

Liberty  
Lost...



Lessons in  
Loyalty

## THE WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL

Newsletter September 2011

### **AN AMERICAN STORY: WW II STORIES OF THE TRAGEDY AND TRIUMPH OF OUR JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY DURING WARTIME**

by Marcia Hashimoto

On Saturday, August 27, 2011, at our JACL Kizuka Hall, "An American Story of WW II: The Triumph and Tragedy of the Japanese American Community During Wartime" was presented by **Heather Geddes** and **Watonka Addison** of the Watsonville Public Library and the **Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL**. The project was funded by a grant from the **California Civil Liberties Public Education Program**.

Heather stated, "The goal of our project is to create community awareness and an interactive discussion of the Japanese American experience during WW II from first-person stories, especially focused on the incarceration and veterans' service to America."

Watonka commented, "The film reflects the wisdom, honesty, and wide-ranging experiences from the participants, with powerful common threads weaving the stories together, making us ponder deep questions regarding our history and values as Americans, our democracy, and our civil liberties. A good clue to the success of the project was the reaction of my 11 year-old son, who sat to watch the DVD with me. He was riveted by every story."



Our W-SC JACL President **David Kadotani** welcomed and thanked everyone for coming.

**Marcia Hashimoto** introduced Heather and Watonka, who explained the importance of this program.

Retired teacher, **Mas Hashimoto**, presented a brief historical background on our wartime experience.

The JACL Hall was filled with 110 persons of all ages who attentively listened to the highlights of the incarceration and military service stories as told by **Lea Haratani**; **Mas Hashimoto**; **Faye Hashitani**; **Frances Hoshiyama-Marcia Hashimoto** (daughter); the late **Shigeru T. Kizuka**, **Shoichi Kobara**; **Robb Mayeda**; **Tom Mine**; **Dr. Masako Miura, MD**; **Sam Sakamoto**; **Louise Sako**; **Franz Steidl**; **Koso Takemoto**; **Dr. Steven**

**Tanaka, DC**; **Chiyoko Yagi**; and **Verner Gurke** - **Heidi Gurke Donald** (daughter).



The complete story of each participant can be seen on a computer kiosk at Watsonville Public Library created by Heather (left), Watonka (right), and the **San Diego Media Arts Center**. Photo courtesy of **Todd Guild**, *Register-Pajaronian*.

You can access these stories on your personal computer, by following these simple instructions:

- (1) Go to the [www.watsonvillelibrary.org](http://www.watsonvillelibrary.org) website.
- (2) Click on "Research Center" tab.
- (3) Click on "An American Story of WW II."
- (4) Click on "View Stories" created at the Watsonville Library.

You may purchase the DVD for only \$5 by contacting Heather Geddes at (831) 768-3400.

We are grateful to our participants who willingly shared their stories for this project, and we are excited about the inclusion of **Verner Gurke's** incarceration story at Crystal City, TX as told by his daughter, **Heidi Gurke Donald**. The Gurke family is of German ancestry.

The success of this project is credited to our interneers and their family members who so eloquently expressed their stories.

The DVD, the **National JACL's Curriculum Guide** and **The Journey from Gold Mountain: The Asian American Experience** (indispensible resources for teachers) will be presented to public and private high school social studies departments in Santa Cruz County.

W-SC JACL sincerely appreciates the heartfelt effort put forth by Heather Geddes and Watonka Addison in bringing our wartime stories to the public and to our local high school students.

## W-SC JACL NEEDS YOUR HELP

We have an ambitious plan to document the history of the Japanese and Japanese American families who lived in the Watsonville-Santa Cruz area at one time or another.

The book's title tentatively is:

### WATSONVILLE'S NIHONMACHI: THEN AND NOW

September and October have been designated as our **research months**. Those who wish to have their family's story published/recorded need to look at the family photo albums, marriage and legal documents, letters, and other records and then select the significant ones which should be carefully placed in a special envelope or folder. We can scan the ones to be used.

We suggest during this **Thanksgiving's festivities, Nov. 24**, the family gets together to discuss the family's history. A student member of the family—high school or college—may wish to write it. Parents can start with their own history and work backwards to your Issei immigrant parents or grandparents. Some of your family's best source of information may be relatives, friends, and others. We can help with translation of documents, and we can also scan the photos and documents.

While the title's focal point may center on Watsonville's *Nihonmachi*, our story must include all of Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley—Aptos, Aromas, Soquel, Pajaro, Capitola, Santa Cruz, Davenport, Scotts Valley, Las Lomas, *et al*—wherever the pursuit of our people's *American Dream* took them. "Then" refers to the pre-war era while "Now" refers to the post-war era. It will include all those who came to our area after WW II as well.

We are fortunate to have a head start for the early history is well-documented. We can draw upon **Sandy Lydon's** *The Japanese in the Monterey Bay Region: A Brief History*; **Eleanor Johnson's** *The Japanese and Japanese Americans in the Pajaro Valley 1892-1967*; **Kazuko Nakane's** *Nothing Left In My Hands, The Issei of a Rural California Town, 1900-1942*; and **Joanne Resetar's** *Nihon Bunka: Japanese Culture, One Hundred Years in the Pajaro Valley*; and **Westview Presbyterian Church** and the **Watsonville Buddhist Temple** have their history recorded. **Norman Abe** has a detailed map of our *Nihonmachi*. Old directories of the *Nichi Bei Times* and *Hokubei Mainichi* and other publications will prove helpful. The Pajaro Valley Historical Association and Watsonville City Library staff will be asked for assistance.

Many Nikkei families struggled before the Great Depression. They struggled while in "camp." They struggled in the post-war, resettlement period. The greatest success story in this country is of the Nikkei community! We believe our local history deserves to be recognized, acknowledged, and honored.

To our amazing good fortune, **James Ong**, a graduate student at UCSC, has enthusiastically agreed to assist us in this endeavor.

In the October issue of our W-SC JACL newsletter we will print a story of one family as a sample. It will be approximately 2,500 words in length, and it will include several family photos of historic interest.

## DAISY UYEDA SATODA OF SF REMEMBERS ....

Congrats on serving as grand marshals for the big Watsonville Fourth of July Parade.

I remember what a big deal it was for us when we were kids--that was when the Carnival came to town! We loved running from one outdoor stage to another to see the preview of the big shows that took place in the big tents.

Mas, you are too young, but what a thrill to see the flaming torch as well as the sword swallows, the dancing show "girls" who tantalized the male-dominated crowd with their "hootchy-kootchy" dances, dog/man, the fattest man in the world, the East Indian man who slept on a bed of nails, etc. How hokey, but we loved all of it. Couldn't afford to go to the shows, and some were "R" rated. And, we made our 15 cents last all day long - 10 cents for a ride and 5 cents for my favorite pink cotton candy (ugh!). That parade with all the horses, marching bands, school bands, etc., was really big!

[Editor's note: Thanks for these memories, Daisy. I'm nearly 76 years old, and I'm too young? Now, do you remember this photo of a 4<sup>th</sup> of July float by the **Japanese Association of Watsonville**, dated 1934? Beautiful young ladies in colorful kimono sat under a tree with pink cherry blossoms made of paper. Red and blue ribbons on a field of white decorated the float. This photo was taken where Yamashita's Market stands today at 114 Union Street. Murakami's house is in the background. The house is still there.]



## "WISH LIST" FOR WATSONVILLE'S NIHONMACHI STORIES

We are in need of photos, including snapshots with Nikkei in the photos, of:

- Toyo Hall
- Japanese School
- Old Japanese Presbyterian Church
- Baseball field
- Nihonmachi*—Japantown: shops/businesses in Watsonville and in Pajaro
- Farms and farm laborers around Watsonville
- Community picnics (at Palm Beach, and others)
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade
- Others you believe of historical importance to our project.

If you can help us, please contact **Mas Hashimoto**, 578 Vivienne Drive, Watsonville, CA 95076-3530, or email him at [hashi79@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hashi79@sbcglobal.net).

## POSTON AZ CAMP BLOCK MAPS

by **Bob Iwamasa**

An updated set of block maps containing the names, ages and citizenship for all of the people relocated to Poston Camp I, II and III is available for viewing at the **POSTON RESTORATION PROJECT** website put together and maintained by **Dianne Kiyomoto**.

Each family member (including babies born in camp) is listed in the apartment spaces they occupied in one of 14 barracks for every block.

Camp I had 36 blocks, Camp II had 15 blocks, and Camp III had 18 blocks. Also shown are maps for Camp I, II and III, showing the location of the blocks, schools, churches etc.

The web site can be accessed at: <http://postonblockmaps.blogspot.com/>

The currently posted block maps contain 16,944 names of men, women and children who were incarcerated at Poston, Arizona from 1941 to 1945. Camp I (8,910), Camp II (3,529), Camp III (4,505).

This is an ongoing project, and the block maps will be updated when new information is received.

Please send any questions, additions/corrections and inputs to **Dianne Kiyomoto** at [diannerd79@yahoo.com](mailto:diannerd79@yahoo.com).

[Editor's note: We are very grateful to **Bob Iwamasa**, **Dianne Kiyomoto**, **Haru Watanabe**, and **Tak Kohatsu** for working so hard on our Poston Camp Reunion. Thank you! If you haven't signed up for Poston it's not too late.

Recently, huge **dust storms** covered Phoenix, and some of us remembered how in Poston the dust covered everything. The dust storms were quiet, "slow moving" and hundreds of feet high. Light brown in color. You could see them coming. The glass windshields of the cars became opaque or milky colored with very fine particles of dust embedded. Glass isn't as smooth as you may think. It has tiny, tiny holes.

And, **sand storms** ... well, when you were caught in the open in a sand storm, it was like being in a sand blaster. The sand hurt your face ... The paint on the trucks was blasted off. We ate dust, breathed dust, and washed dust/sand from our reddened eyes, ears and hair. Our spit was "muddied." We then washed and cleaned everything, only to have another storm come. Oh, the heartaches. We didn't mind those little whirlwinds (little tornados). They were kinda fun to watch.]

## REMEMBERING POSTON, OCT 7-9, 2011

"Our Family Legacy—Poston 2011" is the theme for the Poston Reunion 2011, Friday-Sunday, October 7-9 at the Aquarius Hotel, Laughlin, NV. All Postonites, relatives, friends, and anyone interested in learning more about our wartime incarceration are most welcome. Over 200 have registered.

Some families, the Kadotanis, are attending as a "family reunion" in Poston to explain to the *Yonsei* and *Gosei* members what really happened nearly 70 years ago and why it happened.

For registration forms and additional information, please contact **Haru Watanabe**, (310) 327-2596 or email [hwatanabe11@netscape.com](mailto:hwatanabe11@netscape.com) or **Tak Kohatsu** (626) 285-4529 or email [martak@sbcglobal.net](mailto:martak@sbcglobal.net).

On Friday, there will be registration, display of pictures, memorabilia, books, and copies of the **Poston**

**Chronicle** and a social mixer--renewing acquaintances and meeting new friends with an informal program with impromptu speakers and games, hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Personal stories will be recorded.



Scheduled on Saturday is a trip to the Poston site and the **Memorial Monument** (built in 1992) and a short ride to the remains of the Poston I adobe elementary school built in 1943. Poston had the only adobe construction of all 10 WRA camps. Returning, enjoy a buffet dinner. Guest speaker will be **Dr. Lisa Sugimoto** who will address the State bill awarding honorary degrees to those who were denied completing college due to the incarceration.

For those attending the Poston Reunion, a round-trip bus transportation from Laughlin, NV to Poston, AZ on Saturday, October 8, 2011 will be available at \$25 per person. We highly recommend this bus because the trip from Laughlin to Poston is 2-3 hours.

If you are interested, please contact: **Tak Kohatsu** at (626) 285-4529 or [martak@sbcglobal.net](mailto:martak@sbcglobal.net) right away.

We'd love to see all Postonites and their family members in attendance and sharing their stories!

## ANNOUNCING FISCAL YEAR 2012 JAPANESE AMERICAN CONFINEMENT SITES GRANT PROGRAM

Beginning **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2011**, applications for fiscal year 2012 will be available to assist private non-profit organizations, educational institutions, state, local and tribal governments, and other public entities in their efforts to preserve confinement sites where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II and to educate and inspire present and future generations about the importance of these historic places.

For more information about the grant program and grant application process, visit the following website: <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/hpg/JACS/index.html>

Applications must be received by: **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2011**. If you have any questions, please contact one of the NPS regional offices listed below:

### Pacific West Region

CA, ID, NV, OR, WA, and other states not listed

Contact: **Tom Leatherman**

Phone: 925-838-0249 ext. 6301

Email: [tom\\_leatherman@nps.gov](mailto:tom_leatherman@nps.gov)

### Intermountain Region

AZ, CO, MT, NM, OK, TX, UT, WY

Contact: **Kara Miyagishima**

Phone: 303-969-2885

Email: [kara\\_miyagishima@nps.gov](mailto:kara_miyagishima@nps.gov)

## Midwest Region

AR, IA, IL, IN, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI

Contact: **Rachel Franklin-Weekley**

Phone: 402-661-1928

Email: rachel\_franklin-weekley@nps.gov

## Hawaii

Contact: **Suzanne Bott**

Phone: 808-541-2693 ext. 737

Email: suzanne\_bott@nps.gov

## **\$78 MILLION DOLLARS RETURNED BY THE RESIDENTS**

While looting often becomes an issue post-disaster, it's been the exact opposite case in Japan.

Since the March earthquake and tsunami that leveled much of Japan, thousands of wallets containing a total of \$48 million in cash have washed ashore -- and been turned in. In addition, 5,700 safes containing \$30 million in cash also have turned up.

**Ryuji Ito**, professor emeritus at Japan's Yokohama City University, tells the *Daily Mail* that these acts of integrity are simply reflective of the culture:

"...The fact that a hefty 2.3 billion yen in cash has been returned to its owners shows the high level of ethical awareness in the Japanese people."

And doing the right thing doesn't just end with the people who found the money. Japanese officials have also worked tirelessly to track down owners and return safes and other valuables.

Police in **Miyagi** prefecture searched for residents at evacuation centers and made their way through missing person reports and address forms at the post office. Police also met with mayors and called any cell phone numbers they could find.

Officials tell the news outlet that the difficulty lay in determining whether homes were gone and if the owners were actually still alive.

## **SUSHI GARDEN RESTAURANTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

by **David Kadotani**

After the Japan earthquake and tsunami disaster, **Bryan Wie**, owner of the **Watsonville and Capitola Sushi Garden Japanese Restaurants**, took it upon himself to make a difference. He started a collection to which his restaurant patrons donated \$295. He made a matching donation of \$300 and forwarded the total of \$595 to our Northern Japan Earthquake Relief Fund. We thank Bryan Wie, Sushi Garden, and their patrons for their concern, thoughtfulness and generosity.

The donations were forwarded to the **Northern Japan Earthquake Relief Fund of Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC)** for "100% of the donations go directly towards citizen relief efforts in the most critically affected areas." Their volunteers have brought all your thoughts and prayers of support to share with the people of Japan.

Our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Chapter sent \$1,000 to JCCCNC's relief efforts and its members donated a great deal more. We thank all of you who have donated directly to JCCCNC's relief efforts. There is still much work to be done by all.

## **CONGRATULATIONS, JAMIE KURATOMI!**

We've just learned that our **Jamie Kuratomi** is the recipient of the **Dr. Kiyoshi Sonoda Memorial Scholarship**. Dr. Sonoda, a graduate of the University of Southern California's School of Dentistry, established a successful dental practice in Los Angeles.

Dr. Sonoda was an active member of the JACL beginning in 1945, in which he was one of the very first **Life Member of the One Thousand Club** and a past president of the **West Los Angeles JACL Chapter**. This scholarship is awarded to a student studying in the field of dentistry.



Jamie, a recipient of our chapter's **Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarship** in 2007, is the daughter of **Dr. Reed and Nancy Kuratomi** of Watsonville. We couldn't be more proud.

We thank the **Kiyoshi Sonoda** family for their dedication to JACL and commitment to our young people, and we wish Jamie continued success.

## **"WE WILL NEVER FORGET" 9/11 Ten Year Commemoration**

On **September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 12 noon to 3 pm**, the **Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds**, 2601 East Lake Avenue in Watsonville, CA 95076, will host a special tribute marking the 10 year anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy by paying homage to its victims, rescue workers, and surviving loved ones. The public is invited. The event and parking are free. We encourage families and friends to join us for this special afternoon.

September 11th is a time to remember both the victims and heroes of 9/11, and those who protect us. Like other communities across the United States, Santa Cruz County will mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of September 11<sup>th</sup> with a ceremony to honor their memory.

The event will include a ceremonial flag-raising, a 21-gun salute, tower survivors, a large screen presentation, the playing of bag pipes, a "missing man" formation fly-over, and a memorial name flag ceremony. Clydesdale horse rides, fingerprinting for kids, crime fighter dog, lunch and live band will commence after the ceremony. Guests can meet and speak with **Santa Cruz County's Emergency First Responders**.

The **Watsonville, Santa Cruz, and Scotts Valley Police Departments** along with the **Santa Cruz County**

Sheriff's Department, many Fire Departments, and the Fallen Officer's Foundation, to name a few, will participate and be in attendance.

For more information, contact:

**Kelly Baker**, Event Coordinator, 831.454.0303,  
[sczjo@comcast.net](mailto:sczjo@comcast.net);

**Steve Stagnaro**, Director of Marketing, 408.354.5145,  
[steve@stagnaro.com](mailto:steve@stagnaro.com), or

**Sharon Hayashi**, Public Relations, 831.724.7192,  
[slhayashi@msn.com](mailto:slhayashi@msn.com)

### **KYO no KAI JAPANESE DANCE PERFORMANCE**

Hello:

My name is **Amanda Akiyama**, and I will be performing in the *Kyo no Kai* Japanese dance performance. I am 15 years old and have been practicing Japanese dance for 3 years now. This will be my first major formal production. I am very excited to be performing and to be a part of such a prestigious dance performance. I want to share this unique performance opportunity with as many people as I can.



[Editor's note: Amanda is the daughter of **Ben and Patty Akiyama**, and the granddaughter of **Isamu and Kiiko Akiyama** of Watsonville.]

**KYO no KAI PRESENTED BY U. S. KABUKI KEN KYU KAI** Japanese Classical Dance Recital and *Kabuki* Dance Performance

Kabuki Theater dates back to the late 1500s to early 1600s and has been an art form that is well protected by family lineages and rarely taught to outsiders. In addition, the Grand Kabuki rarely performs internationally. The last West Coast performance was held in 2005. It is usually only accessible to the general public for viewing in Japan.

Led by American-born *Kabuki* actor **Nakamura Gankyo**, the U.S. *Kabuki Ken Kyu Kai* will present the 5th anniversary ***Kyo no Kai: Clash of the Thunder*** on Sunday, September 18, at 1:00 pm at the California State University Monterey Bay's World Theater, 100 Campus Center, Seaside, CA 93955. World Theater is located on 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., between A and B Streets.

Tickets are \$30 for general public, and are available at CSUMB World Theater Box Office, 100 Campus Center, Building 28, Seaside, CA 93955-8001; Box Office; 831-582-4580. For ticket information in Japanese or English, please call **Mrs. Nancy Sheldahl**, 831-384-6708.

**Kyo No Kai: Clash of the Thunder** is a production of various *Kabuki* dance dramas. This production will feature **Nakamura Gankyo**, along with guest artists from Japan, *Kabuki* actor **Bando Yahiro**, Japanese classical dance artist **Fujima Toyohiro**, and **Bando Ai**.

Together with Nakamura Gankyo, Bando Yahiro will be featured in *Kabuki* dance drama, ***Kaminari Sendo***, or "The Thunder Sprits and the Boatman." This is a comical *Kabuki* dance drama that is rarely performed in Japan. The dance depicts that the Thunder Spirit has fallen to Earth and has an interesting encounter with a drunken boatman.

**Bando Hirohichiro** and **Fujima Toyohiro** will perform ***Katusaburo Renjishi***, or "The Tale of Two Lions," and ***Ninoguchi Mura***, the plight of two lovers.

**Bando Ai** will perform ***Sukeroku: The Flower of Edo***.

Don't miss this exciting *Kabuki* performance!

Nakamura Gankyo is a Southern California native and the first foreigner to be accepted as a professional *Kabuki* actor since the founding of the *Kabuki* Theater. Nakamura Gankyo is apprenticed to National Living Treasure, **Sakata Tōjūrō IV**, and has performed extensively throughout Japan and internationally in China, South Korea, England, India and the United States. After founding *Kyo no Kai* in 2007 in hopes of promoting the *Kabuki* Theater and Japanese Classical dance to the citizens of the United States, he has founded two studios, one in Los Angeles and one in Monterey Bay. He is currently a PhD student in Classical Japanese at University of California, Los Angeles.

Fujima Toyohiro is one of the leading performers in Kansai (Osaka/Kyoto), and choreographs for ***Takarazuka Theater*** (all women theater) and the *Kabuki* Theater.

Bando Ai is a top artist in Tokyo representing the Bando school of Japanese Classical dance. Along with being a top performing artist, Bando Ai teaches many of the up and coming *Kabuki* actors in the art of Japanese Classical dance. Bando Ai will perform ***Sukeroku: The Flower of Edo***, a *Kabuki* dance drama that is part of the Eighteen Favorite *Kabuki* dramas.

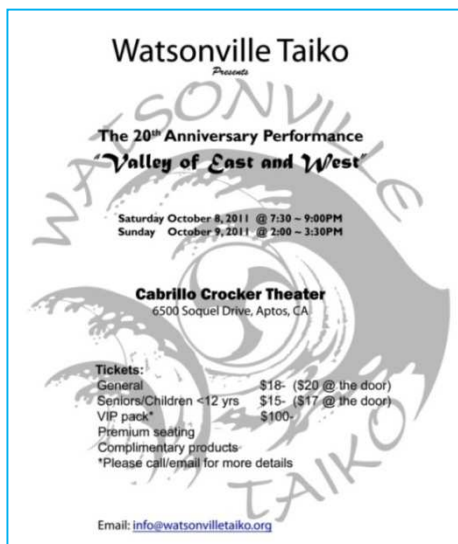
Also performing will be our very own Watsonville Taiko sensei, **Ikuyo Conant!**

### **WATSONVILLE TAIKO AND SHINSEI DAIKO**

**Watsonville Taiko's** 20th Anniversary show at Cabrillo Crocker Theater 6500 Soquel Dr, Aptos CA 95003 will be held on **Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-9 pm and Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 3:30 pm.**

Ticket prices are \$18 (\$20 purchased at the door) for general admission. Seniors and children under 12 \$15

(\$17 at the door). For more information and to order tickets please call Taeko at (831) 435-4594 or go to our web site [infor@watsonvilletaiko.org](mailto:infor@watsonvilletaiko.org).



Don't forget that we continue to have classes every Friday for adults and children 8 years and up.



This new, magnificent *Odaiko*, hand-made by **Joe Bowes** and shown here with wife **Christine**, was dedicated with a plaque which reads:

**THIS ODAIKO WAS DONATED TO W.T.G. BY JOE AND CHRISTINE BOWES IN MEMORY OF MR. SHIGERU T. KIZUKA. HE SERVED PROUDLY IN THE 100<sup>TH</sup>/442<sup>ND</sup> R. C.T. DURING WW II. THANK YOU!**

The *Odaiko* sounds are absolutely beautiful! Thank you, Joe!

We are sad to pass on the news that one of our former members **Karen Sanchez** passed away suddenly this month. She was a talented member of *Watsonville Taiko and Shinsei Daiko* performing and teaching while still a teenager. She was only 30 years old. She will be

truly missed by all of us who knew her and remember her quick smile and all that she brought to our group.

## WATSONVILLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE'S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CHICKEN TERIYAKI DINNER by Mas Hashimoto

On Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> the Watsonville Buddhist Temple will mark its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the **Chicken Teriyaki Dinners.**

Years before the chicken *teriyaki*, the Temple, as a fund-raiser, hosted pay-bingo games. A WHS teacher of science, **Mr. Norm Haney**, spent \$20 (a considerable sum then) and never won a bingo. His good friends joked that he wasn't very scientific in picking out the right cards.

WBT board member **Fred Nitta** remarked the Temple should not be engaged in any activity that was illegal (at the time, bingo was illegal), and we should not place our friends in the police department in a compromising position. A board member and colleague of that WHS teacher agreed. The question was what activity could the Temple sponsor as a fund-raiser and where the entire community would benefit and enjoy—one where everyone would be a winner? **Enmanji Temple** hosted a successful chicken *teriyaki* take-out dinner. A committee was sent to Sebastopol to learn how to prepare and to present a chicken *teriyaki* dinner. There was a take-out dinner, and they served thousands of dinners.

But, how many in our Watsonville community would purchase chicken *teriyaki* dinners? We weren't sure. To entice would-be customers, the Temple decided to have entertainment with a sit-down dinner. The customers stayed seated to watch the entertainment. To be profitable, we needed each chair ("turn over") to be occupied by 2 ½ persons during the evening. Next year, the entertainment was eliminated without any consequence. We knew the community would enjoy a sit-down dinner, a night out, and conversing with our Sangha members.

The chicken *teriyaki* dinner, served on the Saturday after the Santa Cruz County Fair, was a huge success. The Temple hall became the busiest restaurant in town that evening, serving thousands of our community friends. Annually, friends and patrons came from all over to socialize with friends. They looked forward to the event.

Perhaps, the most rewarding aspect of this annual event involved every member of the Sangha helping in one capacity or another. It brought members back to the Temple!

Take-out tickets, \$10 each, may be purchased from Temple members or from the Temple Secretary, **Jackie Yamashita**, 423 Bridge Street, Watsonville, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, Mon. to Fri. Call (831) 724-7860.

## WATSONVILLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE NEWS

The Temple calendar for September is as follows:

6	Tues.	7:30 pm	Temple Board Meeting
7	Wed.	1 pm	BWA Meeting
8	Thurs.	6 pm	ABA Meeting
9	Fri.	2 pm	San Juan <i>Howakai</i>
11	Sun.	10 am	Sunday & <i>Shotsuki</i> Service
18	Sun.	10 am	Sunday Service
24	Sat.	9 am – 2 pm	50 <sup>th</sup> Chicken <i>Teriyaki</i> Take-Out Dinner

**31 Sun. 10 am Sunday & Higan Services with Rev. Inouye & luncheon**

Visiting our Temple was the Consul General of Japan, **Hiroshi Inomata**. He was impressed with the Temple's facilities—*hongo*, classrooms, conference room, offices, hall, and apartments—and its century old traditions. He was presented with our Temple's Centennial book.



**Itaru Nitao, Consul General Inomata, Rev. Shousei Hanayama, and Consul Tetsuo Higashino.**

**RECESSION HITS THE TOOTH FAIRY!**

The tooth fairy is feeling the economic pinch, leaving \$2.60 per tooth, down from \$3 the year before. That's the finding of a Visa Inc., survey.

About 90% of American children younger than the age of 12 report getting a visit from the tooth fairy.

The amount left per tooth varied by region, with children in the Northeast getting \$2.10 per tooth, down from \$3.40 and children in the West getting \$2.90 up from \$2.70.

Three out of 10 children receive \$1 per tooth, according to the survey.

"Ye gads! \$2.60 per tooth? What happened to the nickel we got? We never got anything that was 'legal tender' (dime to paper currency). If we got anything "legal tender," we really smiled a toothless grin in the morning."

While thinking of singer **Doris Day**, try singing these substitute lyrics to the tune of "It's Magic":

*You sigh a toothless grin,  
Saliva dripping down your chin,  
It's Tragic.*

Come to think of it, these lyrics could apply to us, the elderly, too.

**SENIOR CENTER NEWS by Kitako Izumizaki**

August was not a busy month for Seniors, except for the presentation on Saturday, August 27 of "An American Story" – stories of incarceration and military service during WW II by our community members.

We all miss **Kazuko Sakai**, who underwent knee surgery and is recovering at the Santa Cruz Healthcare Center. Rehab will take a while, and she is looking forward to having visitors.

It was good to see **Alice Tanimoto** back for a visit.

August birthdays were celebrated on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Celebrants were **Gladys Fukumoto 88, June Honda, Paul Kaneko, Akira Kodama 90, Yukio Nagata, Betty Oda, and Mark Takeuchi. Kazuko Sakai** was absent.

(See the Seniors' Corner on page 15 for the group photo.) All who were there received brownie pops.

In addition, Gladys received a potted orchid plant and Akira a package of *manju*. They puckered up in an attempt to blow out the candles. Photo by **Carol Kaneko**.



The family of **Akira Kodama** treated the Seniors to a scrumptious Chinese buffet dinner from *Golden Rickshaw*, with plenty of *sushi* and *cookies* and Jell-O for dessert. We really enjoyed the repast, and we thank all of the Kodama family members for this extra special treat. Daughter **Nancy Tamaki** had arranged the celebration for her father's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Birthday table flowers were from **Hisako Kodama** and **Jean Akiyama** and were arranged by **Mitsuyo Tao** with carnations and status. The head table held an arrangement of snow balls, gladiolas and cock's comb. Many thanks to **Nancy Kuratomi** and **Gary and Cindy Mine** who helped set up for the birthday celebration

**Aimee Mizuno** announced that she is collecting books suitable for 3rd graders, and is also seeking donations so she can purchase materials for a library in her new class this year. Donations were collected, and Aimee thanked the Seniors on her *Facebook* page.

**Paul Kaneko** announced that there are only 9 people signed up to see the *Santa Cruz Follies*, a group of senior citizens who dance and sing. Reservations can be made for the matinee on September 16 with Paul.

**Mas Hashimoto** is asking for stories of every family in the Pajaro Valley for the W-SC JACL's project—*Watsonville Nihonmachi: Then and Now*. Even out-of-towners, but former Watsonville residents, are encouraged to write and submit their story/history.

Many thanks to *tobans* **Nobue Fujii, Chie Sakaue, Kimiyo Fujii, Alice Tanimoto, Aimee Mizuno, Eiko Stewart, Sachi Snyder, Shirley Nishimoto, Susan AmRhein** and **Mark Takeuchi. Gary and Cindy Mine** also came to help. Many thanks to all of you for your continued dedication and service.

A schedule of upcoming special events for the next 2 months was handed out (regular bingo on all Thursdays):

- Thurs. Sept. 15, our monthly birthday party,
- Fri. Sept. 16, *Santa Cruz Follies*,
- Tues. Sept. 27, Chukchansi casino trip,

**Thurs. Oct. 13, Senior Center's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration with Miyuki buffet at 4pm.**

Thurs. Oct. 20, October birthday party.

Monetary donations gratefully received for birthdays and special: **Gladys Fukumoto, June Honda, Paul Kaneko, Akira Kodama, Yukio Nagata, Betty Oda, Kazuko Sakai, and Mark Takeuchi** who donated the birthday cake and ice cream.

Other donations gratefully received:

**Rubie Kawamoto** 6 sq. *Kleenex*, 2 bags *chagashi*, doz sq *Kleenex*

**Betty/Fred Oda** 2 bags *chagashi*

**Betty/Alan Yagi** 10 pkgs of fresh salmon

**Eiko Ceremony** 3 boxes vanilla wafers

**Kinji/Motoko House** 8 lge *Kleenex*, doz tissues, 6 plates cake, 5 boxes tea

**Tee Yamamoto** 15 bags fresh French prunes

**Kumiko Nakatani** 12 *Mega Bounty*, 2 jars of Italian *Biscotti*

**Dylan Matsuo** doz seasoned *nori*, 10 more pkgs seasoned *nori*

**Masako Miura** 1 box *Swiss Miss* chocolate drink, 2 pkgs choc drink mix

**Nobue Fujii** 7 plates *Jell-O* cake, peanut butter cookies, and 1 box lemons

**Alice Tanimoto** 36 rolls tissues

**Paul/Carol Kaneko** 10 boxes *Kleenex*, 80 tea bags, 3 pkgs *somen*

**Hisako Uemura** 5 boxes *Kleenex*, 2 bottles *Dawn*

**Miye Yamashita** 5 bottles *Dawn*, 6 rolls paper towels

**June/Sunao Honda** 6 boxes *Puffs*, 6 plates California *sushi* rolls, 15 brownie pops, 14 baskets strawberries

**Hide/Akira Nagamine** 12 bags cucumbers, 4 *Clorox* wipes, 2 bathroom cleaners

**Chiyoeko Yagi** 3 lge bags veggie sticks, 1 bag corn chips

**Iwao Yamashita** 14 bags cherry tomatoes, 19 more bags tomatoes and more tomatoes, 27 *kabochas*

**Susan AmRhein** 5 bags summer squash, more squash

**Yaeko Cross** 36 cans orange soda, 7 plates cake

**Chie Sakaue** lots and lots of flowers for all

**Bobby Tamaki** 7 crates strawberries

**John Tsukiji** 8 baskets strawberries

**Jean Akiyama** 8 boxes *Kleenex*

**Ernie Yamamoto** lots of used records

**Gladys Fukumoto** *senbei*

**Hisako/Akira Kodama** 100 tea bags

**Mitsuko Ruble** doz double roll tissues

**Mitsuyo Tao** 3 boxes plastic wrap

**Toshi Yamashita** doz tissues

**Yukio/Edna Nagata** *Hershey* miniature choc bars

**Mitzy Katsuyama** 5 plates chiffon cake

**Frances Hoshiyama** 6 boxes green tea

**Shirley Nishimoto** 4 boxes plastic forks

**Geo/Satoko Yamamoto** 6 rolls *Bounty* paper towels

**Inako/Roland Johnson** 3 doz eggs

**Haru/Richard Ishibashi** doz tissues

**Eiko/Yamato Nishihara** doz jars of strawberry jam  
Again, many, many thanks for your continued support in your generous donations. This Senior Center is self-supporting because of your generosity. We appreciate your support and generosity. Keep well, keep happy, and keep coming. See you next month, and bring your friends.

**JACL KIZUKA HALL CLEAN-UP**

**Joe Bowes, Gary Mine** and two workers, **Arturo and Francisco**, did a much needed clean-up of Kayo Club articles that were stored in our "loft." Amazingly, one large beautifully hand-painted scroll of local scenes/history survived the test of time and will be kept in the hall.



Gary and Arturo are moving replacement roof coverings from the stage to the "loft" for storage.

**Iwao Yamashita** prunes the trees and takes out the garbage each week, and **Paul Kaneko** repainted spots that the painters missed. **Mas Hashimoto** pulls and hoes the weeds and vacuums the entrance rug. **Carol Kaneko, Cindy Mine, and Marcia Hashimoto** clean the kitchen.

Gary will widen the bathroom doors to make them handicap accessible.

**Watsonville Taiko** mops the floors and cleans the bathrooms weekly.

Thank you, W-SC JACL and Taiko board members, for taking such good care of our hall.

**MANDARIN LANGUAGE CLASS REINSTATED AT CABRILLO COLLEGE FOR 2011-2012**

by **Victor Kimura**

Mostly because of budget cuts, Cabrillo College cancelled its Chinese language courses two years ago. During that two-year hiatus, several community members, organizations, and local entrepreneur and JACL member **George Ow, Jr.** attempted to reinstate the program on the basis of educational need and importance to the world at large. Ultimately these efforts did not convince Cabrillo College to change its mind. As a result, George offered to fund the entire program using his private funds.

Because of institutional issues (e.g., lack of precedence for community-funded, academic credit courses, etc.), George's offer was not accepted by Cabrillo last year. This year, however, the **Watsonville-SC Chapter of the JACL** was asked to act as fiscal agent for the reinstatement of the Chinese language program through a formal funding proposal, signed by W-SC JACL

President **David Kadotani** and sent to Cabrillo's Superintendent and **President Brian King**. This collaborative proposal included local community organizations such as the **Asian Pacific Islanders for Community Awareness (APICA)** and the **Friends of Chinese (FoC)**.

After attendance at three Cabrillo Foundation Board meetings by JACL representatives and APICA and FoC members (in which JACL officers spoke on behalf of the proposal at two of the meetings), the Cabrillo Foundation Governing Board, at its August 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, approved (1) a recommended framework for private funding of credit courses, and (2) the reinstatement of two Chinese language courses (one in the fall semester and one in the spring), funded by private donations.

On August 16<sup>th</sup> Cabrillo College academic administrators offered the Chinese language teaching position to W-SC JACL member **Yaming Shen**, who originally set up the Chinese language program at Cabrillo in 2006 and taught the classes until they were cancelled two years ago. Congratulations to Yaming, and special thanks to JACLers George Ow, Jr., **Mas and Marcia Hashimoto**, and **yours truly** for helping to orchestrate a successful outcome to what previously had been thought to be a nearly impossible task.

#### **ABOARD THE USS HORNET by Brian Shiroyama**

In the late morning of August 13, 2011, the reverberating sound of **Peninsula Scout Band** playing nostalgic and patriotic music greeted about 100 attendees at the USS Hornet Aircraft Carrier Museum, Alameda, CA. This was an annual gathering sponsored by **Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans (FFNV)**.



Joining in the celebration were **Frank Inami (MIS)**, **Dorothy Kitajima**, **Fred Kitajima (MIS)** **Moffet Ishikawa (MIS)** and standing, **Dr. Stephen Payne** (Command Historian, DLI).

Invited guests included **Colonel Daniel Pick**, Commandant of the Defense Language Institute, Monterey, CA and his Command Historian, **Dr. Stephen Payne**. Also in attendance was **Mr. Randall Ramian**, CEO of the Hornet Museum Foundation.



**Rosalyn Tonai**, Executive Director, National Japanese American Historical Society spoke about the upcoming Congressional Gold Medal ceremony in Washington, DC. She also gave an update on the construction of the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) Historic Learning Center at the Presidio of San Francisco.



**Tom Graves** (right) introduced **Bill Hoffland**, President of the 99th Infantry Battalion Educational Foundation, who spoke of a fascinating story of another segregated unit during World War II composed of soldiers of Norwegian descent. The next infantry battalion so designated was the Hawaiian contingency—the famous “Go For Broke” 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion!!

Attendees enjoyed the Japanese *bento* lunch catered by a local restaurant. Later, many took a tour of the Hornet which valiantly contributed to defeating the Imperial Japanese Navy during World War II. In 1969, the Hornet recovered the Apollo 11 crew upon returning from the moon.

Another highlight of the day was the **Grand Opening of the MIS Exhibit** as part of the already existing and upgraded Nisei Veterans' Exhibit covering Japanese-American history and the 442nd Regimental Combat

Team. This project was made possible with grant from the **California Civil Liberties Public Education Program** and generous donations from the FFNV membership.



MIS **Frank Inami** (center) admired the new MIS exhibit. 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT veteran **Lawson Sakai** and **Brian Shiroyama** were the designers of the exhibit.



[Editor's note: **Brian Shiroyama** is a Lt. Col. US Air Force, retired, of the Vietnam War and devotes all of his time, effort, and money to the memory and contributions of the Nisei soldiers of WW II. We are indeed fortunate to have him "on board" (the Hornet, too).]

We will meet again aboard the Hornet on Saturday, August 11, 2012.

Meanwhile, there is the Nisei veterans' reunion in Las Vegas, Oct 2-5, which **Joe and Christine Bowes** and **Mas and Marcia Hashimoto** will be attending.

### **THE NAGAMINE PROJECT**

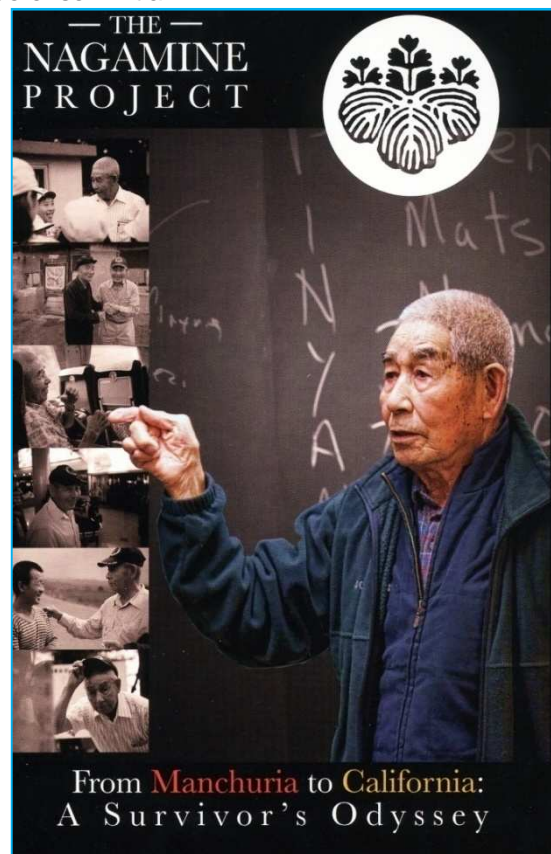
The Nagamine Project tells the remarkable story of the survival of an ordinary man, **Akira Nagamine**, now of Watsonville, CA.

Linking the modern histories of Japan, China and the United States, it is a saga of survival through war, revolution and trans-Pacific migration. Centered on an eight-year ordeal in post-WWII Manchuria, followed by years of toil in California, Nagamine's story includes a vivid cast of characters, including a former Japanese secret agent, White Russians on the run from Stalin, kindly Korean farmers, Chinese lumberjacks, lynch mobs, revolutionaries and saviors, migrant field hands from

Mexico and the Philippines and American entrepreneurs willing to give a man a chance.

Born on a farm in southern Kyushu (near Kagoshima) in 1925, Akira was drafted into the Japanese army in February 1945 and sent to a unit manning the defenses in Manchuria. After six months of training that focused on suicide tactics, he found himself in a battle with Soviet forces in early September, after Japan had formally surrendered to the US. In the battle, Akira was shot through his trigger hand (in addition to the ankle he had broken a week earlier) and, along with four other soldiers, was separated from his now decimated unit. He and his companions tried to make their way to their unit's headquarters in the city of Mudanjiang, but, over the course of two months of wilderness trekking, saw their numbers gradually whittled down from five to three.

Eventually, they encountered an elderly Chinese man who convinced them that the war was over. The man offered to care for them and, in a leap of faith, Akira and his companions put themselves in his hands. Over the next several weeks, their faith was confirmed as the man saved them from an angry mob and found them safe haven and food in exchange for manual labor for a local self-defense militia.



By 1946, however, the central front of the Chinese civil war had turned to the Northeast and able-bodied men everywhere were being drafted into the opposing armies. Akira's two Japanese companions were conscripted into the Chinese Nationalist Army, but Akira was saved from further fighting because of his wound.

At this point, he met another Japanese straggler, a former secret police agent, and the two began a saga of survival that lasted another seven years, thanks to refuge they found with a constantly changing cast of Chinese, Koreans and White Russians.

Through civil war, the Korean war and the early years of anti-Rightist terror and Land Reform in the People's Republic of China, while hundreds of thousands of Japanese soldiers were enduring years of imprisonment in Siberian labor camps, Akira and his companion survived in the open, yet under the radar of the Chinese authorities, harbored by communities that accepted them.

Akira finally returned to Japan in 1953 aboard a Red Cross ship bringing other stragglers home, bearing the ashes of his now deceased Japanese friend.

But opportunities proved slim in Japan, so in 1956 Akira took another leap of faith and boarded a ship bound for San Francisco, his port of entry to his waiting job in the strawberry fields of Watsonville. There, Akira met his wife Hideko. They married, raised three children and, eventually, began a successful nursery business.

A team of UCSC historians, undergraduate History majors, Santa Cruz artists and Nagamine family members is producing a film, a dynamic website and a book about his life and times.



Work on the project began with awards from the University of California California Studies Consortium Community Outreach and Teaching Grant and an Extramural Explorations grant from the University of California Humanities Research Institute. In the spring of 2010, we received a generous Opportunity Fund grant from the UC Santa Cruz Foundation.

If you are interested in contributing to this project or learning more details, please feel free to contact CSPWM, **Suzanne Willis**, Humanities Director of Development ([willis@ucsc.edu](mailto:willis@ucsc.edu), 831-459-5742) or **The Nagamine Project Fund**, c/o **Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL**, P. O. Box 163, Watsonville, CA 95077.

To learn more or to offer support, please visit: [www.cspwm.ucsc.edu/projects/akira-nagamine](http://www.cspwm.ucsc.edu/projects/akira-nagamine).

### MIDORI KAI'S 11<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BOUTIQUE

**Midori Kai**  
ARTS & CRAFTS BOUTIQUE

**Saturday, Sept. 10, 2011**  
9am to 4pm

Mountain View Buddhist Temple  
575 N. Shoreline Blvd.  
Mountain View, CA 94043

For more information please contact  
Phyllis Osaki (925) 596-1770 or  
Marsha Baird (510) 579-1518  
[www.midorikai.com](http://www.midorikai.com)  
PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE MOUNTAIN VIEW BUDDHIST TEMPLE

**FEATURED ENTERTAINMENT**

Lotus Preschool  
Celebrating their 25th anniversary  
10:30am

Halan Napuaokamo  
kihana'okihana'ohaika  
poliuluana  
2:30pm

Asian American Art  
Crafts  
Handcrafted Jewelry  
Clothing  
Pottery  
Drawing Prizes  
Food  
and much more!!!

**Midori Kai, Inc.**, a non-profit professional business women's organization, will feature its **Eleventh Annual Arts & Crafts Boutique** on Saturday, September 10, 2011, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Mountain View

Buddhist Temple Hall, 575 N. Shoreline Boulevard, in Mountain View, CA 94043.

This boutique features one of a kind and unique Asian American arts & crafts from artist and crafters from throughout the western United States and Hawaii, food sales and a raffle. Watsonville Buddhist Temple will be selling fresh strawberries!!

Entertainment this year includes performances by **Lotus Preschool Singers** at 10:30 am and **Halau Napuaokamokihana'ohaikapoliuluana** at 2:30 pm.

Proceeds from the boutique are awarded to non-profit organizations. This year's recipients are: the **Japanese American Museum of San Jose**, **San Francisco Asian Women's Shelter**, **Yu Ai Kai (Keiro Kai Event)** and the **Ed Iwasaki Memorial Scholarship**.

For more information, contact **Phyllis Osaki** at (925) 596-1770 or **Marsha Baird** at (510) 579-1518. Boutique updates will be posted.

Members of Midori Kai, Inc. are our **JoAnn Kato** and **Pam Yoshida**. Come support this worthy event and enjoy yourselves at the same time. Bring the whole family!

### SOMOS LGBT HONORS W-SC JACL

On Sunday, Aug. 28<sup>th</sup>, at the Watsonville Plaza, **SOMOS ("I am")**, which is dedicated to the elimination of all oppression and discrimination, presented our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL with its annual **Community Organization of the Year Award** for its support of Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgenders.

Accepting from **President Maria Luisa R. Perez** (left) on behalf of the W-SC JACL were **Marcia Hashimoto** and **Aimee Mizuno** (center). An award by **Assemblyman Luis A. Alejo** was presented by his representative, **Vanessa Rebecchi** (right).



Marcia stated, "On behalf of the W-SC JACL, I am honored to receive this certificate of recognition from the State Assembly. We accept this acknowledgment with the highest regard for SOMOS LGBT. Our National JACL has supported LGBT rights since the 1980s, and we stand together with you in this fight for equality of human and civil rights."

### CONGRESSMAN SAM FARR HONORS OUR WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL

Our Congressman **Sam Farr** honored us with a **Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition** during the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Watsonville Pride 2011 event held on Sun. Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> for our dedicated and continuing service to the LGBT community.

In Watsonville and Santa Cruz County, we are fortunate indeed that our legislative representatives in local, county, state, and federal governments are understanding, knowledgeable and supportive of the needs of our GLBT friends.

We strongly believe, as does our National JACL, that **each and every** American is entitled to all civil and human rights. With your membership, we will continue to fight for the day all Americans are accorded their equal and unqualified rights. That is what the JACL stands for! While we are grateful for the awards and recognition, that's not what we are about.

We promise to work toward the goal of a "More Perfect Union."

If you are committed as we are, then please join our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL today! Join our efforts to become "better Americans in a greater America."

### WESTVIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHIMES NEWS

Westview Presbyterian Church is delighted to announce that **Eric Routley** is our new youth leader. Eric loves kids/youth and loves God. He is a carpenter and was the adventure staff instructor on the ropes course at Mount Hermon. He led a basketball/bible study at Twin Lakes Church for several years. Eric will be teaching our youth twice monthly. He is married to Christie who is a respite provider for families with children who have disabilities.

On Sat. Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>, the Youth went to **Nisene Marks State Park**. The group went for a walk in the river under the canopy of the redwoods. They had a great time and even went swimming in the chilly waters! Eric, our new youth leader, came, and everyone had a great time getting to know him. We are looking forward to our next adventure.

Come join the **Youth/Children's Ministry** on their next adventure! This will be a **High Ropes Course Adventure at Mount Hermon** and is guaranteed to be fun-filled. Call the church, (831) 724-6222, for details.

On Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>, the members enjoyed a bowling get-together in Gilroy. We dare not announce our bowling scores at this time, but we all had a great time!

In early October, the **Tri-Church Picnic** will be held with **El Estero** and **Lincoln Avenue Churches** at Toro Park in Salinas. Contact **Randy Mano** at (831) 809-7938 for details.

**Little Dresses for Africa Mission Project:** 1,100 dresses created by **WOW** members and friends are now on their way to Africa! Thank you, all, who contributed their time, sewing talent, and donations in making a difference for the lives of young African girls.

**Book Study Series:** We will begin a book study on *Grace Immersion* by **Rene Schlaepfer** on September 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. We will be meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month starting a 6:30 pm. One can buy a book in the fellowship hall for \$8 or get it online at Amazon.com.

### IN REMEMBRANCE ....

We send our condolences to the **Gladys Kato**, **George Matoba**, and **Hisami Murakami** families, relatives, and friends.

### DONATIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED ...

**Eiko Sakaguchi** "Thank you for writing the story of my diploma in the JACL newsletter."

**Chiyeko Shikuma** for the "Nagamine Fund"

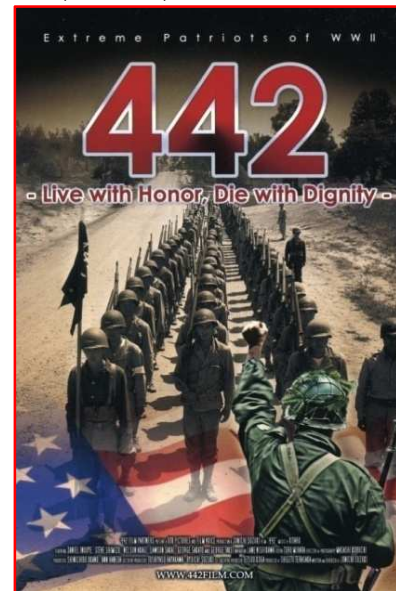
**Watsonville Taiko** for the use of the JACL Hall

**Stephen and Nadine Nakajo**, "American Story" project.

### "442" COMING TO A THEATER NEAR YOU, THE PACIFIC RIM FILM FESTIVAL (PRFF)

The PRFF is excited to be celebrating their 23rd year of the Pacific Rim Film Festival.

For six days, from **October 14-19**, the PRFF will bring you the work of filmmakers spanning our Pacific rim--Japan, South Korea, China, New Zealand, The Philippines, India, Mexico, Australia and the U.S.



The W-SC JACL is proud to sponsor **Director Junichi Suzuki's** wonderful film "**442: Live with Honor, Die with Dignity**," in honor of our Nisei veterans of WW II. It is tentatively scheduled to be shown on Saturday, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> on the Watsonville's campus of Cabrillo College, and again on Tuesday, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> at the Rio Theater in Santa Cruz, show times to be announced later.

True to the festival's theme of "**When Strangers Meet**," the PRFF offers films with a mission to foster cross-cultural understanding and strive to share these films with the broadest audience possible. To this end the PRFF offers the films free of charge to our patrons for the entire festival with the exception of the finale benefit event.

Our local artists include Bay Area filmmakers **Greg Miller** and **Brian Lilla** with their film "Patagonia Rising," our benefit finale film on Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>. The PRFF is also proud to present the premiere of Santa Cruzan **Eric Thiermann's** film "It Tolls for Thee."

PRFF is funded completely by the support of our community and are especially indebted to **Ow Family Properties**, whose gracious beneficence has allowed us to carry on our mission each year.

PRFF welcomes and appreciates your support in any way that you feel inspired and able. Checks may be made payable to the Pacific Rim Film Festival and mailed to PRFF c/o **Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston**, 2-1130 East Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz, CA 95062.

We'll see you at the movies!

## OUR COMMEMORATIVE STAMP PROPOSAL IS BEFORE THE US POSTAL SERVICE

We thank **Connie Totten-Oldham**, Manager of USPS's Stamp Development committee, for informing us that our proposal honoring the history and contributions of Japanese and Japanese Americans, including the Nisei veterans of WW II, has been submitted for review and consideration by the **Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee** (CSAC). The CSAC is responsible for reviewing stamp proposals and making recommendations to the Postmaster General.

## A RECENT VISIT BY CONSUL GENERAL HIROSHI INOMATA TO WATSONVILLE

On Tuesday, Aug. 23, we were honored with an afternoon visit by **Consul General Hiroshi Inomata** and **Consul Tetsuo Higashino**. This visit was arranged by **Dr. Janet Nagamine**.

The Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco seeks to promote mutual understanding of our countries and cultures. It is his wish to strengthen the friendship between Japan and California through support for cultural programs.

Consul General Inomata graduated from Waseda University and joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1978. He has worked in the Asian Affairs Bureau, Economic Cooperation Bureau, North American Affairs Bureau, Minister's Secretariat, International Legal Affairs Bureau and Southeast and Southwest Asian Affairs Department as well as the Office of the Assistant Chief Cabinet Secretary. His overseas assignments have included Embassies of Japan in Bangkok, Washington D.C., London and Seoul.

He began his new assignment as the Consul General of Japan in San Francisco a year ago in September 2010. We met him last September at JCCNC's Tabemasho II event. Needless to say, he loves this assignment.

After visiting the Watsonville Buddhist Temple, CG Inomata toured our Kizuka Hall with **Itaru Nitao** and **Marcia Hashimoto**.



Itaru Nitao explained that the mural of Mt. Fuji was painted by the **Kayo Club's** members for a *shibai* (a play) it performed many years ago when they were full of song and dance and when their audience was primarily Japanese speaking.

CG Inomata learned of the struggles of our immigrant Issei pioneers, of their perseverance, and how they instilled in their Nisei children the cultural values of Japan.

He is also appreciative of the work of the W-SC JAACL in its efforts to bring different cultures and societies together, working for peace and harmony. He is grateful for the dedication of those who are the leaders of the Senior Center. We wished he could have played bingo with our Thursday Seniors! Of course we would inform him that he has to have bingo two ways on a card before he can call out, "Bingo!" (Local rule.)

Then, off to **Uyematsu's** farm on Riverside Road to pick strawberries, raspberries and blackberries!



Marcia spots a ripe, juicy strawberry for the CG.



Dr. Janet Nagamine (left) arranged the itinerary. **Richard Uyematsu** (in dark hat) explained how modern farming, harvesting, packing, and shipping are done. **Richard's** foreman (right) explains how organic raspberries are picked and packaged right in the field.



CG Inomata enjoyed picking and eating a ripe blackberry. *Oishii!*



Joining Rev. Shousei Hanayama, Consul Higashino, Itaru and Aiko Nitao, Marcia Hashimoto, and CG Inomata were Akira and Hideko Nagamine at Miyuki's for dinner. Note the location of the large, white sake bottle in the foreground and the empty seat ... photo by Mas Hashimoto.

It was a very nice visit.

### **KAWAKAMI SISTER CITY STUDENTS' VISIT**

We welcomed, at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple hall, Kawakami's middle school students and their chaperones—Yoshimi Nagazawa, Vice Principal, Sayaka Yui, Kawakami City official, and Misuzo Hokari, travel guide from Nagano prefecture--on August 26<sup>th</sup> with a wonderful and simply delicious family "potluck" dinner of home-made *sushi*, spaghetti, tacos, refried beans, apple pie, *manju*, *tsukemono*, *strawberry shortcake*, *artichokes*, and other great treats.

Congratulations to the members of the Kawakami Sister City committee: Robb Mayeda, Phyllis Nagamine, Lynne Sigueiros, and Emi Sato. On hand to greet our guests were Mayor Dan Dodge, City Council members Nancy Bilicich and Antonio Rivas, PVUSD trustee Doug Kaplan, and middle school officials.



Laura Cabrera (left), representing Assemblyman Luis A. Alejo, presented each Kawakami student with certificates of welcome. Kneeling below her is Mr. Nagazawa, and to the right, standing is Mayor Dodge.



Our students posed with the Kawakami students.



Lynne Sigueiros (left) and Robb Mayeda (right) accepted a donation, presented by Sayaka Yui, from the City of Kawakami.



Phyllis Nagamine, above, is cleaning up after the "Farewell BBQ Dinner" at the Casserly Fire Station. She is a most dedicated Kawakami Sister City Committee volunteer, and all of us are grateful. *Arigato*, Phyllis.

### **RENEWALS OF OUR JAACL MEMBERSHIP**

We are grateful to all who renewed their membership as National JAACLers in our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JAACL chapter during July-August 2011.

**If you haven't renewed for 2011, please make it a top priority.** A membership/renewal form is included at the end of this newsletter. And, please encourage other members of the family/clan to renew or to join, too. We are a great Nikkei American organization devoted to the concerns and issues not only those of the Nikkei but to all Americans who believe in the promise of America.

Check out our website for more information: [www.watsonvillesantacruzjaacl.org](http://www.watsonvillesantacruzjaacl.org).

# Seniors' Corner

September 2011 ck

## WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL SENIOR CENTER TOURS

\*\*\*\*\*

Half-day Senior Trip, Friday, September 17, 2011, 12 pm to 3:30 pm

*The Santa Cruz Follies* present "*Dancin' Down Broadway*," Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium

The Santa Cruz Follies has a large cast of talented performers – all 50 years and older – who put on an original musical revue of song and dance. They are amazing!

Cost: Tickets for the show are \$20. Transportation will be by car pool.

If we sell twenty or more tickets, the Senior Center will receive a rebate of \$3 per ticket.

### One-Day Senior Trip

Chukchansi Gold Casino, Coarsegold on *Tuesday, September 27, 2011, 8 am to 7:30 pm*

\$10 e-cash; \$5 food coupon; Cost: **Active Senior Members \$30** and others **\$35**

For reservation calls: *Carol Kaneko 476-7040* or *Rubie Kawamoto 464-6721*

Non-Senior Center members are welcome to join us on both trips!

If you have suggestions for places where our Seniors would enjoy a one-day or multiple-day trip or you can help in the planning of such trips, please call *Carol Kaneko* at 476-7040. We are open to your suggestions.

\*\*\*\*\*



Born in August were **Paul Kaneko, Yukio Nagata, Akira Kodama, Gladys Fukumoto, Betty Oda, Mark Takeuchi, and June Honda**. We dearly miss **Kazuko Sakai**, and nothing would please us more than to hear her say, Bingo, soon!

### Upcoming Activities at the Senior Center for September:

- Thurs Sept 1, 8, 22, 29 Regular Bingo
- Thurs Sept 15 September Birthday Party
- Friday, Sept 16 *Santa Cruz Follies* Half-day trip
- Tuesday, Sept 27 Chukchansi Gold Casino One-day Trip

**\*What's the use of staying alone in your room? Come to our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Senior Center!** If you enjoy playing bingo, celebrating special birthdays and holiday occasions, and going on trips, and would like to regularly receive health information and have your blood pressure monitored, join us for our Thursday get-togethers. We'd love to have you and your spouse and/or friends join us. "**Active Senior Center Members,**" who have paid their membership dues and who make annual birthday and Senior Center anniversary donations, are eligible for reduced fares on our trips. Please contact **Carol Kaneko (831) 476-7040** for registration information. **Since our Senior Center operates under the auspices of both our local JACL chapter and the National JACL, we encourage all members of the Senior Center to be members of the National JACL through our Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL chapter.**

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**THANK YOU** to **Susan AmRhein, Shirley Nishimoto, Eiko Stewart, Aimee Mizuno, and Sachi Snyder** who helped with *toban* duties in August. Our Seniors appreciate your help! If you wish to help, please call Carol Kaneko at (831) 476-7040.

