

## WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL

“*The Bridge* 橋”*The Voice of Our Community***HAIKU**

Afternoon sunlight  
 Quince flowers blooming bright pink  
 Space between two stones

By Bob Gómez

Translation by Hiromi Ushimaru

昼下がり  
 紅の木瓜  
 石別けて

Hiru-sagari  
 Kurenai no Boke  
 Ishi Wakete

**DONATIONS**

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

- Joseph and Christine Bowes for the Paul Ichiuji DOR Maintenance Fund in memory of Sam Sakamoto, another great American
- Nobue Fujii for DOREF/newsletter
- Marcia Hashimoto in memory and in honor of Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston whose book and movie, “Farewell to Manzanar,” brought the historical story of the unjust incarceration of the Japanese and Japanese Americans during WWII to our national and international public.
- Victor Kimura in memory of Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston
- Joyce Kubota in memory of Jeanne Houston
- Karen Kurokawa for DOREF/greatest need
- Amy Newell for DOREF/greatest need in remembrance of Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston
- Stuart Sakuma and Janet Nagamine
- Sachi and Philip Snyder for DOREF/greatest need in remembrance of Tadashi “Tar” Mino, Barbara Ayako Mino, and Richard Enji Mino
- Alan and Gayle Uyematsu for DOREF/education-scholarship
- Watsonville Bonsai Club for Hall use donation
- Watsonville Taiko Group for Hall use & utilities donations

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Website: [www.watsonvillesantacruzjaci.com](http://www.watsonvillesantacruzjaci.com)

## WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL

### The 2025 Day of Remembrance Hosted by the Salinas Valley JACL Chapter *By Marcia Hashimoto*



**Salinas Valley Japanese American Citizens League  
invites you to join**

## **Day of Remembrance 2025**

**Saturday February 22, 2025**

**12:30-2:15PM**

**El Gabilan Library, Community Room**

**1400 North Main St. Salinas CA 93906**

**admission free, light refreshments served**

On February 19, 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which resulted in the incarceration of over 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry, over two-thirds of whom were US citizens. Deprived of their constitutional rights solely on the basis of their ethnic heritage, they were forced to leave their homes, schools, and livelihoods for concentration camps located in some of the most desolate parts of the country.

Please join us for a special program to honor those who endured this injustice and to reaffirm our hope that it will never happen again.

**for more information  
please contact Shari Higashi  
sahigashi@comcast.net**

**Hosted by Salinas Valley JACL**

**Sponsored by San Benito, Gilroy, Watsonville/Santa Cruz, and Monterey JACL chapters**



**Current students of the Salinas and  
North Salinas High Schools'  
Japanese Classes**



**Evelyn "Cookie" Hibino**

On February 22nd, Salinas Valley JACL hosted an outstanding DOR event featuring a number of presentations that included:

- A history of Japanese Americans in the Salinas Valley
- Mas Hashimoto's TEDx talk "Racism and America's Concentration Camps"
- Poems and personal writings by 1942 Salinas High School Nisei graduates read by current students of the Salinas and North Salinas High Schools' Japanese Classes
- A conversation with Poston incarcerated, Evelyn "Cookie" Hibino
- Film: "Gambatte Kimashita - Japanese Flower Growers of the Salinas Valley"
- Appreciation expressed and a gift of an orchid plant was presented to each of our W-SC JACL Memorial Garden Maintenance Team members lead by Joe Bowes with members Gary Mine, Victor Kimura, Norris Woodford and the late Iwao Yamashita and his daughter, Jean.



## Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston

**September 26, 1934 - December 21, 2024**

### Forever Celebrated

*By Marcia Hashimoto*

The Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL expresses sincere condolences to Cori, Gabrielle and Josh on the passing of their beloved Mother, Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston. She will be forever celebrated for bringing the unjust incarceration of the Japanese, Japanese Americans during WW II to the attention of the national and international public.

"Farewell to Manzanar" written by Jeanne and James Houston and published in 1973 was based on Jeanne's personal experiences during and after her family's imprisonment at Manzanar. The book has sold over 1 million copies and continues to be part of our educational curriculum throughout the schools in the United States. The National Japanese American Historical Society wrote: "In 1976, a TV movie based on the book was released. The movie was nominated for an Emmy and won the Humanities Prize and the Christopher Award."

Jeanne was a member of numerous professional, civic, charitable and cultural organizations, and we proudly and gratefully embraced her as our W-SC JACL National Member. She was our most important historian, author and resource speaker about the Japanese Americans. With Mas' assistance, our local chapter nominated Jeanne for the highest National JACL public award, The Japanese American of the Biennium in Arts, Literature and Communication. There were several distinguished nominees, but Jeanne's list of publications, film and projects, reading, lectures, seminars, achievements and awards was extensive and impressive beyond all others. A summary of Mas' statement regarding Jeanne's contributions and qualifications that supported and fulfilled the award nomination follows:

"Farewell to Manzanar is the most widely read book on the topic of the Japanese American Experience: The Internment. It has profoundly influenced more people world-wide than all the other books on the topic combined! No other book has touched as many hearts or stirred the consciousness of peoples everywhere. How poignant that a 'Farewell' would be their introduction to the grave injustices suffered by nearly 120,000 innocent persons of Japanese ancestry during WW II. Houston wrote on behalf of all internees! For that, we must thank her publicly. The National JACL is the perfect vehicle to do that. Many of her readers are students from the 8th grade to the university level. It is heartening that many have questioned the legal and political authorities then and now with the recent passage of the USA Patriot ACT I. Houston has her own outreach program to students on writing about the incarceration experience. She is a willing participant in numerous teacher-training panels and discussions, including those sponsored by the National JACL Education Committee.

Last year, spearheaded by Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante and the California State Library, with financial support of the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program, an educational kit, based upon Farewell to Manzanar, was developed. This project was coordinated with Universal Studios, which generously made 10,000 video copies of the film available. The kit contained the book, the video, and a short video excerpt (30 minutes) on the main incarceration issues. An extensive bibliography for many grade levels with suggested lesson plans

were thoughtfully included for the convenience of the teacher. Ten thousand kits were distributed free to California public schools and libraries.” Mas stated that this award to Jeanne was long overdue and urged National JACL to recognize the continuing contributions of Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston.

On May 12, 2004, Norm Mineta, Secretary of Transportation, wrote a letter of support for Jeanne’s nomination that included the following:

“The greatest challenge our community faced in our drive for redress was a lack of awareness in the general public that our internment and evacuation had even happened at all. Jeanne’s moving book ‘Farewell to Manzanar’ later made into a television movie, truly changed hearts and minds around the Nation as many learned, for the first time, the truth of the injustice that had been visited on us and our families. There simply is no way to overstate the contribution that Jeanne and her work have made, not only to our community, but to the cause of racial justice in America. Recognizing her with the Japanese American of the Biennium Award would be a fitting tribute for the critical role her work has played in the progress of our community and to the quest for justice in America.”

On August 14, 2004 on National JACL’s 75th Anniversary and at the 38th Biennial National Convention held in Hawaii, W-SC board members and delegates from throughout the USA proudly and enthusiastically cheered as Jeanne was honored with the Japanese American of the Biennium Award. We are forever grateful for Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston’s everlasting impact on our history and her quest for justice in America.



### **SAVE THE DATE**

**The Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL  
2025 Community Picnic  
at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple  
Saturday, June 28, 2025  
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

**We are celebrating our annual  
community picnic at a new venue,  
the Watsonville Buddhist Temple!**

**Games | Senior Bingo | Lunch  
Scholarship Presentations**

**Featured Entertainment: Watsonville Taiko**

**Please contact us via email at [wsc.jacl@gmail.com](mailto:wsc.jacl@gmail.com) if you are able to volunteer  
in making this a great event.**

**For more information, see our May 2025 issue of “The Bridge” or visit us at  
[www.watsonvillesantacruzjacl.com](http://www.watsonvillesantacruzjacl.com)**



## **A Letter of Support for California Assembly Bill 49 sent by the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Chapter to the Honorable Al Muratsuchi, Chair, Assembly Education Committee**

California Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi introduced a bill (AB 49), which calls for schools & childcare centers to be safe havens for immigrant children and provides safeguards from ICE officials coming onto school grounds freely and unfettered. Following is our letter of support sent on behalf of the Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapter:



### **2025 Officers**

Marcia Hashimoto,  
Co-President

Victor Kimura,  
Co-President

Joe Bowes,  
1st Vice President

Jeanette Otsuji Hager  
2nd Vice President

Rodney Ogawa,  
Secretary

Victor Kimura,  
Treasurer

### **Board Members:**

Bonnie Chihara

Hiroshi Fukurai

Nikki Hikari

Kenny Kusumoto

Cindy Mine

Gary Mine

Sean Sheehan

Norris Woodford

**February 8, 2025**

The Honorable Al Muratsuchi  
Chair, Assembly Education Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 159  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 49 (Muratsuchi) – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Muratsuchi:

**The Watsonville-Santa Cruz Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) Chapter** strongly supports AB 49, the California Safe Haven Schools and Child Care Act, which protects immigrant children from actions by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers who enter school sites or child care facilities.

The Supreme Court's decision in *Plyler v. Doe* (1982) ensures that all children in the U.S., regardless of immigration status, have the right to access a free public education. States cannot deny students a free, public education based on their immigration status or their parents or guardians' immigration status. Schools have long been safe havens for immigrant students.

Concerns about increased immigration enforcement near sensitive locations, such as schools and child care centers, can create fear and uncertainty among immigrant families. The Trump administration's threats to intensify deportations and reconsider protections for these areas amplify anxieties during his upcoming tenure. Schools should continue to serve as places where children can learn and thrive without fear, regardless of their or their family's immigration status.

AB 49 strengthens these protections for undocumented students and their families by codifying the California Attorney General's model policies, which aim to restrict the involvement of schools in immigration enforcement activities. These policies ensure that federal immigration agents cannot detain undocumented students or their families on or near school property without proper judicial warrants or legal authority.

Schools are one of the last places immigrant families feel safe. The threat of federal immigration officials coming onto school grounds to detain undocumented students or family members casts a shadow of fear over all California students. Students cannot learn if they are under threat of deportation or separation from their family members. Children should not be afraid to come to school, and parents should not be afraid to send their children to school.

## The 2025 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 14th, 2025.**

Applicants will apply for scholarships by submitting generic application information that could apply to and satisfy all of the scholarship funds.

The W-SC JACL's Scholarship Committee will determine, based on factors such as meritorious performance; grades; participation in certain social activities and organizations, such as Kokoro no Gakko; level of volunteerism; and length of membership in the JACL, the Watsonville Buddhist Temple, and/or the Westview Presbyterian Church, which applicants receive which scholarships.

All scholarship recipients and their parents must be W-SC JACL, Watsonville Buddhist Temple, and/or Westview Presbyterian Church members for a minimum of one year prior to receipt of scholarship.

An announcement for scholarship applications will be included in the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL newsletter, the Watsonville Buddhist Temple's Ichimi, and the Westview Presbyterian Church's Chimes.

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

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

**The Rekiso "Ray" and Hisako "Louise" Sako Scholarships:** The Rekiso and Hisako Sako Scholarships were established in 2012 to help local students who are actively involved with the JACL, Watsonville Buddhist Temple, and/or Westview Presbyterian Church in pursuing their higher education goals. Mrs. Sako and the late Mr. Sako have been long time members of the JACL and Senior Center, and leaders among the Japanese American community. A four-year undergraduate scholarship may be awarded at a maximum of \$1,000 per year, and may be extended for a maximum of two additional years of graduate studies. This scholarship may be applied for at any time, from graduating from high school through completion of a masters degree (maximum of \$6,000 total).

Please send your completed forms to our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Chapter Scholarship Committee on or before **Saturday, June 14th, 2025**. The address for applications should be mailed to:

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

Note that the 2025 awards will be presented at the JACL Community Picnic on **Saturday, June 28, 2025** at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple.

**Reminder: National JACL Scholarships Upcoming Deadline**

**Friday, April 4, 2025** – All other applications (undergraduate, graduate, law, arts, and financial aid) must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. Hawaiian Standard Time (HST) on this date. Applications must be complete and accompanied by ALL supporting documents. Incomplete application packets will NOT be considered.

Late August 2025 – Scholarship award recipients will be notified.

**JACL Member Awarded** *By Robb Mayeda*



Elizabeth Rose Mayeda was recently awarded the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on outstanding scientists and engineers early in their careers. This year's awardees are employed or funded by 14 participating agencies within the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Interior, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs and the Environmental Protection Agency, the intelligence community, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, and the Smithsonian Institution. This award was created by President Clinton and is usually awarded to approximately 100 researcher per year. However, for the previous five years, only 8 awards were given. This January, President Biden cleared the backlog of recommended nominations and gave 400 researchers the presidential award. Dr. Mayeda research grants were from the National Institute for Health and focused on racial, ethnic, and other social inequalities in Alzheimer's disease and methods to strengthen causal inference.

Elizabeth Rose is a member of the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Chapter and was a winner of the Kee Kitayama Scholarship in 2002 when she graduated from Aptos High School. She earned her B.A. (UC Berkeley), Masters (Columbia), and PhD (UCSF). In 2020, the Society for Epidemiological Research (SER) awarded her the Brian MacMahon Early Career Award. She is tenured associate professor at UCLA's Department of Epidemiology in the School of Public Health.

**JACL Celebrates the Reintroduction of the Neighbors Not Enemies Act**

*By Seia Watanabe, VP, Public Affairs, National JACL Press Release and  
 Matthew Weisbly, Education Programs/Communications Manager*

On January 22nd, 2025, Representative Ilhan Omar and Senator Mazie Hirono reintroduced the Neighbors Not Enemies Act in the 119th Congress (H.R. 630 and S. 193). These are simple and straightforward bills that repeal the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 in its entirety and are vitally needed to provide a check to unbridled executive power.

The Alien Enemies Act of 1798 was signed into law by President John Adams during our nation's infancy and is the only one of four Alien and Sedition Acts that remains today. The Alien Enemies Act grants the president the power to order the arrest, detention, and deportation of citizens of an "enemy nation" during wartime. Detained foreign nationals of enemy nations are treated as prisoners of war whose detention could continue after wartime hostilities end. While this law may have been necessary 227 years ago, we now have extensive national security laws that criminalize acts of espionage and further grant the President expansive surveillance powers to identify potential national security threats. Modern national security laws and enforcement apparatus render the Alien Enemies Act obsolete, overly broad, discriminatory, and ripe for abuse by the Executive Branch.

The Alien Enemies Act was most recently and famously used by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1941 to order the arrest and detention of Japanese, German, and Italian nationals residing in the United States immediately upon US entry into WWII. The use of the Alien Enemies Act set the stage for President Roosevelt to further expand his wartime powers with the issuance of Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, which led to the mass incarceration of over 125,000 people of Japanese ancestry, two-thirds of whom were American citizens.

On January 20th, 2025, President Trump issued an executive order titled "Designating Cartels And Other Organizations As Foreign Terrorist Organizations And Specially Designated Global Terrorists" directing the Attorney General, Secretary of Homeland Security, and Secretary of State to make preparations for the Alien Enemies Act to be invoked by the President to expedite mass deportations under the false claim that undocumented immigrants are a threat to our national security. President Trump acted similarly in 2016 when he issued Executive Order 13769 also known as the "Muslim Ban" that prohibited individuals from predominantly Muslim nations from entering the United States, also under the false guise of national security.

We see the common thread in the invocation of the Alien Enemies Act as the false claims of a threat to national security in order to target groups for other discriminatory purposes. Most egregiously in the case of Japanese Americans, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) later determined that the government was fully aware that Japanese Americans as a group posed no threat, but still pushed a racist campaign of mass incarceration, and in some cases, forced deportation of Japanese nationals and Japanese Americans who were pressured to renounce their birthright citizenship to a country that was imprisoning their families without cause. We cannot allow similar unjust actions to be taken again under the auspices of the Alien Enemies Act.

The Japanese American Citizens League is pleased to join a diverse coalition of over 80 organizations to support passage of the Neighbors Not Enemies Act to prevent a repeat of the injustices of WWII. We thank Representative Omar and Senator Hirono for their leadership on this issue.

## SENIOR CENTER NEWS FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2025

*By Carol Kaneko, Photo's by Gary Mine and Patt Takeuchi*

The Senior Center's **New Year's celebration** was on January 16th with a delicious *obento* from **Miyuki Restaurant** and a slice of Japanese cheesecake from **Reba Condon** for all to take home after our regular games of bingo. Thanks to the staff at **Miyuki** for preparing the *obento*, to **Jean Yamashita** for ordering, picking up, and making a timely delivery, and to **Reba** for the tasty dessert.

At the New Year's celebration, **Paul Kaneko** thanked **Jean Yamashita** for her tireless leadership over the past many years. **Jean** has contributed so much to our Senior Center and has devoted much effort and many, many hours of her time to support our Senior Center program, especially when the **Kaneko's** were unavailable. We thanked her with a Thank You card signed by all and several gift certificates. A small repayment for all she has given to us. **Thank you, Jean!!**





January Birthday honorees, Photo by Gary Mine

Our January birthday celebration was on January 23rd with birthday honorees **Victor Kimura** and **Noemi Sakaguchi** in attendance. Absent were **Nancy Shikuma**, **Karen Sugidono**, and **Hatsuko Tsuji (94)**. A beautiful (and delicious!) birthday cake was served to all. **Happy Birthday** to all January honorees!

Thanks to all our volunteers who helped decorate Kizuka Hall for the New Year's and January birthday celebrations and helped distribute the *obento* and sliced and served the birthday cake. Special thank you to **Reba Condon** for bringing and arranging the beautiful flowers and to **June Honda** and **Liz Goodson** for taking care of the cake.

In January we welcomed **Carol Noble**, **Sharon Carreiro**, and **Emiko Hirano** as new members.

**Victor Kimura** announced a possible regular "Movie Night" at Kizuka Hall by **Watsonville Taiko Group**. He asked for comments and suggestions as to the types of movies and showtimes desired. More information will be forthcoming.

The W-SC JACL Senior Center will be going on a one-day bus trip to **Table Mountain Casino on Tuesday March 25, 2025**. Thanks to **Jean Yamashita** for organizing this trip. (This will be our last trip until a volunteer steps forward to plan and organize future trips.)

Our February birthday celebration was held on February 20th with honorees **Jean Akiyama 92**, **Anita Alvarado**, **Carol Carpenter**, **Jeanette Crosetti**, **Haru Ishibashi 99**, **Carol Kaneko**, **Hisako Kodama 92**, and **Gary Mine** in attendance. Absent were **Eiko Ceremony 100**, **Bobbi Jo Palmer**, **Chiyeko Shikuma 100**, and **Eiko Stewart**. A small gift was presented to **Jean Akiyama**, **Haru Ishibashi**, and **Hisako Kodama** in honor of being over 90. Thanks to substitute photographer **Patt Takeuchi** for taking the birthday photos, and to **Reba Condon**, who in spite of not feeling well, ordered, arranged, and delivered the beautiful flowers that decorated the hall. **Haru Ishibashi's** daughter and granddaughter, **Carol and Miko Cooper**, joined us in celebrating our February birthdays, and special guest, **Maki Kaneko**, came to celebrate **Grandma Kaneko's** birthday and helped deliver bingo prizes. **Happy Birthday** to our February birthday honorees!!



February Birthday honorees, Photo by Patt Takeuchi

The following week, **Liz Goodson** and **Gail Mellor** who are **Haru Ishibashi's** daughters, treated each of our seniors to a beautifully decorated cookie in honor of **Haru's 99th birthday**. Thank you to the **Ishibashi family**!

A special **Happy 100th Birthday** to **Eiko Ceremony**! **Paul Kaneko** relayed a message from her son, **David DiBiase**, to convey her gratitude for the birthday greetings from the Senior Center and how she misses her friends from Watsonville. Her 100th birthday photo showed a very *genki* looking **Eiko**!

**Carol Carpenter** is our newest bingo caller! She called several bingo games and did a terrific job! Thank you, **Carol**!

With much sadness we learned of the passing of **Sumi Yamada**, **George Stewart**, and **Chie Sakaue**, three long time Senior Center members. The Senior Center sends its heartfelt condolences to the **Yamada**, **Stewart**, and **Sakaue** families.

Everyone was happy to welcome **Bill Wurtenberg** back to the Senior Center after a long absence, and we hope to see him back on a regular basis.

We welcomed guest **Robin Yamashita** to the Senior Center on February 27 and hope she will continue to join us regularly.

Many thanks for the generous bingo prize donations made in January and February from: **June Honda**, **Sharon Bobo**, **Judy Hane**, **Kitty Mizuno**, **Anita Alvarado**, **Toshi Yamashita**, **Nobue Fujii**, **Darrell and Barbi Uyeda**, **Marcia Hashimoto**, **Nobuko Akiyama**, **Connie Dimas**, **Hideko Nagamine**, **Carol Carpenter**, **Aurora Magana**, **Takashi Mizuno**, **Taiko**

**Group, Reba Condon, Jean Yamashita, Evelyn Nartates, Patt Takeuchi, Lupe Noble, Gail Wurtenberg, Lilia Freitas, Sharon Carreiro, JACL, Carol Noble, Riiko Yoshida, Emiko Hirano, Kim Tao, Bette Garcia, Mitsuyo Tao, Mary Perez, Jeanette Crosetti, and Bobby Tamaki.** Our bingo games are made even more exciting by the wonderful prizes that are donated by our generous members and friends. **Thank you!**

**The W-SC JACL Senior Center acknowledges the following monetary donations made in January and February 2025:**

Birthday donations gratefully received from: **Victor Kimura, Noemi Sakaguchi, Donna Fujita, Grace Fujita, Carol Carpenter, Anita Alvarado, Bette Garcia, Hisako Kodama, Carol Kaneko, Nancy Shikuma, Chiyeko Shikuma, Haruyo Ishibashi, and Jean Akiyama.**

Special monetary donations gratefully received from: **Nancy and Gerald Yamada** in memory of **Yoneko Mizokami; Bette Garcia** for the 54th Senior Center Anniversary; **Nobue Fujii** in memory of **Chie Sakaue and George Stewart; Jean Yamashita** in appreciation; **Toshi Yamashita** in memory of **George Stewart, Chie Sakaue, and Sumi Yamada; and Donna Fujita and Grace Fujita** for the 53rd Senior Center Anniversary.

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

Thanks to all our volunteers: **Reba Condon, Paul Kaneko, and Sharon Bobo** for opening up in January and February; our January *toban* – **Judy Hane and Marcia Hashimoto** and our February *toban* – **Gail Wurtenberg and Aurora Magana;** our bingo callers, **Leigh Sakaguchi, Anita Alvarado, Kenny Kusumoto, Takashi and Kitty Mizuno,** and our newest bingo caller, **Carol Carpenter;** our bingo card checkers, **Marcia Hashimoto, Reba Condon, Leigh Sakaguchi,** and others; **Sharon Bobo, Anita Alvarado, Patt Takeuchi, Sharon Carreiro, Paul Kaneko, and Maki Kaneko** for recording our numerous bingo prize donations and distributing the prizes to bingo winners; **June Honda and Liz Goodson** for taking care of our monthly birthday celebrations; **Nobue Fujii, Mitsuyo Tao, and Connie Dimas** for taking attendance each week; **Cindy Mine** for taking blood pressures; **Gary Mine** for taking and printing out our birthday photos; **Reba Condon** for the beautiful flowers that decorate our hall; **Jean Yamashita** for arranging for the *obento* for our New Year's celebration and planning and organizing the **Table Mt. Casino** trip; and **Nobuko Akiyama and Riiko Yoshida** and the many other volunteers who help with cutting and serving our delicious birthday cakes and assisting whenever and wherever needed. **Thank you all!**

A very special “thank you” to everyone who pitched in while **Paul and Carol Kaneko** were not available. Many thanks to **Toshi Yamashita** who took care of the treasurer's duties.

An extra special “thank you” to **Patt Takeuchi** who has taken over the job (held by **Reba Condon**) of inviting our birthday honorees to our monthly birthday parties, and for taking over the job (held by **Carol Kaneko**) of keeping our membership and birthday lists updated and current. Starting next month, **Patt** has agreed to write our Senior News! **Thank You, Patt!!!**

### **Volunteers needed!**

We are still in need of volunteers to take responsibility for the unfilled positions needed for the smooth running of our Senior Center program. We are especially in need of a volunteer to be in charge of our *toban* groups and see to the upkeep of our kitchen and *chagashi* supplies; someone to be in charge of organizing and setting up for our anniversary celebration and other special events; and someone to plan and arrange future trips. It would also lend some stability to our program if a volunteer would come forward to oversee the weekly Thursday opening, setting up, and closing of Kizuka Hall in case our current volunteers are unable to do so. Please contact any of the leaders of the Senior Center if you can help. Until more volunteers step up to fill our leadership positions, the Senior Center program has been cut back so we will meet only to play bingo and celebrate our monthly birthdays with no special events or trips (after our March 25th Table Mt. trip).

***Special Note:** Thank you to all for your annual **Birthday and Senior Center anniversary donations.** Please remember to make a monetary donation during your birthday month and in October when we, hopefully, celebrate our 54th Anniversary.*

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 help out where needed.

***Flu season is here, and we urge all our Seniors to be up-to-date on your flu shot and COVID boosters. Be safe!***

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

### Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Senior Center Schedule March - April 2025

Thu, March 6	Regular bingo
Thu, March 13	Regular bingo
<b>Thu, March 20</b>	<b>March Birthday Party</b> - Regular bingo
<b>Tues, March 25</b>	<b>One-day Table Mt. Casino bus trip</b>
Thu, March 27	Regular bingo
Thu, April 3	Regular bingo
Thu, April 10	Regular bingo
<b>Thu, April 17</b>	<b>April Birthday Party</b> - Regular bingo
Thur, April 24	Regular Bingo

### FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF NISEI VETERANS - FFNV EVENTS *By Brian Shiroyama*

**MEMORIAL SERVICE:** Armed Forces Day, May 17, 2025 at 12:00 noon. Roberts Park, Oakland, CA. No picnic.

**ANNUAL REUNION:** October 10 - 12, 2025, Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, CA. Programs to be held at Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple. Hotel information to be announced later.

**NISEI VETERANS' EXHIBIT ABOARD THE USS HORNET MUSEUM:** Located at Pier 3, Alameda Point, former Alameda Naval Air Station. Open on most Saturdays and Sundays, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. Special personal or group tours can be arranged with a dedicated docent. The exhibit features the JA history with a focus on internment, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service.

Admission prices to the Hornet: Adult: \$25. Seniors: \$15. Students: \$15.

Admission to the Nisei Veterans' Exhibit is free. For more information or to arrange a dedicated tour, please contact Brian Shiroyama at bshiroyama@gmail.com. For FFNV matters, please check FFNV Facebook, website: [ffnv.org](http://ffnv.org) or email Brian.

### KOKORO NO GAKKO *By Zoey Diggory*

Registration is open for Kokoro no Gakko 2025!

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, singing, 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 (423 Bridge Street, Watsonville) and is a parent-cooperative venture, thriving on the support from all the children's families and the generosity of the classroom and resource-specific sensei's. It is more than a summer program; it is a one-week close knit community!

**Schedule:** June 23-June 27, 2025, 9 AM - 3 PM

**Enrollment:** Students who have completed kindergarten through 6th grades. Enrollment includes a hot lunch, with a vegetarian option, each day. \*The first grade class is already full.\* Register at: <https://gakkowatsonville.wordpress.com/registration/>





**Tuition:** \$390 per student if registration and payment is received by April 5, 2025 or \$440 thereafter. <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/kokoronogakko>

**For More Information:** Visit <https://gakkowatsonville.wordpress.com> or email [kokoronogakkowatsonville@gmail.com](mailto:kokoronogakkowatsonville@gmail.com)

## WATSONVILLE TAIKO AND SHINSEI DAIKO *By Bonnie Chihara*

### Class schedule-

March 7th-April 25th  
May 2nd-June 27th  
July 11th-August 29th

### Fridays

10-11am - Intro to Taiko  
5-6pm - Beginning Children  
6-7pm - Intermediate Children

### Saturdays

9-10am - Intro to Taiko

Contact our business manager Kay Miyamoto at 831 475 1088 or email us at [info@watsonvilletaiko.org](mailto:info@watsonvilletaiko.org) for class more info or to sign up. Please check our website for updates at [watsonvilletaiko.org](http://watsonvilletaiko.org)

### Our upcoming schedule-

Saturday April 5th, Watsonville Buddhist Temple Hanamatsuri, Watsonville Buddhist Temple  
Saturday April 26th-Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival, Cupertino Memorial Park  
Sunday April 27th-Big Sur International Marathon, Big Sur  
Saturday June 7th- Japanese Cultural Fair, Mission Plaza Park

Watsonville Taiko would like to congratulate Joe Bowes who will be honored as our JACL member's "Unsung Hero" for his years of support and commitment as a board member and member of the community. Joe is our local drum maker and has made all of our performance drums as well as drums for our students and our practice drums. Congratulations Joe!



### Taiko for People with Parkinson's

For over five years, Watsonville Taiko has partnered with NextStage Productions to offer a taiko drumming class to support individuals with Parkinson's in Santa Cruz. This program, funded by NextStage Productions through grants from EasePD and Omega Nu, is free for students diagnosed with Parkinson's. Watsonville Taiko aims to integrate this Parkinson's program into the Dojo program at 150 Blackburn Street Watsonville.

Ikuyo, who teaches the class, composes custom taiko music pieces and choreographs physical sequences that emphasize specific movements for the Parkinson's class. These exercises require physical, mental, and spiritual effort and awareness, providing comprehensive work tailored to the unique needs and abilities of individuals with Parkinson's.

If you are interested in the class, please contact Risa with NextStage Productions at [risa@nextstagesantacruz.org](mailto:risa@nextstagesantacruz.org).

## WATSONVILLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE

### Spring Equinox "Ohigan" *By Reverend Kosei Shinseki*

Twice a year in the Spring and the Fall we observe the equinox with a special service. It is a tradition during the equinox to visit the family cemetery and pay respects to our ancestors. Over the centuries Ohigan has created many customs that make it a big social event for families. Once again, we gather to remember our deceased family members and to some it may seem that we are obsessed with death and the memorials. In truth our family provides for us another opportunity to embrace the Truth and as a result embrace life. The very first Ohigan rite was said to take place in 1043 B.C.E. and ever since it has been observed to worship the dead. Prince Shotoku (February 7, 574 - April 8, 622), who is credited as the founder of Japanese Buddhism, made it a special religious observance. The weeklong equinox observance was an





opportunity for families to gather, visit the cemetery and honor ancestors. It served as a reminder of our past and our deep connection to our family and the past, as well as instilling an appreciation for the Truth of inter-dependency.

During the Meiji period (October 23, 1868, to July 30, 1912) the imperial government made Ohigan a national holiday, recognizing its deep significance for the Japanese people. Rather than a somber event, Ohigan is a celebration in gratitude for our life of what we have received. We are reminded that we have already received the benevolence of Amida Buddha, and our future life is assured.

This is why we celebrate with special services and special foods including *ohagi* or *botamochi*, a sweet rice covered with sweet beans, and sushi. Special foods at Ohigan are a reminder to us of what we have received in this life and sustains, and nurtures our lives.

Shinran Shonin, our founder observed Ohigan and reminded us that the other shore (Ohigan) of Enlightenment is within our reach.

***"As I humbly contemplate matters, I see that the inconceivable Universal Vow is the great ship which conveys us across the sea which is difficult to cross, and that the unhindered Light is the sun of wisdom which dissipates the darkness of ignorance."***

We celebrate the compassionate vow of Amida that embraces us at Ohigan.

Please join the special Ohigan seminar on March 15th in Salinas and our Watsonville Ohigan service on March 16th with special guest speaker Rev. Blake Honda.

Gassho,  
Reverend Hosei Shinseki  
Minister Emeritus



**The Watsonville Buddhist Temple  
wishes to extend our condolences  
to the family of Sumiko Yamada.  
Our thoughts are with you  
at this difficult time.**


**WATSONVILLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE**  

# HANAMATSURI

CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF SHAKYAMUNI BUDDHA

**Flower Festival**  
**Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**11:00AM to 2:00PM**  
 423 Bridge Street, Watsonville

**Displays**  
 Ikebana  
 Bonsai  
 Mataro Kimekomi Doll making  
 Boy Scouts  
 Kokoro No Gakko

**Entertainment**  
 Watsonville Taiko  
 Shorinji Kempo, Monterey Branch

**Food**  
 Limited Bento Boxes for sale  
 Hapa Bros. Asian Fusion Cuisine

**Vendors**  
 Tangled Messes  
 Hug a Sumo

For info call 831-724-7860 or email [buddhist@wbtemple.org](mailto:buddhist@wbtemple.org)

**Service**  
**Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:00AM**



### Schedule of March Events

March 23 and 30, 2025- No Sunday Service

### Tentative Schedule of April Events

April 5, 2025 - Hanamatsuri Festival 11am - 2pm

April 6, 2025 - Hanamatsuri Service and  
Shotsuki Hoyo 10am

April 13, 20, and 27, 2025 - No Sunday Service

### Watsonville Buddhist Temple

Temple Office Telephone (831) 724-7860

Temple Office is open by appointment only.

**Email:** [buddhist@wbtemple.org](mailto:buddhist@wbtemple.org) **Website:** [www.wbtemple.org](http://www.wbtemple.org)

## WESTVIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHIMES

### Roy Campanella

Roy Campanella and Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier on April 15, 1947, as the first African Americans to play in Major League Baseball (MLB) playing for the Brooklyn Dodgers. The All-Star, Roy, was considered one of the greatest catchers in the history of the game, but in his 11th year he was in a tragic car accident which left him a quadriplegic. After much work in rehab but still in a wheelchair, he was hired by the team for scouting and community relations.

### A CREED FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve.  
I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.  
I asked for health, that I might do great things.  
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.  
I asked for riches, that I might be happy.  
I was given poverty, that I might be wise.  
I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men.  
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.  
I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life.  
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.  
I got nothing I asked for - but everything I had hoped for.  
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.  
I am among men, most richly blessed.

This poem was written on a plaque in the rehabilitation center that was used by Roy Campanella. He found it an inspiration as he worked through his rehabilitation and ultimate acceptance that he would be a quadriplegic for the rest of his life. In spite of his physical condition, Roy Campanella saw himself as "richly blessed."

Life is a wonderful blessing and is simultaneously very difficult. Many of you face life daily with deep difficulties. I pray this quadriplegic, Roy, can be an inspiration of leaning into God's embrace and trusting that God will grant you "everything you had hoped for, and you will come to realize that you are richly blessed". You are a precious child of God, dearly loved by the Good Shepherd!

Much love, peace and joy to you,  
Pastor Dan

### SonRise Kitchen

**SonRise Kitchen:** Experience the joy! We need volunteers to help with serving breakfast by River Park M-F 7:30 - 8:15am & making snack bags Wednesdays 9:15am. We also need donations of cereal, and lightly used: jackets & sweatshirts, sleeping bags, blankets, shoes, & socks. Thank you! Contact Margo or Pastor Dan.



Left Photo: Santa Cruz Interfaith Network Immigration Rights Training for the Faith Community Leaders at Westview. Learn how to train others to know their rights, create a Child Safety Plan and get involved in Rapid Response/Legal Observation at ICE.



Right Photo: Ian Hoffman, looking at our new world map of children sponsored by our congregation through Compassion and World Vision. If you would like to sponsor a child and help lift them out of poverty reach out to Pastor Dan.

### Recurso de Fuerza Village

**Recurso de Fuerza village**, “Resource of Strength,” village for the unhoused will be built by Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties behind the church gym hopefully by June 2025. Counselors coordinated by CAB will be on site 24/7 to help the residents heal, plan and then move on to permanent housing. 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, a classroom, 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 Speaker:** Neal Presa, Executive Presbyter of San Jose – April 6th  
Pastor Mick Erickson – April 27th

### Wednesday Zoom Scripture Reflection & Mid-Week Check-In

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

**Luncheons:** We have Social Hour with a light lunch the **1st Sunday of each month** along with cake for Birthdays!  
Come enjoy!

#### Acknowledgements:

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