.**

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 or Marcia Hashimoto, Membership Co-Chairs, P. O. Box 163, Watsonville, CA 95077
Thank you so much for your support.

Check out our websites: <http://watsonvillesantacruzjacl.org> and jacl.org.