

## WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL

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

## HAIKU

April of no rain  
 You bring clouds and dark gray skies  
 Tadpoles in my pond

Furazutomo  
 Otamajyakushi  
 Suimenka

By Bob Gómez  
 Translation by Emi Sato

## 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.

- Christine Izumizaki in memory of Jeanne Houston.
- Sandra Izumizaki-Sams in memory of Jeanne Watkatsuki Houston
- Victor Kimura towards JACL's donation to Ann Soldo School
- Yoko Umeda for DOREF/greatest need in remembrance of Ben Umeda
- Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Senior Center for the AV upgrade at Kizuka Hall

*Next issue July 2025!*

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

降らずとも  
 おたまじゃくし  
 水面下

## Inside this issue

Haiku	1
Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL:	
Donations	1
2025 Gala Awards Banquet Celebration	2
Watsonville-Santa Cruz “Unsung Hero”	3
W-SC Chapter Hosted the JACL NCWNP District Meeting at Kizuka Hall	3
2025 National JACL Convention	4
W-SC JACL Community Picnic - Save the Date	4
Enduring Democracy: The Monterey Petition	4
Poston Pilgrimage - October 24 & 25, 2025	5
JACL Condemns U.S. Attorney's Inappropriate Comparison to Japanese American Incarceration During WWII	6
Alien Enemies Act	6
442nd Regimental Combat Team	7
Senior Corner for March & April 2025	7
Friends & Family of Nisei Veterans' 2025 Events	9
Kokoro no Gakko	10
Watsonville Taiko & Shinsei Daiko	10
Watsonville Buddhist Temple	11
Westview Presbyterian Chimes	16
Japanese Cultural Fair	19
Acknowledgements	19

## WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL

### 2025 Gala Awards Banquet Celebration *By Marcia Hashimoto*

The NCWNP District Gala held on April 5th at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel was a successful event that carried out the theme "Celebrating our past and continuing our work through Art, Advocacy, and Activism". Keynote Speakers were Roy and PJ Hirabayashi, co-founder and artistic director emeritus of San Jose Taiko. Carol Kawase, District Governor and Gala Chair, spoke of JACL's 96 years of committed dedication to community service, civic engagement and advocacy. Chapter members were acknowledged for their service. On behalf of our chapter, Victor Kimura submitted Marcia's nomination for the Silver Pin Award which she was surprised and thankful to receive. Our W-SC JACL proudly honored Joe Bowes as our "Unsung Hero". It is with the highest regard that we celebrate Joe Bowes with gratitude for his generosity of spirit and decades of compassionate care and service to our organization and community members.



Left photo, above: Joe Bowes, W-SC Chapter's Daruma honoree with Silver Pin honoree, Marcia Hashimoto.

Right photo, above: NCWNP District Governor Carol Kawase with Marcia Hashimoto.



The Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapter members at the 2025 NCWNP District Gala at the San Ramon Marriott.

## Watsonville-Santa Cruz "Unsung Hero" *By Marcia Hashimoto, Victor Kimura, Nikki Hikari and Jeanette Hager*



Joe Bowes and his wife, Christine, have been dedicated JACL members for nearly four decades! Joe has supported the Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapter at Board meetings, our events and by applying his many talents to creating spaces that honor our history and especially those who lived it.

Joe has worked on enhancing the design of the Japanese Memorial Garden at the Salinas Rodeo Grounds and is part of the dedicated crew of JACL members who get together to regularly maintain the memorial garden.

A jack-of-all-trades, Joe generously donates his time, talents and resources to maintain the aging JACL Kizuka Hall in Watsonville which is the home for our chapter's meetings and events, our Senior Center as well as community groups such as Watsonville Taiko and the Bonsai Club, etc. He worked tirelessly to replace a fence

on one entire side of the property, repaired termite eaten building boards, constructed an access point door to the attic for pest inspections, and much much more. Joe is the first person our board members call when anything falls apart. If Joe can't fix it no one can!

When the Chapter commemorated the 30th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act, the event included unveiling of the display of local artist and Cabrillo College art instructor Howard Ikemoto's painting of a World War II incarceration camp guard tower at Tule Lake Camp, located in Siskiyou County, shrouded in a dust storm that the internees frequently had to endure. On permanent display in the Chapter's Tokushige Kizuka Hall, the painting was framed by Joe.

Joe has been a loyal supporter of Friends and Families of Nisei Veterans and has regularly attended their annual reunions.

"Taiko Joe" as some call him, has another secret talent building taiko drums from scratch. He has personally made hundreds of taiko drums over the years, from small to enormous in size, to benefit Watsonville Taiko as well as other local taiko groups.

He is a steadfast champion for the civil rights of all human beings! It is with joy and honor that we nominate Joe Bowes as a truly humble "Unsung Hero" to receive the JACL Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific District Daruma Award.

Thank you Joe for all your selfless endeavors and for your big heart!



Watsonville-Santa Cruz  
Daruma Awardee, Joe Bowes.

## W-SC Chapter Hosted the JACL NCWNP District's Meeting at Kizuka Hall

*By Cindy Mine and Jeanette Hager*

Our Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapter hosted the JACL District meeting on Sunday, May 4th, at Kizuka Hall. 26 delegates from throughout our JACL District were present for the meeting. Many hands were very involved in presenting Kizuka Hall as a venue. Hands from Watsonville Taiko to Bonsai to Duane Kubo to our JACL Board Members. It wasn't all work and no breathers. Everyone enjoyed Lunch provided by Miyuki Restaurant; dessert (designed cookies) by Freedom Bakery and a take-home gift of beautiful strawberries by Kenny Kusumoto.





## 2025 National JACL Convention *By Jeanette Hager*

The 2025 National JACL Convention will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This year's convention is open to all.

The 2025 National Convention theme is "Voices in Unity". The theme builds upon the plethora of stories that come from New Mexico, whether it be Japanese Americans incarcerated at Santa Fe, Native peoples who served as Codetalkers in WWII, or the scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. It also comes from the multitude of stories within our own Japanese American community and broader civil rights community. This year's convention is an opportunity for our voices to unite to make change and take the action we want to see.

**Dates:** July 17-20, 2025

**Venue:** Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town, 800 Rio Grande Blvd NW,  
Albuquerque, NM, 87104, US

For the agenda, see the National JACL website: <https://jacl.org/2025-national-convention>



### SAVE THE DATE

**The Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL  
2025 Community Picnic  
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!**

**Scholarship Presentations | Games |  
Senior Bingo | New Lunch Menu  
Featured Entertainment:  
Watsonville Taiko**

## Enduring Democracy: The Monterey Petition *By Monterey JACL Chapter*

**Enduring Democracy:** The Monterey Petition tells the story of the courage and compassion demonstrated by Monterey residents as Japanese Americans return to their hometown after being released from incarceration in the World War II Internment Camps.

Enduring Democracy is a documentary sponsored by the JACL of the Monterey Peninsula that examines how Monterey was one of the only communities that publicly welcomed their Japanese neighbors back from the incarceration centers after World War II. Not only is this of historical importance to the Japanese community and the Monterey Peninsula but it illustrates global themes of diversity, equity and inclusion.

In a dusty filing cabinet in the historic Japanese American Citizens League Hall in Monterey, California, a local historian discovered a 16mm film from 1938, showing the local Japanese Americans having fun at the wharf and playing baseball. It depicted a joyous Japanese American community just before their lives are turned upside down by the events of World War II. Along with this long forgotten film, were the pages of the original signed petition that became the basis for a story and a film that stands as a lesson for all Americans interested in preserving the ideals of our democratic way of life.

As World War II wound down, a significant wave of anti-Japanese sentiment arose with many campaigns to block Japanese Americans, who had been relocated during the war, from returning to their homes on the West Coast. Kitchen table conversations led to a door-to-door petition drive mobilizing citizens of the Monterey Peninsula to resist prejudice and economically motivated racism to welcome back fellow citizens held in concentration camps where they were held for over 3 years solely due to their Japanese ancestry.

In 1945, Toni Jackson, who worked as an editor for John Steinbeck wrote the petition, A Democratic Way of Life for All. It stands as the only organized public resistance to the well-funded hate campaign waged against Japanese Americans as they began the fearful return home to suspicious communities. Enduring Democracy: the Monterey Petition explores the motivations of individuals who financed hate campaigns as well as the courage and compassion of the valiant women who spearheaded the carefully thought-out campaign.

The battle was fought in the editorial pages of several newspapers as racists emboldened by Anti-Japanese war propaganda posted full page ads to discourage Japanese Americans from returning to their homes and businesses. Inspired by Mollie Sumida's letter to the editor written while imprisoned in camp and impervious to threats of violence, residents banded together to get their community to sign Toni Jackson's petition pledging The Democratic Way of Life for All.

To see the trailer, see the Monterey Chapter website:

<https://jaclmonterey.org/documentary-film-2/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=d1b6b5a9-6176-4f12-a9c5-4e10241163a9>

### **Poston Pilgrimage - October 24 & 25, 2025** *From Poston Preservation*

The Poston Pilgrimage is an opportunity to learn more about the Poston Incarceration Camp, where approximately 18,000 Japanese Americans were imprisoned during World War II. Visit the current Poston site, learn of our preservation efforts, attend our various workshop and hear from our keynote speaker.

In collaboration with the CRIT Tribal Council, we are upholding the memories of camp life and highlighting the significant links and relationships between the Japanese American incarcerates and members of the tribal community.

Our Poston exhibit is housed within the Museum of the Colorado River Indian Tribes. The Tribe has generously donated space for our Poston Community Alliance exhibit. It features a map of Poston's three camps where visitors can locate the exact barrack and apartment where their family resided.

This year we will be hosting the stamping for the Ireicho Book of Names at the Museum of the Colorado River Indian Tribes.

The pilgrimage is organized by the Poston Community Alliance, which is actively working to preserve the stories, artifacts, and historic structures of Poston, a World War II Concentration Camp, located on the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) reservation.

The registration fee includes Poston site visits, workshops, lunch and the banquet. Once you have registered for the Pilgrimage, an Eventbrite link will be sent to you to schedule your workshops and Poston exhibit viewing time. Registration is now open.



**2025 POSTON PILGRIMAGE**

**October 24-25 2025**

**COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES**  
 MOHAVE CHEMEHUVI NAVAJO HOPI

Pilgrimage events include viewing of our Poston exhibit, an opening ceremony with the tribal community, tours of the Poston Monument and Poston Elementary School Site, educational workshops, and banquet with our keynote speaker.

**This year we are honored to have available the Ireicho Book of Names for family stamping.**

<https://www.postonpreservation.org/>  
 Email: [postonalliance1@gmail.com](mailto:postonalliance1@gmail.com)

For more information, see the Poston Preservation website: <https://www.postonpreservation.org/pilgrimage>

## **JACL Condemns U.S. Attorney's Inappropriate Comparison to Japanese American Incarceration During WWII** *From National JACL*

April 9, 2025

For Immediate Release

The Japanese American Citizens League condemns the assertion made in an email attributed to Interim U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, Ed Martin, promoting the idea that the prosecution of January 6 insurrectionists was the “greatest failure of legal judgement since FDR and his Attorney General put American citizens of Japanese descent in prison camps and seized their property.”

To compare the decision to incarcerate over 125,000 people only because of their Japanese ancestry, the majority of whom were United States citizens who remained loyal to our constitution and the rule of law, to the decision to prosecute and obtain convictions of individuals who broke the law in such a violent fashion is disrespectful to the history of what Japanese-Americans endured. At a time where the legacy of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team has been removed and then rearranged on the website for the United States Army, and the Alien Enemies Act has been invoked for the first time since WWII when it was used against members of our own community, it is especially offensive to see such comparisons.

Unfortunately, comments such as those from U.S. Attorney Martin's are not new. JACL recalls this past October when President Trump also compared the experience of January 6th insurrectionists to those of Japanese Americans. The continued co-option of the trauma and tragedy experienced by Japanese Americans during World War II not only reopens the wounds of the survivors and their descendants, but fails to tell the full truth of the Japanese American experience, that what happened to our community was rooted in racism and resulted in the mass incarceration of over 125,000 people, none of whom was ever found guilty of an act of treason.

JACL calls for an end to such inappropriate, inaccurate, and offensive comparisons of Capitol rioters to the mass incarceration of innocent Japanese Americans during World War II.

### **Alien Enemies Act** *By Cindy Mine*

There has been so much discussion about the Alien Enemies Act. I had a general idea of what it is, but a general idea was not good enough now, I needed to find out the exact definition of it.

The Alien enemies Act of 1798 is a Federal Law.

It gives the President wartime authority to detain or deport non-U.S. citizens of enemy countries from the United States. There are 3 provisions of the Alien Enemies Act that allow the President to deport immigrants from enemy countries:

1. In times of declared war; (The Constitution gives Congress, not the President, the power to declare war).
2. In times of a perpetrated, attempted, or threatened invasion
3. In times of a “predatory incursion” against U.S. territory

It allows the federal government to arrest and deport citizens of a “hostile government” who are at least 14 years old without a hearing, and based solely on their country of birth or citizenship.

In our country's history, the Alien Enemies Act has only been used 3 times:

1. The War of 1812
2. World War I
3. World War II

On March 14, 2025, President Trump invoked the Alien Enemies Act, citing a Venezuelan transnational terrorist organization Tren de Aragua, he claimed had “infiltrated the United States” and is “undertaking hostile actions against the United States.”

On May 1, 2025, a Federal judge in Texas ruled that the invocation was unlawful.

## 442nd Regimental Combat Team *Post by Japanese American Museum of Oregon, March 14, 2025*

**Update:** It appears the page about the 442nd on the army.mil website is back up under a different URL, but the information about Asian American and Pacific Islander veterans has not been restored. You can read more about the overall efforts of the Pentagon to remove certain content from websites here: <https://apnews.com/.../dei-purge-images-pentagon...>

The U.S. Army had removed a page from their website that detailed the history of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

The 442nd was a segregated Army unit made up of Japanese Americans during World War II and the most decorated unit of its size in Army history. A lot of effort has gone into ensuring that the unit is recognized as a crucial part of U.S. military history. Years of advocacy, research, lobbying, and mobilizing efforts have gone into making sure that the heroism of the 442nd is never forgotten. And it is so disappointing and hurtful to see any action that minimizes or removes this history from public view.

This is a reminder of why community-led institutions need to exist. The Japanese American men and women of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service are an essential part of the history of the United States, and we proudly tell that history at JAMO. We will never minimize or erase their stories. It's why organizations like Go For Broke National Education Center, Japanese American Veterans Association, National Veterans Network, and the many other Japanese American history institutions are necessary—so that no matter what, this history will be here for all who want to learn about it. Please continue to support these organizations and let them know how much their work to tell this history means to you!

You can view the original page that was erased at this link, courtesy of the Internet Archive: <https://web.archive.org/.../asianpacificamericans/442.html>

You can view all the content related to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders that was erased from the Army website here: <https://web.archive.org/.../asianpacificamericans/index.html>

Read more about the erasure in this article: <https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/.../history-nisei-go-broke.../>

## SENIOR CENTER NEWS FOR MARCH AND APRIL 2025

*By Patt Takeuchi, Jean Yamashita and Carol Kaneko, photos by Gary Mine and Patt Takeuchi*

The Senior Center's **Saint Patrick's Day** in March was celebrated with sharing green necklaces, hats and clovers decorating the tables. Everyone got to be Irish for a day!

Also in March many of our members finally were able to take a one day trip after almost 6 years of waiting. The W-SC JACL Seniors were elated to finally go on a casino bus trip to Table Mountain on March 25, 2025. It was a lovely sunny day as the energetic bunch boarded the Pacific Monarch bus with the assistance of our attentive bus driver, **Ash**. After settling in, the Seniors happily received many assorted goodies donated by our generous passengers: **Anita Alvarado, Sharon Bobo, Sharon Carreiro, Lani Chin, Shirley Conner, Emi Hirano, June Honda, Cindy/Gary Mine, Evelyn Nartates, Mitsuyo/Kim/Paul Tao, Jean Yamashita, and Toshi Yamashita**. Thank you to our thoughtful donors for all the delicious treats and to **Reba Condon** for the biodegradable goodie bags! When we arrived at the "new" non-smoking Table Mountain Casino (opened in 2022), all the passengers received \$40 free bonus play money and then trotted off seeking their fortunes. All too soon, it was time to head home. Everyone appeared to be in high-spirits after a fun-filled afternoon. Andersen's Pea Soup in Santa Nella was our rest stop to stretch our legs, grab a quick bite to eat, or browse the gift shop. Special thanks to all the kind helpers who made this trip possible: **Carol Kaneko/Toshi Yamashita** (trip treasurers); **Cindy Mine** (trip nurse); **Gary Mine** (passenger assistance); **Sharon Bobo** (collected donations); **Sharon Carreiro** (opened church to use facilities); **Kim/Paul Tao** (helped with trip supplies); and **Jean Yamashita** (trip coordinator). Appreciation also to Watsonville Buddhist Temple for allowing us to use the church as a trip meeting place and parking. Finally, a big "Thank you!" to all the Seniors and guests for joining us on this one-day adventure!





**W-SC JACL SENIOR CENTER  
TABLE MOUNTAIN CASINO BUS TRIP  
Tuesday, March 25, 2025**

Our March birthday celebration was on the 21st with birthday honoree, **Hideko Nagamine (104)** in attendance. Absent was **Yae Sakamoto (99)**.



March Birthday  
Hideko Nagamine



April Birthdays  
Marcia Hashimoto and Sharon Carreiro

In March, we welcomed guest **Robin Yamashiro West** and in April, **Aimee Mizuno**, daughter of **Kitty and Takashi Mizuno** visited us.

Our April birthday celebration on the 17th was with honorees **Sharon Carreiro** and **Marcia Hashimoto**.

**The W-SC JACL Senior Center acknowledges the following monetary donations made in March/April 2025:**

Birthday donations were given by **Jeannette Crosetti, Sharon Carreiro, and Marcia Hashimoto**.

Special donations were given by **Sakaue Family** in appreciation, **Toshi Yamashita** in memory of **Sue Yamada**, **Anita Alvarado** in memory of **Sunao Honda** and **Mas Hashimoto**, **Riiko Yoshida** casino trip, **Nobuko Akiyama** casino trip, **Mark and Patt Takeuchi** in memory of **Sam Sakamoto**, and **Leigh and Noemi Sakaguchi** for general fund.



A special thanks once again to **Eileen Byers**, who not only made cute Valentine gifts for everyone but shared creative little Easter baskets!

Many thanks for the generous bingo prize donations for March and April. We just couldn't have as much fun without those fabulous prizes!

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

Shout out to **June Honda!** Great to see you again.

Thanks to all our volunteers: **Sharon Bobo, Leigh Sakaguchi, Paul Kaneko, and Reba Condon** for opening up in March and April; our *toban* ladies - **Connie Dimas, Mary Perez, Evelyn Nartates, Aurora Magana, Nobuko Akiyama, Riiko Yoshida, and Marcia Hashimoto**; our bingo callers, **Leigh Sakaguchi, Anita Alvarado, Kenny Kusimoto, Kitty Mizuno, and Carol Carpenter**; our bingo card checkers, **Marcia Hashimoto, Leigh Sakaguchi, and Reba Condon**; **Sharon Bobo, Anita Alvarado, Sharon Carreiro, and Paul Kaneko** for recording our donations and distributing the prizes to our bingo winners; **June Honda and Liz Goodson** for taking care of our birthday celebrations and ordering our beautiful and delicious birthday cakes; **Nobue Fujii and Mitsuyo Tao** for taking our weekly attendance; **Cindy Mine** for taking blood pressures; **Gary Mine and Patt Takeuchi** for taking our birthday photos; **Reba Condon** for the lovely birthday flowers, **Patt Takeuchi** for setting up the "Happy Birthday" board in the back of the hall to display our birthday group photos; and the numerous volunteers who help with the cutting and serving of our birthday cakes and assisting wherever and whenever needed. **Thank you all!**

#### **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 limited special events and no trips.

***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.*

Much appreciation to those of you who take the time to give our seniors a ride who can no longer drive. We appreciate your efforts many times over.

AND, Don't forget to get your boosters and vaccinations.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of our seniors and the Senior Center. If you haven't visited in a while, we'd love to see you.

#### **Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Senior Center Schedule May - June 2025**

Thursday, May 29	Regular Bingo
Thursday, June 5	Regular Bingo
Thursday, June 12	Father's Day - Regular Bingo
Thursday, June 19	June Birthday Party - Regular Bingo
Thursday, June 26	Regular Bingo

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#### **FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF NISEI VETERANS - FNVV EVENTS** *By Brian Shirogama*

**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 or email Brian.

## **KOKORO NO GAKKO** *By Zoey Diggory*



**Spots still available for Kokoro no Gakko 2025 in kindergarten, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classes**

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 senseis. 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, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades (all other classes are filled). Enrollment includes a hot lunch, with a vegetarian option, each day.

Register at: <https://gakkowatsonville.wordpress.com/registration/>

**Tuition:** \$440 per student <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-**

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, May 10th- UCSC Matsuri Festival  
Saturday, May 17th- Castillo's Shoken Karate-Do Event  
Saturday, May 24th and 31st- Odaiko workshop for beginners  
Saturday, June 7th- Japanese Cultural Fair, Mission Plaza Park  
Saturday, June 28th- JACL picnic  
Sunday, July 20- Watsonville Buddhist Temple Obon Festival  
Sunday, November 3rd- Watsonville Taiko's Annual Holiday Boutique



## Odaiko Workshop for Beginners May 24 and May 31

- 1:30 - 3:00 pm
- Kizuka Hall, 150 Blackburn St., Watsonville
- \$60 with supporting membership;  
\$80 without

### WATSONVILLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE

#### Shinran Shonin, A Buddhist Pioneer *By Reverend Kosei Shinseki*

“The Tathagata’s mind of great compassion, it necessarily becomes the truly decisive cause of attain-ing the fulfilled land. The Tathagata, turning with compassion toward the ocean of living beings in pain and affliction, has given unhindered and vast pure shinjin to the ocean of sentient beings.” Shinran Shonin(1)



In the above quote I have highlighted the words “has given” to emphasize the fact that we have al-ready received the pure shinjin or faith from the Tathagata. The Tathagata is sometimes referred to as Nyorai 如来 in Japanese. It is one of the terms used to describe the Buddha. One who has come from the Truth.

The Buddha in his/her infinite wisdom realized that in the eons of time since the historical Buddha Shakyamuni, sentient beings “lack the entrusting that is pure” and harbor “thoughts of greed and de-sire, anger and hatred”(2) and with deep and pure compassion for each of us he completed the vows including the all-encompassing 18th Vow of the Nembutsu.

It is sometimes hard for us to embrace the Truth of the Buddha’s great work on our behalf. Shinran Shonin (1173-1263) spent the better part of his life writing, talking and explaining the Truth taught by the Buddha. Even when doubt crept into his mind, he continued to exclusively rely on the 18th Vow of the Buddha.

The Vow of Nembutsu is the most concrete expression of the Buddha’s wish to save all of us in delusion and suffering. The vow has been fulfilled and we who are fortunate enough to encounter the nembutsu, find the quick and easy way to emancipation. Therein lies the power of the vow.

Shinran was a pioneer who went against the establishment of the Tendai monks and encouraged all to embrace the nembutsu teaching as the only path to emancipation.

Here is the English translation of the 18th Vow.

“If when I attain Buddhahood, sentient beings in the lands of the ten directions who sincerely and joyfully entrust themselves to me, desire to be born in my land, and call my Name even ten times, should not be born there, may I not attain perfect Enlight-enment. Excluded, however, are those who commit the five gravest offences and abuse the right Dharma.”(3)



Shinran realized that having fulfilled the vows, the Buddha has already saved us. Shinran said of himself that he was “falsehearted and untrue without any mind of purity. Shinran never criticized others, but only himself, saying he was a being filled with blind passion. It is the being of blind passion that ignores the Dharma. Shinran did not just say he was blind, but he had anxieties over the effect of his thoughts, words and actions.

We listen to the teachings and say Namoamidabutsu to cultivate the mind and heart that realizes that everything we do, one step one smile, one frown takes effect upon my life and the life of others. When we understand this Namoamidabutsu comes to our lips. When we recite Namoamidabutsu, it is an expression that something is taking affect upon my life, and the life of others.

Shinran understood this and clarified it for us. This is why on May 18th at 10:00 am, we will celebrate his birthday with our Gotane service (sect founder birthday gathering). Our special guest speaker will be minister emeritus Reverend Kodo Umezu. Please join us.

Gassho,  
Rev. Hosei Shinseki  
Minister Emeritus

1 Collected Works of Shinran, Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, Kyoto,  
page 98

2 ibid

3 The Three Pure Land Sutras, Hisao Inagaki, Nagata Bunshodo, Kyoto,  
1994, page 243

### **Gotane and Hatsumairi Service**

**May 18, 2025, 10:00am**

**Guest Speaker will be Reverend Kodo Umezu**

Lunch will be served following the service



Reverend Kodo Umezu

Born in Fukuoka, Japan, Rev. Kodo Umezu graduated from Ryukoku University in 1973 and immediately made his voyage to the U.S. to become a BCA minister. He was first assigned to the Fresno Betsuin and continued his studies at the Institute of Buddhist Studies, where he received his master's degree in 1976.

Later that year, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. After serving for four years, he returned to the BCA ministry and was assigned to Los Angeles Betsuin in 1980. In 1987, he was assigned to Buddhist Church of Oakland, and in 1996, he was appointed as executive assistant to Bishop Hakubun Watanabe. He was appointed director of the Center for Buddhist Education in Berkeley by Bishop Ogui in 2006, and served in that position until becoming bishop on April 1, 2012.

After 47 years of dedicated ministry and service to the Buddhist Churches of America, Rev. Ko-do Umezu, Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America, retired from the BCA ministry on March 31, 2020. Rev. Umezu continues to be active as president of the Jodoshinshu International Office.

Rev. Umezu and his wife Janet have three daughters, Amy, Stacy and Michelle.

## The Pain Of Shame (Part One) (1942-1945 Incarceration)

I was only twelve years old on a day that is now history,  
 Innocent and ignorant of the turmoil far across the sea.  
 Confused by the "breaking news," my heart began to pound,  
 Fearful that my youthful world would soon be turned around.  
 Reluctantly~ the very next morning~ I returned to school.  
 Apprehensively~ because as a rule~ kids can be so cruel.  
 I pretended I didn't care~ but I was clearly aware,  
 Of classmates with their whispers and cynical stares.  
 Was I to blame because we didn't look the same?  
 Must I always carry the burden of the pain of shame?  
 Whisked away by scavengers~ the fruits of our endeavor.  
 An organ that was the music of my life ~ lost to me forever.  
 With heavy hearts~ we boarded the Union Pacific,  
 Secretly leading to "no man's land," to be very specific.  
 The window shades were drawn~ both night and day.  
 What in the world did we do wrong against the U.S.A. ?  
 Listening to the clickety-clack of the aged railroad track,  
 I wondered, "where are we going~ and when will we be back?"  
 From the mild~ cooling breezes of the beautiful west coast,  
 We were driven into the arid desert to sweat and to roast.  
 Placed behind barbed wire fences facing a watch tower,  
 The respect for my racial origin suddenly turned very sour.  
 The shameful feelings we endured were oh~ so unforgiving.  
 The luxury of privacy was unheard of in communal living.  
 In a 20' x 25' barracks room partitioned by a hanging sheet,  
 We co-existed under conditions of unbearable dust and heat.  
 Having to fill our mattress with straw was morally demeaning.  
 Obviously~ the Bill of Rights held very little meaning.  
 For spiders~ black widows and scorpions~ it was sheer heaven,  
 But it was a time of hurt and tears for our family of seven.  
 Through all the indignities and injustices~ we did persevere,  
 In the country that I still love ~ and will always revere.

~Janice Tao

## The Pain of Shame (Part Two) (1942-1945 Incarceration)

Out of senseless wartime hysteria came Executive Order No. 9066,  
 Displacing U.S. citizens to the desert into barracks of tarpaper and sticks.  
 Built with unskilled labor and green lumber~ engulfing us in dust and heat,  
 Air-conditioned cottages for Anglo personnel resembled a vacation retreat.  
 As we internees pulled into camp~ an irate guard hopped onto our bus,  
 Defiantly warning us to be subservient~ and not to make a fuss.  
 Harsh words were instantly exchanged~ and angry voices effervesced,  
 Fueled by a sense of betrayal~ humiliation and bitterness.  
 Trapped by barb -wired fences~ machine guns and Army searchlights,  
 Lost in the swirling desert winds were our Constitutional rights,  
 As we tearfully said goodbye to young boys leaving for the Service,  
 Who ironically were willing to die for the country that did them disservice.  
 For three long years~ we routinely lined up for breakfast, lunch, and dinner  
 But without a family life whatsoever~ no one came out a winner.  
 Although I was under age~ I diligently worked in the mess hall,  
 Before and after school~because \$8 a month was a windfall.  
 I had an addiction for reading books ~ mysteries~ westerns and fiction.,  
 So walking to the library under the scorching sun was worth the affliction.  
 Wrapped in blankets with buckets of charcoal to warm our chilly feet,  
 We watched "B" movies under the stars with the cactus and mesquite.  
 To escape the heat~ we performed a feat that was considered quite stellar.  
 Shoveling out dirt from under the barracks created a cool and neat cellar.  
 On Saturday nights we stayed up late for the #1 song on the Hit Parade.  
 Those were the days of the Frank Sinatra craze that lasted for decades.  
 In 1945~ due to school closure~ a classmate and I left for Los Angeles,  
 In the cargo section of a delivery truck ~ proof of our youthfulness.  
 Through miles and miles of sagebrush and sand~ dejection and dehydration,  
 Determined to finish our Senior year~ we made it to our destination.  
 While in the care of a loving Jewish family~ I completed my education,  
 And dubiously went back to my home town with little expectation.  
 In the meantime~ my family had returned to an empty~ non-existent home.  
 With nothing in their hands and pockets ~ it was literally "to each his own."

~Janice Tao

(Campfires are out~ and the ghosts are gone~ but I still have memories  
 Of one of the most deplorable acts in United States history)



Watsonville Buddhist Temple

# Obon Festival

Sunday,  
July 20, 2025  
423 Bridge Street

Delicious Food & Fun  
Hapa Bros. Food Trailer  
Arts and Craft Vendors  
Children's Games  
Drawing  
It All Starts  
At 12noon  
Watsonville Taiko at 3:00pm  
Traditional Japanese Folk Dances  
Starting at 4:00pm

For info call 831-724-7860 | email: buddhist@wbtemple.org | wbtemple.org



**Obon dance practices will be Mondays and Wednesdays starting June 23, 2025. Dates are June 23, 25, and 30, July 2, 7, 9, 14, and 16 from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. In the Temple Gym.**

<p><b>Temple Firework's Booth</b></p> <p><b>WE NEED YOU</b></p> 	<p><b>Date: July 1- July 4</b> <b>Time: 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.</b> <b>Temple Parking Lot</b></p> <hr/> <p><b><u>WE NEED YOUR HELP AT THIS YEAR'S FIREWORKS BOOTH</u></b></p> <p>Our Firework's fund raiser is one of the Temple's biggest fund raisers and we need your help.</p> <p>If you cannot help in the booth, you can still support the temple by bringing food to feed our volunteers, buying fireworks, waving a flag or stopping by and giving your support to the temple. Please contact the office or Perry so we can schedule your shift or to let us know what day you are bringing food for the temple volunteers.</p> <p><b>Perry Yoshida @ 239-7540- perry761@aol.com</b> <b>Temple Office @ 724-7860 - buddhist@wbtemple.org</b></p>
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### **Schedule of May Events**

May 24, 2025 - Blood Drive 10am - 2:30pm  
May 25, 2025 - Cemetery Memorial Service  
Pioneer Cemetery 9am  
Pajaro Valley Cemetery 10am  
San Juan Bautista Cemetery 11:30am

### **Tentative Schedule of June Events**

June 1, 2025 - Shotsuki Hoyo 10am  
June 8, 2025 - Sunday Service 10am  
June 8, 2025 - Temple Clean-up 8:30am  
June 15, 2025 - No Sunday Service  
June 22 and 29, 2025 - No Sunday Service  
June 23, 25, and 30, 2025 - Obon Practice 7pm - 8pm

### **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)

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## **WESTVIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHIMES**

### **Hospitality and Neighborliness**

**“The unhoused are just drug addicts who come to live in our area for the services!”-Some say.**

Actually 86% of the unhoused in our county are from our county. So, these are our neighbors, and with the high cost of housing, there will continue to be more people, even possibly us, like them living on the streets, unless we work together to BE neighborly. They are people who have fallen on hard times and can't afford housing in this very expensive area. Yes, some of them use drugs, but for many the drugs come after an event or string of events that made them homeless—an eviction, a divorce, a lost job, a debilitating accident, a serious illness, a change in retirement income/benefits. Some also have mental illness that makes it difficult to stay employed. It's a big issue and can feel overwhelming to know how to help!

Our Westview leaders had a retreat in March to pray for our church and community and to pray about our vision for 2025, given that our scriptures call us to care for the hurting. We were talking about the Recurso De Fuerza tiny homes to be completed by Oct/Nov in our parking lot and how we could spiritually prepare. (The tiny homes are 32 units which can house 34 people with wrap around services and counselors on site 24/7 to help them rehabilitate and hope again for their lives. It is fenced and secure for them. They will then move on to more permanent housing in 6 or so months as they get their feet back on the ground and heal. It's a proven structured model with no tents and trash.) Our hope is that we will not only get to welcome and care for our unhoused neighbors, but that we will also provide opportunities for others in the community to work together to be neighborly and help be part of the solution as well.

**For 2025 our leaders embraced the theme of Hospitality.**

**Hospitality...**the word brings forth visions of Martha Stewart and a perfectly set table in a meticulously decorated home.

**What is hospitality?** In Scripture hospitality comes from the Greek word which means **“Love for strangers.”**

**Hospitality is a very important theme in Scripture:** From the Lord's Supper, to the Great Banquet at the end of time (Luke 14:15-24, Revelation 19:11-13), to the Healing of the “outcasts” (leper, bleeding woman, blind man, the physically handicapped), to Caring for groups that felt on the outside in Roman times: Samaritans, Gentiles, women, and children.

“Hospitality is a space we need to create within ourselves before we can offer that space to others. Cultivating hospitality begins in our own souls and flows outward [from our relationship with God], ” states Cindy S Lee in *Our Unforming, De-Westernizing Spiritual Formation*.

Jesus offers US hospitality!

What has Jesus done to welcome you and care for you, perceiving what you need most?

Hospitality reflects the heart of Jesus who offers us hospitality through: loving reception, unconditional love, being known, acceptance or freedom to be ourselves, spiritual nourishment, a place of rest, grace for our faults, restoration, seeing us in the place that we are and gently inviting us into healing, growth, and becoming fully who we are meant to be.

Cultivating an inner hospitality, especially through connection with Jesus, frees us to offer an open, nonjudgmental space for others, and involves taking risks.

“Hospitality is a posture of openness with which the hosts share of themselves to create an environment where others feel comfortable sharing of themselves too. It can be facilitated through the sharing of food, space, [but it is so much more as it actually is any] embodied practices that invite the opening of our souls to one another.”-Cindy S Lee

**This spirituality of hospitality is:**

- Firstly, experiencing God’s hospitable love for us!
- Its root in Scripture is “welcome of the stranger.”
- Hospitality is acceptance, love, openness to the other, attentive listening, invitation to God for healing, (invite them into God’ unconditional, lavish, loving presence!).
- Accepting, nonjudgemental. Helping others feel comfortable & welcome as they are.
- Food, generosity, & fellowship.
- Being REAL and honest so others feel free to be real and honest. It’s restoration & healing, unconditional love, being known, being seen.

How have you experienced this kind of Hospitality?

How and to whom can you extend this hospitality of God’s love to all you meet?

And how can we extend this hospitality as the Westview family to visitors, neighbors, & residents of Recurso De Fuerza Village opening in November?

**The Westview leaders talked about tangible ways to prepare to be hospitable to our new neighbors coming in November:**

- Talk with Community Action Board (CAB), who will manage Recurso de Fuerza (RDF)Village, about
  1. How we can help?
  2. Ask if we can have a regular meeting with residents with food & maybe games
  3. Help get sign-ups for Adopt a Room to decorate resident’s rooms and for Welcome Baskets: ask JACL, Local Classrooms, Wednesday Bible Study, Valley Heights people.
  4. Training of Westview members by CAB on how to care for residents in a healthy way (August?).
  5. Invite CAB to worship to share about their work/passion and why they do it. (June 1?) & Potluck, with a message on Matthew 25 (care for the least)
- Reach out to surrounding Neighbors (after consult with CAB):
  1. Open House with Food-CAB is already planning on having one, so how can we participate?
  2. Adopt a Room & Welcome Baskets
  3. Park cleanup on 2<sup>nd</sup> St and Pizza?
- Reach out to our new neighbors of RDF (after time to settle in):
  1. Lead a Life Reflection/Bible Study in the RDF Village after they have settled in a while. WPC members attend/lead too in order to form relationships and care for them. With Food.
  2. BBQ (with residents cooking) and Games
  3. Other ideas:
    - Tell RDF residents of our First Sunday of the month Brunch after church
    - Invite Residents to help us with SonRise Breakfast and lunch packing—for partnership/dignity/relationships
    - Westview members be intentional in relationships with residents, staff, volunteers, & RDF Board (which will have neighbors on it)
    - Spanish language headsets—buy, and use AI/software to translate.

Are there people you can invite to Westview to be a part of ushering in God’s “Kingdom” of love?

Asking them to: Help Volunteer with SonRise Kitchen serving breakfast or making sack lunches? Help organize an adopt a room group?

Let us Begin praying for how we can help our new neighbors with lots of love and acceptance, and how we can help people we know become part of the good and joy of what we are seeking to do at Westview?

God, help us to continue to grow in experiencing your loving hospitality to us and extending that hospitality to others. Help us to BE your church, your hands and voice of love to those who are in need. Please from this center of your hospitable love give us creativity, wisdom, desire, courage, and compassion.

It is a joy for me to be part of such a loving community! Remember, “The building is not the church; YOU are!”

May you know ever more fully your beloved-ness in God,

Pastor Dan



## Photos



On April 6th, Dr. Neal Presa, Executive Presbyterian of San Jose, preached on “The Root and Fruit of Joy” at Westview and celebrated Communion with Pastor Dan, followed by a potluck!



In March, we celebrated the life of Emma Nestler and Polly Loftin, who both went to be with Jesus after a long and faithful life of service. Emma was a nurse and Polly was a special ed teacher (both pictured early in life). Shirley and Dick Wong helping set-up for Polly’s Memorial Service reception. Thank you to all who helped make them wonderful celebrations.



## Recurso de Fuerza Village

**Recurso de Fuerza village**, “Resource of Strength,” village for the unhoused got the greenlight by the city to be built by Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties behind the church gym, hopefully by November 2025. Groundbreaking is May/June. 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 32 rooms with things like a welcome mat, pictures, a flowering plant, bedside lamp, twin sheets, 2 pillows with cases, colorful throw pillows, warm fleece blanket, small trash can, small area rug (3x5 or 4x4 washable, storage bins, 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)

Or consider making a **Welcome Basket:** filled with towels (body, hand, wash), shower caddy, laundry detergent, shampoo, lotion, toothbrush & paste, deodorant, razor and cream, feminine hygiene products, Command Hooks (removable) for hanging towels, bathrobe & slippers for walk to the shoer, etc, all in a new Laundry basket with a bow! ☺

## Beyond the Bridge: the solution to homelessness

**FREE screening May 7, 6pm (doors open 5:30pm) Green Valley Cinema, 1125 S Green Valley Rd, with panel discussion afterward.**

### 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](mailto: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: Pastor Mick Erickson – May 4th, May 11th**

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

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### 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](mailto: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.**

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### 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.

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## JAPANESE CULTURAL FAIR

*Saturday, June 7th 2025, 11am-6pm*

*Mission Plaza Park, 103 Emmett St. Santa Cruz, CA 95060*

*CRAFTS \* DEMONSTRATIONS \* FOOD \* MUSIC \* PERFORMANCES*

*From: Bonsai ~ Dance ~ Ikebana ~ Taiko ~ Aikido*

*Taiko: Watsonville Taiko Group & San Francisco Taiko Dojo*

*Free Admission ~ Free Parking at Santa Cruz County, 701 Ocean Street*

*(Park at the Santa Cruz County parking lot - free shuttle every 20 minutes)*

*For schedule of activities, see <https://www.jcfsantacruz.org/schedule>*

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### Acknowledgements:

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