

WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL

“The Bridge 橋”

The Voice of Our Community

HAIKU

As the light rain falls,
I tread softly, a frog chirps,
I approach—silence

Fumi-daseba,
Kawazu nakiyamu,
Aki-shigure

Haiku by Bob Gómez
Translation by Hiromi Ushimaru

May there be equity of all people and
May peace be in our hearts and
throughout the world...
Best wishes for the 2024 New Year!
~ The Bridge Family

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.

- Anonymous donor
- Anonymous donor in memory of Saburo and Mitori Misumi
- Lester and Michelle Aoki for DOR education/scholarship
- Joe and Christine Bowes in memory of two great Americans, Mas Hashimoto and Iwao Yamashita
- Debbe and Thomas Chan for DOR/greatest need
- Carol Clouse for DOREF/greatest need
- Jennifer Ura Gavin & Kai Gavin
- Dale Minami and Sandra Ai Mori
- Patt Takeuchi
- Alan and Gayle Uyematsu
- Watsonville Taiko Group

Website: www.watsonvillesantacruzjACL.com

踏み出せば
蛙鳴き止む
秋時雨

Inside this issue

Haiku	1
Donations	1
Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL:	
Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Ballot Results and Election of Officers	2
New Year's Greeting	2
"Onward" with Appreciation	3
The 2024 Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Local Scholarships	3
JACL National 2024 Scholarship Program	4
Medical Thought	5
Celebration of Life Tribute to Mas Hashimoto	6
Day of Remembrance	7
San Jose's 44th Annual Day of Remembrance	8
Senior Corner for November & December 2023	8
Friends & Family of Nisei Veterans	10
NVN's Happy New Year & Reflections from 2023	10
Watsonville Bonsai Club	10
Watsonville Taiko & Shinsei Daiko	10
Watsonville Buddhist Temple	11
Westview Presbyterian Chimes	14
Acknowledgements	15
2024 Five-Chapter Installation of Officers	16

WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Ballot Results and Election of Officers *By Marcia Hashimoto*

Thank you, W-SC JACL National members, for returning your ballots. We appreciate your vote of confidence in re-electing Joe Bowes, Cindy Hirokawa Mine, Victor Kimura and Marcia Hashimoto for a three-year term (2024 through 2026). We welcome, with appreciation, a new member to our Board, Hiroshi Fukurai.

We acknowledge, with gratitude, the dedicated service of our 2024 Chapter Officers and Board of Directors:

President, Bobbi Jo Palmer
First V.P., Joe Bowes
Second V.P., Nikki Hikari
Secretary, Rod Ogawa
Treasurer, Victor Kimura

Bonnie Chihara	Kenny Kusumoto
Hiroshi Fukurai	Cindy Hirokawa Mine
Jeanette Otsuji Hager	Gary Mine
Marcia Hashimoto	Sean Sheehan
Norris Woodford	

Gilroy JACL will be hosting the five Chapter 2024 Board Installation Luncheon Program. It will be held at the end of January. Gilroy will be sending information about this event soon. Please contact Marcia at 831-722-6859) if you would like more information and/or would like to attend.

New Year's Greeting *By Bobbi Jo Palmer*

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 "2024", the year of the Wood Dragon. May 2024 be a year of peace, equality and justice for all.

The Board and I would like to thank Marcia Hashimoto for her many years of service as the President of our Watsonville-Santa Cruz chapter. She remains a board member in a less active roll so that she can devote the majority of her energy and time to develop a teaching resource for teachers and students, libraries and the community about the history of the Japanese, Japanese Americans incarcerated during WW II.

We met in person for a few months this year at W-SC JACL Kizuka Hall for our Board meetings but will continue to meet via Zoom for the next few months due to potential weather related travel issues.

In the past we have not been able to gather together at our annual Installation of Officers celebration, Day of Remembrance program, Cultural Fair, JACL Family-Community Picnic, but this year it looks like these events will be held and we look forward to seeing our JACL friends both near and far at these gatherings.

The Watsonville Taiko, Bonsai Club, and Ikebana classes have been able to continue their cultural outreach at the W-SC JACL Kizuka Hall this past year. It is wonderful to know that our hall is being used to bring our members together and with the community.

Our Senior Center members returned to the Kizuka Hall in October for the first time since the pandemic. We look forward to them enjoying each others company, playing "Bingo" and celebrating special occasions together.

Members and friends, take care and Happy New Year!

"Onward" with Appreciation *By Marcia Hashimoto*

Happy "2024" New Year and thank you members of the Watsonville-Santa Cruz Japanese American Citizens League (W-SC JACL) for valuing the purpose and mission of our organization established Nationally in 1929 and locally in 1934. JACL is known to be the oldest Asian American Civil Rights organization in the U.S.A. Through the years, Nationally and locally, our civil rights and membership outreach have become inclusive in upholding the civil and human rights of all people and welcoming the membership of all people. Our Officers and Board of Directors reflect the diversity of our members, and they are dedicated volunteers serving in a number of capacities.

Our education focus about the unjust incarceration of the Japanese, Japanese Americans during WW II, and our Cultural Appreciation Outreach are important programs. Our agenda is open to discuss issues and concerns of our members, and our chapter also tries to build coalitions of support with other community groups.

As we ring in the "2024" New Year, I would like to sincerely thank you, members and friends, for your support throughout the 14 years I have served as President of the W-SC JACL. Your positive encouragement and participation in our activities and events and the incredible efforts and accomplishments of our impressive Board Teams have made it an honor and privilege to serve as President. I look forward to continuing to help our wonderful community as a member of the Board and my Congratulations to our new incoming President, Bobbi Jo Palmer.

"Onward" with Gratitude,
Marcia Hashimoto

The 2024 Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Local Scholarships

By Marcia Hashimoto, Victor Kimura and Kenny Kusumoto

Applications are available on our website <https://watsonvillesantacruzjacl.com> and by contacting Marcia Hashimoto at hashi79@sbcglobal.net or (831) 722-6859 (please leave a message with your telephone number). **The filing deadline is Saturday, June 8th, 2024.**

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.

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.

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 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, and his scholarship fund was formerly awarded through Kokoro no Gakko ("School of the Heart"). The \$500 Frank Mito Scholarship may be awarded to a graduating high school senior, usually with Kokoro no Gakko participation, 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 in pursuing their higher education goals. Mrs. Sako and the late Mr. Sako have been long time members of the JACL and Senior Center, and leaders among the Japanese American community. A four-year undergraduate scholarship may be awarded at a maximum of \$1,000 per year, and may be extended for a maximum of two additional years of graduate studies. This scholarship may be applied for at any time, from graduating from high school through completion of a masters degree (maximum of \$6,000 total).

Please send your completed forms to our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Chapter Scholarship Committee on or before **Saturday, June 8th, 2024**. The address for applications should be mailed to:

**JACL Scholarship Committee
P. O. Box 163
Watsonville, CA 95077-0163**

Note that the 2024 awards will be presented at the JACL Community Picnic on **Saturday, June 29, 2024** at the Aptos Village Park.

JACL National 2024 Scholarship Program

By Matthew Weisbly, JACL National Scholarship Program Manager

The 2024 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.

FRESHMAN -- All freshman applications must be submitted directly by the applicant to National JACL through the online form no later than Friday, March 1, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. Hawaiian Standard Time (HST).

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 1, 2024, 11:59 p.m. Hawaiian Standard Time (HST).

To All Applicants: All applications must be on the 2024 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 2024 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 2024, 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 2024, 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 2024 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.

Please see the National JACL website for the complete National JACL scholarship information:

<https://jacl.org/scholarships>

Thank you!

MEDICAL THOUGHT *By Cindy Mine, RN*

I could share information on COVID, RSV, the flu, dehydration, diabetes or high blood pressure or even more subjects. Either I have shared some information on some of these subjects in the past or there is a lot of information already out there.

What's been on my mind lately is a common product that I thought was pretty non-toxic that I help my patients with at times. I was using it to clean my bathroom sink and started thinking, if this can clean my sink, how toxic is it for humans?

Advertisement says, it can:

- clean toilets, flower vases, bathtub, shower head, hairbrush, gardening tools, rust on mason jars
- clean stains in your cup from coffee/tea
- descale deposits in your tea kettle or coffee maker
- brighten up dingy fabric

And much more.

It can also contain much of the same ingredients as simple household cleaners and laundry detergents. It can also have a mild bleaching agent in it.

It can also contain an active ingredient persulfate, which is a known allergen. Problems from this ingredient can be a rash, tender gums, damage to your soft tissue, trouble breathing, asthma, dizziness, contact dermatitis, or low blood pressure. Persulfate is also in hair coloring products. Persulfate poisoning is rare but if you happen to drink it, you can end up in the emergency room. Yet many people soak (marinate) their dentures or mouth guards in it for 8 hours or more. This product is denture tablets.

Usually people put water in a cup/container, toss a denture tablet in it, then put their denture/partial in the container. In the morning, you grab your denture, sort of rinse it and put it back in your mouth. Some people get a rash just reaching in the container with the solution to retrieve their denture.

The newest technique is to have denture implants, so many of you do not have to worry about this issue. You might want to share this information with your grandparents or someone who might be in this arena.

This is just an FYI, it surprised me!

Celebration of Life Tribute to Mas Hashimoto



Saturday, February 24, 2024, from 2:00-4:00 pm
Watsonville City Community Hall, adjacent to the Council Chambers

The Watsonville Public Library, Friends of the Watsonville Public Library, and the Watsonville-Santa Cruz Japanese American Citizens League cordially invite you to a "Tribute to Mas Hashimoto". This special public event will honor and commemorate the legacy of our beloved teacher, activist, and community leader, Mas Hashimoto.

Featured guest speakers and performers include:

- * Carol Heitzig, former WPL Director and current Friends President, as the Mistress of Ceremonies,
- * Shirley Flores-Munoz, Friend of the Library, will honor the site of our Native Americans,
- * A jubilant performance by Watsonville Taiko under the creative direction of Ikuyo Conant,
- * Beautiful Haiku in memory of Mas by Bob Gomez our Watsonville Poet Laureate,
- * A screening of Mas Hashimoto's TEDx TALK introducing his presentation of "Racism and America's Concentration Camps", with opening remarks by Susan Tatsui D'Arcy, Founder of MERIT EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANTS, LLC,
- * Sandy Lydon, Historian Emeritus of Cabrillo College and author of Asian American History publications, will present highlights of the 2002 re-enactment "Liberty Lost...Lessons in Loyalty",
- * Geri Simmons, President, and Brad Hubbard, Vice President, of the Watsonville High School Foundation will speak about the Foundation and of Mas's support as a Founding Member,
- * Erica Padilla-Chavez, former CEO of the Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance and current CEO of the Second Harvest Food Bank, will share remembrances of her WHS teacher, Mas Hashimoto,
- * Marcia Hashimoto, Mas's wife of 51 years, will speak about Mas's hope realized when the WHS class of 1992 shared their graduation ceremony with the Japanese American graduates of the WHS Class of 1942.

Please join us for this special event. The Community Hall is located on the top floor of the public parking structure with an entry on Rodrigues Street. Masks are encouraged, but not required.

By Marcia Hashimoto

Day of Remembrance *By Marcia Hashimoto*

The Day of Remembrance (DOR) is a significant reminder of the fragility of civil liberties in times of crisis and the importance of remaining vigilant in protecting the civil and human rights and freedoms of all people.

The National and local chapters of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) annually observe the date of February 19, (1942), as the Day of Remembrance. On this day, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 that authorized the forced eviction of 120,000 innocent Japanese, Japanese Americans from their homes in California, Oregon and Washington State designated as the Military Zone during WW II.

Without charges, an attorney, a trial or due process of law, our Nation's leaders failed to uphold our Constitutional Rights. Historical studies and facts confirmed that not one act of sabotage or espionage was ever reported or committed by the Japanese, Japanese Americans during WW II. A Congressional investigation committee concluded that racism, war hysteria and the failure of political leadership led to the travesty of the incarceration. 2/3 of the Nikkei imprisoned in remote camps were U.S. Citizens.

On February 19, 1942, Constitutional Rights with its professed "due process of law" were denied to its loyal citizens. That day in America's history is "The Day of Remembrance". It is observed annually throughout our Nation with the commitment that such an injustice will not be repeated.

Donations to our Day of Remembrance Education Fund (DOREF) are greatly appreciated. Donations provide educational resources and programs about our Japanese, Japanese American History to teachers, students and community members. Donations honor our JACL youth with scholarships, supports our informative newsletter "The Bridge", and helps maintain a safe and comfortable social and cultural meeting hall for our JACL Senior Center Members, Watsonville Taiko Members, Bonsai Club and Kokoro no Gakko staff.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and support. Sincerely, W-SC JACL

2024 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE EDUCATION FUND (DOREF)

☐ Yes, I/we wish to help. Enclosed is a tax-deductible contribution for:

☐ Greatest Need ☐ Education/Scholarship ☐ Newsletter

Please make checks payable to Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL, memo: DOREF, and mail to Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL, P. O. Box 163, Watsonville, CA 95077.

Your name(s): _____

Address: _____

Our donation is: ☐ In Remembrance of ..., or ☐ In Honor of ...

Name(s): _____

(An acknowledgment, unless you request otherwise, will be sent to:)

Name of person(s) to be notified and address(es): _____

☐ I/We do not wish to be acknowledged in any publication of the organization.

Thank you!



The Japanese Memorial Garden at the Salinas Rodeo Grounds - The dedicated volunteers who maintain the Memorial Garden.

Left to right: Gary Mine, Joe Bowes, Norris Woodford, Jean Yamashita and Victor Kimura.



San Jose Nihonmachi Outreach Committee
P. O. Box 10643 • San Jose, CA 95157
www.sjnoc.org • info@sjnoc.org

Nihonmachi Outreach Committee Presents San Jose's 44th Annual Day of Remembrance

On Sunday, February 18, 2024, Nihonmachi Outreach Committee (NOC) will present its 44th annual Day of Remembrance in San Jose. The event commemorates the signing of Executive Order 9066 which led to the World War II incarceration of over 125,000 people of Japanese descent, two-thirds of whom were American citizens.

The theme of the program is "Youth Activism: Building Community," bringing awareness to the public about the role young Japanese Americans played during the redress/reparations movement, and encouraging youth to become active in their communities.

A survivor of WWII incarceration will remember his experiences in camp and how he was affected by incarceration in the difficult years of resettling after his release.

The program will feature the traditional candlelight procession through historic San Jose Japantown, speakers from the community, and a special performance by San Jose Taiko.

The event is free and open to the public, and donations are welcome. Seating is limited. Doors will open at 5:00 pm.

When: Sunday, February 18, 2024, 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Where: San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin Annex
640 North 5th Street
San Jose, CA 95112

Contact:
(408) 505-1186
www.sjnoc.org
info@sjnoc.org

SENIOR CENTER NEWS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2023 *By Reba Condon*

The Senior Center has been hosting bingo games for 3 months now, post pandemic. It's good to be out every week enjoying the company of our friends there. We are playing bingo from 1 to 3pm every Thursday and the earlier time slot seems to avoid some traffic congestion from the afternoon high school dismissal time. Besides the spirited competition for bingo prizes, seniors may receive blood pressure checks from our resident RN Cindy Mine most Thursdays.

Thanks to our volunteers who are bingo callers, card checkers, bingo prize awarers and *toban* providers. Thank you to Leigh Sakaguchi, Bill and Gail Wurtenberg, Reba Condon and Jean Yamashita for opening and closing Kizuka Hall every week during Paul and Carol Kaneko's sojourn to Hawaii. We always welcome new volunteers to make our bingo sessions run smoothly.

Many delicious and useful bingo prizes were donated by the following members:

Toshi Yamashita, Nobue Fujii, Connie Dimas, Sharon Bobo, June Honda, Nobuko Akiyama, Judy Hane, Kim Tao, Hisako Kodama, Jeanette Crosetti, Jean Yamashita, Kitty Mizuno, Reba Condon, Hideko Nagamine, Mary Perez, Emi Kaita, Riiko Yoshida, Mitsuyo Tao, Lani Chin, Gail and Bill Wurtenberg, Angie Guzman, Victor Kimura, Bette Garcia, Tee Yamamoto, Patt Takeuchi. Watsonville Taiko donated raffle tickets and succulent plants from their annual fundraiser.

The senior center sponsored our first post pandemic bus trip on December 5. We contracted with Pacific Monarch bus company out of Marina, CA, who provided us a very comfortable bus with a safe and attentive driver for our traditional December shopping trip to Japantown San Francisco. We stayed exactly on our time schedule, and our only challenge was managing distribution of all the tasty snacks provided by the following generous participants:

Toshi Yamashita, Sharon Bobo, Kim Tao, Alice and John Drier, Reba Condon, Nancy Kuratomi, Gary and Cindy Mine, Fran Schwamm.

Ida Akimoto, Jean Akiyama, Barbara Brown and Jeanette Crosetti were unable to use their spots on the trip and donated their fares to the senior center.

We hope to plan more fun activities in the new year and are open to ideas for senior appropriate trips near and far. Contact Reba Condon to share trip suggestions.

Kizuka Hall was decorated for Christmas by our jolly elves in residence Toshi Yamashita, Connie Dimas, Sharon Bobo and Reba Condon. At our last meeting of 2023 on December, 21 members were treated to a take home meal from Sushi Qu restaurant. We also enjoyed a visit from June and Sunao's daughter Kris and grandson.

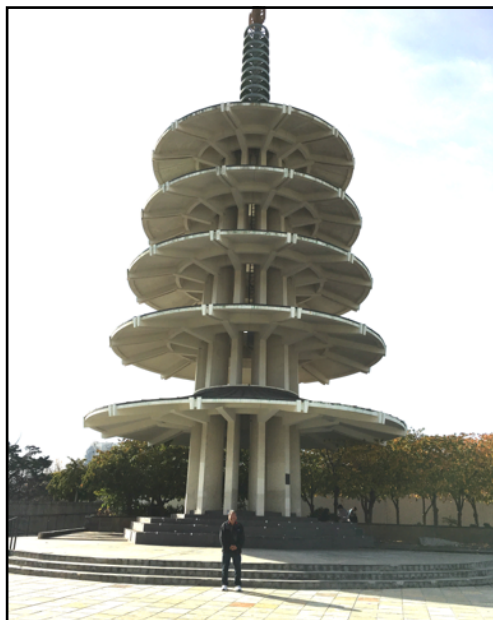
The senior center welcomed new members Patt Takeuchi and Noemi Sakaguchi.

A birthday donation was gratefully received from Riiko Yoshida. The W-SC JACL Senior Center is most appreciative of the many kind and generous donations we receive during the year. *Arigato!*

We look forward to starting our birthday and special occasion celebrations in 2024. Bingo games will start again on January 11, 2024. Happy New Year!

Photos from Senior Center's San Francisco trip.

Gentleman playing soothing, beautiful music.



Japantown's Trees of Hope

Origami Cranes from the World Tree of Hope

Japantown and Japan Center Malls welcome the origami cranes from the World Tree of Hope by the Rainbow World Fund(RWF). The RWF World Tree of Hope is created each year as a symbol of global unity to promote peace, love and humanitarianism. To send in your wish, or for more information, please visit: www.rainbowfund.org.



Japanese Cranes

In Japan, the crane is one of the mystical or holy creatures (others include the dragon and the tortoise) and symbolizes good fortune and longevity because of its fabled life span of a thousand years. The crane is a favourite subject of Haiku poetry and the tradition of origami or paper folding. After World War II, the crane came to symbolize peace and the innocent victims of war through the story of schoolgirl Sadako Sasaki and her thousand origami cranes.

FRIENDS & FAMILY OF NISEI VETERANS *By Brian Shiroyama*

Membership meeting on February 10 at 11:30 am at Morgan Hill Buddhist Community Center. No potluck starting this year. Attendees may purchase bentos. Cost will be about \$10. Please visit www.ffnv.org for details or email: Brian Shiroyama at bshiroyama@gmail.com.

NVN'S HAPPY NEW YEAR & REFLECTIONS FROM 2023 *By The National Veterans Network*

Dear Friends,

As we welcome the New Year, we reflect on our 2023 initiatives to share the Nisei Soldier story on a national level. We collaborated with the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center on our teacher training program that reached educators across six states, with lessons set to resonate in classrooms this spring. We also started our community outreach, visiting multiple cities for the National Museum of the United States Army's traveling exhibition, "I Am An American: the Nisei Soldier Experience." We're excited for what's next! In 2024, we'll deepen our multi-year projects with the Teacher Training Institute and the "I Am An American: the Nisei Soldier Experience" traveling exhibit. Both projects have deep and wide impacts on sharing the legacy of the Nisei Veterans. Your continued support remains invaluable as we work to ensure these stories are not forgotten. Wishing you and your families a Happy New Year from everyone here at NVN!

WATSONVILLE BONSAI CLUB *By Charlie Thompson*

The upcoming meeting dates for the Watsonville Bonsai Club are:

January 22, Monday, Regular Meeting and Workshop at JACL Kizuka Hall 6:30 PM

February 10, Saturday, Special Meeting at JACL Kizuka Hall 1:30 PM

Gareth Shephard will demonstrate air-layering techniques.

February 26, Monday, Regular Meeting and Workshop at JACL Kizuka Hall 6:30 PM

March 9, Saturday, Regular Meeting and Workshop at JACL Kizuka Hall 1:30 PM

March 25, Monday, Regular Meeting and Workshop at JACL Kizuka Hall 6:30 PM

WATSONVILLE TAIKO AND SHINSEI DAIKO *By Bonnie Gihara*

Happy New Year! We began the year with our classes filled with new students eager to learn the discipline of taiko drumming. Our performance schedule brought us south to Big Sur for the Big Sur International Marathon, over the hill to Villa Montalvo for the opening of their Montalvo Marcus Festival and east to Albuquerque New Mexico for their Aki Matsuri.

Our Annual Holiday Boutique was a great success thanks to our community of friends and supporters and our taiko members students.

We would like to thank everyone for their continued support which makes it possible to keep bringing taiko to this community and beyond.

If you ever thought about learning taiko please sign up for one of our classes.

Class sessions:

January 12-February 24

March 1-April 26

May 3-June 28

Fridays

10:00-11:00 am - Intro to Taiko

11:15 am-12:15 pm - Beginning Taiko

4:30-5:30 pm - Beginning Children

5:00-6:00 pm - Beginning Children II

6:00-7:00 pm - Intermediate Children

7:00-8:00 pm - Beginning Adults

8:00-9:00 pm - Intermediate Adults

Saturdays

9:00-10:00am - Intro to Taiko

Please contact our business manager Kay Miyamoto for more information or to sign up for classes at info@watsonvilletaiko.org or call 831-475-1088. Please check our website for updates at www.watsonvilletaiko.org

Our upcoming schedule-

Feb. 24, 2024 - Tribute to Mas Hashimoto, Watsonville Public Library

WATSONVILLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE**Hoonko** *By Rev. Hosei Shinseki*

“I know truly how grievous it is that I, Gutoku Shinran, am sinking in an immense ocean of desires and attachments and am lost in vast mountains of fame and advantage, so that I rejoice not at all at entering the stage of the truly settled, and feel no happiness at coming nearer the realization of true enlightenment. How ugly it is! How wretched!”¹

Shinran Shonin passed away on January 16 in 1263 C.E. at the age of 90 years old. It was 761 years ago. Kakunyo Shonin, the great-grandson of Shinran Shonin started *Hoonko* when he observed Shinran’s 33rd memorial service. *Hoon* means a gathering to repay Shinran for his teachings. One of the ways in which we do this is to listen to the teachings that assure that each and every one of us are assured of birth in the Pure Land. *Hoonko* is the gathering to express our gratitude to Shinran.

Shinran was an amazing person in so many ways. His constant self reflection and honest assessment of himself are displayed in the above quote. Shinran called himself “Gutoku” a bald headed fool. Like all of us he suffered anxieties over the effects of his thoughts, words and actions. And for that reason, he desired realization of the Pure Land. Shinran also understood that realization the Pure Land is not of his own making, but we are pulled toward realization.

What does it mean to be pulled over to the Pure Land? As an example, there are people in our lives who are no longer with us, and yet beyond all barriers of space and time, they continue to influence and take effect upon our lives. It is beyond our control, beyond any manipulation. It is true and real, it is pure. As our thoughts turn towards our family members their world of truth continues to influence our lives, this is the Pure Land. Everything we have ever taken for granted, or never noticed is revealed to us. Our thoughts of self-centeredness, our ignorance, greed and anger are turned toward the Pure Land and we experience the embrace of the Buddha’s Vow.

When our thoughts are turned toward the Pure Land, we become more conscious of this life and what we have received. We are, as Shinran says pulled over. Shinran realized his true and real self and honestly shared that with us. I believe he did this so that we can understand that despite our own anxieties and selfishness, we are embraced in Infinite Boundless life. When Infinite Boundless life embraces us, or takes effect upon us, it is *Namoamidabutsu*.

Over 700 years later we honor and thank Shinran with our *Hoonko* service, a gathering of gratitude and an opportunity to reflect on our own lives and the nembutsu in our lives.

Gassho,
Rev. Hosei Shinseki

Nirvana Day *By Rev. Hosei Shinseki*

There are many detailed explanations of what Nirvana means, but Nirvana Day just symbolizes the day that Shakyamuni Buddha died. We observe that day on February 15th. It is said that when one is born, one comes from the Truth, and when one dies they return to the Truth. This is true for all of us including the Buddha. So if we come from Truth, and shall return to Truth, what is most important?

Of course, the answer is this life is most important. The Buddha was asked, “What happens to us when we die?” “Is there another place, another world?” The Buddha did not answer but remained silent. He remained silent because the Buddha’s teachings are for this life here and now. It is to resolve the anxieties and dis-ease that we experience in this life.

The Dharma, or Truths taught by the Buddha, are intended so that we may truly know and experience this life. That is why we recite *Namoamidabutsu*. *Namo* is you and I, *Amida Butsu* is all the causes and conditions for this life. When we put this together as *Namoamidabutsu*, it implies that I am one with Amida. What does that mean to be one with Amida?

¹ Collected Works of Shinran. Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, Kyoto, Page 125.

Suppose if we were to ask the fish in the pond, “What is the true nature of water?” What would be their answer? How would he describe the water that surrounds him? A fish spends all its time in the water. He plays in it, he swims in it, his life depends on it. But do you think the fish is aware of water? The reason the fish is not aware of the water is because he does not know the true nature of water. The water and the fish are one. They are so intimately intertwined with one another; they are too close to each other for the fish to know the essence of water. We always neglect those things that we are closest to.

It is very much like our attitude to the air we breathe. It surrounds us and sustains us. We live our lives daily playing, working, and going about our business without being aware of the air we breathe.

So where is Amida Buddha? The truth is Amida Buddha is all those things, including people and events that make it possible for us to exist. It is all around us all the time. We are in fact one with Amida Buddha here and now, but we are too close to notice it. Once we know of it, our daily life becomes even more enhanced. That is the purpose of the Buddha’s teachings.

During Nirvana Day it is a time for us to reflect and ask ourselves, “What events do you need to exist? What things do you need to exist? Who do you need to exist?” When you answer the questions, recite the Nembutsu, Namoamidabutsu.

Gassho,
Rev. Hosei Shinseki

PET MEMORIAL SERVICE

Nirvana Day Service will be observed on February 4th at 10:00 am. Each year we combine the Nirvana Day Service with a pet memorial service. If you wish to honor your family pet(s), please submit pictures and names to Rev. Shinseki by January 28th.

You can email the pictures to revhosei@gmail.com



Well... 2023 is ‘one for the books’ and as I look back on the past year, I can honestly say it was a rollercoaster ride. The Temple faced many challenges and we also have much to be grateful for, including a bit of normalcy after the global pandemic.

The year started inauspiciously with the New Year's Eve flooding of the Temple facilities. Mud and water filled low lying areas of the buildings and grounds. We are grateful for the people who came out to clear the mud, fill and place sandbags around the Hondo, gym and apartment complex.

While we were able to clear the mud from the facilities quickly, it took nearly six months to completely clean up and make repairs from the floods including drying the ground underneath the buildings.

On the positive side, after three years of limited activities, we resumed our yearly events including Hanamatsuri, fireworks fundraiser, Obon, rummage sale and Mochi Tsuki. The events were well-attended and much appreciated after the limited opportunities to gather during the pandemic.

The Watsonville Buddhist Temple also hosted two other notable events this year : in August, the screening of *Sentimental Journey: A Nisei's Life* and in September, we had an Open House for members and supporters of the Temple.

Sentimental Journey was multimedia show, chronicling the pre-war, wartime, and post-World War II lives of Japanese and Japanese Americans, featuring images and over 20 of the Nisei’s favorite Japanese and American songs. It brought back fond memories for attendees and was created as a way to say “Thank you” for paving the way for the younger generations to follow.

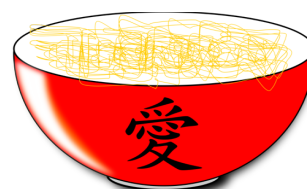
I appreciate everyone's help, participation and support in 2023. We, the Temple leaders and myself, hope to host more events in 2024 and look forward to seeing more members and supporters come out to enjoy what the Temple has to offer spiritually and socially.

With Gassho,
Kenny Kusumoto, President
Watsonville Buddhist Temple



Photos from the Watsonville Buddhist Temple
Mochi Tsuki by Barbara Shingai, Gary & Cindy Mine.

Watsonville Buddhist Temple
Udon Noodle Nite
(Single serving)



Saturday, March 2, 2024
From 4pm to 7pm

423 Bridge Street
in the Temple Gymnasium
831-724-7860

(Sold separately)

Rice – Pastries - Drinks
(take out available on request)

\$10.00 Per Person
Thank you for your support!

Tentative Schedule of January/February 2024

Sun., Jan. 21 & 28: Sunday Service at 10am

Sun., Feb. 4 - Sunday/Shotsuki Hoyo/Nirvana Day/
Pet Memorial Service @ 10am

Tues., Feb. 6 - WBT Board Meeting @ 7pm (via Zoom)

Sun., Feb. 11 & 18 - Sunday Service @ 10am

Sun., Feb. 25 - NO SUNDAY SERVICE (in Watsonville)

Sun., Feb. 25 - Nat'l Eitaikyo Service (online) @ 10am

Watsonville Buddhist Temple

Temple Office Telephone (831) 724-7860

Temple Office is closed, except by Appointment only.

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

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

WESTVIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHIMES



FROM THE
PASTOR

Where do you see The Light shining?

The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it! -John 1:5

Victor is someone who I interviewed in July of 2021 for a Chimes article, as he was unhoused and living in his car and at times on the street outside the Police station. Two and a half years ago I shared how he used to help us load and unload the truck and was our ambassador, encouraging others to come and receive breakfast and a sack lunch.

Well, The Light IS shining and his circumstances have changed radically! Margo applied for a grant to begin paying him to help us further (You rock, Margo!). He now comes before sunrise and serves 5/days a week helping prep the food (Micky is still the amazing gourmet soup chef), get it onto the truck, serves it, and helps clean up afterward. A delight to work with, he faithfully and with a smile serves in these early hours. The blessings continued to flow as he got housing through the help of CAB (Community Action Board), who operates out of our second floor offices. With his apartment here in Watsonville, he is no longer homeless! And the light continues to shine, as it was a delight to have him come to church on Sunday for our Christmas Eve service. God, bless our Victor and thank you for the blessing he is to us!

Christ's Light IS indeed shining through you, the members of our Westview Church! Thank you to all you volunteers and those who donate to the SonRise Kitchen and the work of Westview! In this, and so many other ways you love, you are indeed the light shining in our world—a world so in need of the light of love!

As we begin a New Year take some time to be blessed and encouraged as you reflect/pray:

Where do you see The Light shining around you? How is God inviting you to help his LOVE shine brighter in this world in such need of the Light of Love? How does this actually bless you with more light in your life as well?

I appreciate you, the Westview family, and am grateful to walk in life together discovering God's goodness and lavish love!
Pastor Dan

Recurso de Fuerza, "Resource of Strength," is the name given by the unhoused on the levee for the small village that will be built behind the church. We are in the permitting process, and while it is a blessing to have Monterey County initiating the project and Santa Cruz County taking it over in 2 years, it has been complicated drawing up agreements between the 2 counties. The projected completion is now projected to be the end of April. Please be in prayer for God to provide the best social service providers, smooth construction, and also please pray for the transformation of the lives of those who will get to live and heal at Recurso de Fuerza!

SonRise Kitchen

We need cereal! We continue to serve soup, cereal, sack lunches and coffee at the levee to the unhoused M-F 7:30am. They love their cereal. We have not been able to get it at the food bank lately, so when at the market please buy a couple or more extra boxes of any cereal and bring it to church. Know you will be putting smiles on their faces.) Thank you to our regular volunteers: Margo, Micky, Jeremiah, Judith, Victor, Polly, Mary Lou, Michael, Sheri, Shizue, Gabriela, Pastor Dan and more!

Christmas Eve Potluck



A Christmas Eve Potluck was held after Worship Service on December 24, 2023 (see photos above)

Live and Zoom Worship Services at Westview!!

Live and Zoom Online Worship Services are being held at Westview Presbyterian Church Sunday at 10 am!! Masks are now optional for those attending the Live Worship Service.

To join Westview for Live Zoom Sunday Online Worship Service please send Westview an email at westviewpc@gmail.com so you can be added/accepted to our Zoom live recordings and can receive an automatic email reminding you of our upcoming live services. If you are in need of any assistance with Zoom call Westview at (831) 724-6222 and leave a message. Someone will call you back as soon as possible.

Guest Speakers: Pastor Rich Garcia – January 7th and February 18th,
Julianne Center Porras – February 4th, Pastor Mick Erickson – February 11th

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-Ins.



Potlucks 1st Sunday of Each Month

We have now resumed having Social Hour with a light lunch the 1st Sunday of each month along with cake for Birthdays! Come enjoy!

Sew Fun Sewing Circle

Sew Few Sewing is currently on a break until February 6, 2024 and when it resumes, will be held on 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!



Acknowledgements:

Thank you to:

All the Contributors
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Jeanette Hager: Formatting
Newsletter Distribution Crew

See you next in March 2024!



**JAPANESE AMERICAN
CITIZENS LEAGUE**

GILROY CHAPTER

P.O. BOX 1238 • GILROY, CALIFORNIA 95021-1238

2024

FIVE-CHAPTER JACL INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS LUNCHEON

Gilroy JACL - Host Chapter

The Gilroy, Watsonville-Santa Cruz, San Benito County, Monterey Peninsula and Salinas Valley JACL Chapters cordially invite you, your family, and friends to attend our annual installation of Board of Directors and Officers luncheon.

When: Sunday, January 28, 2024

Time: Check-in registration 11:00 am

Where: Morgan Hill Buddhist Community Center
16450 Murphy Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Luncheon: 11:30 am to 12:30 pm **Cost:** \$25 per person
Chicken teriyaki, salad, rice, beverages and desserts

Program: 12:30 to 1 pm
Entertainment: Niseishin Daiko (Taiko Drummers)

1:00 to 3:30 pm
Installation of Officers and Board members - Judge Joseph Biafore
Chapter President's Remarks
Announcements

RSVP: Please contact Lily Kawafuchi before Tuesday, January 23, 2024 for reservations at (408) 847-8600.

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RESERVATION FORM AND PAYMENT

Name(s): _____ **No. attending:** _____

Address: _____ **Cost per person:** \$25

Phone: (____) _____ **email:** _____ **Total:** \$ _____

Checks may be made payable to: Gilroy JACL

Mail checks to: Gilroy JACL, P. O. Box 1238, Gilroy, CA 95021-1238.

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