

WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL

“The Bridge 橋”

The Voice of Our Community

HAIKU

Crows cracking walnuts
atop the telephone pole—
shells fall to the street

Kara ochite
Kurumi wo waru-wa
Karasu kana

Haiku by Bob Gómez
Translation by Hiromi Ushimaru

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.

- Joyce Kubota for DOREF/greatest need
- Karen Kurokawa for DOREF/greatest need
- Amy Newell for DOREF/greatest need in remembrance of Mas Hashimoto
- Sachi and Philip Snyder for DOREF/greatest need
- Alan and Gayle Uyematsu DOREF/education-scholarship
- Richard and Susan Uyematsu in memory of Masako Nakayama
- Watsonville Bonsai Club
- Watsonville Taiko Group

Acknowledgements:

Thank you to:

All the Contributors
Marcia Hashimoto: Proof-reading
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Jeanette Hager: Formatting
Newsletter Distribution Crew

殻落ちて
胡桃を割るは
カラスかな

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See you next in May 2024!

Website: www.watsonvillesantacruzjacl.com

WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL



Honoring a beloved community leader Local teacher targeted racism, social injustice

**Tarmo Hannula
of the Pajaronian, with permission**

More than 200 people gathered Saturday in Watsonville's Community Room to celebrate the life of Mas Hashimoto, who as a child was imprisoned with his family in a Japanese internment camp during World War II, and later used the experience as a lesson in his multifarious roles as a teacher, activist and community leader. Nationally-recognized for his drive to speak, write and teach about the plight of Japanese Americans during World War II and celebrated member of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), Hashimoto died at 86 on June 20, 2022.

The event, headed up by former Watsonville Public Library director, Carol Heitzig, started with a thundering performance by eight members of Watsonville Taiko Drummers.



Watsonville Taiko opened the "Celebration of Life Tribute to Mas Hashimoto."

Photo taken by Tarmo Hannula of The Pajaronian. (Used with permission.)

Watsonville Poet Laureate, Bob Gomez, then read his haiku:

My words may not last
My songs fly away like mist
But their soul remains.

The crowd was then shown a 19-minute screening of Hashimoto on TED talk, "Racism and America's Concentration Camps," introduced by Susan Tatsui D'Arcy. The audience sat in wrapt silence as Hashimoto, soft spoken, yet fiercely articulate, explored the devastating blows dealt to Japanese Americans by executive order 9066, signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on Feb. 19, 1942, that led to the incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II. In the recording, Hashimoto pulls a copy of the US Constitution from his jacket.

"The Constitution of the United States ceased to exist for us," he said. "I was a prisoner of war held by my own country."

Born in Watsonville to Japanese immigrants on Sept. 15, 1935, Hashimoto and his family were among those ripped from their homes and incarcerated by the U.S. government in 1942, following Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. When the prisons closed in 1945 and Japanese Americans were set free from the 10 concentration camps, Hashimoto returned home and from age 10 to 23 he worked summers in the fields. He graduated from Watsonville High School, Monterey Peninsula College and San Jose State University before becoming a history teacher at WHS where he taught for 36 years.



Sandy Lydon, historian emeritus of Cabrillo College and author of several Asian American History Publications, took to the mic to further explore Hashimoto's work.

"We were both teachers," he said. "And we were both from small towns, only he was sent to prison. They went to jail; they were prisoners and they were put in concentration camps."

Lydon went on to warn how racism and hysteria and lack of political leadership is still a prevalent threat.

Photo of Sandy Lydon taken by Tarmo Hannula of The Pajaronian. (Used with permission.)

Marcia Hashimoto, Mas's wife of 51 years, highlighted how her husband, in 1992, organized a graduation ceremony for the Nisei (a person born in the U.S. or Canada whose parents were immigrants from Japan) students of the Class of 1942 who were denied their graduation because of internment. Watsonville High was the first school in the nation to remember and honor the Nisei graduates.

On the 60th anniversary of executive order 9066, Hashimoto organized the only reenactment of the rounding up of Nisei. Called "Liberty Lost ... Lessons in Loyalty," garnered international news coverage and drew on hundreds of volunteers, city officials, students, civic organizations and businesses around Watsonville under Hashimoto's direction.

In the audience Saturday was Kimi Kimura who said she felt "lucky" to have been a student in Hashimoto's WHS class in 1976-77.

"I was 10 years old when my family moved here from Japan," she said. "The city was new to me. Once I was in his class, it really helped me. Mas made learning fun."

In all, he taught nearly 7,000 students before retiring in 1996. His pupils include politicians, CEOs and community organizers near and far.

"The US Constitution legalized slavery," he said. "Our history is the history of racism and discrimination."

Another former student of Hashimoto, Erica Padilla-Chavez, CEO of Second Harvest, shared remembrances and spoke of being from an immigrant family.

Marcia Hashimoto closed by reading two letters from students of the WHS class of 1942, those excluded from their own graduation. Their words were steeped in praise and gratitude for finally being recognized in a commencement ceremony at WHS that they should have proudly walked in 50 years before.

Tarmo Hannula/The Pajaronian ~ Dominic Dursa, District Director of Assemblyman Robert Rivas's Office presented a resolution Saturday to Marcia Hashimoto during a Celebration of Life Tribute to Mas Hashimoto in Watsonville.



Photo of Marcia Hashimoto taken by Tarmo Hannula of The Pajaronian. (Used with permission.)

Editor's addition to the Celebration of Life Tribute to Mas Hashimoto

Photos by Gary and Cindy Mine



Watsonville High School (WHS) Teacher
Brad Hubbard




Erica Padilla-Chavez, CEO, Second Harvest Food
Bank Santa Cruz




Bob Gómez, Poet



Susan Tatsui D'Arcy



**Liberty
Lost ... Lessons
in Loyalty**



April 27, 2002

Welcome Friends:

Today marks the 60th anniversary of the implementation of Exclusion Order #16 by the headquarters of the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, Presidio of San Francisco, California, Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt, U. S. Army, Commanding. All persons of Japanese ancestry, both alien and non-alien, residing in Santa Cruz County, were to be excluded by 12 noon P.W.T., Thursday, April 30, 1942.

"Liberty Lost ... Lessons in Loyalty" re-lives the evacuation of 1,160 persons of Japanese ancestry (most are US citizens) from Santa Cruz County to the Salinas Assembly Center (California Rodeo Grounds) and, later, to the Poston internment camp in Arizona.


"Liberty Lost ... Lessons in Loyalty" honors the gallant heroism of our local young men, several of whom had volunteered for military service from behind barbed wire.

"Liberty Lost ... Lessons in Loyalty" pays tribute to the men, women, and organizations of our community who befriended, supported, and welcomed us back.

The mistakes of liberty lost, inflicted upon an innocent people, must never be repeated. It is my fervent hope that the lessons in loyalty learned today will make each of us a "Better American in a Greater America," the national goal of the JACL.

I am grateful to our community of friends, participants, and supporters for their incredible commitment and for their devotion in breathing life into this project that has been over a year in the making.

Thank you committee members, sponsors, friends, teachers, and students for supporting and attending this program.

Sincerely,

 Mas Hashimoto, Chair

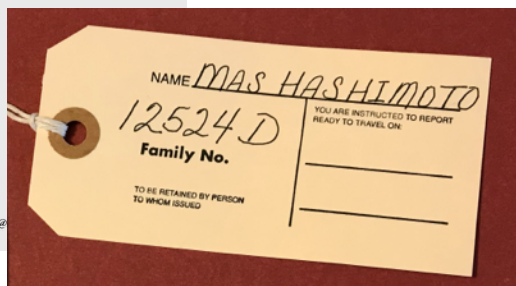
"Liberty Lost ... Lessons in Liberty" • April 27, 2002 • Watsonville, California
 Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL • P.O. Box 163 • Watsonville, California • 95077 • 831-722-6859 • hash79@

A tag with the names of ten American Concentration camps was given to Mas's audience which was about 3,000 students, teachers and community members annually.

In introducing himself, Mas would include his "prison" #12524 D written on a baggage tag that incarcerated were told to wear by the War Relocation Authorities.

Today, we have passed out tags to you with appreciation for your supportive attendance.

"Onward"
In Memory of Mas



Shirley Flores-Munoz, Friend of the Library, acknowledged and honored the site of the Amah Mutsun Tribe.

Friends of the Watsonville Public Library - A Few Upcoming 2024 Events

By Friends of the Watsonville Library

1. An exhibit, *Never Again is Now*, UCSC Professor Alice Yang's exhibit of photography, artifacts, oral histories, and video recordings of the Japanese American Internment. Watsonville Public Library, second floor. [March-May 2024].
2. **Lantern Art Workshop** with Judy Shintani at the Watsonville Main Library on April 13, 2024; (1-4p).
3. Community Reads book discussion of *Buddha in the Attic* on April 16, 2024 (6-8p).

We welcome your participation. Please consider attending a Friends board meeting. We are in the planning stages of opening a used book store and could really use your helpful ideas! Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday from 2:00-3:00 p.m. on the second floor of the library. Call Shirley Flores Munoz, Friends board member with more information (831) 332-6682 or shflores@cabrillo.edu.



[Watsonville Reads](#) is a community engagement program that aims to bring people together through the shared reading experience of books tied to a particular theme. This year's Watsonville Reads theme is "Bringing Awareness to Japanese and Japanese Americans History, Culture and Heritage". [Watsonville Reads will feature book discussions, craft-making programs and writing workshops.](#)

We have selected two books that are representative of our selected theme and are intended to inspire and foster lively discussions:

- 📖 "The Buddha in the Attic" by Julie Otsuka
- 📖 "Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet" by Jamie Ford.

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Chapter Events

~ SAVE THE DATES ~

JAPANESE CULTURAL FAIR

MISSION PLAZA PARK - 103 EMMETT ST., SANTA CRUZ, CA
SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2024

Showcasing traditional Japanese Culture in Santa Cruz

For more details, see <https://www.jcfsantacruz.org>

Our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Chapter will have a booth. Please come by and see us!



The Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL

2024 Community Picnic

Aptos Village Park

Saturday, June 29, 2024, 11:00 AM - 4:30 PM

We are back celebrating our community with our annual picnic.

Races | Senior Bingo | Lunch | Scholarship Presentations

Drawing with grand prize: One week Vacation at Villa Del Palmar, Cabo San Lucas

Featured Entertainment: Watsonville Taiko

For more information, see our May 2024 issue of "The Bridge" or visit us at www.watsonvillesantacruzjACL.com

SENIOR CENTER NEWS FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2024 *By Carol Kaneko*

Happy Year of the Dragon! Unfortunately, we were unable to have our usual New Year's celebration at the Senior Center, due to a lack of time and volunteers to plan and organize this event.

The Senior Center returned to its birthday celebrations on January 18, 2024. Our birthday honorees were: **Noemi Sakaguchi, Nancy Shikuma, Karen Sugidono, and Hatsuko Tsuji 93**. New member, **Noemi**, was the lone honoree in attendance. We enjoyed the return of our birthday cake and ice cream celebration. Thank you to **Noemi** for paying for the birthday cake.

An updated membership list was passed out on February 1st, and the 2023 Treasurer's report was made available to anyone interested in looking it over. The Senior Center is in good shape financially thanks to all the generous donations we have received.



A planning meeting was held at 3 pm on February 1st to review our program and to look ahead to 2024. In attendance were: **Toshi Yamashita, Reba Condon, Sharon Bobo, Bill and Gail Wurtenberg, Leigh Sakaguchi, Jean Yamashita, Paul and Carol Kaneko, and Kenny Kusumoto**. **Paul and Carol** volunteered to chair our Mother's Day event; **Toshi** our Father's Day event; and **Reba** the Senior Center 53rd Anniversary in October. Our Christmas celebration details will be determined at a later date when someone volunteers to chair this event. **Reba** will look into casino trips and **Leigh** will look into other suggested activities for the future. Please contact **Reba** if you have any ideas for senior trips. Many thanks to those who attended and special thanks to those who stepped up to help.



Our February birthday celebration was held on February 15th, with birthday honorees **Jean Akiyama 91, Jeanette Crosetti, Haru Ishibashi 98, Carol Kaneko, Hisako Kodama 91, and Gary Mine**. Absent were **Eiko Ceremony 99, Sam Sakamoto 99, Chiyeko Shikuma 99, and Eiko Stewart**. Our 90 and over birthday honorees who were present, **Jean Akiyama, Haru Ishibashi, and Hisako Kodama** were each given a Gizdich apple dumpling. Happy Birthday to all our February honorees!

An additional treat was in store for us at our February birthday celebration. In honor of **Hisako Kodama's 91st** birthday, a surprise *obento* from **Miyuki Restaurant** was given to all by the **Kodama Family**. Thank you to **Nancy Tamaki and Mrs. Kodama** for the delicious surprise!

Thanks to **Phil Shima** for taking our birthday photos; **Gail Wurtenberg** for ordering and picking up the beautiful cake; **Sharon Bobo** for picking up the ice cream; **Reba Condon** for taking care of the birthday gifts and flowers; and **Jean Yamashita** and our *toban* helpers for setting up and decorating for our birthday celebration.

On February 22nd, **Haru Ishibashi's** family surprised her with a special birthday cake and cookies in honor of **Haru's 98th** birthday! We sang "Happy Birthday" to **Haru** and enjoyed cake and cookies before playing bingo. We welcomed her family for the special celebration: daughter **Lizzie** and **Bill Goodson**, daughters **Gail** and **Carol**, and granddaughter **Miko**. Thank you for the surprise celebration!

Reba Condon and **Jean Yamashita** are currently making plans for a possible trip to **Elkhorn Slough** sometime in April. Updates and details for this trip will be announced at our upcoming Thursday meetings. Stay tuned.

Many thanks for all bingo prize donations made in January and February by the following: **Jeanette Crosetti, June/Sunao Honda, Mary Perez, Judy Hane, Jean Yamashita, Connie Dimas, Sharon Bobo, Haru Ishibashi, Tok Yamashita, Nobuko Akiyama, Nobue Fujii, Janet/Hideko Nagamine, Toshi Yamashita, Gail/Bill Wurtenberg, Angie Guzman, Kitty/Takashi Mizuno, Riiko Yoshida, Kim Tao, Mitsuyo Tao, Maria Burnett, Darrell Uyeda, Norris Woodford, Patt Takeuchi, Carol Kaneko, and Emi Kaita**.

Guests to the Senior Center in January and February included **Maria Burnett, Akiko Hino-Mitchell, Nancy Tamaki, and Haru Ishibashi's family**.

We are grateful for the monetary donations received in January and February from: **Bette Garcia, Grace Fujita, Noemi Sakaguchi, Carol Kaneko, Hisako Kodama, Gary Mine, and Jeanette Crosetti**.

Special monetary donations for the Senior Center program gratefully received from: **Joann and Art Hayashi**, **Nancy and Gerald Yamada**, an **Anonymous** donor, **K&T Nakase Family Foundation**, and **Lilia Freitas**. Also from **Bette Garcia** for the Senior Center's 53rd Anniversary, and **Nobue Fujii** in honor of **Mas Hashimoto**.

We welcomed new members **Lilia Freitas** and **Kenny Kusumoto**.

Thanks to all who have stepped up to help with the running of our Senior Center program: **Leigh Sakaguchi** and **Paul Kaneko** for opening up in January and February; our January *toban* – **Judy Hane** and **Mary Perez** and our February *toban* – **Gail Wurtenberg** and **Sharon Bobo**; our bingo callers, **Bill Wurtenberg**, **Kitty Mizuno**, and **Leigh Sakaguchi**; our many card checkers and prize distributors; and **Sharon Bobo** and **Patt Takeuchi** for keeping track of our numerous bingo prize donations.

Arigatō to **Nobue Fujii** for taking attendance each Thursday and to **Jean Yamashita** and **Reba Condon** for all the many tasks they quietly take care of each week.

Special Note: *Birthday and Senior Center anniversary donations are again mandatory since the Senior Center has reopened. Please remember to make a monetary donation on your birthday month and in October when we celebrate our 53rd Anniversary.*

Thank you from treasurer **Carol Kaneko** to all who are current with your 2024 local JACL dues (Senior Center dues) or your National JACL dues.

If you are a Senior Center member who has not yet returned to play bingo on Thursdays, please consider joining us! We currently have around 36 members regularly attending and would like to see more of you. Your senior center friends miss you!

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Senior Center Activities March-April 2024

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|--------------|---|
| Thurs Mar 7 | Regular bingo | Thurs Apr 4 | Regular bingo |
| Thurs Mar 14 | Regular bingo | Thurs Apr 11 | Regular bingo |
| Thurs Mar 21 | March Birthday party , Regular bingo | Thurs Apr 18 | April Birthday Party , Regular bingo |
| Thurs Mar 28 | Regular bingo | Thurs Apr 25 | Regular bingo |

Thanks to our many supporters whose continued interest and monetary donations have enabled us to return to our Thursday meetings. Our senior members are again enjoying being with their friends and winning our many donated bingo prizes.

Community Archiving Program *By Rebecca Hernandez, PhD, Community Archivist, UC Santa Cruz*

UC Santa Cruz CART Fellow, Meleia Simon-Reynolds, is in the final stages of processing the JACL collection and would like to share all she has done thus far on Saturday, April 20th. Additionally, we think it would be a wonderful time to connect with you all about the upcoming exhibit of those materials (opening in June) as well.

The program includes:

- Rebecca - Community Archives presentation
- Meleia & Alix - Intro to JACL collection processing and
 - Walkthrough of how to access the finding aid
 - And request materials in the UCSC reading room
- Activities
 - Share copies of the draft JACL finding aid, attendees would be invited to annotate it in real-time
 - The JACL collection records would be transported to the event. Attendees would be provided with reflection prompts for the selected records and be invited to respond. Reflection prompts would be broad in scope and designed to solicit responses from a wide variety of participants (not just those with deep knowledge of JACL history).

Please look out for a forthcoming flyer with additional details.

**Local Filmmaker Receives National Film Registry Recognition/
Screening in Watsonville
March 17th**

By Duane Kubo

Among the 25 films included in 2023's class of inductees to the Library of Congress National Film Registry was *Cruisin' J-Town*, a documentary short film from 1975 featuring the beginnings of an Asian American identity through music and the experiences of three Los Angeles musicians - koto virtuoso June Kuramoto, bandleader and composer Dan Kuramoto and taiko master extraordinaire Johnnie Mori - from the legendary fusion group Hiroshima.



<https://www.washingtonian.com/2023/12/13/2023-library-of-congress-film-registry-inductees/>

Cruisin' J-Town was directed by Soquel resident Duane Kubo, one of the founders of Visual Communications, the seminal Asian American media arts group that created the first Asian American films in the early 1970s.

A late addition to the Watsonville Film Festival, the film will be co-presented by the WFF and Watsonville/Santa Cruz JACL on March 17th at Kizuka Hall, 150 Blackburn St, Watsonville at 2:00 pm.

Duane Kubo will be in conversation with UCSC Dean of Arts Dr. Celine Parranas Shimizu after the screening. A Q and A will follow along with refreshments and a chance to mingle with the audience. There is no charge for this community event but we request that you RSVP to ensure accommodations.

RSVP: duanekubo@gmail.com

Contact for further information:

Duane Kubo 1(831) 566-0679 (text)



NEVER AGAIN IS NOW

Japanese American Women Activists and the Legacy of the Mass Incarceration



Japanese American women who experienced the World War II mass incarceration have a long history of activism that includes protests within the camps, participation in the social movements of the 1960s, and the successful campaign for a national apology and monetary redress. They, their daughters, granddaughters, and non-binary individuals continue to invoke memories of the World War II injustice to defend the rights of all people of color in their activism and art.

Women Remembering the Mass Incarceration of Japanese Americans Panel and Reception

Watsonville Public Library

Second Floor Meeting Room

Thursday, March 21, 2024 4 - 6 pm



Na Omi Judy Shintani



Reiko Fujii

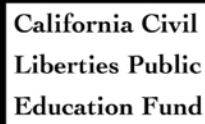
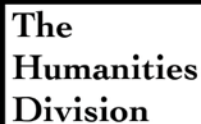


Lucien Kubo



Marcia Hashimoto

Sponsored By:



Reminder: 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.**

A detailed description and requirements of the 2024 Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Local Scholarships is included in the January 2024 newsletter

FRIENDS & FAMILY OF NISEI VETERANS *By Brian Shiroyama*

Memorial Service

Armed Services Day
May 18, 2024 at 12:00 Noon
Roberts Park
Oakland Hills, California
(No picnic)

Las Vegas Reunion

Sept. 16 to 20, 2024
California Hotel & Casino
Registration link to go out in June

Please visit www.ffnv.org for details or email: Brian Shiroyama at bshiroyama@gmail.com.

REGISTER NOW FOR KOKORO NO GAKKO 2024!

By Sean Sheehan

Kokoro no Gakko will again be held at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple, Monday June 24 through Friday June 28, 2024 from 9 AM to 3 PM. Gakko is dedicated to the culture and arts of Japan and was founded to pass on an understanding of Japanese American culture. Children between kindergarten and 6th grade learn Japanese customs through hands-on bonsai, ikebana, origami, calligraphy, cooking, language arts, performances, and much more. This year registration includes a hot lunch, with a vegetarian option, each day. Register and pay by April 1st for early-bird rate of \$390, or \$440 thereafter. More information and registration form is available at kokoronogakko.org. If you or someone you know has a skill to contribute or is interested in helping at Gakko, please email kokoronogakkowatsonville@gmail.com.



Kokoro no Gakko – or “School with a Heart” in English – is a one-week summer program dedicated to the culture and arts of Japan and founded to pass on an understanding of Japanese American culture. It has operated for more than 30 years. Children between kindergarten and 6th grade learn traditional Japanese customs and practices through hands-on activities, including bonsai, ikebana, origami, calligraphy, cooking, language arts, performance, and much more. The program typically closes with an Open House showcasing the cultural skills acquired by the students, a raffle, and potluck dinner.

Gakko is held at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple and is a parent-cooperative venture, thriving on the support from all the children's families, community volunteers, and the generosity of the classroom and resource-specific senseis. It is more than a summer program; it is a one-week close-knit community!

Registration for the 2024 summer session is open!

Location: Watsonville Buddhist Temple, 423 Bridge Street, Watsonville

Dates: June 24 – June 28, 2024, 9 AM – 3 PM

Enrollment: Students who have completed kindergarten through 6th grades. This year enrollment includes a hot lunch, with a vegetarian option, each day.

Tuition: \$390 per student if registration and payment is received by April 1, 2024 or \$440 thereafter. <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/kokoronogakko>

Family Commitments: This special summer program is a parent co-operative that is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. All families are required to assist at the program, a community event, or on a committee to maintain the program. Donations to help support the day-to-day running of Gakko and the farmers market are also requested, and volunteers are sought. If interested, please email kokoronogakkowatsonville@gmail.com. We thank you in advance for your support! Kokoro no Gakko exists because of family and community dedication.

What to Expect: Each class is led and taught by a credentialed teacher. During Gakko, students use a Japanese name and select a mon, or family crest, as the basis for many art projects. Each year at Gakko has a different theme: Festivals during Kindergarten; Fish and Paper for 1st Grade; Rice and Cooking for 2nd Grade; Games for 3rd Grade; Bamboo for 4th; and Immigration and Japanese-American Incarceration during World War II alternate for 5th and 6th Grade. In between classroom lessons, students rotate to different activities led by volunteer resource specialists.

For More Information: kokoronogakkowatsonville@gmail.com

kokoronogakko.org

WATSONVILLE BONSAI CLUB *By Charlie Thompson*

The upcoming meeting dates for the Watsonville Bonsai Club are:

March 25, Monday, Regular Meeting and Workshop at JACL Kizuka Hall 6:30 PM
 April 13, Saturday, Regular Meeting and Workshop at JACL Kizuka Hall 1:30 PM
 April 22, Monday, Regular Meeting and Workshop at JACL Kizuka Hall 6:30 PM
 May 11, Saturday, Regular Meeting and Workshop at JACL Kizuka Hall 1:30 PM
 May 27, Monday, Regular Meeting and Workshop at JACL Kizuka Hall 6:30 PM

WATSONVILLE TAIKO AND SHINSEI DAIKO *By Bonnie Gihara***Class sessions:**

March 1-April 26
 May 3-June 28

Fridays

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 10:00-11:00 am - Intro to Taiko | 6:00-7:00 pm - Intermediate Children |
| 11:15 am-12:15 pm - Beginning Taiko | 7:00-8:00 pm - Beginning Adults |
| 4:30-5:30 pm - Beginning Children | 8:00-9:00 pm - Intermediate Adults |
| 5:00-6:00 pm - Beginning Children I | |

Saturdays

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

Contact our business manager Kay Miyamoto at 831 475 1088 or email us at info@watsonvilletaiko.org for class more info or to sign up. Please check our website for updates at www.watsonvilletaiko.org

Our upcoming schedule-

April 27th - Cupertino Cherry-Memorial Park, Cupertino
 April 28th - Big Sur Marathon
 May 4th - Scott's Valley Multi-Cultural Fair - Skypark, Scott's Valley
 June 8th - Japanese Cultural Fair - Mission Plaza Park, Santa Cruz

WATSONVILLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE**Why JDSS?** *By Rev. Hosen Shinschi*

This is a great question and one that we should be asking ourselves on a regular basis. At first I thought to myself, "Well, because I cannot do anything else." I was reminded of a story that Rev. Sakakibara of Kyoto shared with me during my time in Japan. He told of a time when he was practicing Zen and decided that he would go and listen to the speaker at the Nishi Hongwanji. He vowed to himself that he would sit and listen and continue to sit and listen until he understood. As he sat himself down and the Shoshinge chanting began, he joined in and in the midst of his chanting he began to complain to himself that his legs were hurting. At the conclusion of the chanting a priest stood up and began his howa. As the howa continued Rev. Sakakibara continued to complain about his legs to himself and soon turned his complaints to the speaker, criticizing both his delivery and his content. Forgetting all about his vow to sit, listen and understand his complaints went on.



He concluded his story to me with namandabu, namandabu, namandabu. Only Amida would embrace a fool like me who is so undisciplined, lazy and opinionated. I never thought of him in that way, but am grateful that I too am embraced despite my bakatare nature. I truly cannot do anything else.

Shinran Shonin came to this same conclusion during his time on Mount Hiei. From the age of eight to 29 years old, he practiced every conceivable practice on Mount Hiei. He was titled a doso which means that he had reached the highest ranking of monks on Mount Hiei, and yet enlightenment was elusive. One example of his rigorous practice he accomplished a practice known as Kaihogyo or circling the mountain. After 20 years he was not able to reach enlightenment. He still felt he was full of desires, passions, attachments etc.

Shinran's reasoning for following Honen were that he himself tried every conceivable practice and reached the pinnacle of his efforts (self power) and yet could not reach enlightenment. Honen offered to Shinran a way of salvation for such a person as Shinran. He (Shinran) later states that if Honen is wrong, then Genshin is wrong, if Genshin is wrong then Shan-tao is wrong, if Shan-tao is wrong, then Tao-ch'o is wrong, if Tao-ch'o is wrong then T'an-luan is wrong, if T'an-luan is wrong then Vasubandhu is wrong, if Vasubandhu is wrong then Nagarjuna is wrong, if Nagarjuna is wrong, then Shakyamuni Buddha is wrong.

Shinran then says if Honen is leading me to hell then I will go to hell, because I have no other recourse or practice. Honen taught Shinran the power of the vow of Amida's vow that saves all of us especially those of us who are incapable of practice, discipline and good.

Sakakibara sensei taught to me by his example the all-embracing power of the vow of nembutsu and my powerless self. I will always be grateful to him for his insight and compassion.

Namoamidabutsu
Rev. Hosei Shinseki

Ohigan, The Other Shore *By Rev. Hosei Shinseki*

Most everyone who follows us by newsletter or social media know that in March we observe the unique Japanese holiday called Ohigan. It is an observation of the Spring Equinox. The Japanese term Ohigan literally means "The Other Shore." By definition the "other" shore is some distance away. This other shore represents the Pure Land of Amida Buddha.

In the analogy of the other shore there is a depiction of you and I standing on this shore and off in the distance is the other shore of the Pure Land. Between us is a small thin white path connecting the two worlds. We stand on this shore and across the way we can see Amida Buddha on the other shore.

Coming up behind us as we stand looking over to Amida is a group of bandits and wild beasts ready to rob, beat and devour us. Realizing our predicament, the only alternative for us is to cross the thin white path to the Pure Land. That white path represents "shinjin" 信心 the pure mind that accepts the infinite wisdom and compassion of Amida Buddha.

The wild beasts and the bandits represent our "bonno" or our foolish self. They represent our attachments, our selfishness our greed and self-centered actions. The other shore represents the Pure Land or Enlightenment.

The observance of Ohigan is to remind us of our predicament but it is also a time to remember our loved ones who have crossed over to the Pure Land. Our loved ones point or guide us to the direction of the Pure Land. We can imagine them standing with Amida, calling to us to come over to this land of peace free from the anxieties represented by the wild beasts and bandits. They are calling to us to awaken to the reality of life and see it as it truly is.

You have often heard me say "see life as it truly is." What does that mean? A large part of that is to hear the voice of your loved ones who are telling you that it means to see life and death as part of truth/reality. We live in a dichotomous world that we have created for ourselves. We separate good and bad, likes and dislikes, birth and death. Buddhism encourages us to see them all as one and the same, the differences are creations of our minds.

In that regard, are we standing on the "Other Shore" already, or is this the other shore? Why do we call it "Other Shore". In Buddhism it is a way for us foolish beings to awaken us to the truth that we are living a life of "Bonno." As we stumble through life, Amida accepts us just as we are. If this is so, then we are already in the embrace of Amida and standing on the other shore, because they are one and the same.

When we open our eyes to the truth/reality of our world, we are already standing with Amida and our loved ones on the shore of Enlightenment. This is what Shinran described as Shinjin.

"When the one thought-moment of joy arises, Nirvana is attained without severing blind passions; When the ignorant and wise, even grave offenders and slanderers of the dharma, all alike turn about and enter shinjin, they are like waters that on entering the ocean, become one in taste with it."

Gassho,
Rev. Hosei Shinseki

2024 TEMPLE RECOGNITION

On behalf of the Watsonville Buddhist Temple, I would like to recognize the following individuals for their outstanding contributions and service to the Temple:

Peter Hester
Tad & JoAnn Kato

Ken & Alice Tanimoto
Norman Uyeda

They are all known for their selflessness and would not hesitate to assist any member in need. Their hard work ethics, their determination and their support of the membership have been an inspiration for others in the Temple. Please join me in congratulating these worthy recipients for their well-deserved recognition.

With gassho,
Kenny Kusumoto, President



WATSONVILLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE

HANAMATSURI

FLOWER FESTIVAL

CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF SHAKYAMUNI BUDDHA

GUEST SPEAKER
REV. LANDON YAMAOKA

SERVICE & TEMPLE TOUR
SERVICE AT 10:00AM
TOUR AT 11:00AM

DISPLAYS
IKEBANA
BONSAI
MATARO KIMEKOMI DOLL MAKING
BOY SCOUTS
KOKORO NO GAKKO

FOOD TRAILER
HAPABROS. ASIAN FUSION CUISINE
& limited Bentos for sale

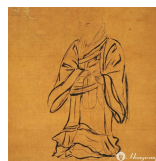
VENDORS
NIKKEI TRADITIONS OF SAN JOSE

RAFFLE

SUNDAY, APRIL 7TH
11:00AM TO 2:00PM
423 BRIDGE STREET, WATSONVILLE

FOR INFO CALL 831-724-7860 OR EMAIL buddhist@wbtemple.org

CD TEMPLES GOTANE



WHEN
May 19, 2024
10:00 am

WHERE
San Jose Betsuin
Buddhist Temple
640 N. 5th Street San Jose
408.293.9292

COMMEMORATING THE BIRTHDAY OF THE FOUNDER OF
JODOSHINSHU BUDDHISM—SHINRAN SHONIN
& THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF JODOSHINSHU IN AMERICA

GUEST SPEAKER: REV. HOSEI SHINSEKI

**ALL AGES
EVENT**

SPECIAL GUEST

Reverend Marvin Harada,
Bishop of the Buddhist
Churches of America

SPECIAL EVENTS INCLUDE:

KIESHIKI
CHILDRENS OCHIGO
LUNCHEON
CONTACT SAN JOSE BETSUIN
FOR MORE INFORMATION

SPONSORS

Monterey Buddhist Temple
Guadalupe Buddhist Temple
Mountain View Buddhist Temple
San Luis Obispo Buddhist Temple
Salinas Buddhist Temple
San Jose Buddhist Temple
Watsonville Buddhist Temple

Tentative Schedule of March 2024

Sun., Mar. 24 - Sunday Service @ 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

Lent — letting God's love and forgiveness melt our hearts so we might live in love



Lent began with Ash Wednesday on February 14. Lent is a period of 40 days to prepare our hearts to receive once again the gift of Easter. It is a time to remember why we need a Savior as we take time in reflection on our own sinfulness (ways we do not love) and our need for our Savior to continue to give us hearts of love and dependence upon the Good Shepherd.

The idea behind the 40 days of Lent is inspired by Jesus' time in the wilderness, where He spends 40 days and 40 nights praying and fasting before the start of His public ministry, which we can read about in the gospel of Matthew and Mark.

There are a few main focuses when it comes to Lent: **prayer**, **fasting** and **giving**.

Prayer during Lent focuses on our need for God's forgiveness, turning away from our sin (which leads to self-destruction) and receiving God's loving mercy.

Fasting during Lent focuses on giving up something that is a normal part of your life and being a type of sacrifice that reminds you of Christ's sacrifice. Some people give up eating out, social media, or entertainment, to name a few examples. Or, some make a commitment to do something, like read a Lenten devotional daily.

Giving encourages generosity, and either giving or doing for others as a response to the grace and kindness that God has given to you.

Lent can be a wonderful time for believers to draw near to the God who adores us and wants abundant life for us, rooting out the things we do that separate us from God and each other. It is also a time of Reflection on the immense love on of Christ who endured death to get us back, and the grace that flows from the ever loving and merciful heart of God.

These Bible verses can help you reflect during this time of Lent:

1. **Matthew 6:21** – *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*
2. **1 Peter 5:6** – *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.*
3. **Isaiah 58:6** – *Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?*
4. **Psalms 42:2** – *My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?*
5. **Isaiah 30:18** – *The Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore, he will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!*
6. **Matthew 6:33** – *Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

Goals for 2024 from Westview's Leadership Retreat of our Elders and Deacons

1. Westview has been blessed with many wonderful organizations working in our church—Our own SonRise Kitchen providing breakfast at the levee, Community Action Board (CAB) providing services to the unhoused and teens, Homeless Persons Helping Project (HHPH) providing health services to the unhoused, Recurso de Fuerza (Resource of Strength) which is the village of transitional homes that will be built behind the church with a projected completion date of November 2024. Iglesia de Cristo and Temple Betania, Spanish speaking congregations, both worshipping at our church. New School, alternative school, basketball team practicing at our church.

Our leaders would like to help these organizations and ministries to be more interconnected and for our members to feel more connected to all the good ministries occurring at Westview. You will get to know them better through the Chimes, and we hope to have meetings in which we all get to know each other better. We hope to also invite the Buddhist Temple and clubs in town into the service we are doing at Westview.

2. Sponsor a Tiny House room—we will invite families, classrooms, etc. to sponsor decorating a room in the Recurso de Fuerza village.
3. Initiate ways to better care for local youth by exploring ways to connect with the New School basketball team through providing snacks, inviting them to youth events or even opportunities for them to do service. We will explore hiring a youth leader. Also we will make kid activity bags for worship service.

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 village, “Resource of Strength,” is the name given by the unhoused on the levee for the small village that will be built behind the church. Monterey County initiated the project and Santa Cruz County will be taking it over in 2 years. The projected completion is now projected to be November 2024. 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!

Consider Sponsoring a Room: Please pray about if you, a club, or workplace colleagues would like to sponsor the decoration of one of these 34 rooms with things like a welcome mat, pictures, a flowering plant, bedside lamp, etc., so we can welcome with loving arms these people who have felt like unloved outcasts for far too long. Bless you!

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, Judith, Victor, Polly, Mary Lou, Michael, Sheri, Shizue, Gabriela, Pastor Dan and more!

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!



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: April - TBA

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's.



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!



Photos from left to right:
 -The HPHP (Homeless Persons Health Project) health van
 -HPHP and SonRise Kitchen serving pancakes and eggs for breakfast at the levee
 -HPHP and SonRise Kitchen distributing warm clothes at the levee
 -A large donation of cereal with a hearty thank you to Gretchen Warner