

WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL

“The Bridge 橋”

The Voice of Our Community

*Here, salamander,
beneath this log, you are free--
how sticky my palm!*

ほら いもり Hora imori
手の平ぬるり Tenohira nururi
丸太の下 Maruta no shita

– Bob Gomez

CLOSURES:

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Senior Center will be closed for the rest of March and until further notice.

Watsonville Buddhist Temple has cancelled all services (except for private family services) for the next 3 weeks, effective immediately and until further notice.

No Ohigan or Hanamatsuri services will be held.

Westview Presbyterian Church closed until Easter Sunday.

Watsonville Taiko classes cancelled for the rest of March and until further notice.

Please check our websites for any announcements that may be posted prior to the next edition of The Bridge in May.

Thank you!

WSC JACL: WatsonvilleSantaCruzJACL.org

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Senior Center:

kizukahallseniors.wordpress.com

Watsonville Buddhist Temple: WBTemple.org

Westview Presbyterian Church: WestviewPC.org

Watsonville Taiko: WatsonvilleTaiko.org

“Tsuru for Solidarity Pilgrimage Postponed

Due to COVID-19, for health and safety reasons, we have made the difficult decision to postpone the June 5th-7th National Pilgrimage to Close the Camps in Washington, D.C. We also are postponing the Caravan to Close the Camps.”
“Postponement does not mean we will fall silent.”

For more, see their website: tsuruforsolidarity.org

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Look for our website:

WatsonvilleSantaCruzJACL.org

DONATIONS

Thank you to those who have generously donated since our last issue. We are truly grateful for your support.

- Ida and Bill Akimoto "In memory of Marvin Byers"
- Thomas and Reiko Akiyoshi "In memory of Marvin Byers"
- Joe and Christine Bowes for DOREF/newsletter
- Reba and Charles Condon
- Nobue Fujii "In memory of Sadayuki Fujii"
- Mas and Marcia Hashimoto for DOREF/greatest need
- Kuge, Lee, and Rosendahl Families (Joanne Kuge, Connie Kuge, Norma Lee; and Denny, Laura, and Brett Rosendahl) for DOREF/education-scholarship "In memory of Henry Kuge"
- Kurt Kurasaki
- Tom Murakami Family "In memory of Harumi Murakami"
- Amy Newell for DOREF/greatest need
- Robert and Mary Oka DOREF/newsletter
- Greg Pavlovich "In memory of Bruce Kaita from the Pavlovich Family"
- Chiyeko Shikuma for DOREF/Education "In memory of Marvin Byers"
- Chiyeko Shikuma for DOREF/Education "In memory of Tea Hashimoto"
- Nancy Shikuma for DOREF/Education "In memory of Tea Hashimoto"
- Nancy Shikuma for DOREF/Education "In memory of Bruce Kaita"
- Sachi and Philip Snyder DOREF/greatest need "In memory of Tadashi Mino, Ayako Barbara Mino, Iwao Mino"
- Shirley Spain "In memory of Bruce Kaita"
- Patt and Mark Takeuchi for "Birth of grandson Christopher Shoichi Slade"
- Yoko Umeda for DOREF/greatest need
- Esther Ura "In memory of Marvin Byers"
- Esther Ura "In memory of Henry Sakae"
- Jennifer Ura Gavin "In memory of Marvin Byers"
- Alan and Gayle Uyemasu "In memory of Marvin Byers"
- Alan and Gayle Uyematsu for DOREF/greatest need
- Watsonville Bonsai Club in gratitude for use of Kizuka Hall
- Watsonville Taiko Group in gratitude for use of Kizuka Hall
- Watsonville Taiko for help with PG&E costs



*Life is presenting a lot of different challenges to all of us recently.
So, awaken that strong spirit of resilience you have!*

Happy Spring! May the beauty of nature surround you and your family! See you next in May!

The Bridge Family

Thank you to:

All the Contributors

Marcia Hashimoto: Proof-reading

Mas Hashimoto: Photographer

Jeanette Hager: Formatting

Cindy Hirokawa Mine: Newsletter Coordinator and Editor

Glenn Akiyama: Website

FIVE MONTEREY BAY JACL CHAPTERS HOLD THEIR JOINT INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

On Sunday, January 19, 2020, hosted by San Benito County JACL at the beautiful San Juan Oaks Golf Course clubhouse in Hollister, Master of Ceremonies **Kurt Kurasaki** welcomed all to this annual tradition enjoyed for over 40 years.



A moment of silence was held for a most beloved San Benito County JACLER and friend, **Charles "Tony" Boch** (1936-2020), who embodied the finest principles of the JACL and who once served as Mayor of San Juan Bautista city. [Editor's note: his funeral service was held on February 16 in Hollister.]



After a delicious buffet lunch, the participants listened to our keynote speaker JACLER **Sandy Lydon**, *Historian Emeritus* of Cabrillo College, who spoke on how the county supervisors of San Benito, Santa Cruz, and Monterey came to rescind their wartime resolutions of "not to welcome back the Japanese and Japanese Americans incarcerated" -- resolutions of hate and discrimination. Sandy thanked the wonderful loyalty of those incarcerated and the Nisei soldiers of WW II and their faith in this nation.



We were honored by the presence of former National JACL President **Larry Oda** of Monterey and NCWNPD Governor **Carol Kawase** who encouraged us to remain engaged in the mission of the JACL.



Judge Joseph Biafore, Jr., before administering our oath of office, spoke briefly on today's national crisis and of our role.



(Left) Gilroy JACL: **Allan Kawafuchi**, Official Delegate **Lily Kawafuchi**, **Judge Joseph Biafore, Jr.**, Treasurer **June Otaguro**, **Nancy Kawamoto**, Secretary **Michael Hoshida**. (Right) Monterey Peninsula JACL: VP **Arlington "Arly" LaMica**, President **Jeff Uchida**, **Anne Oda**, **Judge Joseph Biafore, Jr.**, Secretary **Pam Dally LaMica**, **Larry Oda**.



(Left, below) San Benito County JACL: **Steve Ricketts**, **Linda Ricketts**, **Judge Joseph Biafore, Jr.** President **Kurt Kurasaki**, Official Delegate **Jeff Yoshioka**. (Right) Salinas Valley JACL: **Daryl Osaki**, Treasurer **Shari Higashi**, **Judge Joseph Biafore, Jr.**, Secretary **Bonnie Dillard**.



Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL: front: **Kenny Kusumoto**, Secretary **Cindy Hirokawa Mine**, **Judge Joseph Biafore, Jr.**, President **Marcia Hashimoto**, **Mas Hashimoto**; back: 1st Vice President **Joe Bowes**, 2nd Vice President **Norris Woodford**, **Gary Mine**, **Sean Sheehan**, and Treasurer **Victor Kimura**.

"Happy Birthday, Joe Bowes!" with his beautiful wife, Christine.

Onward! *Mas Hashimoto*



WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL CHAPTER

UPCOMING JACL CALENDAR

May 18	Deadline, Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL local scholarships
June 6	Japanese Cultural Fair, Mission Plaza Park, Santa Cruz
June 20	JACL Community Picnic, Aptos Village Park
June 22-July 2	Kokoro no Gakko Japanese summer cultural school
June 24-28	National JACL Convention, Las Vegas

SAVE THE DATE: Please join us for a fun-filled day of activities for the entire family at our annual JACL Community Picnic on Saturday, June 20, 2020 at the Aptos Village Park. Everyone is welcome!

Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapter Board Meeting

Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapter Board Meetings: Monthly chapter board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday (except in November and December) at the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Kizuka Hall, 150 Blackburn Street, Watsonville, CA 95076 starting at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend. [**Correction:** "My apologies to Mas Hashimoto for unintentionally omitting his name from our chapter's Board of Directors list in January's Newsletter." - Marcia Hashimoto, President] ****NOTE: The March meeting will be held remotely, possibly April's, too.**

Day of Remembrance *By Daryl Osaki, author*

Delivered by Shari Hayashi at the Day of Remembrance Memorial Garden



California Historical Landmark 934

**"Salinas Assembly Center," Temporary Detention Camps for Japanese Americans
Sherwood Gardens Rodeo Grounds, 940 North Main Street, Salinas CA 1942
Day of Remembrance Memorial Garden, Saturday, February 22, 2020**

During World War II, the Salinas Rodeo Grounds was one of the locations used as a temporary detention camp for citizens and immigrant residents of Japanese ancestry, before they were relocated to more permanent and remote facilities. One of seventeen such sites overseen by the Wartime Civilian Control Administration, the Salinas Assembly Center was built after President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, authorizing the removal and confinement of Japanese Americans living on the West Coast. The camp opened on April 27, 1942 and was closed two months later on July 4. The peak population of the camp was determined to be 3,586 residents on June 23, 1942.

The camp was made up of 165 buildings, with barracks located north and east of the racetrack and with six buildings within the racetrack. After the detention facility closed, the site was used as a satellite troop housing for Fort Ord. The population of the Salinas Assembly Center came almost entirely from the Monterey Bay area. The Monterey County Library opened a branch at the detention center which was directed by Fusako Kodani. The camp director was E.A. Rose who coordinated a staff of 14 people. The Center Council, composed of 14 inmates, was formed in mid-May and eight weekly issues of the Village Crier newspaper were issued from May 11 to June 28.

In 1980, the Salinas Assembly Center along with eleven other former temporary detention sites was designated California Historical Landmark #934. A historical marker and memorial garden were dedicated on the Day of Remembrance in 1984.

The historical marker reads as follows:

"This monument is dedicated to the 3,586 Monterey Bay Area residents of Japanese ancestry, most of whom were American citizens, temporarily confined in the Salinas Rodeo Grounds during World War II from April to July 1942. They were detained without charges, trial, or establishment of guilt before being incarcerated in permanent camps, mostly at Poston, Arizona. May such injustice and humiliation never recur."

Plaque placed by the State Department of Parks and Recreation in cooperation with the Japanese American Citizens League chapters of Salinas Valley, Gilroy, Monterey Peninsula, San Benito County, and Watsonville, and the City of Salinas. February 19, 1984.



Above: Appreciation was expressed to the gardeners of the DOR Memorial Garden: Joe Bowes, Norris Woodford, Gary Mine, Victor Kimura and Speaker Bonnie Dillard.

Left: Bonnie Dillard, Salinas Valley JACL Program M.C.

The 2020 Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Local Scholarships *By Marcia Hashimoto*

Applications are available to download: watsonvillesantacruzjacl.org/scholarships

The filing deadline is **Monday, May 18, 2020**.

- Applicants will apply for scholarships by submitting generic application information that could apply to and satisfy all of the scholarship funds.
- The W-SC JACL's Scholarship Committee will determine, based on factors such as meritorious performance; grades; participation in certain social activities and organizations, such as Kokoro no Gakko; 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 W-SC 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 family must be present at the awards ceremony, which will take place at the **JACL's Annual Community Picnic, held at Aptos Village Park on Saturday, June 20, 2020**.

An announcement for scholarship applications will be included in the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL newsletter, the Watsonville Buddhist Temple's Ichimi, and the Westview Presbyterian Church's *Chimes* no later than the April issues. That announcement will include requirements, documentation, and information needed to apply—along with the submittal deadline. The final determination of scholarship recipients should be made no later than the 31st of May.

Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarship

The Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarship fund was established by Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL and Mrs. Keiko Kitayama in memory of her husband, Kee, who was our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL chapter president in 1987. Mr. Kitayama worked tirelessly for Redress and Reparations with the Civil Liberties Act of August 10, 1988. The Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarship fund provides much needed financial and moral support for our future Santa Cruz County young scholars. It upholds Mr. Kee Kitayama's legacy, encouraging our youth in their pursuit of higher education. The Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarship may be awarded to graduating high school seniors to be used towards their college education.

Frank Mito Scholarship

The Frank Mito Scholarship Fund was established by his family to provide financial support for local students pursuing higher education goals. Frank Mito was an active supporter of the Watsonville Japanese American community. The Frank Mito Scholarship Fund was formerly awarded through the Kokoro no Gakko. The \$500 Frank Mito Scholarship may be awarded to a graduating high school senior with Kokoro no Gakko participation preferred and may be additive to other JACL scholarships.

The Rekiso "Ray" and Hisako "Louise" Sako Scholarships

The Rekiso and Hisako Sako Scholarships were established in 2012 to help local students who are actively involved with the JACL, Watsonville Buddhist Temple, and/or Westview Presbyterian Church pursue their higher education goals. Mrs. Sako and the late Mr. Sako have been long time members of the JACL, Senior Center, and leaders among the Japanese American Community.

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 scholarship for a year.

Send your completed forms to our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Chapter Scholarship Committee on or before **Monday, May 18, 2020**. They should be mailed to:

JACL Scholarship Committee
P. O. Box 163
Watsonville, CA. 95077

The presentation of the scholarships will take place on **Saturday, June 20, 2020** during the JACL Annual Community Picnic at Aptos Village Park. Thank you.

FRIENDS & FAMILY OF NISEI VETERANS *By Brian Shiroyama*

Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans (FFNV) kicked off the year with its traditional membership meeting on February 8, 2020, at Morgan Hill Buddhist Community Center. The authentically restored WW II era jeep (by Tim and Ben Edes of Morgan Hill) configured with weapons used by soldiers of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (442 RCT) greeted the attendees at the entrance.

As always, veterans of all wars were appropriately recognized. Sadly, Lawson Sakai and Sam Sakamoto were the only 442 RCT veterans present. All Military Intelligence Service veterans who had attended the meeting in the past had passed on. Neither Odette Lependu (French Resistance Fighter) nor Al Tortolano (Lost Battalion veteran) could attend. However, as always, their family members, friends and supporters turned the meeting into a fun and memorable event. Pot luck lunch was enjoyed by all.

The featured presentation focused on an overview and highlights of the 100th/442nd RCT 75th anniversary travel tours in July and October last year organized by our travel master, Brian Yamamoto. The video was presented by Mike Izumi, professional videographer who recorded the tours. The video was so exciting and captivating that it was almost as if we were all part of the tour. Thank you, Brian and Mike.

The meeting concluded by viewing a video of the Nisei Veterans' Exhibit aboard the USS Hornet Aircraft Carrier Museum, Pier 3, Alameda, CA. The exhibit shows Japanese American history with a focus on internment, tells the stories of our Nisei soldiers and preserves their proud legacy.

FFNV's next event will be the annual memorial service on May 16 at noon at Roberts Park, Oakland Hills where the veterans of the E Company, 442nd RCT, planted a redwood tree in 1992 in memory of all 442 RCT vets who gave their lives. Questions? Please contact Brian Shiroyama at bshiroyama@gmail.com or text at 408-896-1021.



From left to right: Robert Oka, Janet Ito (standing), Mike Izumi, Brian Yamamoto, Lawson Sakai

State apologizes to Japanese Americans for imprisonment - *The Pajaronian, February 20, 2020*

SACRAMENTO—Governor Gavin Newsom issued a proclamation Thursday declaring Feb. 19, 2020, as A Day of Remembrance: Japanese American Evacuation in the State of California.

Starting in 1942 roughly 120,000 Japanese Americans were rounded up and held at 10 "internment camps" during World War II over two and a half years, as ordered by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's executive order No. 9066.

The governor's proclamation called the incarceration of thousands of United States citizens a "stain" on the country's history that should serve as a lesson for future generations.

"Despite these experiences, thousands of young Japanese-American men enlisted in the U.S. armed forces, bravely fighting to defend the nation that was abridging their own freedoms at home," the proclamation reads. "We honor their sacrifice, as well as the resilience that made it possible for thousands of Japanese-American families to reclaim and rebuild their lives after the war. A decision motivated by discrimination and xenophobia, the internment of Japanese Americans was a betrayal of our most sacred values as a nation that we must never repeat."

President Gerald Ford in 1974 officially terminated the executive order and apologized for the incarcerations, and President Jimmy Carter in 1980 created the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, which was tasked with studying the impact the executive order had on Japanese-Americans.

That commission in 1983 concluded that the detentions were a result of racial prejudice, war hysteria and failure of political leadership. Five years later, the U.S. government formally apologized and paid \$20,000 in reparations to each victim.

For many of those detained, even the money they received did not come close to helping them recover what they lost.

KAWAKAMI SISTER CITY *By Robb Mayeda*

Happy New Year from the Kawakami Watsonville Sister City Association! Thank you for your support at December's Applebee's Flap Jack Breakfast and Kawakami Night at Imura's Japanese Restaurant. We hope that you enjoyed the food and company. We have 14 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.

We would like to especially thank Jee and Kevin for sponsoring the Kawakami Night at their restaurant and making a generous donation to our organization. It was crazy busy! The whole staff worked very hard.



SENIOR CORNER - January Senior Center News *By Carol Kaneko, Paul Kaneko and Jean Yamashita*

Photos by Carol Kaneko and Jean Yamashita

HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL!
Akemashite omedetō gozaimasu!

WELCOME 2020! It was wonderful to see all the smiling faces of our Seniors at our first 2020 gathering on January 6th. Everyone seemed excited to see and socialize with their Senior friends - it was a very energetic start to the new year. **Nobue Fujii** thoughtfully made origami cranes for good luck in the New Year.



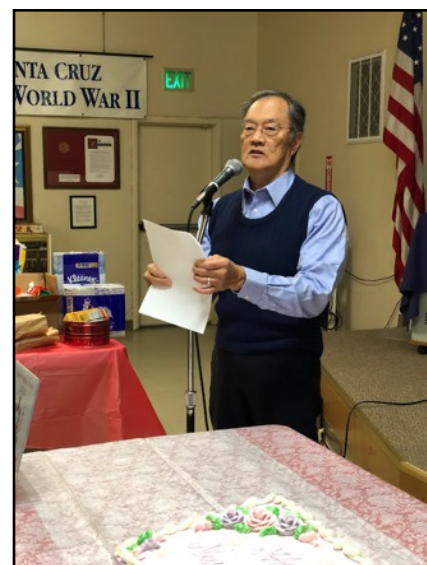


NEW YEAR'S PARTY

The biggest storm of the year hit on January 16th, but thankfully, many brave Seniors bundled up and slogged thru the puddles to the New Year's celebration at Kizuka Hall. With the heaters blasting in the hall, the shivering Seniors eventually dried off and warmed up and were able to enjoy the New Year's festivities.

Paul Kaneko delivered New Year's greetings and shared some healthy suggestions for the new year:

1. Eat less meat and more vegetables.
2. Eat fewer sweets, candy, and cookies, and more fresh fruits.
3. Worry less and get more sleep and relaxation.
4. Less talk and more action.
5. Dress light and appropriately, and stay out of the sun.
6. Eat less salt and more vinegar.
7. Eat less and chew your food well. (My mother suggested chewing your food 40 times.
8. Anger less and laugh more.
9. Think less of yourself and more about others.
10. Be more active, exercise and walk more and less driving.
11. Remember to always be appreciative and thankful.



A short video about 'Four Japanese rules to live past 100' was shown (video was recommended by **Frances Schwamm**). Thank you to **June Honda** for ordering and bringing the lovely New Year's cake which was served during the enthusiastic games of bingo.

Chris Ishikawa kindly delivered the delicious dishes from **Miyuki's**, and after **Susan AmRhein** said grace, our 90 and over Seniors were first to dig into the New Year's feast. The Seniors enjoyed all the yummy food and chatting with their friends. The event ended with one final game of bingo with bonus prizes - the perfect end to a happy New Year's celebration.

Thank you to **Jean Yamashita** and **Susan AmRhein** for decorating the hall, **Susan AmRhein** for bringing *matcha krispies*, **Carol Kaneko** for bringing banana bread, **Teruko Hirahara** for bringing *sunomono* and yams, and to all the terrific toban crew and volunteers for helping to serve and cleanup!

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!

On January 23rd, the Seniors celebrated January birthdays honoring January honorees: **Terry Hirahara** and **Hatsuko Tsuji**. Absent were **Mitsuko Ruble (91)** and **Karen Sugidono**. **Terry Hirahara** kindly brought the pretty flowers for every table and setup a special SF 49er display on the head table to cheer on the SF 49ers in the upcoming Super Bowl.



Terry Hirahara, Hatsuko Tsuji



So nice to see **Eiko Nishihara** and **Emi Hirano** at the Senior Center on January 23rd!



Norris Woodford announced that voting information will be available at Watsonville City Hall in the Community Room on the 4th floor (above the Library) from 4-7 pm on Friday, January 31st.

Teruko Hirahara donated the flower arrangement in the 49er cup as a bingo prize, and **Norris Woodford** was the happy winner! Thank you, **Teruko**!

2020 Senior events were planned at a meeting held on January 23rd, led by **Carol Kaneko**. Anyone interested was invited to attend. A potluck lunch was shared during the meeting. We hope 2020 will be another fun-filled year for the Seniors!

Senior Gatherings Fragrance-Free: In consideration of others who are sensitive to chemical scents, it was requested that people try to wear little to no perfumes, after shave, hair spray, etc. during senior gatherings. Your cooperation is appreciated. Thank you.



ZERO WASTE: The Senior Center has been encouraging members to bring their own cups, plates, utensils, etc., and there was some confusion as to why. **Jean Yamashita** tried to learn about Zero Waste on the internet and shared a short presentation on January 30th. In short, a primary goal of Zero Waste is to protect the climate and help the environment. The 'Zero Waste Hierarchy' diagrams what people can do to help the planet.

A short video on Kamikatsu, Japan ("Japan's Town with No Waste") was also shown.



On January 30th, **Cindy Mine**, a registered nurse, presented a very important and informative talk on '911 and Emergency Management'. She described a medical emergency such as a stroke and shared a helpful acronym 'FAST' to remember the stroke symptoms. What if a Senior exhibited stroke symptoms during a Thursday afternoon gathering? What would we do? **Cindy** defined steps to be followed and assigned people to the steps so that we would be able to handle the emergency in a timely and organized fashion.



Thank you so much, **Cindy**! We are so fortunate to have you at the Senior Center!

Also, on January 30th, the Seniors enjoyed delicious "Green Gardens" pizzas from **Corralitos Pizza** generously donated by **Willie Yahiro**.
Many thanks, **Willie Yahiro**!



The W-SC JACL Senior Center extends its deepest sympathies to the Tea Hashimoto Family in the passing of Tea Hashimoto on January 5, 2020 at the age of 99.



Thank you for coming to the 'Celebration of Life' for Marvin Byers at Kizuka Hall on February 1st. Marvin would have been so touched by all the family and friends who came to pay their respects. Special thanks to everyone for their kind thoughts and support, monetary and food donations, and help during the memorial event.

*With much appreciation,
Eileen Byers and family*

WORKSHOPS

We have many talented Seniors so the hope is to have a variety of workshops this year to share and learn new skills. If you have any workshop suggestions for our Seniors, please let **Susan AmRhein** or **Jean Yamashita** know. Thank you!

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

Photos by Kimiko Marr and Jean Yamashita



ZENZAI



On February 6th, the Seniors were treated to *Zenzai*, a traditional Japanese dessert soup made with sweetened *azuki* beans and *mochi*. We made *mochi* from scratch - steaming and pounding sweet rice using *mochi* making machines. There was a sigh of relief when the *mochi* came out edible (whew!) and turned out quite tasty when topped with the sweet *azuki* bean soup.

Many thanks to **Mitsuyo Tao** for her guidance and **Riiko Yoshida** for calmly rescuing the sticky *mochi* from the jiggly machines; **Susan AmRhein** and **Jean Yamashita** for making the sweet beans; **Cindy Mine** for reheating/blending the beans; **Judy Hane/June Honda/Cindy Mine/Eiko Stewart/Mitsuyo Tao/Riiko Yoshida** for forming the *mochi* balls, **Susan AmRhein** for ladling the sweet beans, and **Connie Dimas** and **Kim Tao** for serving the bowls of *Zenzai* to our Seniors!



Kitty Mizuno brought a guest, **Cándida Inoue**, to enjoy the *Zenzai* treat. Welcome, **Cándida**!

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!



The Valentine's table decorations were so cute with lovely flower pens and heart shaped cookies made by **Susan AmRhein** and pretty valentine boxes filled with candy made by **Eileen Byers**! (So good to see you back, **Eileen**!) Many thanks, **Eileen** and **Susan**! Our Valentine's activity was to write something nice to a fellow Senior on a Valentine's Day card. Each Senior received a card that, hopefully, made them smile and feel special.



Red and pink colored Kizuka Hall on February 13th as the Seniors happily gathered to celebrate Valentine's Day. (Photo kindly taken by **Phil Shima**.)



After the card exchange, the Seniors were treated to a hearty bowl of Hawaiian chili over rice made by **Eiko Stewart**, in celebration of her birthday today (February 13th). "Happy Birthday, **Eiko**!" and thank you so much for preparing the delicious Hawaiian dish for everyone!

Hideko Nagamine brought komatsuna (Japanese mustard spinach) for everyone. Thank you very much, **Mrs. Nagamine**!





Kitty Mizuno brought voter registration forms and offered to help the Seniors fill them out today. Thank you, **Kitty**!

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!

On February 20th, the Seniors celebrated February birthdays honoring **Jean Akiyama, Haruyo Ishibashi (94), Gary Mine, Sam Sakamoto (95), and Franz Steidl**. Absent were **Eiko Ceremony (95), Jeanette Crosetti, Carol Kaneko, Hisako Kodama, Chiyeko Shikuma (95), and Eiko Stewart**. Honorees over 90 were presented with a yummy box of *manju*. (Thank you to **Kimiko Marr** for taking the birthday photos!)

Jean Akiyama, Haruyo Ishibashi (94), Gary Mine, Sam Sakamoto (95), Franz Steidl



Greetings from **Eiko Ceremony**:



Please greet all the members and tell them that I miss going there every week. It was for about 7-8 years that Rubie Kawamoto and I attended and enjoyed our Thursdays at Kizuka Hall. I will become 95 years old this year.

My very best wishes, Eiko Ceremony

Many lucky Seniors won lovely roses for a bingo prize thanks to **Kiyoko** and **Chie Sakaue**!



Get well cards were circulated for Chiyoko Yagi and Yaeko Cross. We hope they feel better soon!



Teruko Hirahara and **Mitsuyo Tao** brought the lovely springtime blossoms that decorated all the tables and head table.

Thank you, **Mrs. Tao** and **Mrs. Hirahara**!





On February 27th, **Haru Ishibashi** was surprised by her children with a 94th birthday celebration at the Senior Center! The Seniors sang 'Happy Birthday' to **Haru**, who was touched by all the well wishes, as she stood beside her beautiful dream cake brought by the family. The **Ishibashi Family** also passed out pretty pink and white *manju* to all the Seniors as the cake was cut and served.

Many thanks to the **Ishibashi Family** for sharing this special event with the Seniors and for all the delicious treats! Happy 94th Birthday, **Haru**, and many more!



It was nice to see **Jane Sugidono** back at the Senior Center!

Our Seniors safely cross busy Blackburn Road thanks to our brave crossing guard volunteers **Marcia Hashimoto, Leigh Sakaguchi, and Reba Condon!** (Reba kindly substituted in Leigh's absence)



SENIOR TRIPS



POSTPONED: The Seniors had originally booked a one-day bus trip to Table Mountain Casino for Wednesday, March 25, 2020. **This has trip has been postponed until further notice.** The cost is \$30 for active members of the Senior Center or the WBT and \$40 for others. Please contact **Jean Yamashita** (jeanyamashita@yahoo.com, 408-813-6539).



POSTPONED: **Kimiko Marr** had originally scheduled a pilgrimage to Jerome/Rohwer on April 16-19, 2020. **This pilgrimage has been postponed until further notice.** The pilgrimage will take place in Little Rock, Arkansas with visits to the Japanese American Internment Museum in McGehee and the Rohwer and Jerome internment sites. If interested in this pilgrimage, please contact Kimiko Marr: kimiko.marr@gmail.com.



We have many talented Seniors so the hope is to have a variety of workshops this year to share and learn new skills. If you have any workshop suggestions for our Seniors, please let **Susan AmRhein** or **Jean Yamashita** know. Thank you!

Thank you for coming to the Senior Center! It's a terrific opportunity to socialize with old friends, make new friends and, of course, play bingo and win many useful prizes. Stay healthy by washing your hands with soap and water frequently, especially before eating; avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth; get plenty of sleep; and try to stay active (both body and mind) - remember to do your balance exercises three times a day!

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

WATSONVILLE TAIKO AND SHINSEI DAIKO *By Bonnie Chihara*

In February we asked UCSC students Raymond Lee and Brendan Hough to work on a short video that will highlight the 30 year history of Watsonville Taiko. They also video taped our weekly practices and interviewed some of our members. This video will be used to promote our 30th Anniversary Performance in early 2020.

We now have classes at Pathways Dojo located at 2724 Soquel Avenue, Suite D/E.

On Tuesday mornings from 9:15-10:15, we have our Taiko for Health classes. From 10:15-11:15 we have a beginners class for seniors. On Wednesday nights from 7:30-9pm, we have a class for adult fast learners. From 10:15-11:15 we have a beginners class for seniors. On Wednesday nights from 7:30-9:00 pm, we have a class for adult fast learners. We have classes for all ages at our dojo at Kizuka Hall in Watsonville.

CHILDRENS CLASSES - Fridays

4:30-5:10pm - Beginners Children 1
5:10-6:00pm - Beginners Children 2
6:00-7:00pm - Intermediate Youth

ADULT CLASSES - Fridays

7:00-8:00pm - Beginners Adults
8:00-10:00pm - 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.

Watsonville Taiko upcoming schedule-

April 18th-Santa Cruz Bonsai Kai, Santa Cruz MAH
April 19th-Morgan Hill Haru Matsuri, Morgan Hill Buddhist Community Center, Morgan Hill
April 24th-One World One Earth Day, Gateway School, Santa Cruz
April 25th-Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival, Memorial Park, Cupertino
April 26th-Big Sur International Marathon, Big Sur
May 16th- Jacob's Heart Camp Heart and Hands, Felton
May 30th-Redwood Mountain Fair, Roaring Camp, Felton
June 6th- Japanese Cultural Fair, Mission Plaza Park, Santa Cruz
Aug. 2nd-Church Street Fair, Santa Cruz
Aug. 23rd-Rancho Cielo Family Fun Day, Rancho Cielo Youth Campus, Salinas
Nov. 8th-Watsonville Taiko's Annual Holiday Boutique and Raffle



From our performance at Bayview Elementary School in Santa Cruz. Pictured from left to right.

Front row:-Becky Shingai, Kay Miyamoto and Eileen Sendry.

Second row:-Naoko Yamamoto and Thomas Ferre

Back row:-Sandy Allen, Sensei Ikuyo Conant and Terri Basile

**WATSONVILLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE****White Ashes**

“Hard is to be born into human life” A Buddhist parable says that being born is a rare and wonderful event that takes countless causes and conditions. A sea turtle swims in a vast ocean and every one hundred years comes up out of the depth of the ocean and takes a breath. The turtle goes back down for another 100 years. Suppose a small ring 3’ in diameter is floating in that vast ocean. The sea turtle comes up out of the ocean and pokes its head up for the once in 100 years’ breath of air and comes up right through the 36” diameter ring.

What are the odds of this happening? They are phenomenal. This is how the Buddha described our birth into this world. A rare and wonderful event that takes countless causes and conditions.

By the same token countless causes and conditions lead up to our death. In an instant we may be gone. Last Sunday, I was attending the funeral of Mr. Richard Endo. His cousin Rev. Michael Endo came into the room where the ministers were gathered before the funeral and announced that Laker star Kobe Bryant had been killed in a helicopter crash. We were all shocked at the news.

Subsequently I learned that 8 other people had died in that crash along with Kobe Bryant’s 13 year old daughter. How tragic and sad for all the families. On that same day a tragic marina fire broke out in Alabama killing 8 people. A plane crashed on that same day killing 2 people. And hours later on the same day 7 US servicemen and women were killed in an Air Force jet crash.

When we all heard about Kobe Bryant we were saddened by the news. At the same time death and tragedy is happening all the time around us. It becomes stark and real for us because of the celebrity of Kobe Bryant. It is no less sad and tragic for all the other lives lost that day around the world. It comes to the forefront of our minds and hearts because it is someone we “knew” and admired.

Kobe Bryant and all the others lost that day, teach us the rarity of birth and the frailty of life. In one instant they are gone from this world.

In silently contemplating the transient nature of human existence, nothing is more fragile and fleeting in this world than the life of a human being. Thus we have not heard of human life lasting for a thousand years. Life swiftly passes and who among us can maintain our form for even a hundred years?

Whether I go before others, or others go before me; whether it be today, or it be tomorrow, who is to know? Those who leave before us are as countless as the drops of dew. Though in the morning we may have radiant health, in the evening we may turn to white ashes. When the winds of impermanence blow, our eyes are closed forever; and when the last breath leaves us, our face loses its color.

Though loved ones gather and lament, everything is to no avail. The body is then sent into an open field and vanishes from this world with the smoke of cremation, leaving only the white ashes.

There is nothing more real than this truth of life. The fragile nature of human existence underlies both the young and old, and therefore we must, one and all, turn to the teachings of the Buddha and awaken to the ultimate source of life.

By so understanding the meaning of death, we shall come to fully appreciate the meaning of this life which is unrepeatable and thus to be treasured above all else. By virtue of true compassion, let us realize the irreplaceable value of human life, and let us together live with the Nembutsu in our hearts. *Namu Amida Butsu*

You and I have been given the gift of life and the gift of the Dharma by your family members. They reach out to us today exploring us to listen.

The Zenmonshu said:

1. Listen like it’s the first time you are hearing.
2. Listen like it is for you alone.
3. Listen like it is the last moment in your life.

To be able to encounter the Buddha Dharma is a rare and wondrous event that is truly “difficult to be” or arigatai. We have been given by your family the rare opportunity as sentient beings to be able to hear and receive the Buddha’s Dharma that is the nembutsu teaching. Sakyamuni expounds the teaching of Amida Buddha’s Primal Vow and we are now able to hear the receive it. Let us be immersed in the light of Amida.

Gassho,

Rev. Hosei Shinseki

Watsonville Buddhist Temple Schedule of Events:

CANCELED this year's **Hanamatsuri Festival** which was scheduled for Sunday, April 5th.

POSTPONED Scout Pancake Feed on Sunday, March 22nd from 8:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (Rescheduled Date: TBD)

Watsonville Buddhist Temple

Office Telephone (831) 724-7860

Temple Office Hours: Wednesday mornings, 9 a.m.-noon

Other times by appointment only

Email: buddhist@wbtemple.org**WESTVIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHIMES**

*Let us renew our relationship with the God
who will go to any extent to get his children back*



Lent began on Ash Wednesday (February 26) and continues 40 days until Easter (April 12). It is a time of preparation for Easter. Lent is a time to heed the words of John the Baptist as he cried out in the desert, "Prepare, prepare the way of the Lord, prepare your hearts." Lent has been celebrated by Christians for over 1600 years. As a time of repentance, it is a chance to reflect on our own relationship with God and with others, and to invite renewal into our lives.

How might we be able to live differently so as to be more connected to God and more loving to those in our lives? What practices in our lives might we want to consider (daily readings, prayers, prayer journaling, repentance, practice of the presence of God) in order to be more connected to God and more loving to others. How might we need to repent of ways that keep us from the abundant life God offers us?

Lent is a time of penance (repentance). We experience the love and grace of God more fully after we have been honest and confessed to God. I pray you will find a way for lent to be meaningful for you that you might experience the awesome grace of God that graciously flows to us despite our shortcomings and sinfulness. This Lent may you experience God's embrace and profoundly understand the depths of the miracle of Easter as God's gracious offer of new life today and eternal life tomorrow through connection to the God of Life.

It is a pleasure to be on this journey with you. You are a wonderful church family. You help make God tangible for each other and for me, thank you!

Love in Christ,
Pastor Dan

SonRise Kitchen

"When we feed the hungry we are serving and encountering Christ! (Matthew 25)

What a joy to see men, women and even some children enjoying a hot breakfast after a cold night outside!

We provide breakfast to those in need Monday through Friday. Thank you to our many faithful volunteers!! We cook at the church and serve at River Park (just a few blocks from the church).

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 Loehr.

This worthwhile ministry will always be in need of funding for operational and food costs.

Checks can be written to Westview Presbyterian Church and write "SonRise Kitchen" in the memo.



Photos above: A few of SonRise Kitchen's faithful volunteers help cook and serve meals to the homeless.



On **March 8th** during worship Westview **welcomed** several **new members to the Westview Family** and prayed for them as they come to us from United Presbyterian Church. We also welcomed Margo Loehr as a new member.



Salvation Army Meals: Westview will be **preparing** and **serving Salvation Army** meals every **first Friday of each month through April**. Volunteers are always welcome!! Call Marlon or Pastor Dan for details. Always a worthwhile and fulfilling experience.

Photo on the left: Volunteers preparing the Salvation Army meal.

For April Westview will prepare and serve these meals on: **April 3rd**

Sunday Message Series: "Community: Being the body of Christ to each other and to the world!"

"Racism, US Constitution, and America's Concentration Camps" by Mas Hashimoto

Arigatai—thankfulness. We are grateful to the teachers who invite us to speak to their students who are studying World War II and our wartime incarceration. Several teachers and professors have invited us for over 20+ years. Here is the most current 2020 schedule:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>School:</u>	<u>Teacher (number of students)</u>
Feb 25	Notre Dame, 8 th grade, Watsonville, CA	Jamie LaGrange & Gerry Martin (30)
Feb. 28	Watsonville High, juniors,	Dawn Krenz (300+)
March 4	Gavilan College, Gilroy campus	Sera Hirasuna (150)
March 11	Salinas High	Anthony Morales (250)
*March 17	Aptos High	Anne Olson & Peggy Pughe
*March 18	Ann Sobrato High, Morgan Hill, CA	Nicole Barry
**March 25	CSU Monterey Bay	Shigeko Sekine
May 13	Monterey Bay Academy, Watsonville	Steve Walls
May 26	UC Santa Cruz	Tsim Schneider

*Postponed due to coronavirus concerns. **Canceled. We are working on scheduling dates with other schools, historical associations, and senior citizens organizations after the virus threat is over.

Contact W-SC JACL speakers' bureau via email: hashi79@sbcglobal.net.

Photo by
Assistant
Principal
Anthony
Morales at
Salinas High
with over 250
students in
attendance.



"Remember when the American government unjustly incarcerated 120,000 innocent persons of Japanese ancestry, most of whom were American citizens, during WWII? The incarceration during WWII, the massive discrimination of Muslims post 9-11, and current immigration policy are founded in hate and racism."

Please check **TEDx** for a 19-minute talk: www.ted.com/talks/mas_hashimoto_racism_and...

Racism and America's Concentration Camps | Mas Hashimoto | TEDxMeritAcademy

youtube.com. **Mas Hashimoto: Racism and America's Concentration Camps | TEDx ...**

Onward! Mas Hashimoto

Cancelled



"A nonviolent direct action project of Japanese American social justice advocates working to end detention sites and support front-line immigrant and refugee communities that are being targeted by racist, inhumane immigration policies. We stand on the moral authority of Japanese Americans who suffered the atrocities and legacy of U.S. concentration camps during WWII and we say "Stop Repeating History!" ... June 5th – 7th Washington D.C. Pilgrimage

**Come Join the Salinas Valley JACL
Crane Folding Party
Saturday, April 4th 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Lincoln Ave. Presbyterian Church
536 Lincoln Avenue**

***Origami cranes will be taken to the Washington DC
Pilgrimage March in June**

*Hors d'oeuvres, music, supplies and
community. Look forward to seeing you!*

Questions: Call Shari - Salinas Valley JACL (831) 753-5982

Postponed



Call to Action!

Tsuru is Japanese for crane. Cranes in Japanese culture symbolize healing, peace, and solidarity.

Join us in Washington D.C.: June 5-7, 2020 For the "National Pilgrimage to Close the Camps"

Join survivors, descendants & friends across the country to take 125,000 tsuru – one for each Japanese American and Japanese Latin American unjustly incarcerated during WWII – to protest inhumane immigration policies. When we see the migrant children incarcerated today, we recognize ourselves and we say Stop Repeating History! Never Again Is Now!

Registration coming soon! Check website for updates

Fold a crane, send a message to close the camps. (Deadline: May 1, 2020)

You can be a part of our actions by making and mailing paper cranes to:

Rev. Duncan Ryuken Williams
c/o Ito Center, 825 Bloom Walk, ACB 130D
Los Angeles, CA 90089-1481
(213) 821-4365 (www.dornsife.usc.edu)

Sign the petition to Close the Camps

125,000 Signatures of survivors, descendants & friends will be gathered and delivered to WH in June. Please sign & urge others to do the same: bit.ly/closethecampspetition

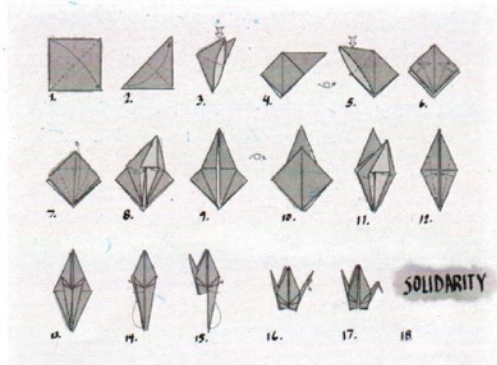
Tsuru for Solidarity is a non-violent, direct action project that stands on the moral authority of Japanese Americans who suffered great injustices in U.S. concentration camps during WWII to say, "Stop Repeating History!" We stand in solidarity with communities being targeted today and Latinx, Native American, Indigenous, African American, and all people to demand an end to today's concentration camps.

For more information: www.tsuruforsolidarity.org

DONATE:

<https://tsuruforsolidarity.org/give/>

How to fold a crane:



credit: Lauren Sumida

STRINGING CRANES INSTRUCTIONS

Cut a long piece of thread (recommend upholstery thread or embroidery thread, embroidery needle). Tie a bead on the end. String 40 flat cranes – all the same size, with no gaps in between cranes. At the top of all the cranes, place a bead, and run the thread through the bead twice. Leave a 20 inch plus piece of thread at the top – to hang the cranes with a paper clip or safety pin. Wrap in carefully and place in a manila envelope or tissue. (see website for video)



For updates: www.tsuruforsolidarity.org

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/TsuruForSolidarity>

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/tsuruforsolidarity/>

Twitter <https://www.twitter.com/TsuruSolidarity/>