

WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL

“The Bridge 橋”

The Voice of Our Community

HAIKU FOR A RAINY NEW 2023

Under garbage bin
a spotted salamander
finds shelter from storm

Haiku by Bob Gómez
Translation by Hiromi Ushimaru

Arashi kite
gomi-bako no shita
imori kana

嵐来て
ゴミ箱の下
イモリかな

DONATIONS

Thank you to those who have generously donated since our last issue. We are so grateful for all who have donated. It is through your support that we can continue to advocate for justice and equality for all.

- Sandra Allen in honor of Mas Hashimoto
- Anonymous donation
- Jennifer Gavin in memory of Bob Hestand
- Marcia Hashimoto in memory of Alice Misumi
- Marcia Hashimoto in memory of Stanley Stevens
- Marcia Hashimoto in memory of Mary Ellen Martinelli
- Marcia Hashimoto in memory of Kikuye Hirano
- Henry and Deborah Izumizaki in memory of James and Kitako Izumizaki
- Rodney and Iris Jensen in memory of Mas Hashimoto - I served with "Mas" Hashimoto in the 422nd MP Company (1960-1962). He was a great man and soldier.
- Joyce Kubota in memory of Nancy Bowman
- Cheryl McCallum to honor the memory of Mr. Hashimoto
- Patt and Mark Takeuchi in celebration of granddaughter's birth, Emily Sagako Slade (daughter of Traci & Ben Slade)
- Fumi Tanimasa
- Mitsuyo Tao for use of Kizuka Hall
- Yuko Umeda in memory of Mas Hashimoto
- Esther Ura In memory of Sumiko Matsunami

Website: www.watsonvillesantacruzjacl.com

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WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL

Happy New Year!

On behalf of the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Board, "Happy New Year" to our members and friends. We hope you and your families will be of good cheer and health throughout "2023", the year of the Rabbit. May 2023 be a year of peace, equality and justice for all.

With Appreciation *By Marcia Hashimoto*

I am sincerely grateful for the many thoughtfully generous donations in "Memory of Mas". Your memorial gift will help develop a teaching resource for teachers and students, libraries and the community about the history of the Japanese, Japanese Americans incarcerated during WW II. When Mas retired in 1996, he continued to educate students and adults about "Racism and America's Concentration Camps". He was invited to make his 60-to-90-minute power point presentations to about 3,000 students and community members annually and continued to be invited to make zoom presentations during the COVID pandemic. Before Mas passed away, he recorded 143 photos about "Racism and America's Concentration Camps" on a flash drive and typed 143 historical comments about each photo. The wonderful donations will enable Mas' presentation to be saved in DVD form for all teachers who invited him to present this historical WW II story so that no person or group of people would ever again be incarcerated unjustly without due process. I would also like to distribute copies to libraries, service groups, organizations and to individuals upon request.

Thank you for supporting the civil rights and education mission of our W-SC JACL in remembrance of Mas.

"Onward" with gratitude,
Marcia Hashimoto



Honoring Iwao Yamashita
Past W-SC JACL Board Member
Senior Leader of our W-SC JACL Senior Center
Who passed on December 30, 2022
who will be greatly missed.

Kizuka Hall Appreciation

By Cindy Hirokawa Mine

JACL board members, Kenny Kusumoto, Marcia Hashimoto and Victor Kimura and the Watsonville Taiko group took care of our Kizuka Hall, with check-ins and sand bags amidst the gusty winds, pounding rains and evacuations that have had a devastation on homes, cars, and lives in our area.

As of January 12, 2023, we are happy and grateful to share that our Kizuka Hall is a survivor and is still standing tall!



JACL National 2023 Scholarship Program

By Matthew Weisbly, JACL National Scholarship Program Manager

The 2023 National JACL Scholarship Program has moved to online applications. An informational brochure, instructions, and applications are now posted on the National JACL website (www.jacl.org). Click "Youth" on the menu bar to access the scholarship program webpage. The scholarship categories offered are Freshman, Undergraduate, Graduate, Law, Creative Arts, Performing Arts, and Student Financial Aid.

Eligibility: Every applicant must be an active National JACL member. JACL membership is open to everyone of any ethnic background. All who meet the eligibility criteria are welcomed and encouraged to apply. Note: applicants must hold an Individual or Student/Youth Membership. A Couple/Family membership by a parent will not meet this requirement. Join or renew your membership.

Applicants must be planning to attend full-time at a college, university, trade school, business school, or any other institution of higher learning within the United States at the undergraduate or graduate school level in the Fall of 2023. Students deferring enrollment will not qualify for the 2023 scholarship program.

Freshman: All freshman applications must be submitted directly by the applicant to National JACL through the online form no later than Monday, March 6, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. Hawaiian Standard Time (HST).

Following this, National will forward these applications to their respective chapters for review. Chapters will have one month to evaluate and rate their applications and are to forward the names of **ONLY** the most outstanding applicants to National JACL at scholarships@jacl.org no later than Monday, April 3, 2023, 11:59 p.m. Hawaiian Standard Time (HST).

There is no limit to the number of outstanding freshman applicants that each chapter may forward to the National level. However, chapters are asked to ensure that **ONLY** the truly "outstanding" applications make their way to the national competition. The selection committee has found that too many chapters are not conducting a thorough review of their freshman applications.

Other Grade Levels: The Undergraduate, Graduate, Law, Creative Arts, Performing Arts and Student Financial Aid applications must be submitted through the online form no later than Monday, April 3, 2023, 11:59 p.m. Hawaiian Standard Time (HST).

To All Applicants: All applications must be on the 2023 application form that is posted on the JACL website (www.jacl.org). Because the applications are online, you must complete them in one sitting; they will **NOT** save if you exit or reload the window. Note: the required Personal Statement essay prompt changes each year, so students must use the 2022 application for consideration by the National Scholarship Committees.

One must hold an individual or youth membership in the JACL. A family membership under one's parent(s) is **NOT** accepted.

All applications must be complete at the time of submission and meet the stated deadlines in order to be considered. Applications and required materials must be submitted through the form unless other methods for submission are stated on the form (i.e., transcripts, letter of recommendation). Incomplete applications will **NOT** be accepted or considered by the committees.

Students are allowed to apply to ONE CATEGORY ONLY: Freshman, Undergraduate, Graduate, Law, Creative Arts or Performing Arts. The exception to this rule is that ANY applicant may also apply for the Student Financial Aid Scholarship in addition to another category. However, a successful applicant will only receive the higher of the two awards applied for.

Applicants are judged on the basis of their JACL involvement, scholastic achievement, extra-curricular activities, community involvement, personal statement and letter of recommendation.

Requirements:

- JACL Membership (Individual or Youth/Student)
- Personal Statement
- A Letter of Recommendation
- Official transcripts (only one copy required from each school)

In August 2023, the scholarship recipients will have been determined and an electronic notification will be made to all applicants. The JACL chapters to which the awardees belong will be notified as well. In the Fall of 2023, the JACL national newspaper, the Pacific Citizen, will publish its annual Scholarship Edition highlighting all of the award recipients.

One must be enrolled in school in the Fall of 2023 in order to receive a scholarship. Past recipients are limited to a total of two National JACL Scholarships. Professional artists are NOT eligible to apply for either of the two art scholarships offered.

If you have any questions, please contact Scholarship Program Manager Matthew Weisbly at scholarships@jacl.org.

JACL Joins 76 Japanese and Asian American Organizations in Calling on President Biden to Establish Presidential Commission to Study Black Reparations

By Seia Watanabe & Matthew Weisbly

December 21, 2022

On December 21, JACL National joined the National Nikkei Reparations Coalition (NNRC) in sending a letter to the Biden administration calling for an executive order to create a commission to study reparations. This letter, co-signed by 76 Japanese American and Asian American organizations, is a strong testament to the commitment of our communities toward the promise of racial reparations and the healing of our nation.

JACL National President, Larry Oda, highlighted the need to establish a commission without further delay, stating, "The Japanese American Citizens League is the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization and is committed to protecting the human and civil rights of all Americans. The travesty of slavery and its aftermath must be addressed if we are to truly become the great nation that we profess to be. The 400 years of racism and denied opportunity have taken their toll on the community. The establishment of a Presidential Commission to study the legacy of enslavement would educate and inform the public and Congress of the harm that is perpetuated on the community. Time is of the essence, there is an urgency of instituting such a study before another year passes. This legislation was first introduced over 30 years ago and its time has come.

As we evolve as a nation, we must look back at our history, for better and for worse, and take responsibility for our flawed actions. We did this when redress for Japanese Americans was studied and recommended by the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians in its report released nearly 40 years ago. We would like to think that we are looked upon as one of the great nations of the world. In order to live up to that image, we should admit our faults and acknowledge that we are not perfect. The United States abolished slavery over 150 years ago but for a number of reasons, the stigma remains on the Black community because of racial prejudice and simple ignorance."

We hope President Biden will honor the request of not only the 76 Asian and Pacific Islander organizations signing on to this letter but the over 350 organizations that have advocated for the establishment of a study commission this past year. A Presidential Commission to study the need for Black reparations might help our Nation heal from the wounds of the past and present and continue to bend the moral arc of the universe toward justice.

Premiere of "Resettlement: Chicago Story," coming to Santa Cruz on March 1st

By Jasmine Alinder, Dean of Humanities and Professor of History, UC-Santa Cruz

What's it like to be forced to leave your home, deny your heritage, and start over? *Resettlement: Chicago Story*, a new short fictional film and educational website, explores how people of Japanese ancestry beat the odds and remade their lives after their wrongful incarceration during World War II. On March 1st, the California premiere of *Resettlement: Chicago Story* will be held at the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History, and you are cordially invited to attend!

Resettlement: Chicago Story

**Premiere in Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History
March 1, 2023, 7:00-9:00 pm**

The short film tells an intergenerational story of the Yamamoto family several years after camp, as they struggle to rebuild their lives in Chicago and make ends meet through their family dry cleaning business. The film's companion, immersive-learning website builds upon both the characters and historical events of incarceration and resettlement introduced in the film to create a "world" through which viewers can engage with primary sources and social themes that extend from this history.

The March 1st event is part of the annual Night at the Museum hosted by the Humanities Institute and the Humanities Division at UC Santa Cruz and is co-sponsored by the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL. It will serve as this year's Day of Remembrance. Marcia Hashimoto will attend and speak to the enduring legacy of her late and much beloved husband Mas Hashimoto.

The premiere event will include a screening of the film, a preview of the larger web experience, a Q&A discussion with some of the project's core creators, and other activities so that participants can engage with the filmmakers, web producers, and academic researchers who contributed to the project.

The project is the second installment of a larger effort to educate students about the Japanese American experience using cinematic digital history. The first installment was the award-winning *The Orange Story*. In both projects, short, historically-based fiction films function to create emotional investment in the characters, and companion websites provide the context of the historical period through primary and secondary sources carefully curated by a team of historians, including Jasmine Alinder who currently serves as Dean of Humanities and Professor of History at UC-Santa Cruz. *Resettlement: Chicago Story* is aimed towards 6-12th grade students but is easily adaptable to other grade levels and the general public.

The project is produced by **Full Spectrum Features**, a Chicago-based nonprofit organization dedicated to driving equity in the independent film industry and providing education about social and cultural issues through the power of cinema. Full Spectrum Education, a division of Full Spectrum Features, focuses its educational filmmaking projects on exploring parts of history that are often untold in classrooms, recognizing our collective need to more fully understand the many facets of U.S. history.

The premiere event will be held on March 1st from 7:00-9:00 pm at the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History, 705 Front Street in downtown Santa Cruz. The event is free and open to the public. Registration information will be available closer to the event through the [UCSC Humanities Institute](https://ucsc.edu/humanities) website. For more information please email humdean@ucsc.edu

FOR A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE *By Mas Hashimoto*

California Historical Landmark 934 Temporary Detention Camps for Japanese Americans 940 North Main Street, Sherwood Gardens Rodeo Grounds, Salinas, 1942 The Day of Remembrance Memorial Garden

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.

Editor's Note: This article was written by Mas Hashimoto. The Day of Remembrance Memorial Garden is maintained by a community of JACL members. Below are photos of some of those who have dedicated their time toward maintaining our legacy. The Salinas Memorial Garden is maintained by W-SC JACLers Victor Kimura, Norris Woodford, the late Iwao Yamashita, Shirley Yamashita, Joe Bowes, Gary Mine and the late Paul Ichiuji of Salinas Valley JACL.



Anna Mae Wong *By Cindy Hirokawa Mine*

She overcame discrimination,
 She was stereotyped,
 She experienced racism,
 She faced injustice,

She was a courageous advocate who championed for increased representation of
 Asian Americans in film.

ANNA MAE WONG
First Asian American on a U.S. currency

Ms. Wong was a trailblazing actress and International film star who overcame challenges and obstacles. She spoke out about racism in Hollywood clear back in 1933 in an era of "Yellowface".

Born in 1905, Anna Liu Tsong who's stage name was Anna Mae Wong. Her career spanned silent film, sound film, TV, stage and radio. She passed in 1961.

Even though she acted with Marlene Dietrich, Lana Turner, Lawrence Olivier, and Douglas Fairbanks, many times she was casted as a subservient woman or a scheming dragon lady.

Recognized as an iconic Asian Actress of over 60 movies, she was fluent in German and French also. Ms. Wong was on the cover of Look Magazine in 1963.

She was the first famous Chinese American movie star in Hollywood, first Asian American woman to receive a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1960, and now the first Asian American on a U.S. currency.

Her quarter was presented to the public on October 25, 2022. She is in the company of Maya Angelou, Sally Ride, Nina Otero-Warren and Wilma Mankiller in 2022. The quarters honor women who are often overlooked in American history.

SENIOR CENTER NEWS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2022

By Carol Kaneko

Note: Please visit the Senior Center website, kizukahallseniors.wordpress.com, to view the complete issues of past Senior Center News with photos.

The Senior Center remained closed due to the coronavirus pandemic, and there were no deliveries in November and December, 2022.

IN MEMORIAM

The W-SC JACL Senior Center extends its deepest sympathies to the **Iwao Yamashita Family** in the passing of **Iwao Yamashita** on December 30, 2022 at the age of 95.

The W-SC JACL Senior Center also extends our heartfelt condolences to the family of **Kent Honda** who passed away peacefully on December 28, 2022. **Kent** is survived by his parents, **Sunao and June Honda**, his sister, **Kris Matsuo**, his brother-in-law, **Ryan**, and two nieces and a nephew.

The W-SC JACL Senior Center acknowledges the following monetary donations:

Birthday donation gratefully received in December from **Riiko Yoshida**.

Special donations for the **51st Anniversary** of our Senior Center gratefully received from **Riiko Yoshida, Eiko Nishihara, Yoshiko Nishihara, Chiyeiko Shikuma, and Nancy Shikuma**.

Special donations gratefully received from **Gerald and Nancy Yamada** in memory of mother, **Yoneko Mizokami**, and brother, **Paul Mizokami**; **Patt and Mark Takeuchi** in celebration of the birth of granddaughter **Emily Sugako Slade**; and the **Kenichi and Takayo Nakase Family Foundation** as a “Thank you for your great work in the JA community.”

The W-SC JACL Senior Center is most appreciative of the many kind and generous donations we have received. *Arigatō!*

For those who wish to donate during this time when the Senior Center is closed, please make out your checks to: “**W-SC JACL Senior Center**” and send them to **Carol Kaneko** at 1835 Silvana Ln, Santa Cruz, CA 95062. Thank you for your generous support of our Senior Center.

***Special Note:** Birthday and senior center anniversary donations are optional until the Senior Center can reopen again. Voluntary donations, however, are much appreciated.*

Announcements

In 2023, reopening the Senior Center will be considered. Of utmost importance is maintaining the health of our seniors, and the limited ventilation at Kizuka Hall is of concern, especially during wintry weather. We encourage all of our seniors to be up-to-date on their vaccinations and booster shots.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of our Senior Center and our members.

FRIENDS & FAMILY OF NISEI VETERANS *By Brian Shirogama*

FFNV's annual membership meeting, scheduled for February 11, 2023 at Morgan Hill Buddhist Community Center, has been canceled due to continuing COVID concerns. Instead, we will hold a virtual meeting. Details will be posted on www.ffnv.org

WATSONVILLE BONSAI CLUB *By Charlie Thompson*

The Watsonville Bonsai Club upcoming meeting dates are:

January 14, Saturday	Meeting at JACL Kizuka Hall	1:30 PM
January 23, Monday	Meeting at JACL Kizuka Hall	6:30 PM
February 11, Saturday	Meeting at JACL Kizuka Hall	1:30 PM
February 27, Monday	Meeting at JACL Kizuka Hall	6:30 PM

WATSONVILLE TAIKO AND SHINSEI DAIKO *By Bonnie Chihara*

New classes start January 6th-February 24th:

Fridays

10-11am	Taiko For Health
11:15-12:30 pm	Beginning Taiko
4:30-5:30 pm	Beginning Children
7-8pm	Beginning Adults

Saturdays

9-10am	Taiko for Health
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Contact our business manager Kay Miyamoto at 831 475 1088 or email us at info@watsonvilletaiko.org for class more info. Please check our website for updates at watsonvilletaiko.org

Thank you to everyone who came to our Annual Holiday Boutique and Raffle on November 6th! After a two year absence because of COVID restrictions we were finally able to hold an in person boutique. Everyone seemed to enjoy meeting new people, seeing old friends and purchasing gifts and goodies to munch on while waiting for the results of the raffle. Winner of the grand prize quilt was Juanita Smith with second prize(a quilt donated by Helen Klee) going to Pam Dalley-LaMica.

Watsonville Taiko would like to thank everyone for all of the support you've given us this year.
Happy New Year! Hoping for a wonderful year for everyone!

Our upcoming schedule-

March 10 CSUMB Annual Festival of Languages, Cultures and Ideas
April 12 Chartwell School, 12:15-1:15

WATSONVILLE TAIKO CARD-MAKING WORKSHOP

Watsonville Taiko will have a card-making workshop on Saturday January 21st from 1:30-4 at Kizuka Hall.

We will be making two different types of Valentines Day cards. Cost is \$40 and includes all materials and supplies. Please contact our business manager Kay Miyamoto to sign up for this class.



WATSONVILLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Relaxed and Gentle *By Rev. Hosen Shinseki*

“A person with *Shinjin* (信心) would not say hurtful words to fellow Nembutsu practitioners and is sure to gain a peaceful mind. This is because Amida Buddha vows that all sentient beings who have been touched by the Buddha's light will become relaxed and gentle in body and mind. Contrarily, without *Shinjin*, one would be wrapped up in one's own self-centeredness, speaking hurtful words that are bound to result in conflict with others.”



~Rennyō Shonin

All of us are part of a family, whether it be at home, at work or at the Temple; we associate, work and live together. All of us wish to live with our families in harmony, however we may have differing opinions about what is harmony. Some may feel that harmony means that everything goes the way I want and expect to in life.

In the quote above Rennyō Shonin simply defines how we can be relaxed and gentle in mind and body and as a result live in harmony with ourselves and those around us. Rennyō uses the term *Shinjin*, a direct translation of the characters might be true and real 信, heart and mind 心. Words like faith and entrusting have been used to define *Shinjin*. I prefer the word to entrust; however, it must be understood that to entrust means to give up the sense of self and completely entrust in Amida. This entrusting is not something that we can create through our self-centered efforts and concepts. It is to have complete trust that Amida the Tathagata, turns toward us with compassion and has given us pure and unhindered *Shinjin*. Once we entrust the true and real, self awakens and becomes that relaxed and gentle person Rennyō described above.

If we think about our families, it is trust that binds us together, that allows us to live together meaningfully. This is true with our parents, brothers, sister, wives, husbands, sanghas, colleagues and friends. With trust we get things done, we can accomplish so much. Without trust we cannot function together as a sangha or family. The reality is that true trust in our association must come from a self that is concerned for a greater good for all our family members. A self-centered person cannot fully trust others because he/she cannot trust oneself.

Many, including Shinran Shonin, have used the analogy of an ocean. As we find ourselves floundering in our egos we can drown in our own misery. However if we stop struggling and floundering, and we allow the ocean to engulf us and embrace us, we will float and gently become embraced by the ocean of true and real life.

The sangha is our family, our neighborhood, our world, our home. Together we tread down the same road, we cry together, we laugh together and we learn and grow together. Like all families we may disagree, but if we continue to trust in one another, our world will continue to be a home that exudes kindness and compassion. And because we share so much, we support one another in our mutual quest to be “relaxed and gentle in body and mind”.

Namoamidabutsu,
Rev. Shinseki

New Year's Greeting

Happy New Year, everyone! At the beginning of this New Year, I would like to extend my best regards to you all.

In view of the Russian invasion of Ukraine that began in February 2022, as Nembutsu followers who have deeply inscribed in our hearts and minds Shinran Shonin's message of “May there be peace in the world,” we firmly stand against the military infringement of the other nation's sovereignty, and also aspire for immediate return of peace in Ukraine.

Over the last year, COVID-19 continues to be a global pandemic. I would like to offer my deepest condolences to those who fell victim to the disease and express my sympathies to those who are undergoing treatment. I would also like to express my respect and sincere gratitude to the doctors, nurses, and other frontline medical professionals who have been engaging in the treatment of infected people, as well as all essential workers who have made it possible for us to continue with our lives.

The pandemic has forced us to learn firsthand that we will continue to be confronted by unexpected situations even in modern times despite technologies both in science and medical fields being highly developed. Sakyamuni Buddha, who passed on the Dharma to us, made clear that there is no life nor entity in this world that lasts forever. This truth, the principle of impermanence, has never changed even in this time and age approximately 2500 years since his time. Another fact that does not change is our inability to accept this truth as it is, and because of this, we continue struggling.

This is the very reason why, regardless of the pandemic, we can rely on the Jodo Shinshu teaching clarified by Shinran Shonin, which guides us as a spiritual foundation that enables us to move forward even when being overwhelmed with difficulties. A gathering at the temple with Amida Buddha as its center provides a great opportunity to receive the Dharma as well as an occasion in which people can support and reassure one another as fellow practitioners who follow the same teaching.

I hope you will continue to share the teaching within the greater society through various ways and your temple will continue to serve as a place where people can gather and find comfort in its activities. I humbly ask for your understanding and cooperation in support of your temples. I would like to conclude my new year's greeting with my heartfelt appreciation to you all.

January 1, 2023

OHTANI Kojun Monshu
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha





Message from Out-Going Temple President

Dear Sangha,

The New Year of 2023 has arrived with all the hope it brings for yet-to-be-explored opportunities, resolutions, and fresh life experiences. The past couple of years have thrown the expected and the unexpected at our Temple from illness, shutdowns, and extreme weather events. With challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we were forced into hibernation and limited our goals but as always, we've proved to be adaptable, innovative, and resilient in the face of these challenges and change.

While several factors are influencing our Temple that we cannot control, we are fortunate there are many more that we can. One thing I know is that our Temple stands ready to embrace any and all things 2023 has to offer, both good and bad. As the New Year begins, we have a sense of getting back to business as usual, at our Temple, workplaces, in our homes, and our communities. We will continue to convey the message of the Dharma and the teachings of the Nembutsu to present and future members. However, I hope business as usual doesn't mean returning to what we once were. I hope it means we've learned from our experiences of the past couple years, change what we need to, move on when required, innovated to new heights, and let things be when necessary.

Finally, a Huge Thank You to Sensei Rev. Shinseki, our hard working Board of Directors both current and future and to our Sangha for their effortless support. We could not have accomplished what we have in the last past couple of years without the support of all of you. Now, let's welcome our new incoming President, Kenny Kusumoto, with the same effort and support that you provided me the last few years.

In Gassho,
Tad Kato, President

Here is Rev. Shinseki's article in the Religious section of the Pajaronian newspaper from the November 2022 issue.

Bodhi Day

Bodhi Day, traditionally December 8th is the Buddhist holiday that commemorates the day that the historical Buddha, Shakyamuni awakened to the truth of life also known as Enlightenment or Bodhi, thus the holiday is called Bodhi Day. All Buddhist traditions in the many countries across the globe celebrate Bodhi Day, the day Siddhartha found the answers to human suffering and became the Buddha, the Awakened One.

Bodhi Day is also known as *Rohachi*, literally the 8th day of the 12th lunar month. *Rohachi Sesshin* 接心 is the continuous sitting in meditation from the first of December to the morning of the eighth, in commemoration of the Buddha's enlightenment.

Today in our Jodoshinshu tradition we don't practice *Rohachi Sesshin*, but we emphasize the four great lessons taught by the Buddha. The four lessons are:

- All beings are subject to *Dukkha* (anxiety, suffering, pain) in Japanese *Ku* 苦.
- The cause of all suffering is ignorance, ignoring the self and ignoring the truth of life.
- Ignorance can be overcome through the Dharma or the Truth taught by the Buddha and proper understanding of that Truth.
- One should always be guided by wisdom and compassion.

The Buddha's enlightenment is characterized by his deep reflection on himself and all the causes and conditions that allowed him to achieve his goal of enlightenment. His awareness expanded to include a deep compassion for all sentient beings. He saw himself intimately connected to the lives of all other beings and realized that his thoughts words and actions affected all other lives. He saw that all of us are intimately connected to one another.

He also saw that ignorance of the true nature of reality was the cause of all the selfish craving and attachment that led to suffering and that suffering can be ended through a life based on the truth found in the four lessons.

Like the Buddha we too can find time to calm our hearts and minds and allow ourselves to clearly reflect on the true nature of life. Bodhi Day is a time for us to reflect upon our actions and the consequences of our thoughts, words and actions. It is a time for us to realize that the Dharma, the Truth taught by the Buddha, is the true nature of reality.

December comes to us with holidays celebrated with family including Hanukkah, Christmas and Bodhi Day. Let's all take a moment to express our thanks to the Buddha for the Truth he has shared with us and celebrate the holidays with praise to the Buddha.

Gassho,
Rev. Hosei Shinseki

Here is Rev. Shinseki's article in the Religious section of the Pajaronian newspaper from the December 2022 issue.

Happy Holidays

With the impending holidays near us, we will greet with friends and family and wish them all a Happy Holiday and those wishes are filled with the hopes and dreams for a better and brighter future. No matter what religion we profess to follow, there are shared wishes, hopes and dreams. This is a time for peace and harmony. It is a time for each of us to set aside our own self-centered ego that becomes the greatest obstacle to fulfilling those hopes and dreams for peace and harmony.

For us Buddhists the so called practice as a Buddhist is the life of a layperson. In our daily coming and going through life we are reminded to be mindful of our thoughts, words and actions and how they affect others. At the same time, we become aware of the light of wisdom and compassion which surrounds and inhabits us. For Buddhists the end of the year is time for reflection. Part of self-reflection is to be aware of the danger of ego self-centered deeds and the difficulty of truly becoming egoless.

Self-reflection is a process of deepening awareness of the innumerable causes and conditions, interdependent and interconnectedness with all other people and events. All these conditions together form and define the true nature of our existence. The Buddha represents all those causes and conditions that allow each of every one of us exist.

At Buddhist temples all around the world on December 31st they will ring their temple bells 108 times marking the end of the Buddhist year 2,551 and the New Year of 2,552. The symbol of 108 is a reminder to each of us that as we move from one year to another we carry with us the same afflictions that bind us to the world of Samsara (world of greed, anger and ignorance).

The Buddha told of our perception of the world that we judge as good, bad or indifferent (3), seen through our six senses (6) and our aversion to, or craving for (2) and occur in the past present and future (3). 3 times 6 equals 18, times 2 equals 36, times 3 equals the 108. This is the reason we ring the bell 108 times on New Year's Eve, to remind us of our continued quest to rid ourselves of our self-created sufferings.

Thanks to the Buddha and his vows, we are still able to attain peace of mind by entrusting ourselves to his teachings (Dharma). Within the Dharma are the keys to realizing the hopes and dreams that we wish for during this holiday season. May we all practice compassion tempered by wisdom and may all beings find happiness.

Happy Holidays.

Sincerely in Gassho,
Rev. Hosei Shinseki



On behalf of the Sangha of the Watsonville Buddhist Temple,
we wish to extend our deepest condolences to the families of
Rosie Takamune & Junko Yonemoto.

Namo-Amida Butsu

Tentative Schedule of January 2023

Sun., Jan. 15, 22, and 29 - Sunday Service @ 10am (in-person)

Watsonville Buddhist Temple

Temple Office Telephone (831) 724-7860

Temple Office is temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. By Appointment only.

Email: buddhist@wbtemple.org **Website:** www.wbtemple.org

Twitter: [Twitter@WatsonvilleBT](https://twitter.com/WatsonvilleBT)

WESTVIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHIMES

Blessed By Being a Blessing



It wasn't as cold that morning. Spring was starting to come, the days were a little warmer, and the sun coming up a little earlier as we served breakfast with our SonRise Kitchen. Normally we could have 20 or 25 people come to get warm soup and a bag lunch and some warm coffee and maybe a bowl of cereal at the park by the levee. But today we seemed to only have about 10 people come - all men. I asked them why there were less people and they said that farming was starting to pick up and people were having to go off to the fields even earlier. We serve at 7am but it's likely that many of them now had to go off to work at 5 or 6am without breakfast. I struck up a conversation with, I'll call him Alberto. In my more privileged world, I was thinking in my head "I wonder what he's doing today, why is he here and not off working like the others?" I asked how he was doing? He said the usual cultural response - he was fine. Then I asked what he was doing today? He said, "Well not really much." To which I said, "Will you be working today?" He said, "Well, I can't."

And I pondered judgmentally, "Why was he here and not working in the fields with the others?" Then he began to lift up his shirt. He said in Spanish, "I have this problem", opening his shirt you could see a J-tube inserted into his abdomen--a feeding tube I was all too familiar with from when my dad had cancer. He said, as we spoke in "Spanglish," that he has cancer in the throat and in the stomach and that he was not able to work. He is getting radiation and chemotherapy in Salinas.

I felt much compassion and pain for him. I can't imagine dealing with cancer, especially stomach cancer, which is very painful and deadly. While in addition to that, dealing with not having the comforts of a home while dealing with such a serious and difficult illness. I wondered if he felt discouraged or kind of pounded on by life that he was dealing with this very serious illness and, ALSO dealing with "where am I going to put my head at night?!" And "would I be safe or would someone rob me as I slept by the river?!"

Needless to say my initial judgment of why Alberto wasn't going to work like everybody else definitely revealed my privileged status, my superior attitude, my cold heart, and how you can't judge a book by its cover. But this man was showing me who truly WAS the stronger one! I was a wimp compared to him!—with a home to lay my head and relatively good health, in my pampered life getting all disjointed when my internet goes out! But He was still going! He still had a smile on his face, he was still connecting with others, he didn't have a bottle in his hand trying to numb away the pain. Life had pounded on him and he was still standing! Would I have still been standing?! (I prayed for God's forgiveness in a silent prayer.)

Humbled, I then got the privilege to pray for this giant, and he soaked it up - he definitely had a sense of just clinging to God and had his own deep spirituality. And then, just as quickly as this angel came into my life, he went... on his way, probably to go to another chemo treatment.

Jesus was homeless. Yup, Jesus himself said, "Foxes have hole, birds have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head" (Luke 9:58) He was a teacher who traveled from town to town sharing of God's love, and ultimately as God Incarnate laid down his life to get us, his children back.

At Westview, as followers of Jesus, we too are called to the blessing of caring for the least and hurting among us, laying down our lives in service. Jesus said that as we care for them we care for Him (Matthew 25). We

have been blessed with the joy of serving at the Salvation Army for years until COVID, and we have further

been blessed by our SonRise Kitchen serving meals, and love, 5 days/week down at the levee. Well, in the style



of our compassionate and whimsical Holy Spirit, several things are happening that seem to indicate God is calling us to continue to care for those hurting and living without homes in even more impactful and meaningful ways.

Firstly, we have a new renter and partner in serving! Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County (CAB) will have its south county offices on Westview's second floor. CAB's mission is to partner with the community to eliminate poverty and create social change through advocacy and essential services. CAB has several impactful programs:

- The youth Homeless Response Team is a collaborative effort between the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County and the Santa Cruz County Office of Education. This supportive services program aims to serve unaccompanied youth between the ages of 15-24 who are experiencing housing instability.
- Transitional Age Youth Housing Navigation - Provides Housing Navigation and Housing Focused Case Management services to young adults ages 18-25 who are in Foster Care and assists with completing FUP vouchers (Family Unification Program). TAY NAV's goal is to help clients overcome barriers to attaining and maintaining housing. Providing: Housing navigation, case management, provide beneficial workshops, build basic life skills, linkage to any other services etc.
- Watsonville Works - Provides wraparound services for homeless seeking to transition off the streets, including employment, housing assistance, resume work, and job skills, intensively helping 6-8 people at a time.
- Santa Cruz County Immigration Project's mission is to promote the wellbeing of the immigrant community in Santa Cruz County and the Pájaro Valley by helping immigrants acquire legal status, reuniting immigrant families, and making U.S. citizenship more accessible to eligible immigrants.

CAB is a blessing to the community and will be a blessing to Westview as we care for those without homes and the needy of Watsonville through our SonRise Kitchen.

Secondly, many of those without homes will be displaced by the Pajaro River Levee Project which will commence in 2023 as they fix the levee to prevent flooding. Many of those we serve in SonRise Kitchen live on the levee and will be displaced. Please be in prayer for these vulnerable people. Our leadership is pondering how we as a church can help in this crisis. Is there a way we can use our facility/land to help be the solution and be Christ's love to these desperate people and how might we partner with professionals like CAB and the Salvation Army to be part of the solution? Pray for us to have wisdom and guidance.

I pray our joy and love will continue to overflow from Westview to all in our community. It is a privilege to serve and worship God with you, the Westview Family!

Pastor Dan

Live Worship Services at Westview!!

Live Worship Services are being held at Westview Presbyterian Church at 10 am.!!
Please wear a mask to make sure the most vulnerable among our members/friends are safe.



If you are not able to attend church in person, you can still join us for Westview Live Zoom Sunday Online Worship Service! **Please send Westview an email at westviewpc@gmail.com** so that your **name/email address can be added/accepted to our Zoom live recordings** and you can **receive an automatic email** reminding you of our upcoming live services. **If you are in need of any assistance with Zoom please call Westview at (831) 724-6222 and leave a message.** Someone will call you back as soon as possible.

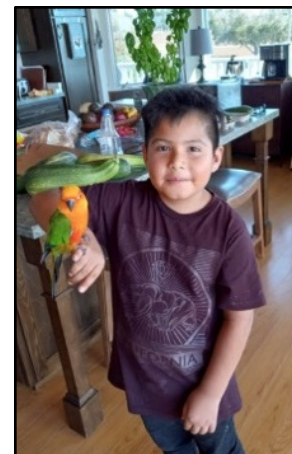
Either in-person or by Zoom, come enjoy the warm company of the Westview Family as we Celebrate God's presence among us!

Wednesday Zoom Scripture Reflection & Mid-Week Check-In

Wednesdays at 4 pm. The link is emailed out weekly. Please send Westview an email at westviewpc@gmail.com if you would like to automatically be sent a link/reminder on a weekly basis about our Wednesday Mid-Week Check-In.



Westview's Christmas decorating crew.



Dominic enjoying being tutored by Mary Lou (one of our Westview members).

SonRise Kitchen Update

The SonRise Kitchen continues to serve breakfast 5 days/week at the Plaza Park in Watsonville. Thank you to all our volunteers! Thanks to Micky, Maria, Polly, Michael, Shizue, Victor, Mary Lou, Sheri, Judith and of course Margo. Those that we serve greatly appreciate it!

Sew Fun Sewing Circle

Tuesdays, 9:30-12:30 in the dining room at Westview, led by Rachel Clark and Peg Pierce - quilting, clothing construction, fabric and color selection, tote bags, quilted postcards, and more! Join us!



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See you next in March 2023!