

WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL

“The Bridge 橋”

The Voice of Our Community

Haiku ~by Bob Gómez

Monarch butterfly

tracing mountains in the air

tracing mountains in the air

Translation by Emi Sato:

モナークヤ

冬越しの旅

ひらひらと

Monaaku ya (Monarch butterfly)

Fuyugoshi no tabi (Throughout winter's journey)

Hirahira to (Fluttering its wings—

it's an onomatopoeia for a butterfly fluttering
its wings in this case)

Translation by Hiromi Ushimaru:

モナコ蝶

故郷を辿りて

尾根伝い

Monako Chō

Kokyō o Tadorite

O-ne-zutai

Chō: Butterflies

Tadorite: In haiku, the term *tadorite*

(meaning ‘to trace’ or ‘to make one's way along’)
describes the act of advancing step by step—
whether along a path, through memories, or
following a slender lead—with difficulty or great
caution. It evokes a lyrical atmosphere of
pursuing something while relying on faint clues.

O-ne-zutai: Traveling along the ridgeline or moving
from mountain peak to peak.

The differences between the translations give readers a
glimpse of the artistry involved in translating poetry. The
translators' explanations also help shine a light on the
nuances and connotations of the original poem.

—Bob

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Website: www.watsonvillesantacruzjacl.com

Next issue November 2026!

WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL**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.

- Joseph and Christine Bowes for the Paul Uchiuji Scholarship Fund
- Nobue Fujii - "Congratulations to grandson, Brandon Potter, on his high school graduation."
- Dennis Hamada
- Elizabeth Rose Mayeda and Josh Pritchard
- Dan & Karen Nitta in memory of sister, Joan Otsuji
- Bobbi Jo Palmer, picnic donation
- Irene & Ray Potter for Brandon Potter's high school graduation
- Scurich Insurance Services, picnic donation
- Vicky Tamashiro in memory of Kathleen Iwanaga from her nieces and nephews
- Flowers by Toshi, picnic donation
- Watsonville Taiko

Acknowledgements:**Thank you to:**

All the Contributors
 Marcia Hashimoto: Proof-reading
 Cindy Hirokawa Mine: Newsletter Coordinator & Editor
 Victor Kimura: Recording and Acknowledging Donations
 Jeanette Hager: Formatting
 Newsletter Distribution Crew

W-SC JACL COMMUNITY PICNIC

By Marcia Hashimoto

Over 100 years ago our Issei pioneers immigrated from Japan to make Watsonville their new home. They were tremendously hard working laborers, and for years were able to take only one day of the year to get together with family and friends to express their appreciation for new beginnings. This day was celebrated as a Community Picnic and has become an historic tradition organized by our W-SC JACL with the assistance and support of our community friends. A very special part of our Picnic program is honoring our outstanding students with scholarships from the Sako, Mito, and Kitayama Families. Our July/August Newsletter, "The Bridge", highlighted our six student scholar honorees.

As a Community Picnic, everyone is welcome. Through the years, the picnic has been held at our local beach, the Santa Cruz County Fair grounds, the Aptos Village Park, and recently, we have been gathering at the comfortable facility of the Watsonville Buddhist Temple. We are grateful to Temple leaders JoAnn and Tad Kato, Kenny Kusumoto and Temple Members, and to Kokoro no Gakko leaders Sean Sheehan, Bobbi Jo Palmer, Melissa Song and Gakko Members for their help in setting up tables and chairs and cleaning up. Watsonville Taiko has become a major part of our annual Picnic. With the creative direction of Master Teacher Ikuyo Conant, Taiko Members Bonnie Chihara, Kay Miyamoto, Hiroshi Musselman, Karen Groppi, Polo Baragan, Becky Shingai, Angela Huang and Terri Basile presented a performance that welcomed all and raised the energy level of everyone in attendance.

After months of preparing for this event, it was wonderful to see friends of all ages enjoying the lunch prepared and activities organized by our JACL Officers, Board Members (BM), and support teams. A special thanks to our students Kai Gavin, Mallory Sheehan, Brandon Potter, Sasha and Elyse Chu, Miles Andersen, Alyn Gonzales, Anna Hudson and Sean Willis. Their careful assistance in serving lunch and enthusiastic help with the races, bingo and raffle made it possible for everyone to enjoy these activities. Each student assisted with multiple tasks so their participation will be listed with their first name.

Acknowledging with appreciation:

- * Kenny Kusumoto and Marcia Hashimoto, Co-Presidents: Picnic Co-Chairs and Kenny is our Temple Liaison
- * Joe Bowes, 1st VP, JACL Hall maintenance, Memorial Garden main caretaker: Loaded and transported picnic supplies and was the raffle ticket announcer assisted by students Kai, Mallory, Miles, Alyn, Anna, and Sean.

- * Victor Kimura, Treasurer, Memorial Garden care: Managed Picnic finances and supervised all ticket sales and students Sasha and Elyse separated raffle tickets.
- * Nikki Hikari, 2nd VP, Chapter Delegate: Assisted ticket sales and races.
- * Sean Sheehan, Secretary and Kokoro no Gakko Liaison: Set up races and prizes with students Mallory, Brandon, and Sean.
- * Cindy Hirokawa Mine, (BM), Newsletter Editor, Health Consultant: Leader for luncheon preparation and serving teams with team helpers Reba Condon, Carolyn Misumi, Joy Warner, Lupe Noble, Mary and Tasha Perez, Kitty Mizuno, Sharon Nakashima, Jim Arao, Frank Winterroth and student servers: Brandon, Mallory, Sasha, Elyse, Miles, Alyn, Anna.
- * Gary Mine, (BM), JACL Hall maintenance, Memorial Garden care: Problem solver for all Picnic and general concerns and prepared 40+ water balloons with Cindy for the races.
- * Hiroshi Fukurai, (BM): Hiroshi and wife Chikako assisted with ticket sales and prepped powder donuts for the races
- * Bonnie Chihara, (BM), Liaison with Watsonville Taiko: Bonnie and her son, Hiroshi Musselman, performed with Taiko and helped with set up and clean up.
- * Meleia Simon Reynolds, (BM): Designed the Picnic flyer, took Picnic photos, and recorded donations brought to the Picnic.
- * Jeanette Otsuji Hager, (BM), formats the Newsletter, is our Chapter Delegate, and sets up all of our zoom meetings plus more.
- * Sharon Bobo and Anita Alvarado, Senior Center Members: They set up and managed the BINGO activity with student helpers Brandon, Mallory, Sasha, Elyse, Miles, and Alyn.
- * Toshi Yamashita, JACL National and Local Member, set up and helped maintain the beverage and snack table with Hiroshi Musselman.
- * Chiye Tamaki donated and prepared ten loaves of French Bread.
- * Matt Ryan, retired Watsonville Firefighter, prepped and BBQ'd the tender chicken.

We are extremely grateful for the thoughtfully generous donations and gifts from the following individuals, businesses and organizations:

- | | |
|---|--|
| * Bobbi Jo Palmer | * Paul & Kim Tao, P & K Organic Strawberries |
| * Victor Kimura | * Alan Uyematsu, CPA |
| * Bonnie Chihara | * Watsonville Taiko, Ikuyo Conant |
| * Sharon Carreiro | * Flowers by Toshi, Ryoko Kozuki |
| * Aimee Mizuno | * Sushi Market Sprouts, Junko Goro |
| * Deanne Row | * Kaito Ramen Koji Goro |
| * Nikki Hikari | * Imura Restaurant, Kevin & Jee Kajihara |
| * Chiye Tamaki | * Miyuki Restaurant, Paul Tashiro |
| * Caroline Misumi | * Scurich Insurance Services, Mike & Tony Scurich |
| * Marcia Hashimoto | * Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Senior Center Leaders: |
| * Gary Mine & Cindy Hirokawa Mine | Paul and Carol Kaneko |
| * Kenny Kusumoto gift and Driscoll Strawberries | * Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL |

Congratulations to our “Grand Prize” Winner: Kenny Kusumoto of Watsonville

Special Donors of the \$500 Grand Prize and the children's race prizes:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| * Reed Kuratomi, DDS | * Brooke Rains, DDS |
| * Jamie Kuratomi, DDS | * Dr. Stuart Sakuma Family Optometry |

To anyone who helped or donated and whose name was unintentionally omitted, I apologize. Please contact Marcia Hashimoto at [831-722-6859](tel:831-722-6859) and leave a message for a call back.

W-SC JACL sincerely thanks you and your families for attending, helping, and supporting our 2026 Community Picnic.

With Gratitude,

W-SC JACL Officers and Board Members

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL 2026 Annual Picnic - *Photos by Meleia Simon-Reynolds*



Kitchen Strategy meeting.



It takes a village in the kitchen! (photo above & below)



W-SC JACL Officers/Board Members...
(missing Nikki, Kenny, Bonnie, Jeanette)



Watsonville Taiko performing!



Little ones enjoying Bingo!



Hopeful "Bingo" players



Preparing for the lunch crowd!

Thank-you to our many servers!

Luncheon Buffet served by Jim Arao to JACL Members Irene and her mother, Mrs. Fujii, June Honda, Yoko Umeda, and Mitsuyo Tao





Enjoying Ice-Cream Social!



Members and Community Friends enjoying the Picnic lunch at the Temple Hall.



Sack race is a favorite among children.

Getta race takes concentrated focus.



Children love the donut race.



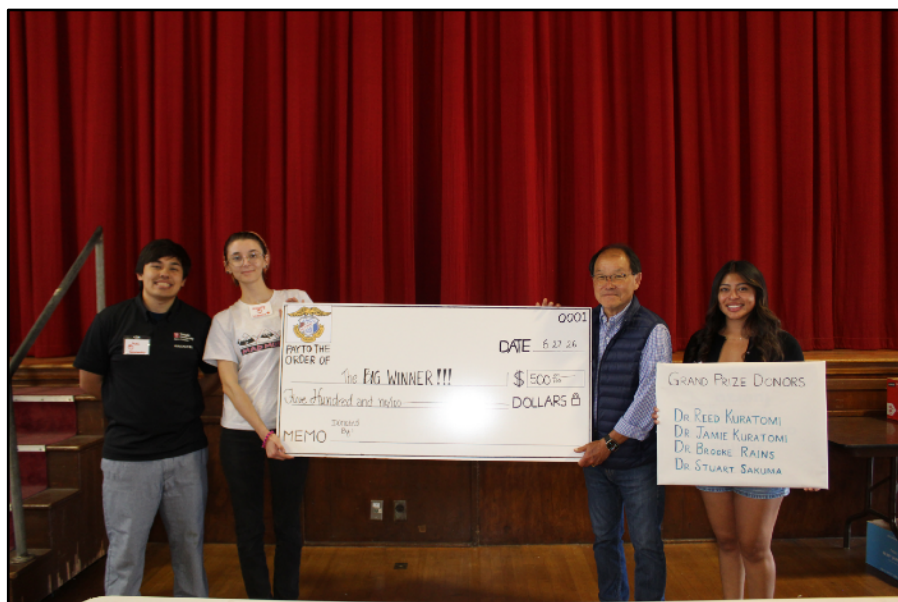
Young adults love the donut race too!



Everyone is ready for the balloon toss race!



Balloon toss winners, Irene and son, Brandon Potter.



Raffle Grand Prize Winner, Kenny Kusumoto with student helpers Kai, Mallory, and Anna holding the Donor list.

This article is a culmination of photos/sharing that were in our previous newsletter (2022) and some new photos/sharing regarding the IREICHŌ (pages 8-12) ~Cindy Mine

THE IRECHŌ

IREICHŌ INSTALLATION CEREMONY AT THE JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM, LOS ANGELES, ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2022 *by Victor Kimura*

In July 2022 I was contacted by Carol Kaneko regarding the collection of three tablespoons of soil from the Salinas Assembly Center. The request came through Sharon Yamato, on behalf of Reverend Duncan Williams,¹ project director of the Ireicho, or compilation of over 125,000 names of Japanese and Japanese Americans.² My task was simply to gather three tablespoons of dirt from the Salinas Assembly Center, and send them to Duncan Williams in Los Angeles who was collecting soil samples from internment camps and assembly centers in order to create a ceramic piece integral to a book containing over 125,000 names of Japanese and Japanese Americans who were incarcerated by the United States Government in any capacity during World War II.

A few weeks after mailing the dirt collected from the Salinas Assembly Center, I received an email invitation to participate in the installation ceremony at the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) in Los Angeles. Funding to support the project came primarily from the Mellon Foundation, the USC Ito Center, and the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program. Basically, all travel, accommodation (at the Miyako Hotel in Little Tokyo), and meals were to be provided for several hundred participants arriving from various parts of the United States, including representative dirt collectors; notable Buddhist and Christian ministers; dignitaries; and local, state, and federal governmental representatives.

Representing the Salinas Assembly Center, my function at the installation ceremony, along with Salinas descendant and co-founder of The Young Buddhist Editorial, Devon Matsumoto, was to carry a wooden stake, marked with the words Salinas Assembly Center, written in Japanese and English, across the open plaza and into a large room in the JANM building, where all stakes would be collected and memorialized during a sacred ceremony. The Ireicho book or list of over 125,000 names will be on display/exhibited at the JANM until February 19, 2023.

¹ Co-author of the publication, *Sutra and Bible, Faith and the Japanese American World War II Incarceration*, published in 2022.

² National names monument honoring persons of Japanese ancestry incarcerated in the United States during WWII.



Dear Supporter, *By Ann Burroughs, President & CEO*

For the first time in our nation's history, the names of 125,284 persons of Japanese ancestry who were imprisoned in all 75 US Army, Department of Justice, and War Relocation Authority camps during World War II have been commemorated in the sacred book of names, the Ireichō. All are welcome to honor those in the Ireichō by acknowledging a person's name with a hanko (stamp). It is an opportunity to recognize everyone that experienced unjust incarceration, one that is long overdue.

This project has received worldwide attention since its launch on September 24, 2022. You can view the recent coverage in the Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles Magazine, NBC News, ABC World News Tonight, and the Guardian. Here is a link to the dedication ceremony that gathered together representatives from all 75 confinement sites and faith leaders from several faith traditions.

The Ireichō is part of Irei: National Monument for the WWII Japanese American Incarceration, a project led by Duncan Ryuken Williams and Sunyoung Lee to address the erasure of those who experienced wartime incarceration and expand the concept of a monument through the Ireichō as a monument, a website as a monument (Ireizō), and light sculptures as monuments (Ireihī).

Having people visit JANM to stamp the Ireichō is a way of making this monument of the past so present and so alive. It's a way to heal and repair trauma. It's a pilgrimage to right a wrong on a site where hundreds of families of Japanese ancestry boarded buses to the camps eighty years ago. I consider JANM to be one of those ground zero points in the civil rights history of this country. I encourage you to come and stamp the Ireichō and leave your mark on history.

Visit janm.org/ireicho to make your reservation to stamp the book at JANM and correct the historical record for future generations! Camp survivors and those with special circumstances can contact the Development office at 213.830.5646 or email development@janm.org to arrange a time to stamp your name. The Ireichō will be at JANM until September 24, 2023.

P.S. - This project and other JANM initiatives would not be possible without the support of those who believe in our mission. If you are not already a Member, please join JANM today at janm.org/membership.

A Monument that Produces Other Monuments *By Duncan Ryūken Williams*

Dear Friends,

The compilation of names for the Irei Project's book and website monuments – the Ireichō and Ireizō – has always been a community effort. While I personally take responsibility for any errors and make final decisions for every amendment, it has taken many thousands of individuals requesting corrections to improve the historical record as it exists today. This is because the U.S. government's camp intake forms, confinement site rosters, individual index cards, and other wartime incarceration documents are so replete with errors that they are quite unreliable. The ten War Relocation Authority (WRA) camp rosters, for example, have a spelling error rate of between 7%-12%.

At the Irei Project, we feel we cannot honor the people who experienced the injustice of the WWII camps if we leave people out or if we misspell their names. This is why research – alongside creative art practice and community engagement – has been such an important aspect of our work. Whether it's the checking of name spellings or dates of birth from camp records against handwritten WWII draft cards, entries in the 1940 U.S. Census, county-level birth and death records, naturalization and social security application records, or inscriptions on graves, our research is based on a nomenclature convention that has delivered a consistent standard for how we determine authoritative names that end up on the Ireizō plaques.

RESEARCH BEHIND THE SCENES

I recently analyzed the backend work of our research team in relation to the now over 126,366 names of those of Japanese ancestry and their families confirmed as having been incarcerated during WWII. Since the printing of the first edition of the Ireichō book of names in September 2022 (which contained 125,284 names), we have added over a thousand names. Further, roughly 30,000 names have been amended, mainly in terms of name spellings, but also to correct birth years or camp histories.

While the vast majority of those amended names were based on discoveries by the Irei Project's research team, we have also received nearly 6,000 amendment requests from the public, mainly through our online portal. Our research team has honed our instincts about when and how we investigate names that seem suspiciously spelled on a camp roster. For example, since so many Japanese first names are gendered, we automatically check other sources whenever we see a camp roster spell a male individual's name "Nobue" (more likely "Nobuo") or a female name as "Kazuya" (likely "Kazuye").

It's the less obvious errors that take community members to alert us to their existence. Recently, we made a number of amendments that wouldn't have seemed suspicious at first glance. Just last month, I was corresponding with Nick Uchida, who noted that his grandmother never used the middle name "Jane." We had relied on the Minidoka camp roster for our original rendering, but revised Nick's grandmother's name to "Mary Tane Tashima" after realizing the camp transcriber mistakenly included the Anglo name "Jane" when it was supposed to only have had the Japanese name "Tane." Without families alerting us to errors like this, we can never get the historical record close to fully accurate.

Last week, we received a note from a researcher at the Kansha History Project – an initiative to transcribe pre-war land ownership records of Japanese American farming families – who noted that we had misspelled the middle name of Adrian Tatsuso Yamamoto from Santa Clara County, CA, as "Tatsuo" as found in the Heart Mountain camp roster. Since "Tatsuo" is a much more common Japanese male name than "Tatsuso", it would not have occurred to our research team to investigate this, but we found his handwritten WWII draft card that verified that he rendered his middle name with the more uncommon name "Tatsuso".

These are just a few examples of how community-submitted amendments are so important to the creation of a trustworthy names monument for those who experienced the unjust wartime incarceration.

A MONUMENT THAT PRODUCES OTHER MONUMENTS

The Irei Project has always emphasized how our conception of monuments is that a memorial's significance comes from intimacy and impermanence. This is the inverse of many traditional names monuments – such as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in DC, the 9/11 Memorial in NYC, or the National Lynching Memorial in Alabama – that purport to gain their value by the grandness of their scale and the permanence of etching names into stone or corten steel. For our project, the intimate act of stamping allows for a personal way to connect to the names, and the fact that each mark of a stamp is constantly changing the very look of each page is a reflection of how monuments should work. Or, to take this one step further, the true monument to the unjust wartime incarceration is not the physical object of the Ireichō, but lies in the hearts and minds of the tens of thousands of people who have participated in stamping the book, looking up a grandmother's birth year, sharing a story from camp with a cousin, and otherwise keeping memories alive.

Our monument-making philosophy undergirds why we have not prioritized the construction of a more traditional names monument, especially given the extent of name spelling errors in government records that our research team and the community have been steadily amending. That said, a number of organizations and groups are dedicated to honoring the incarcerated with more traditional names monuments. So with the caveat that we cannot guarantee 100% accuracy, the Irei Project has agreed to provide the names for a number of these initiatives.

Our partnerships began with those building the Snow Country Prison Japanese American Memorial at the former site of the Fort Lincoln Internment Camp. The Irei Project provided the names of the 1,925 internees of Japanese ancestry who were in this camp in Bismarck, North Dakota. As the former camp was on Native American land, the memorial, produced by Model of Architecture Serving Society [MASS], is currently located on the campus of the United Tribes Technical College (UTTC). In 2027-2028, several new initiatives are slated to come to fruition. We will be partnering with a number of projects based in California: the Tulare Assembly Center Memorial, the Presidio Trust (at the former site of the Western Defense Command responsible for implementing Executive Order 9066), and the WWII Japanese American Incarceration Monument to be built at Columbia Park in Torrance.

A CALL FOR RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS

The Torrance monument is the most ambitious of our partnerships. Designers will construct ten large walls representing the ten WRA camps and an eleventh wall representing those who were incarcerated but never in a WRA camp. The mid-October 2026 deadline for our project to transfer the names lists to the designers is fast approaching. To make our best effort to provide that initiative with the most accurate rendering of the names, our core research team needs additional volunteer researchers in the next month and a half.

Please help us do a final inspection of thousands of authoritative name issues so that we can send our list with the utmost confidence in its accuracy.

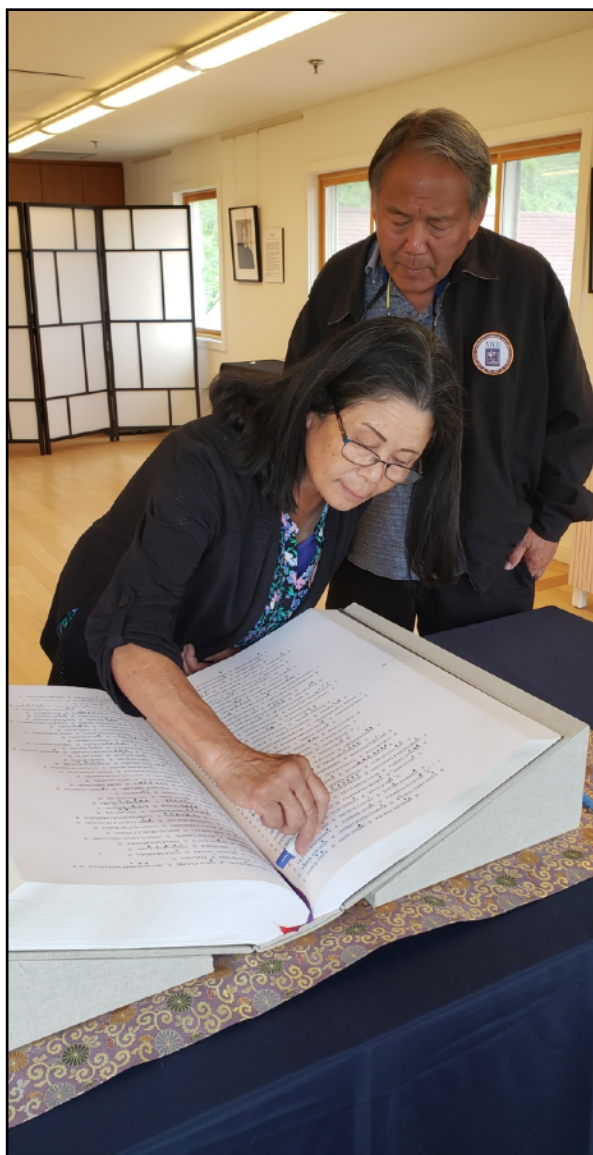
In the second week of September, the Irei Project will host an online training for anyone interested in learning how to do the requisite research, which will qualify you to begin the work in earnest from mid-September through mid-October 2026. We now realize how our research has implications well beyond serving our monument project alone, and your participation in this volunteer work will be a tremendous help in our efforts to complete the Torrance submission.

If you have an inclination to get involved, please reach out to me right away at admin@duncanryukenwilliams.com for more details and the schedule of training dates. You only need to attend one training before diving in, and I will be hosting “office hours” once a week for volunteer researchers to answer questions and support your kind efforts.

Our gratitude and humblest thanks, as always.

Kindest regards,

Duncan Ryūken Williams



Gary and Cindy Mine stamping The IREICHŌ, June 14, 2026
at the M.I.S. Building, San Francisco.
Gary said, “it felt like Honoring our Family.”



Paul, Carol, and son, Takeshi Kaneko stamping The Ireichō at JANM in Los Angeles, 2022.

2026 National JACL Convention - "Reigniting Our Purpose and Mission," Part 1

By Jeanette Hager

Nikki Hikari and I attended the 2026 National JACL Convention as delegates of our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Chapter. There is so much to report on which will be continued in the next issue of the "Bridge" in November. The Delegates were updated on the State of the National Organization which included the vision of our future by our new Executive Director, Lilly Simmering. There is a newly elected National Board for the next biennium (2027-2028) and a budget that reflects the uncertainty of not only our organization, but our Nation as well. The main takeaway for me is that it will take all of us to change the course of our communities and Nation. We must remember (I, too), that if we don't all participate in making this world a better place, it won't happen. We can start in our own little part of the world, our Chapter, our local community. We must also document our history so that all those that dedicated their lives to building our communities are not forgotten.

WATSONVILLE BONSAI CLUB *By Charlie Thompson*

The upcoming meeting dates for the Watsonville Bonsai Club are:

September 21, Monday, Regular Meeting and Workshop at JACL Kizuka Hall 6:30 PM

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF NISEI VETERANS *By Brian Shiroyama*

Visit the Nisei Veterans Exhibit aboard the USS Hornet Museum in Alameda. It features internment, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service. The museum is open on Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. For more information, please go to www.ffnv.org or contact Brian at bshiroyama@gmail.com. About the **Hornet** aircraft carrier itself, Google Hornet Museum. The **Hornet** served with distinction at the end of the Pacific War. It also recovered the first moon-landing crew (Apollo 11) in 1969. The predecessor **Hornet** launched the historic Doolittle Raid in 1942 with bombers being loaded at the same pier where the current **Hornet** is anchored. The predecessor **Hornet** was sunk in 1943. The current **Hornet** played a key role in the sinking of the 'unsinkable' Battleship Yamato during the Battle of Okinawa.



FFNV

FRIENDS & FAMILY OF NISEI VETERANS
100th Infantry Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team
Military Intelligence Service

WWII JAPANESE AMERICAN INCARCERATION MONUMENT

HELP BUILD A LASTING TRIBUTE TO JUSTICE, MEMORY, AND HUMANITY

Help Build a Lasting Tribute to Justice, Memory, and Humanity Every Name Has a Story. Every Story Deserves to Be Remembered.

During World War II, more than 120,000 Japanese Americans were forcibly removed from their homes and imprisoned in American concentration camps. Two-thirds were United States citizens. They were not charged with crimes. They were not given trials. They were incarcerated solely because of their Japanese ancestry and the color of their skin.

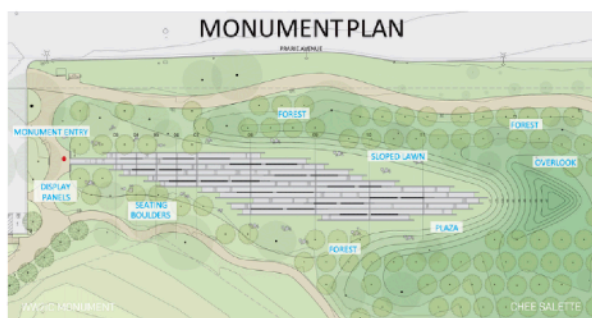
Families lost homes, businesses, farms, possessions, careers, and years of their lives. Children were taken from their schools and communities. Parents were stripped of their dignity and security. Grandparents endured fear and uncertainty in their final years. The terror, trauma, losses, and suffering experienced by these families cannot be overstated.

Today, many survivors are gone. Their voices are fading. But their stories must never disappear.

A Monument Unlike Any Other

In Columbia Park, Torrance, California, a monumental tribute is planned to honor every person who was incarcerated in the wartime camps. The monument will feature the name of every individual who was imprisoned—preserving their identity, their humanity, and their place in American history.

This memorial will be approximately three times the size of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., creating a powerful and enduring testament to one of the most profound violations of civil rights in American history.



Why Your Support Matters

For many families, seeing a parent's, grandparent's, aunt's, uncle's, or child's name etched in stone is more than a historical record—it is recognition. It is validation. It is a declaration that what happened was real, that it mattered, and that those who suffered will not be forgotten.

Every family has a personal history connected to the forced evacuation and incarceration. Some lost everything. Some never recovered financially. Many carried emotional scars for the rest of their lives. The monument will ensure that future generations can walk among these names, learn these stories, and understand the consequences of prejudice, fear, and injustice.

Preserve the Names. Preserve the Truth.

When future generations ask what happened, this monument will stand as a witness.

- It will tell them that innocent American citizens were imprisoned because of their ancestry.
- It will tell them that families endured hardship with courage and resilience.
- It will tell them that a nation can acknowledge its mistakes and commit to remembering them.
- Most importantly, it will ensure that every individual is remembered—not as a number, but as a person.

Japanese American Citizens League - Monterey Peninsula Chapter

By Monterey Peninsula JACL Chapter PO Box 664, Monterey, CA 93942
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. Parking is free in the lot to the left of the Hall on Saturdays and street parking is 2 hours. All are welcome - Admission is FREE - Donations are accepted.

Japanese Conversation Get Together: 2nd Saturday of each month from 1-2:30pm

This is an informal get together for those wanting to practice conversational Japanese. We will have all of you group yourselves by language ability level, helping each other improve your language skills. You do need to be able to speak some Japanese. It's also a great way to make connections on the Monterey Peninsula. Fluent / native speakers welcome, meet new people in the community. The event is free. Please help spread the word.

Heritage Museum

The Heritage Museum will now be open on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10am-2pm. Come learn more about the history of the Japanese on the Monterey Peninsula. Free admission. If interested in becoming a docent, please contact us. If you have a larger group wanting a tour, please email us to make arrangements.

Japantown (Nihonjin-gai) Walks with Tim Thomas - About Monterey's Nihonjin-gai

Did you know that Monterey once had its own Nihonjin-gai (Japantown)? Join Tim Thomas, Fisheries Historian and Curator of the Monterey JACL Heritage Center/Museum on the third Saturday of every month for a neighborhood walking tour of Monterey's Nihonjin-gai and the JACL Heritage Center/Museum. Registration is required. Tours meet outside Japanese American Citizens League at 424 Adams Street, across from Jacks Park.

On Saturday August 15, we held the first Monterey Japantown walk and curators tour of our Heritage Center. I'm happy to report that we were full and even had some on a waiting list.

Marina Multicultural Festival, Saturday September 26 – 11am-3pm

Come enjoy the day at Vince DiMaggio Park (3200 Del Monte Blvd, Marina 93933). “Immerse yourself in a kaleidoscope of cultures from around the world as we celebrate diversity and unity in our community. From captivating performances to mouthwatering cuisine, arts and crafts to interactive activities, there's something for everyone at this lively event! Don't forget to bring a blanket to enjoy the performances on stage comfortably!” Check their website closer to the event for the schedule: <https://www.cityofmarina.org/1302/Marina-Multi-Cultural-Festival>

Abalone Festival 2026 by Tim Thomas

On August 1 & 2, we held the second annual Abalone Festival at the JACL Hall. With a crowd of close to 200 over the weekend, it was another big success. Attendees were treated to some excellent talks from the history of the “Abalone Song” and “Pop” Ernest the “Abalone King” to preserving the Monterey Bay kelp beds. There was a wonderful history (and family history) of Monterey abalone diver, Roy Hattori given by Roy's own grandson and co-director of the Abalone Festival, Tommy Hattori. And like last year, The Monterey Bay Lion Dance paraded everyone to Del Monte Monterey Beach Monterey where the Rumsen Ohlone Tribal Community once again treated everyone to an abalone dance.

British Historian and Chef Joseph Ogilvy who came all the way from London, gave an excellent talk about the California abalone fishery from his new book, Tin Can Coast. The White Abalone Project, from Bodega Bay, gave a great talk and update on the status of the White Abalone. Because of all the work they've been doing on behalf of saving the White Abalone, we awarded them the Roy Hattori Memorial Award—All Things Abalone.

The festival ended with a tour of Monterey Japantown that led to the Monterey Wharf #2 where folks were giving tours of Monterey Abalone Farm.

SENIOR CENTER NEWS FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2026

By Carol Kaneko and Patt Takeuchi, Photos by Gary Mine

We were overjoyed with the addition of three new members! Welcome **Ari Parker**, **Maria Burnett** and **Diane Mio**.

Thanks to **Eileen Byers** for decorating lovely little gifts for all the seniors in recognition of the 4th of July.

We gratefully acknowledge the following monetary birthday donations for July and August: **Jean Yamashita, Emi Hirano, Nobue Fujii, Connie Dimas, Shirley Nishimoto, Paul Kaneko, Maria Burnett, Gail Wurtenberg, June Honda, Eileen Byers, Liz Goodson and Kitty Mizuno.**

Special donations for July and August: **Carolyn Misumi** in memory of **Mitori Misumi, Vicky Tamashiro** in memory of **Kathleen Iwanaga** from her nieces and nephews, and **Shirley Nishimoto** for Senior Center's 55th Anniversary.

Guests in July and August: **Lani Chin, Sharon Bobo's sister, Sophie Doubleddee, Kyoko Oka's granddaughter, Kitty Mizuno's son, Yo Mizuno,** visiting from Okinawa, **Nikki Hikari** from the W-SC JACL board, and **Lupe Acosta and Georgia Acosta,** long time Watsonville residents invited to the Senior Center by **Marcia Hashimoto.**



July birthday honorees present were **Connie Dimas, Nobue Fujii, and Kyoko Oka.** Absent were **Emiko Hirano, Mary Perez, Deanna Salse and Jean Yamashita.**

August birthday honorees present were **Maria Burnett, Eileen Byers, June Honda, Paul Kaneko, Aurora Magana, Kitty Mizuno, and Gail Wurtenberg.** Absent were **Liz Goodson, Shirley Nishimoto (88), and Reiko Yamamoto (95).** Thanks to **Maria Burnett** who donated the beautiful birthday cake and made cute little candy-filled favors for all to enjoy.

Our generous members and guests continue to donate bingo prizes, which we are truly grateful for: **Aimee Mizuno, Anita Alvarado, Andrew and Isabella Alvarado, Aurora Magana, Aurora Magana's sister Ophelia, Barbara/Owen Uyeda, Bette Garcia, Carol Noble, Carol Carpenter, Carol/Paul Kaneko, Carolyn Misumi, Connie Dimas, Norman Uyeda, Diane Mio, Eileen**

W-SC JACL Senior Center
2026 July Birthday Honorees
Connie Dimas Kyoko Oka Nobue Fujii

Byers, Emi Hirano, Evelyn Nartates, Hideko Nagamine, Hiroko Dean, Hisako Kodama, Jean Akiyama, Judy Hane, June Honda, Kitty/Yo, Mizuno, Emi Mizuno (Kitty Mizuno's daughter) Kyoko Oka, Lilia Freitas, Loni Chin, Lupe Noble, Maria Burnett, Mary Perez, Mitsuyo Tao, Nobue Fujii, Nobuko Akiyama, Patt Takeuchi, Reba Condon, Sharon Bobo, Sharon Carreiro, Suzanne Eguchi (Diane Mio's daughter), Toshi Yamashita and Victor Kimura.



W-SC JACL Senior Center
2026 August Birthday Honorees
Paul Kaneko, Maria Burnett, Eileen Byers, June Honda,
Kitty Mizuno, Aurora Magana

Every month we have so many helpers, month in and month out, we are truly grateful:

- Bingo caller: **Leigh Sakaguchi and Carol Carpenter**
- Bingo prize distributor/donations: **Sharon Bobo**
 - Helpers: **Sharon Carreiro and Paul Kaneko**
- Bingo checkers: **Reba Condon and Marcia Hashimoto**
- Monthly birthday cake and setup: **Liz Goodson and June Honda**
- Flowers: **Reba Condon**
- Announcers: **Paul Kaneko and Leigh Sakaguchi**
- Toban: **Leigh Sakaguchi, Paul Kaneko, Evelyn Nartates, Mary Perez, Carol Noble, Connie Dimas, Marcia Hashimoto and Ari Parker**
- Treasurer: **Carol Kaneko**
 - Asst Treasurer: **Toshi Yamashita**
- Attendance: **Nobue Fujii and Mitsuyo Tao**

- Birthday Invitations: **Patt Takeuchi**
- JACL newsletter: **Carol Kaneko** and **Patt Takeuchi**
- Photos: **Gary Mine**
- Blood pressure check: **Cindy Hirokawa Mine**

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Senior Center Schedule October 2026

Oct 1 - Regular Bingo
Oct 8 -55th Anniversary Celebration – Regular Bingo
Oct 15 – October Birthdays – Regular Bingo
Oct 22 – Regular Bingo
Oct 29 – Regular Bingo

WATSONVILLE TAIKO AND SHINSEI DAIKO *By Bonnie Chihara*

Class schedule–

Intro to taiko
Friday 10 am–11am
November 6th–December 18th

Fridays
4:30–5:30– Beginning Children

Saturday 9am–10am
November 7th–December 12th

No classes on November 27th and November 28th.

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

Our upcoming schedule–

- Saturday October 3rd–Zoom Honk Smash:Touch a Trunk, Santa Cruz Children's Museum of Discovery, Capitola Mall, 11:am–11:15 am
- Sunday November 1st–Watsonville Taiko's Holiday Boutique, Kizuka Hall, 150 Blackburn St. 12–4pm.

Our Holiday Boutique is scheduled for Sunday November 1st from 12–4pm. Please join us for a fun day of holiday shopping and gathering to see old friends and possibly meet new friends too. We will have our usual gift baskets, gift certificates, plants, food and local vendors selling their unique wares. We will have our choose your prize raffle as well as our Japanese themed quilt raffle.

Watsonville Taiko's Annual Holiday Boutique

Sunday, November 1, 2026, 12:00 – 4:00 PM
Kizuka Hall: 150 Blackburn St, Watsonville



QUILTS

- Arts & Crafts, Gift Certificates
- Gift Baskets, Theme Baskets
- Plants, Succulents
- Food and Much More

Welcome to our Annual Fundraising Holiday Boutique!
Enjoy shopping for the holiday season and the surprise of running into someone you haven't seen in a while.



Free Admission

Join us for Holiday Fun and Shopping

Event Information:info@watsonvilletaiko.org

WATSONVILLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE

The Watsonville Buddhist Temple's September 2026 newsletter, Ichimi, was delayed. Please see the Watsonville Buddhist Temple website for the most current information.



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.

Schedule of September Events

September 27th, 10:00 am: Regular Sunday Service

Schedule of October Events

Sunday, October 4th, 10:00 am: October Memorial Service (Shotsuki Hoyo)

Sunday, October 11th, 10:00 am: Regular Sunday Service

Sunday, October 18th, 10:00 am: Regular Sunday Service

Saturday, October 24, 2026: 120th Anniversary Celebration

For the latest updates, see the WBT website: www.wbtemple.org

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

Veronica's Ordination

“For decades, I’ve seen the Westview ‘Chimes’ newsletter pinned to the bulletin board of First Presbyterian Church, Altadena”-Veronica Ota

For decades, I’ve seen the Westview “Chimes” newsletter pinned to the bulletin board of First Presbyterian Church, Altadena (FPCA) – the church I grew up attending, where I still work (part-time hybrid) in community outreach, and where I’m under care as a candidate for ministry [recalls Veronica Ota in a Presbytery newsletter]. “I’ll be honest, I never read the “Chimes” on the bulletin board, but when my husband and I moved up to Prunedale/Castroville last September, I figured Westview would be a good place to visit since I had some sort of connection.

Westview and FPCA are small, multicultural churches that share a common history as Japanese American churches. While it was exciting and nostalgically heartwarming to see old photos of the Westview congregation that reminded me very much of my home church, what really impressed me about Westview was not their past, but their future. They were in the process of constructing a tiny home community called “HOPE Village” on their campus to serve their neighbors experiencing homelessness.

Westview is small in number, but the decision to partner with Community Action Board (CAB), and the counties of Monterey and Santa Cruz to construct a tiny home community that can help provide housing for up to 34 people at a time is big, giant, herculean, I would even say miraculous! HOPE Village provides more than shelter. It offers healing to its residents who come traumatized by the harsh life of living on the street. They are wrapped in the care of counselors, and advocates who help them get back on their feet again. A similar model exists in Santa Barbara and has an 85% success rate!

I, Pastor Dan, truly believe Veronica has been inspired by God's creative Spirit, to start Good Growth Garden. **I asked Veronica what are you most hopeful/excited about the Good Growth Garden ministry? She thoughtfully responded:**

In my journey as a peace educator and advocate, I've come to learn, as many do, that all creation is interconnected. In order for us to experience even a glimpse of God's peaceful kingdom of truly beloved community, we not only need to address the holistic wellbeing of human neighbors, but also of all entities that we share existence with – plants, animals, insects, fungi, water, air, soil. The Good Growth Garden gives me hope that we can create a community that can experience the beauty of mutuality, relationship, and deep connection with the earth as a faithful expression of spirituality.

I am energized and inspired because I already see this happening. People are being drawn to the space – they want to volunteer, donate, take a peek at what's growing, get their hands dirty. We've already had folks from HOPE Village, Westview members, friends of Westview, the youth group of Sunnyvale, Watsonville locals, and other Presbytery friends volunteer and we haven't even established our regular schedule yet. Moreover, I've seen bees, butterflies, birds, ladybugs, and aphids enjoying the foliage. I talk to the dog that barks at me from next door, hoping to become friends. The first batch of compost has resurrected nutrients into garden beds.

The Good Growth Garden is already growing food, community, and love, and I cannot wait to see what it will become in the coming months as my position as Minister of Peacemaking and Justice for our Presbytery expands to allow me to serve as the organizing pastor of the Good Growth Garden as an emerging new worshipping community. Contact Veronica@sanjosepby.org or (831) 288-8948 to get involved!



Veronica is already the Peace and Justice Advocate for the Presbytery of San Jose part-time, but now she's **going to be ordained** (yes ordained!) to a Presbytery position where she will also be ¼ time Good Growth Garden pastor. (Photo: Veronica wholeheartedly approved for ordination by San Jose Presbytery Committee on Ministry in July via Zoom – it was a time for celebration!!)

We are delighted that she will be in an official capacity connected with our church, caring for the Hope Village residents, Westview family, and our neighbors through the ministry of a garden. Her hope is that it will build community, be a place for spiritual discussions, a place for service to others, and hopefully be a place where we celebrate Lord's Supper celebrations feasting around the food we have grown together!

You can donate to her garden ministry or to her salary, which is mostly being paid by the Presbytery, while we pay a small portion of it. (Write "Veronica Good Growth Garden" in the memo, & specify if would like your gift to go "towards the garden" or "towards her salary.")

She will be ordained on September 20 at her home church, Altadena Presbyterian Church. I, Pastor Dan, get to be in attendance (with bells on) and a part of the community that blesses her in her ordination.

Please be in prayer for her and for the Holy Spirit to anoint her in her in a special way at ordination and continue to guide her ministry. Please also come and hear her preach for she will be preaching at times here at Westview amidst her busy schedule. She is a very gifted preacher!

I appreciate you, the Westview family. YOU, and not the building, ARE the church! God continues to amaze us with God's creativity and desire to bring healing and love to so many through the Westview family.

May you know God's constant embrace,

Pastor Dan

Live and Zoom Worship Services at Westview!!

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

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: September 20 – Rev. Julie Porras-Center
September 27 – David Kadotani with Rev. Hoffman (Living with Parkinson's disease)

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.

HOPE Village Update

HOPE Village (Tiny Homes) opened in early February and is at full capacity at 34 residents! A few have already moved to more permanent housing! We cherish your continued prayers for the residents and for the stellar staff that is caring for them! 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 mention or put in the memo that it is for HOPE Village or for SonRise Kitchen if you prefer it to go there).

Margo's Closet...

Our clothing closet has been a hit!—racks of nice clothes, shoes, and even a changing room! Many of the HOPE Village residents and others from SonRise Kitchen have been able to receive nice clothing when they needed it. Thank you, Elizabeth for your hard work in keeping it organized and well stocked! If you would like to donate gently used clothing or other items, please contact Margo.



Top Left Photo:
Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church Youth and Church Leaders help Veronica with Good Growth Garden in August.

Top Right and Right Photo:
Midge's 100th Birthday Celebration: People came to celebrate Midge at Corralitos Community Center and our wonderful Midge enjoying her Birthday Celebration.

World Communion Sunday

World Communion Sunday (WCS) is a global Christian observance held on the first Sunday of October and is celebrated in hundreds of denominations worldwide, from large cathedrals to small village churches. Presbyterian and other churches will gather in worship, share in communion, and give World Communion Offering, embodying the vision of global Christian unity rooted in justice, kindness, and humility.