

WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL

“The Bridge 橋”

The Voice of Our Community

HAIKU

Big blue Pinto Lake
I grab the bread, suddenly
ducks are following.

This haiku was written by
Jorge Piñón Gama, Pájaro Valley High School
9th grade student
Tammy Harkins, English Teacher
Bob Gómez, Poet-Teacher
Translated by Hiromi Ushimaru

DONATIONS

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

- Maria Gitin Torres in memory of Mas and in honor of Marcia Hashimoto
- Marcia Hashimoto in memory of Yae Sakamoto
- Tad and JoAnn Kato
- Susan Logue
- Daniel and Karen Nitta in memory of father, Fred Nitta, 47th year
- Patt and Mark Takeuchi
- Alan and Gayle Uyematsu for Year-end appreciation
- Jean Yamashita in memory of Iwao and Tomiko Yamashita
- Watsonville Taiko Group to help out with the painting of Kizuka Hall. Happy Holidays!

Next issue March 2026!

Website: www.watsonvillesantacruzjaci.com

パン食えば (Pan kueba)
青いピント湖 (aoi pinto-ko)
鴨の群れ (kamo no mure)

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WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL**Happy “2026” New Year!***By Marcia Hashimoto*

Your Watsonville–Santa Cruz JACL Board wish our members, families and friends a Happy and Healthy New Year! Thank you W–SC National JACL members for returning your 2026 ballots and expressing your confidence in electing to our Board: Bonnie Chihara; Nikki Hikari; Gary Mine; Sean Sheehan; and Meleia Simon–Reynolds for a three year term from 2026 through 2028. We are excited to welcome our new member Meleia. She has become a supporter and friend of our JACL through UCSC's Community Archive Project. Meleia, PhD in History at UCSC, was the curator of an exhibit at the Watsonville Library titled “Remember, Acknowledge, and Learn.” Alix Norton of UCSC stated, “the exhibit showcases materials from the archives of the W–SC JACL documenting early Japanese immigration to the Pajaro Valley, forced removal and incarceration during WW II and postwar revitalization of the Japanese American Community.” We hope members and friends had the opportunity to view the exhibit in September 2025.

With sincere gratitude for their dedicated volunteer service to our organization and community, we present our 2026 Board of Directors that include our newly elected members and current members Joe Bowes, Hiroshi Fukurai, Jeanette Otsuji Hager, Marcia Hashimoto, Victor Kimura, Kenny Kusumoto, Cindy Hirokawa Mine, and Norris Woodford. Thank you for your outstanding leadership.

We welcome members to attend our monthly Zoom meetings held on the last Wednesday of the month and to participate in the planning of activities and events. We invite you to join us at the five chapter JACL Installation Luncheon with Gilroy, Monterey, Salinas, San Benito County, and W–SC Chapters on January 25, 2026. Monterey will be hosting the luncheon at their JACL Hall. For more information and bento reservations please contact Victor at vmkimura@yahoo.com or call and leave a message with Marcia 831–722–6859. We also hope you will attend the Day of Remembrance Program on February 22, 2026. Our W–SC JACL is planning the program which will begin at 1:00 pm at the Salinas Assembly Center Memorial Garden near the Salinas Rodeo area and will continue indoors at the Community Center near the Memorial Garden. Please see our announcement of this event and contact Victor or Marcia for more information. Thank you.

“Day of Remembrance” Program

An Invitation to the Public

The Watsonville–Santa Cruz JACL will be hosting a Five Chapter JACL “Day of Remembrance” Program and would like to invite members, families, friends and the general public to this event on February 22, 2026. Historically, during WW II, on February 19, 1942, Executive Order 9066 was signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt that ordered the incarceration of 120,000 innocent Japanese and Japanese Americans to America's Concentration Camps. This date is the “Day of Remembrance”. 3,586 residents of Gilroy, Monterey County, Salinas, San Benito County, Watsonville and Santa Cruz County were initially imprisoned at the Salinas Temporary Detention Center located at the Rodeo Grounds. A few months later, they were imprisoned at a permanent site at Poston, Arizona.

Never again...but in 2026, the 250th Anniversary year of our Nations Declaration of Independence for democracy against the tyranny of autocracy, history is repeating itself. Racism, (war) hysteria, and the failure of our political leaders have once again caused the unjust arrest and incarceration of innocent people.

On February 22, 2026, our program will begin at 1:00 pm at the gated Memorial Garden and State Historical Landmark of the 1942 Temporary Detention Center near the CA Rodeo grounds but on the Salinas Community Center grass area. At about 1:30 pm, the program will continue at the Salinas Community Center Santa Lucia Room a few yards from the garden. Historical information about DOR

and the Memorial Garden will be presented by the W-SC JACL, the Memorial Garden Maintenance Team will be acknowledged, significant facts about the Enemy Alien Act will be presented by educator Ann Jordan of the Salinas JACL, and at about 2:20 pm pre WW II Nikkei Farm History will be presented by Larry Hirahara and members of the Kansha History Project.

Light refreshments will be served by the five JACL Chapters. Please check our website <https://watsonvillesantacruzjacl.com> / or call Marcia Hashimoto and leave a message at 831-722-6859. We hope that you will join us on February 22, 2026 in observance of "The Day of Remembrance", a significant part of America's history. **Registration is not necessary.**

Thank you,
Marcia Hashimoto & the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Board Members



Join JACL, Kansha History and Asian Cultural Experience of Salinas

THE INCREDIBLE HISTORY OF MONTEREY BAY NIKKEI FARMERS IN CONJUNCTION WITH DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

LEARN ABOUT FARMING HISTORY from Gary Tanimura, YOUR FAMILY STORY, and the KANSHA HISTORY PROJECT

ADMISSION IS FREE
SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER

Saturday Feb 22 from 1 pm to 4pm
AT San Lucia Room (Salinas Community Center)
940 N. Main Street, SALINAS

THIS EVENT WAS MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM KANSHA PROJECT DONORS and THE JA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Sponsored by: ACES Visit salinasace.org or call 408-968-9081

**JACL CHAPTERS - MONTEREY PENINSULA, WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ, SAN BENITO &
GILROY SPONSOR DOCUMENTARY SCREENING + FILMMAKER DISCUSSION OF
"FRUITS OF LABOR"**

DOCUMENTARY
SCREENING
+ FILMMAKER
DISCUSSION

SATURDAY
MARCH 14TH
6:00PM

JAPANESE AMERICAN
CITIZENS LEAGUE HALL
424 ADAMS ST.
MONTEREY, CA

ADMISSION IS FREE
RSVP BY MARCH 10TH
JACL93940@GMAIL.COM
LIMITED TO 100 PERSONS

SPONSORS:
JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

MONTEREY PENINSULA
WATSONVILLE - SANTA CRUZ
SAN BENITO
GILROY



IMAGE: ANDY KEMMIS

FRUITS OF LABOR (2021) - DIR. EMILY COHEN IBAÑEZ, PH.D. (78 MIN)

A MEXICAN-AMERICAN TEENAGER DREAMS OF GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL, WHEN INCREASED ICE RAIDS IN HER COMMUNITY THREATEN TO SEPARATE HER FAMILY AND FORCE HER TO BECOME THE BREADWINNER FOR HER FAMILY. SHE WORKS LONG DAYS IN THE STRAWBERRY FIELDS AND THE NIGHT SHIFT AT A FOOD PROCESSING FACTORY. FILMED IN WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA, FRUITS OF LABOR IS A COMING OF AGE STORY ABOUT AN AMERICAN TEENAGER TRAVERSING THE SEEN AND UNSEEN FORCES THAT KEEP HER FAMILY TRAPPED IN POVERTY. A LYRICAL MEDITATION ON ADOLESCENCE, NATURE AND ANCESTRAL FORCES, THE FILM ASKS, WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO COME INTO ONE'S POWER AS A WORKING YOUNG WOMAN OF COLOR IN THE WEALTHIEST NATION IN THE WORLD?

2026 NATIONAL JACL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The National JACL scholarship applications are posted on their website at <https://jacl.org/scholarships>. Please see their website for links to the applications, eligibility and the 2026 Scholarship Program calendar.

NEWS FROM THE MONTEREY PENINSULA JACL CHAPTER - JANUARY 2026

Japanese American Citizens League - Monterey Peninsula Chapter
424 Adams Street, Monterey, CA 93940 | PO Box 664, Monterey, CA 93942
Web Page: <https://www.jaclmonterey.org/> | Phone: 831-648-8830

President's Message:

Arlington "Arly" La Mica

I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year and let you all know that this year will be an exciting one for our chapter with the celebration of our building's 100-year anniversary in May. This year one of my main goals is to do some joint projects with other non-profit groups. We are still looking for members to help us fill positions that are still open on our board and or as chairpersons for some of our positions that have still to be filled. If you are interested, please send us an email.

Japanese School:

Email: montereyjschool@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/JapaneseSchoolofMonterey>

Nakayoshi Gathering:

We have events on the first Saturday of each month from 1pm- 3pm. The word "Nakayoshi" in Japanese implies good friends, getting along happy together.... which is the environment that we would like to create so that our community will look forward to these meetings.



January 31 at 5pm – Tampopo (1985) by Juzo Itami's rapturous "ramen Western". The tale of an enigmatic band of ramen who guide the widow of a noodle shop owner on her quest for the perfect recipe (Japanese with English subtitles) (115 min)
 "Content Warning – Adult Material"

Pre-film lecture with Q&A with Dr. Dustin Wright from CSUMB.

March 07 at 1pm – Mirai (2018) by Mamoru Hosoda – a family film

April 04 at 6pm – Ugetsu (1953) by Kenji Mizoguchi

May 09 at 6pm – Swank (2013) by Hirokazu Kore-eda

June 06 at 6pm – Touch (2024) by Baltasa Kormakur

Coming to the Monterey Museum of Art, exhibition from February 05 to April 15

Rediscover the work of three trailblazing women—Miki Hayakawa, Hisako Hibi, and Miné Okubo—in Pictures of Belonging: Miki Hayakawa, Hisako Hibi, and Miné Okubo. This exhibition reveals a broader picture of the American experience through artworks and life stories of three Japanese American women from the pre-World War II generation, seen together for the first time. With paintings and drawings by Miki Hayakawa, Hisako Hibi, and Miné Okubo, the exhibition spans eight decades and reveals both the range and depth of these artists' careers and connections that have not been explored previously.

SENIOR CENTER NEWS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2025

By Carol Kaneko and Patt Takeuchi, Photos by Gary Nline

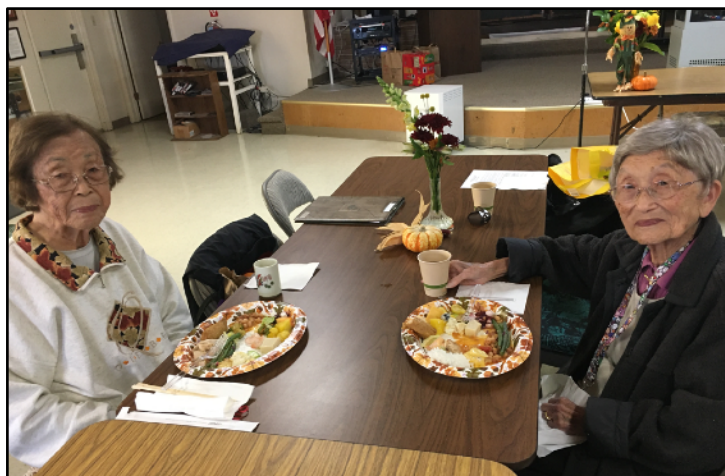


Sharon Carreiro at Thanksgiving

The Senior Center celebrated Thanksgiving on November 20 with its first potluck since the pandemic. The potluck table was filled with many delicious dishes prepared by our seniors, including turkey, mashed potatoes, and gravy prepared by **Sharon Carreiro** and pumpkin pies and whipped cream from the Senior Center. Thanks to all who brought the potluck dishes and helped with decorating the hall, setting up, serving, and cleaning up afterwards.



Senior Center members
enjoying the
Thanksgiving Meal:
Lilia Freitas and Kitty Mizuno
(left)
& Mrs. Tao and
Mrs. Nagamine (below)



Our lone November birthday honoree, **Carol Noble**, was presented with a mini bundt cake for her birthday before our Thanksgiving potluck. Happy Birthday to Carol!

[Below is a representation of a bigger birthday bundt cake. -Shutterstock.]





On December 2, twenty-five seniors and friends travelled to San Francisco's Japantown for a day of shopping and fun. Thanks to **Toshi Yamashita, Sharon Bobo, and Reba Condon** for all their work in organizing this trip, and thanks to all who donated lots of goodies which were passed out to all participants.

Thanks to **June Honda** and **Anita Alvarado** for decorating our Christmas tree.

A planning meeting was held on December 11 to make plans for the first half of 2026. In attendance were **Liz Goodson, Anita Alvarado, Carol Noble, Sharon Carreiro, June Honda, Toshi Yamashita, Reba Condon, Sharon Bobo, and Paul and Carol Kaneko**. Discussed were our plans for our New Years celebration, Mothers Day in May, and Fathers Day in June. Thanks to all who attended and a special thank you to those who volunteered to help out.

We welcome new members **Deanna Salse** and **Carolyn Misumi** to the Senior Center. **Deanna** is from Maui and is a friend of **Carol Noble**. **June Honda's** friend **Sam Nagai** visited us as well.

It was nice to see **Lilia Freitas** and **Carol Carpenter** back playing bingo after some health issues. Welcome back!

Our December birthday celebration was on December 18 with honorees **Patt Takeuchi** and **Bill Wurtenberg**. Absent was **Riiko Yoshida**. Thanks to **Reba Condon** for the beautiful flowers that decorated the hall.

Also on December 18, our last meeting of the year, Christmas gift bags were given to all members. Each received an insulated Hawaiian bag filled with gifts that were donated by the Senior Center, **Toshi Yamashita, Reba Condon, Timmy Hunt** of Pono Hawaiian Grill, and **Patt Takeuchi**. In addition, **Kenny Kusumoto** brought strawberries for all to take home.



December Birthday Honorees
Patt Takeuchi and Bill Wurtenberg

Thanks to **June Honda** and **Gail Wurtenberg** for ordering and picking up the beautiful and delicious birthday cake, to **Gary Mine** for taking our birthday photos, and to all who help cut and serve the cake.

Thank you to **Eileen Byers** for the wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas favors she made for all.

Thanks to **Paul Kaneko, Sharon Bobo, Reba Condon, and Leigh Sakaguchi** for opening up in November and December. Thanks to our November *toban*: **Evelyn Nartates, Mary Perez, and Carol Noble**; and our December *toban*: **Connie Dimas, Marcia Hashimoto, and Riiko Yoshida**.

Thanks to our bingo callers **Leigh Sakaguchi** and **Anita Alvarado**, and thanks to everyone who helps with card checking and delivering the prizes.

Our great generous members continue to donate bingo prizes, which we are truly grateful for:

Anita Alvarado, Bette Garcia, Carol Noble, Carol Carpenter, Carol/Paul Kaneko, Carolyn Misumi, Connie Dimas, Deanna Salse, Donna Fujita, Emi Hirano, Evelyn Nartates, Hideko Nagamine, Hiroko Dean, Hisako Kodama, Jean Akiyama, Judy Hane, June Honda, Kim Tao, Kitty Mizuno, Kyoko Oka, Leigh/Noemi Sakaguchi, Lilia Freitas, Lupe Noble, Mary Perez, Mitsuyo Tao, Nobue Fujii, Patt Takeuchi, Reba Condon, Riiko Yoshida, Sharon Bobo, Sharon Carreiro, Taiko Group, Toshi Yamashita and Victor Kimura.

It was with much sadness that we learned of **Yae Sakamoto's** passing on Saturday, December 6, 2025. **Yae** was 99 and a long time member of our Senior Center and will be remembered fondly. We send our condolences to the **Sakamoto** and **Steidl** families.

Birthday donations for November and December were received from **Carol Noble, Donna Fujita, Riiko Yoshida** and **Bill Wurtenberg**.

Special monetary donations were received from **Jean Yamashita** in memory of **Iwao and Tomiko Yamashita** and from **Kyoko Oka**. The following donations were received in memory of **Yae Sakamoto: Paul/Carol Kaneko, Ken/Alice Tanimoto, Toshi Yamashita, Mitsuyo Tao, and Hisako Kodama**.

Thanks again to all our members who have donated in honor of the Senior Center's 54th Anniversary.

Thanks to all non-national JACL members who have paid their 2026 senior center dues of \$20. These dues go to our local JACL chapter to help with the upkeep of Kizuka Hall. Please see **Carol Kaneko** if you need to pay for 2026.

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Senior Center Schedule Jan and Feb 2026

Jan 15- Lunch at Hong Kong Gardens, 1pm
Go directly, no bingo
Jan 22 - Regular Bingo - January Birthdays
Jan 29 - Regular Bingo
Feb 5 - Regular Bingo
Feb 12- Regular Bingo
Feb 19- Regular Bingo - February Birthdays
Feb 26- Regular Bingo



JACL board members, Joe Bowes and Gary Mine continue their upkeep of Kizuka Hall. About 3 months ago, the entire front of the Hall was repainted. The Tokushige Kizuka Hall sign was restored (original was around 1985) plus new address numbers were put up.

The toilets are maintained monthly, the Emergency kit, smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarms are checked monthly. Next, is the changing out of the back lights to the hall which are about 20 feet up high!

WATSONVILLE BONSAI CLUB *By Charlie Thompson*

The upcoming meeting dates for the Watsonville Bonsai Club are:

January 10, Saturday, Regular Meeting and Workshop at JACL Kizuka Hall 1:30 PM

January 19, Monday, Regular Meeting and Workshop at JACL Kizuka Hall 6:30 PM

February 14, Saturday, Regular Meeting and Workshop at JACL Kizuka Hall 1:30 PM

February 16, Monday, Regular Meeting and Workshop at JACL Kizuka Hall 6:30 PM

March 14, Saturday, Regular Meeting and Workshop at JACL Kizuka Hall 1:30 PM

March 16, Monday, Regular Meeting and Workshop at JACL Kizuka Hall 6:30 PM

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF NISEI VETERANS**2025 Reunion in Little Tokyo**

FFNV sponsored a reunion of nearly 100 members and tour participants in Little Tokyo this past October in Little Tokyo. Presentations on the 522nd, 232nd and MIS were featured as well as a presentation by Nikkei Progressives. Singer/songwriter Harold Payne serenaded us with a performance of "Quiet Heroes."

FFNV wishes all of you and your families and friends a joyous new year filled with happy memories and good health. Our mission continues to bring awareness to the legacy of our heroes – the Nisei members of the 100th/442nd RCT and MIS. The challenge only becomes more urgent as we are confronted with the loss of our few surviving veterans, but let's carry on together.

In 2026 we will continue our usual events. Note the change in the weekend for our annual membership meeting, from the second weekend to the first weekend of February (see following article), the annual Memorial service on Armed services Day, May 16, 2026 and our Las Vegas reunion from September 21 to September 25 with further details to be announced at a later date.

We hope to see you at any or all of these events or even possibly at the events FFNV is supporting: Defining Courage performances as well as the U.S. Army's first traveling exhibit, honoring the 100thBN/442ndRCT/MIS.

Please stay in touch – we can be found on facebook (Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans), our website (ffnv.org) or by email.

***** SAVE THE DATES *****

February 7, 2026, Saturday, 12 noon

Annual membership meeting, Morgan Hill Buddhist Temple Community Center

February 21, 2026:

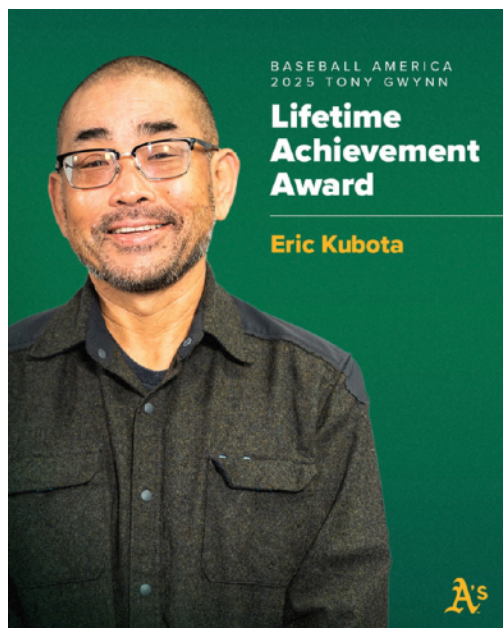
Opening of the U.S. Army's first traveling exhibit highlighting the Nisei Soldier experience at the Presidio in San Francisco

May 16, 2026:

Armed services day Memorial service for all veterans at Roberts Park, Oakland, California, 12 noon



APTOS NATIVE ERIC KUBOTA WINS TONY GWYNN AWARD *By Cindy Mine*



Aptos native, Eric Kubota, (son of Joyce Kubota who is one of our W-SC JACL members) after a Lifetime with the A's, has been named the winner of the prominent Tony Gwynn Award.

Eric (Athletics Director of Scouting) has entered his 41st season with the A's & has served as director of scouting for the past 24 seasons.

During Eric's tenure, the A's have drafted and signed 114 players who have reached the majors. Among those players, 18 have been named All-Stars, three have been named American League Rookie of the Year, four have won Gold Glove Awards, and three have won Silver Slugger Awards.

Eric, an Aptos High and Cal alum, began his baseball career in June of 1984. He went from a media relations intern to the longest tenured Scouting Director in MLB. In 1996, Eric was a liaison between the A's and Asian Baseball teams besides his scouting duties in Northern California and Hawaii.

"It's overwhelming to be recognized for this award, but it's a reflection of all these other people who are part of me. I was really fortunate to come across people who were before me and my current contemporaries. It's a product of all the people I surrounded myself with."

Tony Gwynn, with the Padres, won a 15-time all-star and five-time Gold Glove award. His highest adjusted batting average of all times: .342.

[Tony Gwynn Award: A Lifetime Achievement award, presented annually by Baseball America for his greatest contributions to the Game.]

Side note: An actor portrayed Eric Kubota in the movie "Moneyball."

WATSONVILLE TAIKO AND SHINSEI DAIKO *By Bonnie Chihara*

Hello! Just a quick note in this busy season to tell you what's coming up in the new year and to wish you all the best as the seasons turn. Many winter festivals celebrate the light, in defiance of the dark days of winter, and the age-old promise is the light will return. And now, let's let the booming voices of the Odaiko call us to the dojo.



Odaiko Fans, Rejoice

We love Odaiko, and every year at this time we like to bring them out and share them. This year, we have two options for you to choose from. First, for the enthusiast looking for an introduction to Odaiko, we have one-day workshops. Sign up for one, two or all. Classes will be held at Kizuka Hall, 150 Blackburn St, Watsonville.

Odaiko Workshops

Time: 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Dates: Sunday, Jan 25

Sunday, Feb 22

Sunday, Mar 22

Fee per workshop: \$60 (supporting member*)

\$80 (non-supporting member)

*Annual Supporting Member Fee: \$50 for the January – December calendar year

Supporting members receive free or discounted fees on designated workshops. Through the generous donations received from community members, WTG is able to offer reduced fees for many of our workshops.

Next, for the serious student, there's a 3 month / 6-session Beginning Odaiko Class. You must commit to the entire series to get the full benefit of the class. Classes will be held at Kizuka Hall, 150 Blackburn St, Watsonville. Note: Due to its strenuous physical demands, this class is NOT for individuals with physical limitations/issues.

3 month / 6 session Beginning Odaiko Class**Fee: \$200, includes study video**

Saturday, Jan 24, 1:30 – 4:00 pm

Saturday, Jan 31, 1:30 – 4:00 pm

Saturday, Feb 21, 1:30 – 4:00 pm

Saturday, Feb 28, 1:30 – 4:00 pm

Saturday, Mar 21, 1:30 – 4:00 pm

Saturday, Mar 28, 1:30 – 4:00 pm

Please contact info@watsonvilletaiko.org for more information and to reserve your spot in a workshop or class.

Introduction to Taiko classes for adults start every 2 months, on the first Friday or Saturday of the month. Children's Beginning Taiko is now enrolling new students (8 and up). Note class times by age group. Classes will be held at Kizuka Hall, 150 Blackburn St, Watsonville.

Class sessions 2026

Jan 9 – Feb 28 Make your resolution now to join us!

Mar 6 – Apr 24

May 1 – Jun 27

Jul 3 – Aug 29

Sep 4 – Oct 31

Nov 6 – Dec 19

Friday schedule

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM Introduction to Taiko – Adults

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM Beginning Taiko for Children (ages 8 to 10)

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM Beginning Taiko for Children (ages 11 and up)

Saturday schedule

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM Introduction to Taiko – Adults

For more information, or to reserve a spot in a class, please email info@watsonvilletaiko.org.

Please note: masks are optional but recommended in the dojo. Also note that no refunds or class credit is given for missed/cancelled classes.

Please check our website for updates at watsonvilletaiko.org



New Year's Message from Monshu Otani Kojun



2026年 年頭の辞

新しい年を迎えるにあたり、ご挨拶申し上げます。

まず、近年、日本をはじめ世界各地で台風や豪雨、地震などの自然災害や大規模な山火事などが頻繁に発生し、甚大な被害がもたらされています。犠牲となられた方々に謹んで哀悼の意を表しますとともに、被災された皆さまに心からお見舞い申し上げます。皆さまが一日も早く、平穏な日常を取り戻されますことを心から願っております。

さて、昨年は第二次世界大戦の終戦から80年という節目の年でした。私は7月に、この戦争で筆舌に尽くしがたい惨禍がもたらされた沖縄・広島・長崎の追悼法要のご縁をいただき、戦争体験者の方々のお話を聞かせていただく尊い機会を得ました。そして、平成7年・1995年の「終戦50周年全戦没者追悼法要」における、「宗祖の教えに背き、仏法の名において戦争に積極的に協力していった過去の事実を、仏祖の御前に慚愧せずにはおれません」との教団の戦争責任にかかる即如門主のお言葉を改めて心に刻み、これからも歩んでいく決意を新たにいたしました。

戦後の教団の歩みは、戦争に積極的に協力・加担した事実から目をそらさず、その反省を踏まえ、誰もが心豊かに生きられる平和な社会の実現を目指すことから始まりました。私たちは、その事実と真摯に向き合い、決して同じ過ちを繰り返してはなりません。現在も世界各地で戦争や紛争は続いており、多くの尊い命が脅かされています。そのような中であって、宗祖親鸞聖人の「世のなか安穏なれ、仏法ひろまれ」との願いを常に心に留めて、日々の歩みを進めてまいりましょう。

As we welcome the new year, I wish to extend to you my greetings.

First of all, in recent years, natural disasters such as typhoons, heavy rains, earthquakes and large-scale forest fires have occurred frequently in Japan and other parts of the world, causing great damage. I would like to express my sincere condolences to those who lost loved ones and convey my sincere sympathy to everyone who was affected by these disasters. I sincerely hope that everyone will be able to return to a sense of peace and normalcy as soon as possible.

Last year was a milestone year marking 80 years since the end of World War II. In July, I had the precious opportunity to conduct memorial services in Okinawa, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki, each location which experienced indescribable destruction in this war. I was also given the precious opportunity to listen to the stories of those who experienced the war. Listening to those stories, it made me reflect on the message delivered in 1995 by then Sokunyo Monshu at the "Memorial Service for All the Victims of the 50th Anniversary of the End of the War," at which time he expressed his regret that our organization went against the teachings of our founder and actively cooperated in the war in the name of Buddhism. I was reminded that I must take to heart the words of Sokunyo Monshu and move forward carrying out my duties with a renewed determination.

The post war journey of our organization began with the aim of realizing a peaceful society where all people can live happily, while not forgetting how we actively cooperated and participated in the war. We must remain mindful of this fact and never repeat the same mistake. Even today, wars and conflicts continue around the world, and many precious lives are threatened. In such a situation, let us always keep in mind the wish of our founder, Shinran Shonin, and move forward each day guided by his words, "Let there be peace in the world, and may the Buddha Dharma spread".

Happy New Year

“If, when I attain Buddhahood, the sentient beings of the ten quarters who, with sincere and entrusting heart, aspire to be born in my land and say my name even ten times, should not be born there, may I not attain perfect enlightenment”



Buddhist Era: 2569 (2570) 二五六九年 (二五七〇年) *

Common Era: 2026 二〇二六年

Japanese Era: Reiwa 8 令和八年

Year of the Horse: 馬年

Greetings everyone and may the new year be joyful and meaningful for all. This year marks the 2,569th year since the time of the Buddha. It is also the eighth year of reign of the current emperor of Japan Naruhito. This is the year of the horse.

People born in the year of the horse are said to be energetic, courageous, independent and determined. There is a Bodhisattva linked to the horse, his/her name is Mahasthamaprapta Bodhisattva who is the guardian of wisdom, strength and clarity helping those born in the year of the horse to overcome challenges and achieve enlightenment.

Whether you were born in the year of the horse or another year, we are encouraged to recognize and appreciate the deep connection shared by all beings. This idea is rooted in our Jodoshinshu teaching. The Primal Vow (Hongan)** of the Buddha is the vow of inclusion, embracing all sentient beings universally without discrimination or exclusion. By virtue of this Vow we are assured of birth in the Pure Land and the attainment of Nirvana.

Through the Truth taught by the Buddha we come to understand the profound interconnectedness of all beings. We become more conscious of this life and as a result we begin to foster a mind of equality, kindness and gratitude. When conflict arise, reflecting on the Buddha's vast inclusive mind helps us prevent disharmony from escalating. Like the example of the horse, we are able to approach challenges with energy and courage.

Through the Nembutsu (namoamidabutsu) we can nurture peace and harmony as we enter the new year. In the year 2026 let us not forget what is true and real. Let us continue through the beautiful teachings of Buddha, to cultivate proper thoughts, words and actions. It is only through this realization, that our dreams shall become a reality, and we shall fulfill all the hopes of living a peaceful and comfortable life, free of suffering.

Gassho,
Rev. Hosei Shinseki
Minister Emeritus

*The Buddhist Era or B.E. has several ways of counting. The common Buddhist way of counting is from the beginning of the B.E. from the year Shakyamuni Buddha entered Nirvana. There are various opinions about the year of death of the Buddha. Most agree it was B.C. 544. By adding 544 to our Gregorian calendar we get 2,570. Other traditions add 543 to the common era. They count B.E. as one year following the year of death. 543 plus 2026 which equals 2,569.

**Primal Vow or Hongan 本願

“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 Enlightenment. Excluded, however, are those who commit the five gravest offenses and abuse the right Dharma.”



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

The family requests in lieu of koden, donations be made to the
Watsonville Buddhist Temple or the Watsonville - Santa Cruz
Japanese American Citizens League.

December 2, 2025 (Zoom) Board Meeting Highlights

Reverend Henry Adams of the San Mateo Buddhist Temple has been appointed Rinban for the San Jose Betsuin after the retirement of Rinban Gerald Sakamoto.

Reverend Shinseki and JoAnn Kato thanked everyone who donated canned goods, non-perishable foods, and monetary donations for the Second Harvest Food Bank.

The Blood Drive was very successful. Out of 23 slots, only three were filled by Temple Members. The Blood Drive continues to bring new faces to the temple. Tad Kato is our #1 donor, participating in all three drives.

JoAnn Kato reported that the Fun Night was well attended with 50 people participating. Many commented that they enjoyed the event and would like to have similar events more often.

Reverend Murakami will be our Guest Speaker for our Hoonko Service on Sunday, January 18th. Our New Year's Luncheon for our members will also be a welcome lunch for Reverend Murakami. Non-members are also welcome.

The bathrooms near the Hondo are scheduled to be completed by the end of January or beginning of February.

Diane Tsuchida is requesting old and new photos of temple activities to be loaded onto a drive for us.

Scouting News

In November the Scouts picked up 911 lbs of food for the Second Harvest Food Bank, as part of the **Scouting For Food** event. Our brother/sister troops and packs collected 5,330 lbs of food and \$1,025 in donations for our local food banks and pantries.

December 7th - Participating in Mochitsuki

December 14th - End of Year banquet and awards for the troop

Between Christmas and New Years - Annual hike at Mt. Junipero Sierra

Hosting a recruiting event

Throughout 2026 the troop will be gathering pictures, stories, names, etc. to celebrate the troop's 100th Year Anniversary in 2027.



Jeffery Garcia was awarded the District Award of Merit

Jeffery was a member of Troop 558, Eagle Scout and
current Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 558



Watsonville Buddhist Temple Hoonko Service

Memorial service in remembrance of our founder
Shinran Shonin

Sunday, January 18, 2026

10:00am

The Guest Speaker will be Reverend Hibiki Murakami,
Resident Minister of the Buddhist Temple of Salinas and
our new Supervising Minister



**One Bedroom Temple Apartment is now available for rent
in Watsonville**

**Must be a Senior 55 or older and a member of the
Watsonville Buddhist Temple**

**For more information,
Call the Watsonville Buddhist Temple Office
(831) 724-7860
or email buddhist@wbtemple.org**

Schedule of January Events

January 1, 2026 - Shusho-e (New Year's Day) Service 10:00am
 January 4, 2026 - Shotsuki Hoyo 10:00am
 January 11, 2026 - Sunday Service 10:00am
 January 18, 2026 - Hoonko Service 10:00am Guest Speaker: Rev. Hibiki Murakami
 January 18, 2026 - New Year's Luncheon 11:30am
 January 25, 2026 - Sunday Service (MA) 10:00am

Tentative Schedule of February Events

February 1, 2026 - Shotsuki Hoyo/ABA Memorial Service 10:00am
 February 8, 2026 - Nirvana Day/Pet Memorial Service 10:00am
 February 15, 2026 - Sunday Service 10:00am
 February 22, 2026 - Sunday Service (MA) 10:00am

Watsonville Buddhist Temple

Temple Office Telephone (831) 724-7860

Temple Office is open by appointment only.

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

Westview Presbyterian Chimes

Happy Birthday Westview!

127 Years of being the Light & Love of Jesus in our Community



On November 23, we had a 127-year anniversary celebration at Westview. We viewed slides from our 127-year history including an explanation of our history, thoughtfully put together by Ian Hoffman as he worked at Pajaro Valley Historical Association. A highlight of the celebration was the unveiling of our new 125-year banner (photo below) which will grace the front of our church for years to come. It was thoughtfully designed and made by Rachel Clark (left photo), world renown quilter and member of our congregation. She conscientiously interviewed members to come up with themes to be represented. Enjoy her explanation of what is so profoundly represented on the banner as she introduced the banner at our celebration:

“When I talked with several people in the congregation about what they wanted the banner to say I kept hearing ‘we don’t want to be defined by the concentration camps. We want a happy hopeful banner.’ However, I reflected on how I grew up in Louisiana in a totally segregated community. I am proud of who I have become coming out of that community as a Black woman. For me it was difficult to ignore that there was a period of time in which our country put people into concentration camps who were actually citizens of this country, and while I don’t want to be defined by slavery and segregation,

that is a part of me and I don’t want to ignore that that is a part of you, our church, as well. So, I had to find a way to put that in the banner and make a positive statement out of it, therefore the tree's leaves have gold inserts inspired by kintsugi, a Japanese tradition in which broken pottery is repaired with lacquer and gold powder to make the cracks stronger. Gold-threaded seams in the design show how suffering can be turned into beauty.

And part of that is that we stand on the shoulders of our ancestors, and I refuse to ignore those people who withstood the trials and tribulations. We are standing here because of them.

The tree symbolizes community, growth, stewardship, and renewal.

The roots represent our ancestors, while the branches symbolize ongoing work for justice and care for the community. Westview does so much in serving the community through social commitment.

The river stands for moving into the future and the church's multicultural community. Each fabric piece floating on the river represents a different culture: denim for American heritage, woven fabric from Mexico, silk from China, Ankara from Africa, and shibori and yukata from Japan. Each fabric tells its own story, showing how many traditions come together as the congregation moves forward.

The border is inspired by the design of church's windows."

Wow, what a beautiful piece of art representing our past and our course into the future. I especially love that the river not only represents moving into the future and a more multicultural membership, but in addition can represent the River of Life flowing from the temple of God (and the church) out into the desert (the community and the nations), growing from a trickle to a mighty river as it flows bringing healing, life, and abundance!

"On its banks are abundant vegetation, trees, and fruit bearing trees, and it eventually flows to the Dead Sea, a saltwater sea that is so salty nothing can live in it, yet as this abundant fresh water flows into this dead sea, it makes the water fresh and an abundance of fish now flourish there--many different kinds of fish!" (Ezekiel 47:7-12 paraphrased)

I pray we can continue to be part of God's River of Life bringing healing and abundant flourishing life to all the many different kinds of fish in our community!



And speaking of being a part of God's redeeming River of Life, **Tiny Homes official name is now HOPE Village** (Housing, Opportunities, Programs, Employment). The village is planned to open January 5 with 30 single rooms and 2 double rooms for a total of 34 people. Being unhoused is very traumatizing. A traumatic experience usually caused them to be unhoused: eviction, job loss, fleeing domestic violence, divorce, sickness or a severe accident often accompanied by exorbitant healthcare bills, or the difficulties of mental illness. Then once they are unhoused the trauma continues in which they are often robbed or assaulted, raped, freezing, hungry, ostracized/outcast, lose their job, lack of means to keep clean so further ostracized, self-image takes a beating, exposed to lots of drug trafficking, unwanted and often removed from their place of sleeping, and sometimes arrested. Please pray for the new residents to get the healing, yes healing, they need so they can begin their lives again and move to more permanent housing in 6-12 months. Please pray for them as they get jobs or sign up for disability, receive counseling for various issues, apply for lost or stolen documentation, reunite with family and friends, and feel loved and welcomed by the Westview Family, feeling embraced by the God who adores them!



Photo above -volunteers building furniture.

I am so delighted our church has been able to support this project which was initiated, funded, and facilitated by Monterey & Santa Cruz Counties in partnership with Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County! I pray we can continue to care for the hurting in our community as we provide homes and healing. As said before, this project aligns so clearly with the heart of Jesus, who said, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." -Matthew 25

I appreciate you, Westview Family, you have the heart of Jesus! Here's to another 127 years of loving this community!

~Pastor Dan

You Can Still Adopt-A-Room at Hope Village... to help welcome someone off the streets with love and hospitality! You can send donations to help pay for decorations, a welcome basket, and even furniture. Or you can even help to pay for the staff who will welcome them with love and counseling expertise. Call Community Action Board and speak with Juan Arenas at 831-258-5858 or email him at JuanAre@cabinc.org. Or you can send a check to Westview and write HOPE Village in the memo. Thank You!

Live and Zoom Worship Services at Westview!!

Live and Zoom Online Worship Services are being held at Westview Presbyterian Church Sunday at 10 am!!

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

Guest Speakers: Pastor Rich Garcia – January 18th; There will also be a Guest Speaker February 15th

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.

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 need donations of cereal, and lightly used: jackets & sweatshirts, sleeping bags, blankets, shoes, & socks. We also need monetary donations to help pay for cups, sugar, spoons and some food items. Please write “SonRise Kitchen” in the memo of your check. Contact Margo or Pastor Dan for question/information regarding SonRise Kitchen. Thank you!

Luncheons

1st Sunday of each month along with a Social Hour/light lunch/cake for Birthdays! Come enjoy! And we are now having coffee hour (a snack, not lunch) weekly as well.

Photos



127-Year Celebration Potluck (above) and Helen pointing to a picture of her 100-year-old mother (right).



More Photos



Joanne and Diane attending a Salvation Army Fundraiser.



Thanksgiving Potluck

IN APPRECIATION

To: All the Contributors (that's YOU), readers (that's YOU) and the Village who make this newsletter continue... ..we greatly appreciate,

Jeanette and Cindy



Victor Kimura



Newsletter Distribution Crew: Aurora Magana, Marcia Hashimoto, Shirley Nishimoto, Gary Mine, Cindy Hirokawa Mine, Chiye Tamaki, (missing in the photo) Shizue Shikuma, Carolyn Misumi, Norris Woodford and Mary Perez.



Jeanette Hager

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