

WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL

“The Bridge 橋”

The Voice of Our Community

Bridge of the Moon

by Bob Gómez

Watsonville Poet Laureate 2022-2025

[The bridge in the Hagiwara Japanese Tea Garden in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco.]

Taikobashi
Bridge of the moon
Drum bridge

I have climbed this drum, this bridge, this moon
over water, under sky
across the water of the sky
crossing sky and water to the moon
so many many times

Surrounded by the sounds of trees
shifting winds, waters, and waterfalls up and down
underground and in the breeze

I feel the stillness in this slow climb
the strength of this circle without mind
the unblinking eye of this moon drum bridge
that tells me to slow, to stop, to gaze
and not to go beyond the turning of this day

DONATIONS

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

- Bill and Ida Akimoto
- Marcia Hashimoto in memory of Bill Louie

[Continued on page 2]

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Website: www.watsonvillesantacruzjacl.com

Next issue July 2026!

WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL

DONATIONS (Continued)

- Gilroy JACL for the Paul Ichiuji DOR Garden Fund
- JACL Monterey Peninsula for the Paul Ichiuji DOR Garden Maintenance Fund
- Ron Mito for the Frank Mito Scholarship Fund
- Itsuko Okamoto
- Joanne Sakai in memory of Shig Kizuka, Sam Sakamoto, Iwao Yamashita, Lawson Sakai, and Mas Hashimoto;
- Stuart Sakuma and Janet Nagamine
- San Benito County JACL for the Paul Ichiuji DOR Garden Maintenance Fund
- Sachi and Philip Snyder in remembrance of Tadashi "Tar" Mino, Barbara Ayako Mino, and Richard Iwao Mino
- Yoko Umeda for DOR/greatest need
- Alan and Gayle Uyematsu for DOR/greatest need
- Jean Yamashita
- Watsonville Bonsai Club
- Stuart Yamamoto

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Membership *By Marcia Hashimoto*

April 15, 2026

Dear Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Members,

The Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL is grateful for your continued membership and support of our organization with a Civil Rights, Education and Cultural Appreciation outreach.

Recently, our National JACL emailed or mailed all members an announcement about a new Membership Portal Program they have undertaken. W-SC JACL takes care of its own membership and renewals and has never depended on or participated in National's centralized membership system. National JACL acknowledges the fact that our chapter will continue to manage our membership and renewals independent of National's new program.

Your W-SC JACL Membership Committee requests that you do not respond to National's directive to register with their new system because it would complicate our ability to receive your \$20 local dues to our W-SC JACL Chapter. Your local dues help maintain a safe and comfortable Hall as a recreational meeting facility (playing BINGO) for our JACL Senior Center Members, as Watsonville Taiko's Dojo, as a place where Watsonville Bonsai Club holds workshops, and as a place where Kokoro no Gakko stores its project boxes and teachers work on their curriculum projects.

W-SC JACL will continue to send membership renewal letters to you by postal mail, and your dues payment by check is appreciated. Locally, we do not have credit card capability. We apologize for any confusion. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Marcia Hashimoto at hashi79@sbcglobal.net or call (831) 722-6859 and leave a message and your phone number for a call back from Marcia.

Sincerely,

Marcia Hashimoto
Jeanette Otsuji Hager
Victor Kimura
W-SC JACL Membership Committee

W-SC JACL COMMUNITY PICNIC

June 27, 2026

Dear Members and Friends:

For over 100 years the Japanese American families of Watsonville have enjoyed a traditional event known as the "Community Picnic". This was established by our immigrant Issei pioneers who struggled and worked tediously and who could afford only one day out of the year to relax and celebrate with gratitude the survival of another year.

Since the end of World War II, the Watsonville-Santa Cruz Japanese American Citizens League (W-SC JACL) has sponsored this important cultural tradition. As a community picnic, everyone is welcome. Highlights of the picnic include a delicious barbecue lunch, the presentation of scholarships, fun races for all ages, free bingo for our members and friends, entertainment by Watsonville Taiko, and an exciting raffle.

We cordially invite you, your family, and friends to join us at this year's picnic which will take place at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple, 423 Bridge Street, on Saturday, June 27th from 11 a.m. To 4:30p.m. Please refer to our flyer.

Marcia Hashimoto



The **Watsonville-Santa Cruz Japanese American Citizens League** invites you to our

Annual Community Picnic

Saturday, **June 27, 2026** 11:00am- 4:30pm
Watsonville Buddhist Temple
423 Bridge Street

Taiko / Food / Games / Prizes

**Free admission!
All are Welcome!**

Lunch Menu

BBQ chicken, hot dogs, chili beans, rice, french bread, salad, strawberries, beverages, & ice cream.

Teens & adults (to 69 yrs): \$20
Seniors (70+): \$10
Kids (6 to 12 yrs): \$10
Kids (5 & under): free



REMINDER: The 2026 Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Local Scholarships

By Marcia Hashimoto, Victor Kimura and Kenny Kusumoto

Applications are available on our website at <https://watsonvillesantacruzjacl.com/scholarships/> and by contacting Marcia Hashimoto at hashi79@sbcglobal.net or (831) 722-6859 (please leave a message with your telephone number). The filing deadline is Saturday, June 13th, 2026.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please send your completed forms to our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Chapter Scholarship Committee on or before Saturday, June 13th, 2026. The address for applications should be mailed to:

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

Note that the 2026 awards will be presented at the JACL Community Picnic on Saturday, June 27, 2026 at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple.

Jewish American Heritage Month in May *By Cindy Mine*

Jewish American Heritage month (JAHN) is Celebrated to honor the history, cultures and contributions of the Jewish Americans to the United States and to promote awareness of cultural diversity. The National Archives and Records Administration is proud to observe (JAHM) and to recognize the Jewish contributions to the American culture, history, military, science and government.

Why in May?

Celebration of a Jewish persons arrival in New York in Aug/Sept. of 1654. President Carter proclaimed Jewish Heritage Week in 1980. It was officially proclaimed Jewish American Heritage month by President George W. Bush in April 2006. He proclaimed May as JAHM. May was chosen due to the highly successful celebration of the 350th Anniversary of American Jewish History in May 2004.

You have composers, people in government, scientists, filmmakers, medicine, Veterans, Nobel Peace Prize winners; teachings about the Holocaust and much more. Some examples of Contributors across the United States.

- Irvin Berlin: Composer of “God Bless America”
- Louis Dembitz Brandeis: First Jew appointed to the Supreme Court in 1916
- Albert Einstein: Scientist
- Edna Ferber: First Jew to win the Pulitzer Prize in fiction in 1925.
- Ruth Bader Ginsburg: Lawyer, Supreme Court Justice
- Shari Lewis: Puppeteer for Lamb Chop
- Albert A. Michelson: Physicist, who was the first American Jew to win the Nobel Prize in 1907.
- Leonard Nimoy: “Spock” on Star Trek
- Jonas Salk: Developed the polio vaccine
- Paul Anthony Samuelson: Renowned American Economist, MIT Professor, Nobel Prize Recipient, advisor to John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson
- Steven Spielberg: Filmmaker
- Mark Spitz: Won 7 Gold Medals in swimming
- Elie Wiesel: Holocaust survivor, human rights activist, Nobel Peace Prize recipient
- Janet Yellen: Economist and former Chair of the Federal Reserve of the United States.
- ...and many more contributors

Colors associated with JAHM: Blue and White which are often combined with gold or silver and at times red, purple or black. Blue represents God’s glory, wisdom, truth and divine presence. White symbolizes purity, holiness and peace.

What can you do during JAHM? Show support by exploring and educating yourself of the Jewish history through art, visiting museums, partake in Jewish food, watch a film, listen to Jewish music and read literature.

What is Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month?

By Cindy Mine

Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage month honors the history, culture and contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. It highlights their impact on American history and contributions to the science, arts, industry, government and commerce.

Just a few examples:

- The vibrant streets of Chinatown in San Francisco and New York,
- Historic sites of Huihua Fishpond in Kahana Bay, Aquafarming in Hawaii
- Internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans
- The 442nd Regimental Combat Team and 100th Infantry Battalion
- “Star of India” docked at the Maritime Museum in San Diego, its the fourth oldest ship still sailing in the U.S.
- Entertainment includes: Anna May Wong, Bruce Lee, Mindy Kaling
- Kalpana Chawla: First Indian (India born) woman to space.
- Cecilia Chung: Chinese civil rights leader and Prominent advocate for LGBTQ+
- Tammy Duckworth: Thai American, Army Vet, U.S. Senator and first Thai American Woman in Congress
- Hiram L. Fong: Hawaii’s first U.S. Senator
- Kamala Harris: First female, first Black and first Asian American vice president of the United States.
- Larry Itliong: Filipino American labor leader and farm worker
- Kiha Ka’awa: First native Hawaiian to formerly become a U.S. Citizen
- Duke Kahanamoku: Olympic Gold medalist in swimming and a Cultural Ambassador for Hawaii and the U.S.
- Yuri Kochiyama: American civil rights activist

- Fred Korematsu: A Japanese American who challenged the legality of internment camps during WWII, taking the case to the Supreme Court.
- Maya Lin: Chinese Architect, designer and sculptor who designed the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C.
- YoYo Ma: World renowned Chinese American Cellist and child prodigy
- Norman Mineta: U.S. Secretary of Commerce, first Asian American to serve in Presidential Cabinet.
- Patsy Mink: First woman of color in Congress
- George Nakashima: Renowned furniture designer and architect
- Ellison Onizuka: First Japanese American Astronaut to space
- Dalip Singh Saund: First Sikh-American and first Asian American elected to Congress
- Chien-Shiung Wu: Chinese-American Physicist
- Jerry Yang: Taiwanese American, co-founder and former CEO of Yahoo
- And so, so many more-

Who is included in AAPI?

- Ancestry from all of the Asian continent, Pacific Islands of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.
- It also includes over 50 ethnic groups and Native Hawaiians.

United States and also Canada recognizes AAPI Heritage month in May.

Why the month of May?

- It honors the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants on May 7, 1843.
- The completion of the Transcontinental railroad which was largely built by Chinese Immigrants on May 10, 1869.

How AAPI started?

AAPI Heritage month was initiated by a congressional staffer and board member of the Organization of Chinese Americans, Jeanie Jew who enlisted Ruby Moy an administrative assistant to U.S. Rep. Frank Horton of New York. A bill was introduced by Representative Frank Horton and co-sponsored by Representative Norman Mineta and Senators Daniel Inoué and Spark Matsunaga who advocated the idea. President Jimmy Carter signed a law in 1979 for a week long AAPI Celebrations. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush expanded it to a full month.

In April of 2021, Asian American Pacific Islander expanded to AANHPI (Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander).

AANHPI Heritage month provides a platform to recognize injustices, the strength to overcome the injustices and then honoring resilience. We can pay tribute to the sacrifices of the earlier generations. Now and in the future, we can be dedicated to construct a more inclusive society for all.

Celebration of 100 years of the Monterey JACL Hall *By Cindy Mine*

Gary and I went to support the Monterey JACL chapter and to show support from our W-SC JACL chapter in their Celebration.

We felt it was a very impressive event, filled with representation of the Japanese culture, and some history. It was a casual, creative and very welcoming atmosphere. So many different Nationalities and ages attended. It was good to see Rev. Hibiki Murakami there. People attending were gifted with origami pieces, complimentary drinks, munchies, fruit and sandwiches.

For us, it started with the Dignitaries (Mayor, Councilman, JACL President, letter from Robert Rivas, etc) presenting, (we missed the Taiko drumming earlier).

Children from the Japanese School of the JACL Monterey Peninsula did a cute performance in Japanese.

Tim Thomas, JACL board member, historian and curator of the Heritage Museum spoke and showed a silent film from around 1939/1940 of Japanese around Monterey. We noticed a number of people going to visit their Museum (which is wonderful!).

It was a very noisy atmosphere in the background off and on since we arrived, but when Nathan Grijalva (Mexican/Japanese) performed Nihon Buyo (traditional Japanese Dance), you could hear a pin drop.

Michael Hittori did a koto performance followed by a bonsai demonstration by Sensei Kinoshita.

There was more to follow after we left, Ikebana, Kendo, and later in the night, music.

The event was videotaped by Wes White who also videotaped our Day of Remembrance event in Salinas in February which he provided a link for the event.

Regarding the enclosed photo: you could write notes for comments or wishes to JACL on the origami flowers and glue them on the tree.



SENIOR CENTER NEWS FOR MARCH AND APRIL 2026

By Carol Kaneko and Patt Takeuchi, Photos by Gary Mine

Our March birthday was **Hideko Nagamine** as our sole birthday girl. Dressed in a beautiful sparkly jacket she shared bentos and greatly needed bottles of cold water from Nijiya. Her daughter, **Dr. Janet Nagamine**, not only picked up the bentos from San Jose but also asked that any volunteer who had a spouse to please take an extra bento. Happy Birthday **Hideko** on your 105th birthday and may we wish you many more to come.

Happy joyful birthday to our April honorees! **Marcia Hashimoto, Sharon Carreiro** and **Hiroko Dean**. So glad you could all enjoy that delicious lemon cake that was served.

Our joyful welcome back to **Bill Wurtenberg, Kitty Mizuno** and **Lupe Noble**.



Hideko Nagamine



Sharon Carreiro, Hiroko Dean and Marcia Hashimoto

Our generous members and guests continue to donate bingo prizes, which we are truly grateful for: **Anita Alvarado, Bette Garcia, Carol Noble, Carol Carpenter, Carol/Paul Kaneko, Carolyn Misumi, Cindy/Gary Mine, Connie Dimas, Deanna Salse, Eileen Byers, Emi Hirano, Evelyn Nartates, Gail Wurtenberg, Hideko Nagamine, Hiroko Dean, Hisako Kodama, Judy Hane, June Honda, Kim Tao, Kitty Mizuno, Kyoko Oka, Lilia Freitas, Lupe Noble, Mary Perez, Mitsuyo Tao, Nobue Fujii, Nobuko Akiyama, Patt Takeuchi, Patty Larsen, Reba Condon, Sharon Carreiro, Toshi Yamashita and Victor Kimura.**

Guest visitors in March and April: **Gerald Kodama (Hisako Kodama’s grandson); Patty Larsen (Carol Noble’s sister), Gloria Reed, (daughter of Norris Woodford), Maria Burnett, Ryan Doubledee (Kyoko Oka’s grandson), Doris Nagamine (Hideko Nagamine’s niece), Robin Yamashiro and Shizue Shikuma.**

Birthday donations for March and April include: **Bobbi Jo Palmer, Gary Mine, Hiroko Dean, Marcia Hashimoto and Sharon Carreiro.**

Special donations were received from: **Liz Goodson, Hideko Nagamine (Mother’s Day) and Carolyn Misumi (Mother’s Day).**

Our gratitude to the fellowship of members who help make the gathering so successful: **Leigh Sakaguchi, Anita Alvarado, Carol Carpenter, Marcia Hashimoto, Reba Condon, Sharon Bobo, Sharon Carreiro, Nobue Fujii, June Honda, Liz Goodman, Carol/Paul Kaneko, Cindy Hirokawa Mine and Gary Mine and Toshi Yamashita.**

Finally, a planning meeting was held after seniors on April 30th. In attendance were: **Sharon Bobo, June Honda, Liz Goodson, Carol Noble, Patt Takeuchi, Paul and Carol Kaneko, Reba Condon, Victor Kimura, Anita Alvarado and Toshi Yamashita.** Plans for the rest of 2026 were discussed – Senior Center’s 55th anniversary in October, November Thanksgiving potluck, SF Japantown trip in December and our Christmas celebration. Special thanks to those who volunteered to coordinate and make arrangements for our various celebrations for the remainder of the year. Requests for a casino trip were made, but a casino trip will only happen if someone volunteers to coordinate it.

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JAACL Senior Center Schedule May and June 2026

May 21 – Regular Bingo
May 28 - Regular Bingo

June 4 - Regular Bingo
June 11 - Regular Bingo
June 18 - Regular Bingo – **Birthday and Father’s Day***
June 25 - Regular Bingo

*correction – paper distribution at Senior Center originally noted Father’s day on June 25th

WATSONVILLE BONSAI CLUB *By Charlie Thompson*

The upcoming meeting dates for the Watsonville Bonsai Club are:

- July 11, Saturday, Regular Meeting and Workshop at JACL Kizuka Hall 1:30 PM
- July 20, Monday, Regular Meeting and Workshop at JACL Kizuka Hall 6:30 PM
- August 8, Saturday, Regular Meeting and Workshop at JACL Kizuka Hall 1:30 PM
- August 17, Monday, Regular Meeting and Workshop at JACL Kizuka Hall 6:30 PM
- September 12, Saturday, Regular Meeting and Workshop at JACL Kizuka Hall 1:30 PM
- September 21, Monday, Regular Meeting and Workshop at JACL Kizuka Hall 6:30 PM

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF NISEI VETERANS *By Brian Shiroyama*



Reunion at California Hotel, Las Vegas, September 21 - 25, 2026. Please stay in touch with us for additional news and updated information - facebook (Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans), website (ffnv.org), email: Brian at bshiroyama@gmail.com.

WATSONVILLE TAIKO AND SHINSEI DAIKO *By Bonnie Chihara*

Class schedule-

- Intro to taiko
- Friday 10 am-11am
- July 3rd-August 28th
- Saturday 9am-10am
- July 11th-August 29th

Fridays
4:30-5:30- Beginning Children



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



On April 25th, we performed at the Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival under cloudy skies. We were lucky that the rains stayed away and we were able to play taiko for an enthusiastic crowd.

Then next day we played at the Big Sur International Marathon. It was an early morning for us since we had to meet in Carmel by 5am! Luck was with us again as it only rained a little bit and we were fully prepared with canopies and plastic bags to protect our equipment. We enjoyed playing for all of the runners and walkers again this year.



Our upcoming schedule-

- Saturday, May 9th – UCSC JSA Matsuri, 5:15–6pm
- Saturday, May 16th – AAPINAH: Asian American, Pacific Islander & Native Hawaiian Celebration Month, Buena Vista Brewery, 2pm
- Saturday, June 27th – JACL Picnic, Watsonville Buddhist Temple
- Sunday, July 26th – Wharf to Wharf, Privates Beach, 8am–10am
- Sunday, August 9th – Tanabata Star Festival, Kizuka Hall, 12–4pm
- Sunday, November 1st–Watsonville Taiko’s Holiday Boutique, Kizuka Hall, 12–4pm

WATSONVILLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Gotan-e: A Birthday Gathering for Our Founder



“The Buddha did not create this universe. The Buddha did not create you. The Buddha does not punish your evil doing. The Buddha does not reward your good deeds. The Buddha does not cure illness, protect you from harm, or make you wise...or keep you happy. What then is the Buddha? The Pure Land is not simply a romantic story. It is the real world. All this you see and do now is the dream....a self-centered world created for this appeasement of your own greed. What then is the Pure Land? Now is the time to ask...if you would know, you must ask....or else live and die for no reason at all.” ~Shinran

This month is Gotan-e the birthday of Shinran Shonin. He established our school of Jodoshinshu and the “practice” of Namoamidabutsu, and that is why we celebrate his birth.

Because through Shinran’s life, we have received the teaching of Namoamidabutsu. So for this month’s article rather than go over Shinran’s life, I’d like to talk about what Shinran awakened to.

Of course, Shinran brought us the teaching of Namoamidabutsu, and Namoamidabutsu is called the teaching of gratitude by many. This can create a misunderstanding of the teachings of Shinran. We are constantly telling each other that we must express gratitude.

We say thank you to the Buddha, thank you to mother, father, teacher, brother, thank you sensei. We are forever saying thank you, but we have to ask ourselves if we are really feeling and meaning it?

So, I don’t want to talk about how we should be grateful. I would rather we think about how does gratitude come about? How can we become beings that express a life of gratitude? We seem to believe that gratitude is the core of Buddha’s teaching. However, gratitude is very simply a realization of those causes and conditions for this life we have received.

Gratitude or gratefulness is a manifestation of the idea of *Okagesama* お陰様. I am sure many of you have heard this term before. In Japanese conversation, someone may ask how you are. The common response is to say, “Thank you, I am fine.” *“Okagasama-de genki desu”*. Literally thanks to the many causes and conditions I am fine. The part of the word *“Okagesama”* is *“Okage”* literally meaning shadow or something concealed behind us. The term makes one be more aware that one is “fine” not just as a simple response, but an awareness and gratitude for what supports and sustains my life.

Last week, I performed a wedding for family members. At the reception following the wedding ceremony the couple, parents and friends expressed their thanks and appreciation for everyone coming to the celebration. The groom’s father expressed thanks for all the people who supported and made the day possible. Only because of others and their work are we able to celebrate events such as a wedding.

Okagesama is a realization that this life, this event, is the result of an endless series of causes and conditions, and these causes and conditions are gifts that make this life possible.

Therefore, to realize *Okagesama* comes before gratitude, and gratitude is only a means to express the realization of *Okagesama*.

Gassho,

Rev. Hosei Shinseki

Minister Emeritus

尊き道を 次の世代へ

Tootoki michi o Tsugi no sedai e

“Honoring Our Past and Building for the Future” is the theme for the Watsonville Buddhist Temple 120th Anniversary. To celebrate we will hold a special gathering on October 24, 2026. The service will include the *Kieshiki* ceremony where members can receive their Buddhist name from the residing bishop Reverend Marvin Harada. The special celebration will include the *Eitaikyo* commemorative service followed by a celebration luncheon. We will gather to honor our pioneer founders and recommit ourselves to future generations.

According to records the Watsonville Hongwanji Buddhist Church was officially established on July 7, 1906, and fully incorporated that same month on July 27. The history of the temple predates that historic moment. The immigration of Japanese to the Pajaro Valley can be traced back to 1887. Within the small Japanese population of 235 there existed a strong committed desire to bring the nembutsu teaching to Watsonville.

Over the next few months, I will share some of the history of our temple and some of the sangha members who have contributed to the temple allowing us to come to this historic and amazing achievement.



In 1905 a group of devoted Buddhists gathered together and began meeting together in what would become the Watsonville Buddhist Temple. Among the leaders were Mr. Kameichiro Inouye, Shinbei Yoshimi, **Tetsutaro Higashi**, Risaku Hirabayashi, Kouemon Tanaka, Tsuchisaburo Fukumoto, Senkichi Gyotoku, Tokuzo Oda, **Yasutaro Iwami**, Nikichi Honda, Tokusosuke Okuno, Ichitaro Kawai and Torahiko Fujimoto.

Mr. Tetsutaro Higashi was born in Yamaguchi-ken, Japan on February 2, 1857. He died at the age of 85 in the Poston Arizona Concentration camp on September 3, 1942. His ashes were interned in San Diego, California. Records indicate that he was a widower at the time of his death.

Mr. Yasutaro Iwami died on May 22, 1939, at the age of 74. He is buried alongside his wife, Shige Murata Iwami at the Pajaro Valley Memorial Park. He was the father of Hideo Charles Iwami (1907-2003) (Wife: Nancy Kiyoko Iwami nee, Tada), Marion Iwami; Yoshiko Rose Kusumoto (1919-1986); Minoru “Bill” Iwami (1921-1984).

During the war his wife Shige and their children were incarcerated at the Poston Concentration Camp. Daughter-in-law Nancy recalled the move from their home to the Salinas fairground before their incarceration at Poston. She recalled the indignity of living in a horse stall for a time and the uncertainty of not knowing where they were going and what was going to happen to them. She remembered that it was a very scary time. The temperature there was in the 60’s. They were moved to the Poston Internment Camp in July, where it was 120 degrees when they arrived at their barracks. While in Poston, Nancy worked first as a waitress, then as a dietician in the mess hall of her Block 213. Charlie worked in a camp warehouse.

After the war, Nancy and Charlie returned to Watsonville. They were able to move back into the house that they had purchased before the war. To support themselves, they found themselves working in the fields again picking strawberries, lettuce, and apples. Charlie became a gardener and Nancy became a domestic housekeeper for a husband and wife who were both doctors. They also worked for the Woolperts of Graniterock. Charlie passed away in 2003 and Nancy in 2018 at the age of 104. Nancy was an active participant of the Watsonville JACL and the Watsonville Buddhist Temple.

SAVE THE DATE

120 YEARS

JOIN US IN COMMEMORATING THE
WATSONVILLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE'S
120TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

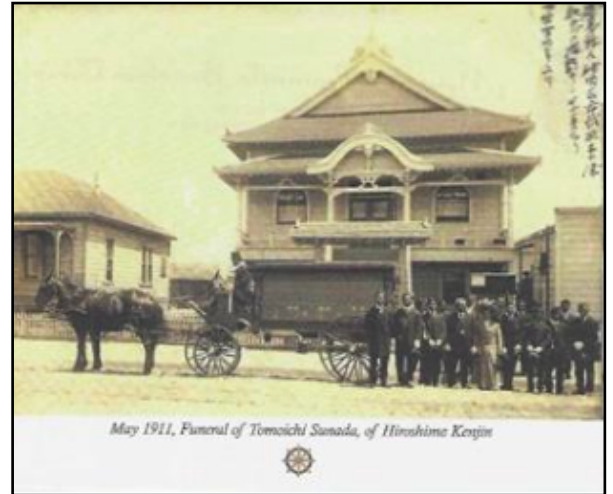
SATURDAY OCTOBER 24, 2026

尊き道を 次の世代へ
Honoring our past. Inspiring the future.

120th Anniversary apparel and gifts will be
available for purchase soon. Stay tuned for our
upcoming anniversary projects!

Reverend Jinho Inouye served as the resident minister from its beginning in 1907 and served for three years until 1910. Under his leadership the temple grew to 208 members. Together with Kameichiro Inouye, Risaku Hirabayashi, Itsuto Matsuoka, Tsuchisaburo Fukumoto and Tetsutaro Higashi the first board of directors was formed. On September 8, 1907, a corner lot on Union and Bridge street was purchased and the new temple building was completed in November 1908.

The 100th anniversary commemorative book details how Rev. Inouye traveled by bike to solicit donations to build the temple. The newly built structure was a typical Japanese Buddhist temple design. The *hondo* was on the second-floor seating about 100 sangha members. The first floor had four small rooms, a kitchen and a large meeting room.



Pictured here is the original temple building.



Reverend Jinho Inouye was born on July 14, 1873, in Niigata-ken Japan. He was raised at a Jodoshinshu temple, Zenchoji in Niigata. He studied in Kyoto at the Bungakuryo school and graduated in March 1898. He was ordained with *tokudo* on December 28, 1897, and *kiyoshi* ordination in April 1898. He was given the rank of *Kaikyoshi* minister in June 1906.

Prior to coming to Watsonville Rev. Inouye taught elementary school in Niigata from 1901-1905. Rev. Inouye's first assignment was with the Fresno Buddhist Temple in June 1906. He arrived in Watsonville on July 18, 1906, and remained until his return to Japan on October 6, 1910. During his time in Japan Rev. Inouye became a chaplain in the Japanese army serving from 1911-1918. He then returned to Niigata and taught high school from April 1919.

The history of the Watsonville Buddhist Temple will continue next month.

Gassho,
Rev. Hosei Shinseki

Buddhist Study Classes and Services Conducted by Reverend Hibiki Murakami

Our Supervising Minister, Rev. Hibiki Murakami will be offering Buddhist classes and services online and in person.

Online Tannisho Class (Zoom)

This class explores core Jodo Shinshu teachings such as karma, human nature, and salvation. We will read passages from the *Tannisho* together, followed by commentary and discussion. You are welcome to join at anytime, as each session can be appreciated on its own.

7:00pm – 8:00pm, Wednesdays, April 29th, May 20th, and May 27th (schedule is updated monthly)

Zoom Meeting ID: 858 7522 5470

Password: Shinran

Online Morning Service (Livestream)

This service includes chanting of Shoshinge (with Nembutsu and Wasan), the Jodo Shinshu Daily Creed, and Ondokusan 2.

Thursdays, 8:30am – 9:00am

Streamed on the Buddhist Temple of Salinas YouTube Channel

Meditation and Chanting Service (In Person)

This session offers a quiet space for reflection through seated meditation and chanting (Shoshinge and Wasan). We conclude with a reading from Rennyō's *Gobunsho*.

Saturdays, 9:00am – 10:00am

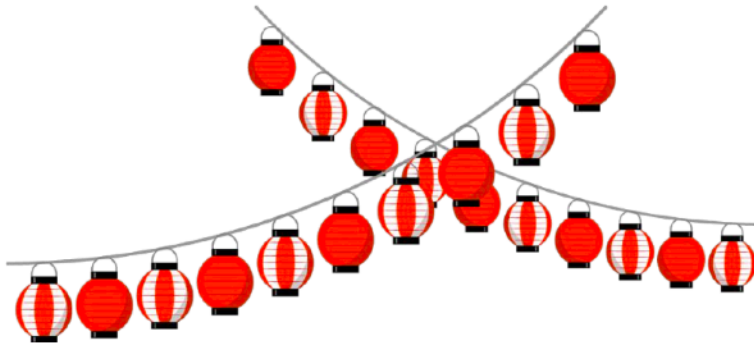
Location: Buddhist Temple of Salinas (Baby-Crying Room)

Weekly short video messages (Social Media)

Sharing messages and reflections on Shinran Shonin's Wasan.

https://www.instagram.com/bt_salinas

<https://www.instagram.com/mpbt831>



2026 Obon Lanterns Honoring our Ancestors

White Obon lanterns light up the hall honoring family members from the past. The legend of Obon dates to the time of the Buddha and it was believed that the souls of our ancestors would return during the time of Obon. The small Obon lanterns called Obon Chochin 盆提灯 were lit to temporarily welcome back the spirits of our deceased ancestors. Offerings were made in memory of the deceased ancestors to the temple. In our Jodoshinshu tradition, the lights of the lantern remind us of the continuing influence of our family members as we remember them today.

The Watsonville Buddhist Temple 2026 Obon Festival will be held on July 19th (Sunday). Each year we offer families the opportunity to honor family members who have returned to the Pure Land with a memorial Obon lantern. Your family member’s name will be attached to a lantern and displayed at the Obon Festival for years to come. Please complete the form below and a lantern will be created for your family member(s).

A \$50 donation or more to the Watsonville Buddhist Temple will be accepted for each lantern in memory of your family member.

Name of Deceased: _____ Year of Death: _____

Homyo/Buddhist Name: _____

Name of Deceased: _____ Year of Death: _____

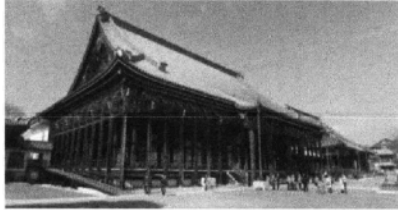
Homyo/Buddhist Name: _____

Your Name: _____ Email: _____

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone involved in making this year’s Hanamatsuri Festival a success. We appreciate everyone that took time out from their busy schedules to help us out when we needed you, those who generously donated to our raffle and food items, the beautiful displays of Ikenobo & Ikebana, Bonsai, Kimekomi Dolls, Scout Troop 558 & Kokoro No Gakko, Aikido of Santa Cruz demonstration, performance by Watsonville Taiko, Arts & Crafts from Tangled Messes, Hug A Sumo, & Nikkei Traditions of San Jose Japantown. Food Items from Scout Troop 558, Kokoro No Gakko, and Hapa Bros. It was so nice see members, family, friends, and community come together to enjoy the festival. Thank you for all your support for our 2026 Hanamatsuri Festival and throughout the year.

JAPAN TOUR Nov.2026

SALT LAKE CITY, UT
AND
WATSONVILLE, CA



You can find the itinerary, flight details, tour price, and all-important information on our registration website. We invite you to register today: <https://cvent.me/b23P1M>

Travel Date: Nov.04 ~ Nov.14, 2026 (9 nights)
Land fee: \$ 5,500.00 for 25~35 participants, \$ 4,900.00 for 35~up participants)
Group Airfare: SFO \$ 1,700.00 SLC \$ 2,050.00

Tour Highlights

3 Nights in Tokyo: Enjoy a special dinner with a sumo demonstration. One free day is included—perfect for shopping, visiting Tokyo DisneySea, or spending time with relatives.

1 Night in Hakone: Relax at a luxury hot spring resort and savor a deluxe buffet dinner.

3 Nights in Kyoto: Discover cultural treasures such as Nishi Hongwanji, enjoy a Wagyu Sukiyaki.

2 Nights in Hiroshima: Stay at an ocean-view resort hotel, take part in an Okonomiyaki cooking class, experience a night cruise to Miyajima, and celebrate with a farewell dinner.

For more information, contact Naomi Takehara, Kintetsu Travel. Mobile 408-834-2388 Naomi.takehara@kintetsu.com

<p>Temple Fireworks Booth</p> <p>WE NEED YOU</p> 	<p>Date: July 1- July 4 Time: 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>Temple Parking Lot</p> <hr/> <p><u>WE NEED YOUR HELP AT THIS YEAR'S FIREWORKS BOOTH</u></p> <p>Our Fireworks fund raiser is one of the Temple's biggest fund raisers and we need your help. 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>Perry Yoshida @ 239-7540- perry761@aol.com Temple Office @ 724-7860 - buddhist@wbtemple.org</p>
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Japanese Historical Kamigamo Style Mataro Kimekomi Doll
One-Day Workshop – Watsonville Buddhist Temple

Date: Sunday – June 7, 2026
(Please register three weeks prior to workshop date, NLT May 31, 2026)
Place: 423 Bridge street, Watsonville, CA 95076
Time: 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM (lunch provided with nominal fee, or bring your own lunch)

Class Fee: Watsonville Temple member - \$45.00
Non-Watsonville Temple Member - \$55.00
(Part of registration fee goes to Watsonville Temple donation)
----- Lunch will be served with nominal fee, \$8.00 -----

Lab Fee: Choice 1 – Osana Kime (Young Prince) \$50.00
Choice 2 – Osana Hime (Young Princess) \$50.00
Choice 3 – Kokeshi Ningyou (Kokeshi Doll) \$72.00
Choice 4– Kouun Fukurou (Fortune Owl) \$45.00
* Bring small pointed scissors and a hand towel for your workstation.
Dress casually. Please register early. Seats are limited.



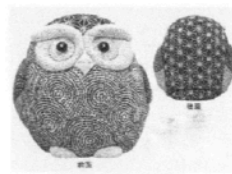
Choice 1 = \$50.00



Choice 2 = \$50.00



Choice 3 = \$72.00



Choice 4 = \$45.00

----- Cut here -----

Registration Form-Watsonville Temple Kimekomi Doll Making Workshop 6-7-26

WS Date: 6-7-2026

Choice of Doll #: _____

Do you order lunch? Yes _____ N _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ **E-mail Address:** _____

Total Amount of Payment: \$ _____ **Check #** _____

(Please remit Registration + Lab Fee, check payable to: Northern California Shibu Mataro Miyabi Kai.)
Mail Registration Form and Fee to: **Isako Wasano P.O. Box 28, Rescue, CA 95762**

--- N. Calif. Mataro Miyabi Kai---



**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 May Events

May 24, 2026 – Cemetery Memorial Service,
Pioneer Cemetery 9:00am,
Pajaro Valley Cemetery 10:00am and
San Juan Bautista Cemetery 11:30am
May 31, 2026 – NO SUNDAY SERVICE

Tentative Schedule of June Events

June 7, 2026 - Shotsuki Hoyo 10:00am
June 13, 2026 – Blood Drive 10:00am-2:00pm
June 14, 2026 – Sunday Service (MA David Correia) 10:00am
June 21, 2026 – NO SUNDAY SERVICE
June 28, 2026 – NO SUNDAY SERVICE

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

Growing Food, Growing Community, Growing Love!

The Good Growth Garden Project

-Veronica Ota, San Jose Presbytery, Candidate for Ministry PCUSA

Westview was the first church I visited after moving to the Monterey area last fall. As a yonsei Japanese American of mixed descent, I was drawn to the church because of its history, but when I saw HOPE Village under construction, I grew more interested in Westview's future.

In January, I joined the Presbytery of San José as the Peacemaking and Justice Advocate and connected with Pastor Dan. While showing me around the church, he opened a door in the kitchen that led to an area once used for barbecuing teriyaki chicken. One cinderblock barbecue remained, but the space had been taken over by weeds and a massive aloe. Pastor Dan shared his dream for this space— that it would become a community garden where food could be grown by, with, and for HOPE Village residents, the church, and the neighborhood. The fresh produce could be prepared into healthy meals in the church's commercial-grade kitchen. The only thing missing was someone to lead the project. *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send?..." And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8).*

Was it a coincidence that my passion is the intersection of sustainability and spirituality? God's answers prayers. I received my Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary with a certificate in Theology, Ecology, and Spiritual Formation in 2024. During my years at Princeton, I also worked at the seminary's farm, "The Farminary," overseeing the compost program. At seminary, I discerned a calling to the ministry of cultivating sustainable communities. Sustainability and community begin in the soil. Pastor Dan invited me to join a new community with the soil behind the church, and with HOPE Village residents, Westview members, friends, and locals interested in organic gardening.

Thus, The Good Growth Garden project began! There was immediate excitement with HOPE Village. HOPE neighbor Roy showed up ready to start working, so we did. Roy and his friend José cleared out all the weeds in one day. The next week, HOPE neighbor Pablo showed up with a rototiller, and he and Allen broke up the weed roots in the ground, reduced the gargantuan aloe, and loaded up the yard waste. Local friend Don Yoshimura brought us over a big truck and had assistants haul it to the dump. A Community Action Board staff member donated tomato plants, a friend of a friend of a friend offered manure. Everyone I have talked to about this project is sincerely supportive. The Spirit is giving life to our garden.

Growing organic food locally and caring for the soil is healing and restorative for all, and it is a way for us to live out our faith in action, while growing in our community life together. All are welcome to help out with The Good Growth Garden, in whatever way you feel God calling you to participate. Contact Veronica at veronica@sanjosepby.org

Good Growth Garden Wish List

Financial Donations Appreciated (Please write “Community Garden” in the memo of your check)

Garden Tools (Used or New) Wheelbarrow, Garden Rake, Leaf Rake, Shovels, Hand Tools, Garden Gloves, Watering Can
Organic Garden Soil/Potting Soil, Seeds or Plant Starts, Wood Mulch, Aged Manure, Boot Scrubber

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.

Rev. Hoffman will not be available for Worship Service May 24, 2026 through June 21, 2026.

Guest Speakers: Pastor Mick Erickson - May 24 and June 21
Pastor Dan Myers – June 28 (Rev. Hoffman will co-preside)
Pastor Julie Center Porras (with Rev. Hoffman) – July 6th
Pastor Mick Erickson – July 27th

Wednesday Zoom Scripture Reflection & Mid-Week Check-In

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

Margo's Closet...

Our clothing closet has been a hit! Many of the HOPE Village residents and others that Community Action Board and SonRise Kitchen care for have been able to come and get nice clothing when they needed it. Some have been able to be outfitted for a job interview or to look good as they go to a doctor or social service visit. The people walk out of Margo's closet with a glimmer in their eyes and a skip in their step! If you would like to donate gently used clothing or other items, please contact Margo.

HOPE Village update

HOPE Village (Tiny Homes) opened in early February and now has about 30 residents, almost at their capacity of 34 residents! As Rev. Dan, Margo, and Veronica all go and visit the residents we have had many opportunities to support and pray for them. They all seem so positive about their lives and definitely exuded hope. Thank you for, and we cherish, your continued prayers! You can also continue to make donations to help make Hope Village a hospitable, loving and healing place through your support of Westview Presbyterian Church and through support to Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County (just make sure you note or put in the memo that it is for HOPE Village or for SonRise Kitchen if you prefer it to go there).

Photos



Photos:
Albert Rojas brought a cake(top left)
Roy in the Good Growth Garden Area (left photo)
Jolly's 80th Birthday (photo above)

Acknowledgements:
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