

WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL

“The Bridge 橋”

The Voice of Our Community

HAIKU

For my wife, Denise

Do not purse your lips
at me, snapdragon, but send
a kiss to my love!

Tsuma e muke

Kisu no yūwaku

Kingyosō

Haiku by Bob Gómez

Translation by Hiromi Ushimaru

妻 へ 向け
キス の 誘惑
金魚草

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.

- Linda Ito Babcock for W-SC JACL picnic
- Jennifer Gavin in honor of "Kainu'u Gavin college graduation"
- Maria Gitin Torres "sent in gratitude for the wise and compassionate District Statement on the War in Gaza"
- Hardy Quality Air for W-SC JACL picnic
- Arthur Hayashi, DDS - "It was a pleasure helping make the JACL community picnic raffle a success."
- Christine Izumizaki for "Father's Day"
- Brooke Kondo Rains, DDS for W-SC JACL picnic
- Reed and Jamie Kuratomi, DDS for W-SC JACL picnic
- Janet Nagamine, Hikari Farms, for the Santa Cruz Cultural Fair
- Janet Nagamine and Stuart Sakuma
- Tsurue Nelson - "I appreciate you publishing the heart-warming article on my brother, Satoru Henry Taniguchi. He loved Watsonville, and was a big supporter of the JACL, and I know he was appreciative of your good work. Thank you for all you do. Sincerely, Tsurue Nelson."

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See you next in September 2024!

Website: www.watsonvillesantacruzjaci.com

DONATIONS (Continued)

- Stuart Sakuma, OD, for W-SC JACL picnic
- Scurich Insurance Services for W-SC JACL picnic
- Chiye Tamaki and Kenneth Nakamura in memory of Willie Yahiro
- Kim Tao for the Santa Cruz Japanese Cultural Fair
- Esther Ura for W-SC JACL picnic
- Watsonville-SC JACL Senior Center for W-SC JACL picnic
- Yoshida Living Trust in memory of Mae Yoshida

WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL

2024 Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Community Picnic *By Bobbi Jo Palmer and Marcia Hashimoto*

Photos by Jean Yamashita and Cindy Mine

The Annual Community Picnic returned this year after a four year postponement due to the COVID pandemic. We had a wonderful turn out of our JACL members, Kokoro no Gakko families and community friends. Thanks to the hardworking and dedicated Watsonville-Santa Cruz board members who took on leadership and positions of assistance: Joe Bowes, Bonnie Chihara, Hiroshi Fukurai, Marcia Hashimoto, Nikki Hikari, Victor Kimura, Kenny Kusumoto, Cindy Hirokawa Mine, Gary Mine and Sean Sheehan.

We are grateful for the service of retired Watsonville Firefighter Matt Ryan of 5Alarm BBQ and his assistant Chip. The BBQ chicken, salad and French bread were deliciously prepared by Matt and Chip. Matt cooked for the Watsonville Kawakami Sister City Barbecue for 25 years. Thanks to the hardworking kitchen team who cooked the beans, rice and served lunch that included sweet organic strawberries from Kim and Paul Tao of P & K Farms and ice cream. Thanks to everyone who brought snacks to share including Krispy Kreme Donuts from Jean Yamashita.

Thank you to the kitchen volunteers; Mabel and Chiye Tamaki, Jimmy, Yoshiko and Bruce Arao, Sharyn and Doug Nakashima, Reba Condon, Cindy Hirokawa Mine and Jean Yamashita. Bingo was played in the reception hall overseen by JACL Senior Center leaders, Reba Condon and Bill Wurtenberg. Thanks to Thomas Chan for transporting seniors to the picnic.

Our thanks to the financial team of Victor Kimura, Shizue Shikuma and Nikki Hikari.

Our community picnic program featured the dynamic Watsonville Taiko performers. We are fortunate to have Watsonville Taiko welcome all to our annual picnic event. We appreciate the supportive cultural relationship Watsonville Taiko and the W-SC JACL share.

Everyone was a winner at the races ranging from one year olds to adults and organized by Sean Sheehan with helpers, Luca and Noa Kawamoto, Brandon Potter, Debbie Chan and Brooke Rains.

Brandon Potter, Noa and Luka Kawamoto and Greyson Kimura assisted Joe Bowes with the exciting raffle. Scholarship recipient Bruce Arao pulled the winning tickets for the grand prizes.

We are extremely grateful for the thoughtfully generous donations from the following individuals, businesses and organizations to our picnic raffle: Dr. Art Hayashi, Dr. Reed Kuratomi, Dr. Jamie Kuratomi, Dr. Brooke Rains, Dr. Stuart Sakuma, Dr. Janet Nagamine and Hideko Nagamine of Hikari Farms, Watsonville Taiko with Ikuyo Conant Sensei, W-SC JACL, W-SC JACL Sr. Center, Hardy Quality Air owners Darrell Hardy and Stacey Cooper, Mike and Tony Scurich Insurance Services, P & K Strawberries owners Paul and Kim Tao, Imura Restaurant owners Kevin and Jee Kajihara, Miyuki Restaurant owner Paul Tashiro, CPA Alan Uyematsu, Flowers by Toshi owner Ryoko Kozuki, Sushi Market Sprouts owner Junko Goro, Kaito Ramen owner Koji Goro, Artist George Dymesich, Esther Ura, Linda Ito Babcock, Deanne Row, Bobbi Jo Palmer, Bonnie Chihara, Victor Kimura, and Marcia Hashimoto.

Special thanks to all those who helped with load up, set up and clean up with assistance from Doug Nakashima, Hiroshi Mussleman, Deanne Row and Frank Winterroth.

To anyone who helped or donated and your name was unintentionally omitted, we apologize. Please contact Marcia Hashimoto at 831-722-6859 or Bobbi Jo Palmer palmer.bobbijo@yahoo.com and corrections will be made in the next newsletter.

We hope to see you next year!

WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL 2024 COMMUNITY PICNIC



Matt Ryan who served the community with a delicious BBQ.



Where to purchase drawing or lunch tickets (Shizue Shikuma, Victor Kimura, Marcia Hashimoto and Bonnie Chihara).



Picnic Bingo: Bill Wurtenberg and Reba Condon.



Community enjoying Bingo.



Enjoying the *geta* races.



Adults enjoying the games!

WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL 2024 COMMUNITY PICNIC



Assisting with Games: Noa Kawamoto



Watsonville Taiko performing.



Everyone of all ages, participating in Taiko!



Sharing the Day:
Mrs. Nagamine,
Mrs. Shikuma
& daughter, Nancy.



A 4-legged cutie attending
our Picnic!



The winner of the TV!

WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL 2024 COMMUNITY PICNIC



The Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Board members at the Community Picnic.

2024 Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Local Scholarship Awards

By Marcia Hashimoto, Victor Kimura and Kenny Kusumoto; Photo by Cindy Mine



Congratulations to our 2024 Scholarship recipients:
Kai Gavin and Bruce Arao!

The Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL proudly congratulates Bruce Arao and Kai Gavin on their award of our Graduate Studies Scholarships which is a gift of \$1,000 per year for up to two years. The scholarships are supported by Louise Sako and the late Ray Sako, the Kee Kitayama Family and the Frank Mito Family.

Bruce is the son of Jim Arao and Yoshiko Matsushita-Arao. He graduated from the University of California Santa Barbara in 2020 with Bachelor of Arts Degrees majoring in Economics and Sociology. Bruce will pursue his Master's Degree in Public Policy and Public Health at the University of California Berkeley.

Kai is the son of Jennifer Ura Gavin and the late Curtis Gavin and grandson of Esther Ura. Kai is a 2024 graduate of Endicott College in Boston, Massachusetts with a Bachelor's Degree in Sport Management. He will be pursuing his Master's Degree with a focus in Management at Temple University in Japan.

Bruce and Kai attended and graduated from Watsonville's Summer Japanese Cultural School, Kokoro no Gakko. They continued to help at Gakko as student assistants.

Bruce and Kai have been active youth members of JACL since childhood. It has been and continues to be exciting to watch their positive participation in our events and activities.

Bruce and Kai are to be commended for their outstanding academic achievements, community service and leadership. W-SC JACL wishes Bruce and Kai continued success in attaining their academic, career and personal goals.

Thank you Bruce and Kai for your statements which will be included in the September 2024 issue of our Chapter newsletter.

Alan Nishio *(sharing by Gindy Mine)*

The 2024 JACL Convention in Philadelphia reminded me that this time last year on July 23, 2023, Alan received the JACL President's Lifetime Achievement Award. He was honored at the JACL National Convention in Los Angeles in recognition of his decades of Leadership and devotion to Community, Education and Social Justice.

I believe that Alan probably has affected your Life in some form or another especially if you are Japanese American.

I once heard a wise person say, you are born, you die, but it is how you "Lived your Life In Between" that is important. In my sharing, I am just giving you a snapshot of Alan as a Human Being, a Family man, someone who spent his Life advocating for the Japanese Americans and people of color, and how he taught others to Live while dying.

Social Justice

On August 9, 1945, the day an atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, Alan was born in Manzanar. Alan shared that his parents never spoke of the WWII Incarceration out of a sense of shame or that we had done something wrong. He did not learn about the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans until he researched it while attending UC Berkeley. His response to this injustice led him to become a life-long advocate for Social Justice.

Examples of Alan's commitment to Social Justice:

- Founded and co-chaired the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations
- Organized hearings and testified before the Federal Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians
- Founded the Little Tokyo People's rights Organization (LTPRO) to fight displacement of residents during redevelopment
- Supported initiatives by the Nikkei Progressives in Los Angeles

Alan felt that it was important to speak out so that our experiences from camp would serve as a lesson for our Nation about what can happen when groups can be profiled and scapegoated in the name of National Security.

He shared that for his parents, worse than losing their material possessions was losing their "hopes and dreams". He surmised that's why his dad turned to alcohol partly to avoid facing postwar life in working as a Gardner which he hated. Also, the trauma affected his sister who developed a long -term dependency on tranquilizers. By sharing this, he hopes to set an example for others to seek treatment for their pain and suffering.

Alan said that he lived through the 60's and that was a defining decade, but the current one we're in will be as defining if not more defining for the nature of our society and our country. We are fighting for important kinds of things, civil rights, and for equal educational opportunity. But in 2020, we're fighting against climate change, global warming, the destruction of our planet, a rise in nationalism under the guise of patriotism internationally....And the rise of authoritarianism and a disregard for democratic institutions.

Now is not the time to be a bystander...now is the time to stand up and be counted!

Education

Alan worked over 40 years in higher education. He was a leader/administrator who fought for student equity, diversity, and ethnic studies. He believed that a quality college education should be accessible to everyone.

Examples of Alan's achievements in Education:

- Founding Director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center
- Associate Vice President of Student Services at Cal State Long Beach
- Assistant Director of the USC Center for Social Action
- Trustee and Board Chair of the College Board (SAT)
- Instructor for Asian American Studies classes at Cal State, Long Beach Community

Community

Alan grew up in a poor neighborhood near the Mar Vista Gardens Housing Project in Culver City. As many of his childhood friends from the housing project fell into drug addiction or were in prison, he realized that building a supportive community was important to help people survive. He served on the Board of Directors of the Little Tokyo Center for 40 years, addressing such needs as social services for immigrants, affordable housing for the working poor, and the completion of the "Budokan", the martial arts and recreation center in Little Tokyo.

Examples of Alan's service to the Japanese American Community:

- Board Chair, Little Tokyo Service Center
- Board Member, Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Los Angeles
- Advisor, Kizuna Little Tokyo, a JA youth development organization
- Founding Member and Chair, California Japanese American Community Leadership Council

- Many people describe Alan as:
 - Iconic and Prominent Community Leader, a Deeply strong and cherished Friend, a Visionary and an Amazing Mentor
 - He worked behind the scenes, believed in doing the right thing, was down to earth, encouraged and inspired, was remembered for his warmth and sense of humor and radiated kindness and thoughtfulness.

On a Personal Note:

Alan lived in Los Angeles, but he had family roots in Santa Cruz County. He was my mother's cousin, and he and his family were frequent visitors, as his grandmother, my great-grandmother lived with us in Watsonville. There are local Santa Cruz people (Duane, Lucien, Rod and Patt) who knew Alan.

I was around 9 when I remembered Alan. He was going to Berkeley, and it was in the context that he was a radical there. As a 9 year old that did not sound good. I realized as an adult that he was an Activist, not a Radical. As most family's do, we touched basis at weddings and funerals; later on, I was the happy recipient of tickets from Alan to the Blues Festival at CSU, Long Beach. A few years ago, I did reach out to Alan to help me sort out my feelings about a subject regarding JACL. Then just a few years ago, Gary and I visited his mom when she was at a Board and care. All families have "stuff" or there's "family dynamics". You never heard anything negative of Alan's family who were held in high regard.

Alan grew up very shy, he faced embarrassment as his dad was a Gardner and Alan as a teenager helped his dad, hoping his classmates didn't see him. He shared that he didn't enjoy High School and his grades were not the greatest either. However, you take this child who grew up shy, who ended up at Berkeley and evolved as an adult who has never been averse to talking about conditions that have traditionally been kept silent.

People have shared with me that they would not have gone into Education if it were not for Alan:

- Eddie Wong, shared that because of Alan, he became a filmmaker. Alan encouraged him to apply for the Ethnocommunications program at UCLA film school even though Eddie's lack of artists portfolio. Eddie stayed in the film field for nearly 10 years.
- Duane Kubo shared when Visual Communications needed to get a loan to complete the film Hito HATA: Raise the Banner; Alan and Yvonne "they put their house on the line for us".
- Another lady shared that when she was extremely ill with no Health Insurance, Alan assisted her in getting that care.

I am sure there are countless stories out there where Alan affected people in a profound way.

Then on February 4, 2023, Alan shared that he was on Hospice. My heart sunk. He assured me that his spirits remained good as he reflected on a Life well-lived. Alan had Zoom chats with Activists from throughout the nation to say goodbye and to Thank his Friends. He was still very productive during this time and he taught people what illness and mortality could look like.

When Alan decided against further treatment, there were two things that he wanted to do in his short- time left. He wanted to take his entire family to the Japanese National Museum, to honor his family by placing a mark in Ireicho and for his grandchildren to hear the story of how the unjust racist imprisonment of 125,000 Japanese American and Japanese impacted the family. He also wanted to take his 6 grandchildren to see "Living", a remake of a 1952 Akira Kurosawa classic, "Ikiru". "Ikiru" affected him in how it inspired his life and work. There's a difference between existing and living. One of his friends said that even in death, I am continuing to learn from you. Alan even made his time in Hospice memorable and meaningful. He had positivity under all kinds of dire circumstances.

A Life Well Lived

After a 17-year battle fighting a rare cancer in his abdomen area, he passed away on December 27, 2023. My husband Gary and I attended Alan's Celebration of Life in February 2024. It was an inspiring and uplifting Ceremony where family and friends spoke about Alan's life being well-lived. Members of the Grateful Crane performed his favorite song "Imagine" by John Lennon.

All six of Alan's grandchildren participated in his Celebration of Life, revealing their love and close relationship with their grandfather. Alan's youngest grandchild, Emi Nishio Lockwood, recited a poem that she wrote about her grandfather. She is a 9th grader at Mira Costa High School in Manhattan Beach, California.

"My grandfather, Alan Nishio, was well loved and respected by many, myself included. He accomplished amazing things and fought for many righteous causes. However, he did not believe his causes were better than others, nor his life more remarkable than others. Instead, he wanted to empower people to find their own way. This is a poem about my grandfather's actions, and what he has taught us all."

My Grandfather's Path

My grandfather was a Samurai Warrior,
But not in the way you'd expect.

He believed in honor, justice, and peace,
He didn't believe in wealth, ego, and power.

He fought battles alongside friends and neighbors,
He made communities stronger.

He was always kind and empowered people in the process,
He was an inspiration, a beacon of hope.

And yet, Grandfather never said, "Come, follow me."
No, he said, "Find your own path, your passion."

He suffered many setbacks,
But he continued to move forward,
Driven by belief and resilience.

When at last he laid down his sword,
I lost sight of honor, justice, and peace.

Grandfather knew we would feel lost,
But he wanted us to keep moving forward,

His last words to us were, "The journey is everything".

Partial List of Alan's Service and Awards:


- Board Chair Little Tokyo Service Center
- Founding Co-Chair National Coalition for Redress/Reparations
- Board Member Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Los Angeles
- Founding Member and Chair California Japanese American Community Leadership Council
- Founding Board Chair Visual Communications
- Member Advisory Council Kizuna
- Order of the Rising Sun recognition from the Japanese Government
- Lifetime Achievement Award Japanese American Citizens League
- The Embrey Legacy Award Manzanar Committee
- Activist Award NAACP Long Beach Chapter
- Associate Vice President for Students Services CSULB
- Founding Director of Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) CSULB
- Trustee and Member of Board of Directors The College Board
- Founding Director UCLA Asian American Studies Center
- Assistant Director USC Center for Social Action
- Establishment of the Alan T. Nishio Educational Equity Excellence Scholarship at CSULB

"What do I do with the time that I have and how do I define that?... I can't predict how long I have, but what I can do is manage how I use my time and how it reflects my values and interests as a person. I've been forced to be very intentional in my life, in terms of what I do and how what I do reflects who I am.

For the last 11 years I've had to live with a very serious condition. It's part of who I am, but I've not allowed this to define me. If anything, it's allowed me to define what is important to me. While it's not been a fun ride, I've had chemo three times, radiation, seven surgeries, in between those times, I have gained a heightened appreciation for life. And community is an important part of that. Engaging with younger generations and trying to give them some sense of the future is part of that, and time with family and friends.

And so, it's been a great run. And despite the challenges, it's probably been one of the best chapters of my life."

Excerpt from UCLA Asian American Studies Center 2018 Collective Memories Project, Oral History Interview.



[My sharing of Alan is by permission of Yvonne Nishio, Alan's wife.]

JACL Calls for Swift Return of Sadako Statue to Seattle Peace Park *By Seia Watanabe*

July 15, 2024

For Immediate Release

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Kyle Kinoshita, Seattle Chapter JACL President, kinoshitakyle@hotmail.com

Seattle, Washington, July 15, 2024. The Japanese American Citizens League expresses its dismay with the apparent theft of a statue of Sadako Sasaki from Seattle's Peace Park. Sadako Sasaki has come to symbolize the hope for world peace due to her tragic death related to the bombing of Hiroshima and this statue has an especially important tie to our Japanese American community. The park was created due to the leadership and activism of Floyd Schmoe, who dedicated his life first to fighting the injustice of Japanese American mass incarceration during WWII and after the war, to the lasting impacts of the atomic bomb on the Japanese people who survived. The removal of this statue is an affront to the legacy of Floyd Schmoe, and in the face of increasing political and wartime violence, is an unfortunate reminder of the deterioration of the dream of world peace. "The JACL Seattle Chapter is dismayed that this monument to peace has been stolen from the people of Seattle," stated Seattle Chapter President Kyle Kinoshita. "In just a few weeks, on August 7, we will be joining several Seattle organizations in the annual lantern floating ceremony to honor the victims of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings and other victims of violence. It is especially disturbing that this would happen so close to the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. Floyd Schmoe, who led efforts to establish the park and erect the statue, was a lifelong supporter of our community and did more than anyone to advance the civil and human rights of all people."

"JACL just completed its national convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania this past weekend where we passed a resolution calling for peace in Gaza. It is especially troubling that just as we were working towards a call for peace, this symbol of that hope was having its legs literally cut off at the knees," stated JACL Executive Director, David Inoue. "I hope that the City of Seattle will be able to recover the statue or replace it as soon as possible, not only as a meaningful symbol of peace, but as

part of the legacy of Floyd Schmoe, a man who means so much to the Japanese American community, and deserves to be remembered for all the great things he so humbly did during his life.”

The national JACL and Seattle Chapter join in calls for the swift and safe return of this beloved statue.

SENIOR CENTER NEWS FOR MAY AND JUNE 2024

By Reba Condon and Carol Kaneko

The Senior Center celebrated Mother's Day on May 9th with the hall decorated with beautiful flowers and gifts for all mothers/ladies. The ladies were called up by age to select the gift of their choice before bingo started. Thanks to **Jean Yamashita** and **Reba Condon** for arranging the gifts and flower decorations. A big thank you to **Doris** and **Shuzo Yonemura** of **Peace Nursery** for donating the beautiful flowers. After bingo, all seniors and guests were treated to an obento from **Pono Hawaiian Grill**. **Timmy Hunt** of **Pono** donated 24 bottles of his **Pono Hawaiian Foods Nori Komi** flavored **Furikake**, which were handed out to all those who wished to try it. They were a big hit. Thanks to **Paul/Carol Kaneko** for arranging the obento.

May 16th was our May birthday party with honorees **Bette Garcia**, **Takashi Mizuno** and **Kim Tao**. Absent were **Cindy Mine** and **Alice and Ken Tanimoto**. Thanks to **Takashi Mizuno** for ordering, picking up, and paying for the beautiful birthday cake.

Our Father's Day celebration was on June 13th with everyone treated to a traditional KFC meal in remembrance of **Ray Sako** and his love of KFC fried chicken! Thanks to **Jean Yamashita** for arranging this treat and providing a fun Father's Day match game to test our knowledge of our honored fathers/gentlemen.

Our June birthday celebration was held on June 20th. The seniors honored were **Sharon Bobo**, **Judy Hane** and **Leigh Sakaguchi**. Absent were **Reba Condon**, **Lilia Freitas**, **Kenny Kusumoto**, **Gini Matute-Bianchi** and **Norris Woodford**.

Many thanks to **Gail Wurtenberg** for handling the birthday cake, **Sharon Bobo** for bringing the ice cream, **Reba Condon** for ordering flowers to decorate the tables, and **Phil Shima** for his role as senior center photographer. Thanks to the gracious crew who served the cake and ice cream: **Nobuko Akiyama**, **Liz Goodson**, **Marcia Hashimoto**, **June Honda**, **Aurora Magana** and **Jean Yamashita**. We appreciate all the volunteers who help make our birthday celebrations a special event every month!

No Senior Center gathering is scheduled on the Thursday July 4th holiday, so we had a little patriotic celebration on June 27th. The seniors did a great job completing a 4th of July word search game, then enjoyed a slice of apple pie while playing bingo. The game and pie were provided by **Jean Yamashita**. The next senior center gathering will be on Thursday, July 11th. **Happy 4th of July!**



Many thanks for the generous bingo prize donations made in May and June from: **Reba Condon**, **Jeanette Crosetti**, **Haru Ishibashi**, **June Honda**, **Mary Perez**, **Nobuko Akiyama**, **Anita Alvarado**, **Hideko Nagamine**, **Nobue Fujii**, **Jean Yamashita**, **Judy Hane**, **Kitty Mizuno**, **Kim Tao**, **Toshi Yamashita**, **Mitsuyo Tao**, **Honda grandchildren**, **Carol/Paul Kaneko**, **Carol Carpenter**, **Aurora Magana**, **Sharon Bobo**, **Angie Guzman**, **Connie Dimas**, **Evelyn Nartates**, **Victor Kimura**, **Lilia Freitas**, **Noemi Sakaguchi**, **Gail/Bill Wurtenberg**, **Hisako Kodama**, **Reiko Yoshida**, **Liz Goodson**, **Eileen Byers**, **Kenny Kusumoto**, and **Jean Akiyama**.

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

Birthday donations gratefully received from **Cheryl Hatani**, **Patti Ikegami**, **Laurie Matsushita** and **Susan Ikegami** in honor of mother **Emiko Kaita's** 97th birthday, **Cindy Mine**, **Judy Hane**, **Sharon Bobo**, **Reba Condon** and **Lilia Freitas**.

Christine Izumizaki generously made a Mother's Day donation and a special donation in memory of **Willie Yahiro** was received from **Shirley Nishimoto**. Other special donations were gratefully received from **Amy Dobashi** and **Victor Kimura**.

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

We welcomed these guests in May and June: **Victor Kimura**, **Lilia Freitas** and **Noemi Sakaguchi's** friend **Carol Carpenter**, **June** and **Sunao Honda's** daughter **Kris**, and **Leigh Sakaguchi's** sister **Amy Dobashi**.

New members who signed up in May and June were **Victor Kimura** and **Carol Carpenter**. Welcome!

The *toban* schedule for June to September 2024 was passed out to all volunteers. Thank you to **Aurora Magana** and **Anita Alvarado** for agreeing to be added to our *toban* list.

Thanks to all our volunteers: **Reba Condon** and **Bill Wurtenberg** for opening up in May and day June; our May toban **Judy Hane** and **Kitty Mizuno** and our June toban **Gail Wurtenberg**, **Aurora Magan** and **Marcia Hashimoto**; our bingo callers **Bill Wurtenberg**, **Leigh Sakaguchi**, **Kenny Kusumoto** and **Takashi Mizuno**; our many card checkers and prize distributors; **Nobue Fujii** for taking attendance each week; **Phil Shima** for taking and printing out our birthday photos; **Sharon Bobo** and **Pat Takeuchi** for keeping track of our numerous bingo prize donations; **Cindy Mine** for taking blood pressure readings for our members; and **Jean Yamashita** and **Reba Condon** for decorating and arranging our special events.

A special thank you to those of you who are giving rides to our seniors who no longer drive. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and willingness to ensure that our seniors can continue to join us every week.

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

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Senior Center

August 2024

Thu August 1	Regular bingo
Thu August 8	Regular bingo
Thu August 15	August Birthday Party - Regular bingo
Thu August 22	Regular bingo
Thu August 29	Regular bingo

FRIENDS & FAMILY OF NISEI VETERANS *By Brian Shiroyama*

Las Vegas Reunion

Sept. 16 to 20, 2024

California Hotel & Casino

Registration link and more

information will be out in June

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

KOKORO NO GAKKO 2024

By Zoey Diggory Jo; Photos by Cesar Rios, Bobbi Jo Palmer and Cindy Mine

Kokoro no Gakko was held June 24 through June 28th from 9 AM to 3 PM each day at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple. Fifty-one students were enrolled, with Kinder, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th-grade classes. Senseis, resource specialists, and volunteers provided students with fun and enriching experiences: morning taiso; arts and crafts; stories; Japanese language instruction; udon and mochi-making; performances for the closing program; and much more. In our 34th year, we were delighted to have grandchildren of Gakko founders enrolled and numerous Gakko alumni as Board members, teachers, and volunteers.

This year several classes filled to capacity: we encourage families to register as early as possible and to fulfill their family commitment requirement to help ensure enrollment in 2025. Typically registration opens in February and Gakko is held the last week of June. Check the Gakko website for details: <https://gakkowatsonville.wordpress.com>. Enrolled families are required to assist Gakko in some way, and we offer many ways and flexibility for family involvement. Volunteers that no longer have, or never had, children at Gakko, and teens who graduated from the program, now make up much of the help that keeps Gakko running. Anyone interested in attending or helping to plan for or during Gakko are encouraged to email kokoronogakkowatsonville@gmail.com.



Taiko with Ikuyo Sensei.



Some of the Kitchen crew (and visitor) taking a break.



Mochi-pounding
with
Mayeda Sensei.



Students having fun and enjoying each other.



Ikebana with Mrs. Tao Sensei.



The entire Kokoro no Gakko Family of 2024!

WATSONVILLE BONSAI CLUB *By Charlie Thompson*

The upcoming meeting dates for the Watsonville Bonsai Club are:

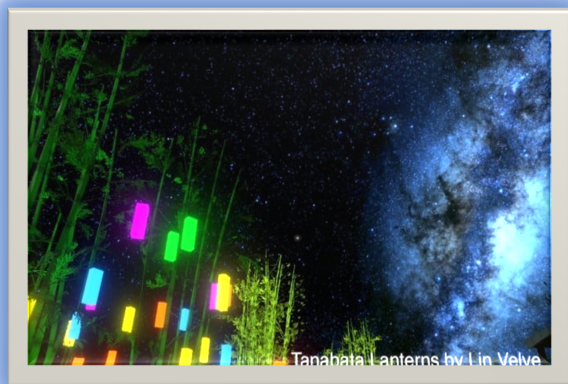
August 10, Saturday, Regular Meeting and Workshop at JACL Kizuka Hall 1:30 PM
 August 26, Monday, Regular Meeting and Workshop at JACL Kizuka Hall 6:30 PM
 September 14, Saturday, Regular Meeting and Workshop at JACL Kizuka Hall 1:30 PM
 September 23, Monday, Regular Meeting and Workshop at JACL Kizuka Hall 6:30 PM
 October 12, Saturday, Regular Meeting and Workshop at JACL Kizuka Hall 1:30 PM
 October 28, Monday, Regular Meeting and Workshop at JACL Kizuka Hall 6:30 PM

TANABATA-STAR FESTIVAL WITH WATSONVILLE TAIKO *By Ikuyo Conant*

Tanabata-Star Festival with Watsonville Taiko



East Lake Shopping Center: 936 E Lake Ave, Watsonville
Saturday, August 10, 12:30-2:30 pm



At
Sushi Qu Restaurant

Admission \$5
Three
Mini Taiko Workshops

1:00 - 1:25pm
1:30 - 1:55pm
2:00 - 2:25 pm

Let's decorate the bamboo branches with origami works and wish cards, and Let your wishes soar into the Milky Way...

Tanabata is a festival that symbolizes the annual reunion of two celestial lovers who the Milky Way separated. The bamboo tree, a symbol of hope and prosperity, is decorated with origami and wishes in the hope of reuniting the couple and bringing good fortune. You can also do other origami work at this workshop.



Mini Aquarium making



Koi Fish and Lotus Flowers



Tanabata Ornament
Kusudama making

Event information: info@watsonvilletaiko.org / (831) 475 -1088

Tanabata Festival

Join Watsonville Taiko in celebrating the Tanabata Festival at Sushi Qu Restaurant, located at East Lake Shopping Center, 936 E Lake Ave, Watsonville. The festival will take place on Saturday, August 10th from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm.

The Tanabata Festival is a celebration of the annual reunion of two stars, Vega - the Weaver Star and Altair - the cow herder star, which are separated by the Milky Way. According to the legend, the maiden and the boy fell in love and were separated by the Emperor of Heaven as a punishment for neglecting their tasks. They are allowed to meet once a year on a clear night on Tanabata Day. The festival is symbolized by the decoration of a bamboo tree with origami and wishes, representing hope and prosperity.

While the festival is generally celebrated on July 7 in most regions of Japan, it is celebrated a month later in some areas based on the lunar calendar. This year's festival falls on August 10, and everyone is invited to join Watsonville Taiko for an interactive celebration of the Tanabata Festival. You can decorate the bamboo branches and participate in mini taiko workshops at Sushi Qu Restaurant.

Additionally, the Watsonville Bonsai Club will be present, two shops down from Sushi Qu, with a Bonsai Demonstration at Ferrari Florist.

We hope to see you there!
 Thank you,
 Ikuyo

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

Each July we gather together as a temple and observe Obon. The summer season is synonymous with Obon and the many traditions, legends and events associated with it. The season of Obon is associated with a visit to the gravesite of family members. Families will gather and clean the gravesite and offer fresh flowers and burn incense at the gravesite. For many of our family members this means traveling back to their hometowns. The experience of returning home has both emotional and religious significance.

Returning home comes with memories and opportunities to reacquaint our- selves with family and friends. Arriving home, we see familiar landmarks, restaurants, schools and neighborhoods, it can bring back childhood memories and even a longing for bygone days. Upon returning home we cannot help but to reflect upon our deceased family members. Returning home can be emotional as the memories flood back into our hearts and minds. Returning home can also be peaceful, comforting and relaxing.

The tradition of returning home at Obon time is significant. It has been often likened to returning to the home of homes with Amida Buddha. Amida embraces us as we return to our homes, and accepts us just as we are. Faith in Amida's great compassion and wisdom comes with a sense of peace, comfort and relaxation. What that means for us is to return to our original nature, our true and real selves. The true and real self is the self that is able to see life as it truly is. This means embracing the truths of impermanence and interdependency.

The season of Obon, is a time to remember our loved ones who have returned to the Pure Land. As we reflect upon their lives and remember their influence on our lives, we express our deep gratitude to them with visits to the gravesite, making offerings of flowers and incense and putting our hands together in Gassho and reciting the name of Amida, Namoamidabutsu. Gassho,
Rev. Hosei Shinseki



**The Watsonville Buddhist Temple wishes to extend our condolences to the
Shingai and Kaita Families for the loss of Barbara Shingai**



President's Message

Dear Fellow Members

On Saturday, May 25th, our friend Barbara Shingai peacefully left us.

Barbara was a valuable leader of our temple and a ground breaker as the first woman Temple President. She was the "go to" person if you had any question of issues around the temple. She kept track of all our activities and made sure we all remained focused on the task at hand.

Barbara was active in the temple for most of her life. She was a Dharma School student and teacher, Jr. YBA member and officer, and Board member, and officer. Barbara only left the area to attend college at Fresno State University, but returned and married Bob Shingai. Their two children Stephanie and Matt were able to be raised in the same community she was.

Barbara was kind, compassionate, respectful, and dedicated. She also had knowledge of the traditions and history of the temple. These attributes made her the perfect representative of our temple to guests and sangha members alike. It also made her invaluable at her job as Temple Office Administrator. It will take many individuals to do the job she did herself.

Barbara's passing will leave a void in our lives. Let us remember, Barbara would not want us to mourn, but to celebrate her life.

Arigato Barbara for your many years of friendship and service to our temple.

With gassho,
Kenny Kusumoto



Tribute to our Dharma Friend

“The light of your face is unsurpassed in majesty, your awesome greatness is beyond limit, a brightly shining flame with no equal.”

All the Sangha members of the Watsonville Buddhist Temple have lost a dear friend in Barbara Shingai. Words cannot express the loss that we feel. Anyone who grew up in Watsonville and attended the temple has come into contact with Barbara. She was in no small measure the heartbeat of our temple. The above quote comes from the Larger Sutra and is Dharmakara praising the Buddha Lokeshvararaja. Dharmakara is expressing his/her desire to attain Buddhahood. For all her life Barbara heard and chanted along with all of us the Sanbutsuge and the Juseige which come from the Larger Sutra. There are times in my life when I cannot find the words to express my condolences to the Sangha. I feel that part of my job as a minister is to encourage and help us all understand the loss that we all feel. Whenever we lose someone that we love, someone that means so much to us, we need/want stability in our lives. Dharmakara wanted that as well and found that the way is through the Dharma and Buddhahood.

I want to convince you all to have or develop this same desire for Buddhahood that Dharmakara experienced. How do I do that? I don't have the power like the Buddha so I need help. At this moment no one does that better than Barbara. She was a true defender of the Dharma, working so hard to make certain that everyone would be able to continue to hear the Dharma.

We all have memories and experiences with Barbara, whether it was working on a temple project with her, sharing a meal with her, or traveling with her. Each of those memories and experiences are special and unique to you and your relationship with her. Time will change things, but time will not erase the cherished memories you each have with Barbara. Therein you will find the stability and peace of mind that we seek.

The Nembutsu, namoamidabutsu, represents the stability and peace of mind that the Truth of life offers as great compassion. We have all suffered a great loss of someone we loved so much. And we all miss her and wish we could be together again, these emotions we share with everyone who came into contact with Barbara.

Small actions, thoughts and words and the memories and experiences we all shared with her make her come alive in our hearts and minds, even when we are not aware of it. At that moment we can experience warm memories and feelings as they come alive. At that moment we are showered in the embrace of Barbara whom we love so much. This is the manifestation of the Buddha's Vow. The embrace of our dear Barbara is constantly moving within each of us.

Thank you Bob, Stephanie and Matthew for sharing Barbara with all of us. Thank you Barbara for your strength, wisdom and compassion.

Namoamidabutsu,
Rev. Hosei Jay Shinseki



*Thank You ~ Barbara
(In Loving Memory of Barbara Shingai)*

*When our Temple was faced with uncertainties,
Barbara graciously offered her expertise.
She was the Shining Link that held us together.
We will forever be grateful for her endeavor.*

*Taking care of business ~ plugging all the leaks,
Her strong leadership was awesome and unique.
Barbara's day started from the crack of dawn,
Time after time ~ above and beyond.*

*During the Covid we shed many tears,
But her kindness eliminated many of our fears.
She made sure we prevailed when life looked bleak,
Guiding us through the valleys and peaks.*

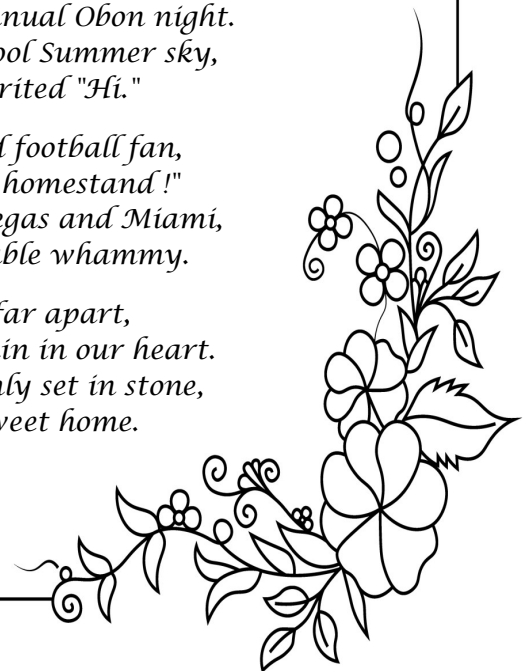
*I can't forget the image of Barbara at her desk.
Did she ever take time for lunch? We can only guess.
Her door was always open ~ as was her smile,
Inviting us to come in and chat for awhile.*

*To keep the Chain of Love ~ strong and bright,
We will dance for Barbara on our annual Obon night.
If by chance she spots us from the cool Summer sky,
I will joyously shout-out a spirited "Hi."*

*Barbara was a staunch and avid football fan,
So ~ "Go ~ 49ers ~ on your first homestand!"
I'm sure her Super Bowl trips to Vegas and Miami,
Were exciting and fun with a double whammy.*

*In reality ~ we will never be far apart,
Because Barbara will always remain in our heart.
The love that surrounds her is firmly set in stone,
Safe and sound in her home sweet home.*

*Janice Tao
(5-2024)*



Save the Date for the Upcoming Tri-Temple Events

September 14, 2024

Tri-Temple Seminar 11:00 am

Featuring Rev. J. P. DeGuzman, PhD

Rev. J. P. DeGuzman, PhD (UCLA) is a comparative and relational race historian. He has published widely on Asian American community formation and histories of racialization, power, and place in Los Angeles.

September 21, 2024

Tri-Temple California Coastal Cleanup

Join us at 9:00 am at the Moss Landing State Beach. Potluck on the beach to follow the cleanup.



Congratulations to Kai Gavin on his graduation from Endicott College, with a B.S. in Sports Management

TRI-TEMPLE BUDDHIST GOLF TOURNAMENT

HOSTED BY MONTEREY, SALINAS & WATSONVILLE BUDDHIST TEMPLES



WHEN: MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2024
COURSE: CRAZY HORSE GOLF CLUB, SALINAS, CA
TIME: SHOTGUN START AT 11:00 AM. CHECK IN AT 10:00 AM
FORMAT: 4 Person Scramble
FEE: \$200 (Includes green fees, cart, tee prizes, range balls, prizes & Dinner)
DEADLINE: THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2024

Members and non-members are welcome to participate. There will be a Tri-Temple team flight (consisting of temple members), closest to pins, low gross team, low net team and other prizes including a **\$10,000 hole in one contest**.

Make checks payable to Salinas Buddhist Temple (Attn. Golf)

Mail all entries to: Tri-Temple Golf Tournament
 c/o Melvin Aoki
 119 Columbine Drive
 Salinas, CA 93906

For more information email jshinseki@gmail.com or call 650.868.9883

Tentative Schedule of August 2024 Events

Rummage Sale Canceled

August 4, 2024 – Shotsuki Hoyo

August 12, 2024 – Tri-Temple Golf Tournament

August 11, 18, and 25, 2024 – No Sunday Service

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

WESTVIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHIMES



Westview Members Use Their Gifts to Bless Others in So Many Ways!

The more we know and experience Christ's immense love for us, the more we want to embrace others with this love in our daily lives! Many of you are being Christ's hands, feet, and voice (arms of love) to those around you in your daily lives... many of you without knowing it! Here are just **2 stories** of the many that could be shared about you:



I Can't Read!

Mary Lou Hoffman shared, "I first met **Dominick** in our fellowship hall the first week of August 2022. He was just starting second grade. Dominick looked up at me and announced loudly, 'I can't read' and slid under the table... what a challenge for an 'old' teacher who loves to help a child learn to read. Dominick and I have become great friends and enjoy learning to read together. He was so correct. He could not read a word and was starting second grade with no reading skills at all. To all of our delight, this spring he just completed third grade and **received not 1, but 2 awards from his teacher (photo on left):**

1. The most improved reader and
2. The #1 reader in his class!

He brought me the awards and showed them to me with a big grin. He even showed me that they were not plastic, but they were made of metal! I am so proud of Dominick and so grateful we met in the hall at Westview Church."

What a lovely community of caring people we have at Westview! You all are working miracles all the time in the lives of the people you meet!



Photo Above: Other children receiving their reading certificates.

Oh, To See the JOY On Their Faces!

Shirley Wong is one of those quiet rock stars in the Westview and greater community. Her life and her work make a big difference in our community, but few of us fully know how.

Shirley married Dick Wong in 1977 and their son, Erik, became friends with Derek Hayashi (Joanne and Art's son) who invited Eric to play basketball at the church, and their family began to become part of Westview. Dick and Shirley owned Don Rafa market near the church and were involved in the church as much as they could, with having to juggle working at the store. When they sold the store 17 years ago they were finally able to come to church more regularly.

Shirley wasn't ready to retire, and she wanted to work with children, but her credential had lapsed. So, she decided to be an aid for special needs children in the schools. For 10 or 11 years, she worked at the high school level, but the last several years she has been working with pre-K to second grade. When asked what she loved about her work, she said, "It is a delight to see them learn how to do things like hold the pencil, or figure out a word, and to see the joy on their face. When she worked with the older students, it was a delight to see the progress that they made after several years of investment and the fruit after all the hard work we had done with them."

She remembers specifically a student named Ashley that she got to work with one-on-one for four years of tutoring. It was a delight to see her progression of learning. At first, Ashley was not interested at all in written words, but over the years she learned to read, and pick out words from the newspaper. Shirley even got permission from the parents to take Ashley to the supermarket for a shopping trip where they would read all the words in the aisles like apples, and lettuce, and bread. As they walked the aisles it was a delight to see Ashley reading and the joy on her face! Shirley also enjoyed teaching them life skills like basic cooking-- making hot chocolate, oatmeal, or scrambled eggs. She also helped them with their morning routine, brushing their teeth, how to ride the bus, or how to be courteous on the phone— many things we all take for granted.

Shirley is considering retiring in a couple years, but right now she is still thoroughly enjoying her work.

I am grateful for people like Shirley who play such an important role in caring for our young ones, especially our vulnerable young ones. Thank you, Shirley for your faithful, hard work and your big heart!

“YOURS are the hands with which Christ blesses all the world,” in the words of St Teresa of Avila. YOU, the members of the Westview family ARE the church —YOU are Christ’s body on earth today. Continue to shine and love!

If you have a story of seeing God work among our Westview members share it with Pastor Dan!

I appreciate you, the Westview family, and am grateful to walk in life together serving each other and the community with God’s goodness and lavish love! ~Pastor Dan

PHOTOS

Blast from the past: (photo below) Do you see yourself or loved ones in this photo collage from around 1998?!



Chicken Teriyaki Takeout Dinner (1998?)

YOU Are the Church Wherever You Are!

Christ has no body but yours,
 No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
 Yours are the eyes with which he looks
 Compassion on this world,
 Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
 Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
 Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
 Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
 Christ has no body now but yours,
 No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
 Yours are the eyes with which he looks
 compassion on this world.
 Christ has no body now on earth but yours.
 ~ St. Teresa of Avila (1515–1582)



Top right photo: Maria, Judith, Polly and Mary Lou packing lunches to give out on the levee to the unhoused.

Bottom right photo: Victor Maribel and Margo sorting Second Harvest food for the unhoused.

Westview Turned 125 in 2023! We will celebrate at our Harvest Dinner on November 2, 2024, 5pm, at Westview. Come celebrate with the best BBQ teriyaki in the world, historical slideshow, and bring check or money to donate to the Salvation Army as we fundraise for their vital ministry in Watsonville. Bring a side dish or dessert if you like.

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 gym hopefully by November 2024. Monterey County initiated the project and Santa Cruz County will be taking it over in 2 years. The funding from the project came from Monterey County, and despite what the newspaper said, it is not being diverted from Salvation Army funding which instead comes from Santa Cruz County. Please be in prayer 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! (contact Pastor Dan)

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 Mick Erickson – July 21st

Luncheons: Social Hour with a light lunch (cake for Birthdays) the 1st Sunday of each month. Come Enjoy!!

Wednesday Zoom Scripture Reflection & Mid-Week Check-In: Taking a break until September 4, 2024.

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!

Midori Kai
ARTS & CRAFTS BOUTIQUE
EST. 1996

Saturday, September 14, 2024
9:30AM - 4:00PM

Lakeside Office Plaza, 1279-1299 Oakmead Parkway, Sunnyvale, CA 94085
PARKING NEXT DOOR AND ACROSS THE STREET WHERE DESIGNATED WITH PARKING SIGNS:
Oakmead Village Office Plaza, 1255-1271 Oakmead Parkway, Sunnyvale, CA 94085
Vendors located both outdoors and indoors

Drawing Prizes: Home/Art, Food Trucks, Asian Arts & Crafts, Accessories/Apparel, Food, Gift Items, Jewelry, Pottery, Textiles

ENTERTAINMENT 11AM TO 1PM
“Hardly Strictly Hawaiian Aloha Band”

2024-2025 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute
Japanese American Museum of San Jose
Japanese Community Youth Council
National Japanese American Historical Society – MIS Historic Learning Center
San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin: Lotus Preschool

100% of the Boutique proceeds go to the Midori Kai, Inc. Foundation for our grant recipients.
Funds also go to our Trailblazers nonprofit of their choice.

For more information please contact
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