

## The HERALD Newsletter

### Japanese Church of Christ

268 West 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84101

(801) 363-3251

**Website:** jccslc.net     **Email:** info@jccslc.net

**In-person worship services are Sundays at 10:30 a.m.**

## Pastoral Message

**March 2023**

### From Dust You Were Made and To Dust You Shall Return

We had our first session meeting via Zoom on Ash Wednesday. It was the evening after a major snow storm and we were all safe and warm in our homes. I had a cross smudged on my forehead. That was because I led worship at the VA hospital earlier in the day. Lent is now here and the look of our sanctuary changes with the season once again:

The traditions of Lent are derived from the season's origin as a time when the church prepared candidates, or "catechumens," for their baptism into the Body of Christ. It eventually became a season of preparation not only for catechumens but also for the whole congregation. Self-examination, study, fasting, prayer and works of love are disciplines historically associated with Lent. Conversion—literally, the "turning around" or reorientation of our lives towards God—is the theme of Lent. Both as individuals and as a community, we look inward and reflect on our readiness to follow Jesus in his journey towards the cross. The forty days of Lent correspond to the forty-day temptation of Jesus in the wilderness and the forty-year journey of Israel from slavery to a new community.

On Ash Wednesday, ashes are placed on the foreheads of the congregation as a symbol that we have come from dust and one day will return to dust. It is one of many Lenten and Easter customs that remind us of our historical connection with Jewish tradition. With this sobering reminder of life's fragility, we begin a spiritual quest that continues until the Easter Vigil, when new members of the church are often baptised and the entire congregation joins in a reaffirmation of baptismal vows. Most of this time of preparation is symbolized by the color Violet, though the season is bracketed by the mourning Black of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. As an alternative to Violet, some churches have begun to use brown, beige or gray (the colors of rough unbleached cloth like burlap) to reflect the season's mood of penitence and simplicity. The somber colors are a reminder of the unbleached "sackcloth" worn by mourners and penitents in the Jewish tradition.

You can read up on the entire liturgical year at

[https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/worship\\_liturgies\\_liturgical-colors/](https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/worship_liturgies_liturgical-colors/)

Blessings,

Rev. Daniel Haas, BCC

Cell 801.368.1180



## Remember in Your Prayers

Names will appear on the prayer list for one month, so we can keep it updated and current. To respect individual privacy, if there is a name to be added to this prayer list, the person must first give permission to have his/her own name published. Email the JCC website, jccslc.net or contact Pastor Haas or any of the Deacons.

Please remember the following friends and family in your prayers:

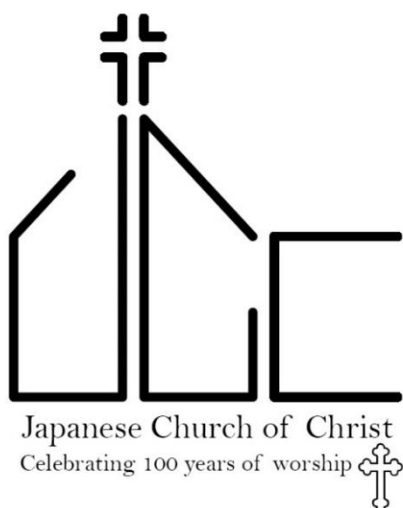
Betty Morishita

Yeiko Homma

### The JCC Mission Statement

To proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and seek spiritual growth for the entire congregation through:

- Worship, prayer, and Bible study
- Outreach and evangelism
- Loving service to the Church and community
- Fellowship
- Cultural activities unique to our ethnic congregation



### THE HERALD

A monthly publication of the Japanese Church of Christ, Salt Lake City, UT.

**Interim Pastor: Rev. Daniel Haas**  
**Clerk of Session: TBD**

### Session

Lorraine Crouse  
 Steve Fukumitsu  
 Lynne Ward  
 Julee Mori  
 Elise Mori  
 Karen Okawa  
 Greg Paige

### Deacons

Jan Aramaki - moderator, Elaine Iwasaki, Laura Olson, Yuri Uyeda, Stephanie Mori-Nakao, Allyn Nakashima, Nancy Umemura, Akiko Oki

Newsletter articles are due on the fourth Saturday of each month at noon. Send your articles to [jccherald@gmail.com](mailto:jccherald@gmail.com).

Website: [www.jccslc.net](http://www.jccslc.net)

## Daylight Savings - Spring 2023

Daylight savings this Spring is **Sunday, March 12, 2023**. Remember to "spring forward"; so move your clock ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.

(Or you will be late for worship service!)



## New JCC Officers

New officers were nominated and installed at the Congregational Meeting on February 5, 2023.

**Session:** Elise Mori, Julee Mori, Karen Okawa, Greg Paige

**Board of Deacons:** Stephanie Mori-Nakao, Allyn Nakashima, Akiko Oki, Nancy Umemura

**Trustees:** Daniel Cheung, Jani Iwamoto, Ron Nishijima, Pauline Vosburgh

We thank outgoing officers whose terms ended in 2022: Daniel Cheung, Allyn Nakashima, Gary Nakao and Pauline Vosburgh (Session); Julee Mori (Deacons); Hiro Iwasaki (Trustees); and Allyn Nakashima, Julee Mori and Laura Olson (Nominating Committee) for giving their time and serving as leaders of the church.



New Trustees: Ron Nishijima, Pauline Vosburgh, Jani Iwamoto (not pictured - Daniel Cheung).



New Deacons: Allyn Nakashima, Nancy Umemura, Stephanie Mori-Nakao (not pictured - Akiko Oki)



New and Current Elders: Steve Fukumitsu, Julee Mori, Elise Mori, Greg Paige, Karen Okawa, Lynne Ward, Lorraine Crouse

## Church Women United Luncheon

The JCC will be hosting the March luncheon of CWU's Human Rights Celebration 2023. The theme is "Living a Legacy of Love: Doing God's Work – Labor with Love – Respect to Heal."

**When:** Friday, March 10, 2023

**Time:** Registration: 9:30 a.m.; Program and Lunch: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Where:** Japanese Church of Christ, 268 West 100 South

**Keynote Speaker:** Derek Goudie, Coordinator, Sacred Circle Healthcare

**Community Health Education, Community Relations Award Recipient:** Cheryl Gentle

**Registration:** \$1:00    **Lunch:** \$5.00

**Community Outreach:** Please BRING items for Sacred Circle Healthcare: Specific items TBA.

**Cash Donations:** Checks Payable to "Church Women United," designated for Sacred Circle.

**Offering:** Used for CWU National Programs: Checks need to be made payable to: "Church Women United"

**Lunch RSVP:** To Karen Okawa or Suzanne Hata by Monday, March 6. The Agape Women's group will pay the lunch fee for any JCC congregation members attending.

Since the JCC will be hosting this luncheon, we would like to have a good representation from our congregation; please plan to attend! Also, if you can help with plating and serving, please contact Karen Okawa.

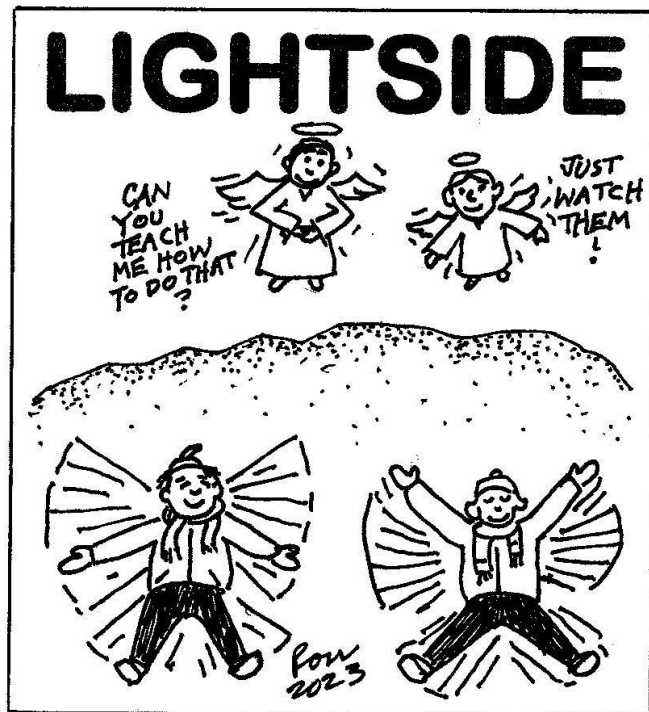
## Old JCC Annual Reports

Please look through your closets and bookshelves for old JCC Annual Reports. We are scanning the reports and are in need of these years to complete the library: 1967 and older, 1971, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1980, and 1981.

Call Lynne Ward at 202.709.6889. She'll arrange to borrow the reports from you, scan and return them to you.

## Nearing Tax Time

If you need a 2022 end of year donation statement from JCC to submit with your taxes, please email [jccherald\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:jccherald[at]gmail[dot]com) or contact Julee Mori to have it sent to you.



## Souper Bowl of Caring Final Count

A big THANK YOU to everyone who gave canned foods and monetary donations to the Souper Bowl of Caring competition between the local Presbyterian congregations. The JCC total ended up - Non-perishable food items: 227; Cash/check donations: 886 points for a total of 1113 points.

This final figure was submitted to the Presbytery of Utah who will let us know our standing against other congregations. The canned goods, checks and cash were delivered to the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake, in memory of Kay Nakashima (one of the founders).

Again, thank you to everyone for all of your generous donations; we cannot list everyone separately by name, but know your contributions are very much appreciated and put to good use, especially during this cold and snowy winter.



Suzanne Hata and Jan Aramaki count cans!



## Lake Tahoe Retreat

*Submitted by Jan Aramaki*

Doc Matsukawa will be smiling to know you are marking your calendars for this year's Lake Tahoe Retreat, Sunday, July 23, 2023 through Friday, July 28th. Doc was instrumental in making this Retreat a success, and he is calling you to join.

Keynote speaker this year is Pastor Karen Yokota Love. Her theme is, "Cast Your Burdens – A Journey on Renovations of the Heart". Karen is the daughter of long-time participants Its and Lucy Yokota.

Copies of the registration form are available by the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. To avoid any late fees, have your registration form post-marked by **March 24, 2023**.

Costs are dependent upon if you want to share a room and discounts are given for various reasons such as: volunteer to hold a workshop, first-time attending, share your faith journey, etc.

If you are a first-time attendee, there are JCC scholarship funds to help you with expenses.

Questions? Contact Jan Aramaki.

## Nikkei Senior Center Luncheon Recap

The Nikkei Senior Center luncheon was hosted by the Japanese Church of Christ on Saturday, February 4, 2023. A total of 104 lunches were served.

The program included a performance by the Kenshin Taiko group, sponsored by the Utah Division of Arts and Museums and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Thanks to all who volunteered to help prepare and plate the food and to Lynne Ward for making Valentine's favors for each place setting!



Kenshin Taiko performs at February Nikkei Senior Luncheon

## Nihon Matsuri

*Submitted by Jan Aramaki*

Mark your calendars for the following event:

Nihon Matsuri (Japan Festival)

Saturday, April 29, 2023

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Japantown Street (100 S) between 200 and 300 West Streets

Planning is taking place to hold a Nihon Matsuri this year. The JCC will plan to have a food booth in the festival. If you can help with food preparation and/or day of the festival, please contact: Jan Aramaki, Julee Mori or Karen Okawa.

The menu is being identified and planned. Seeking volunteers to help. Always look forward to fellowship blessings that come about working together for this event.



## Yeiko Homma's Legacy Continues

*Submitted by Tomoko Moses*

Stories are told that Yeiko Homma made yaki manju all by herself for decades and that Suzanne Hata was her apprentice. Now Yeiko is finally slowing down at 96 (97 this year) years young. Shall we carry on her legacy? Yes, of course, but we need 10 people to do what she has done alone for years.

Laura Olson and the Kenshin Taiko group peeled skins from each bean in the 12 pounds of soaked lima beans last Friday evening. On Saturday and Sunday, February 25 and 26, they made white anko (sweet bean paste) to be used to make yaki manju for the Nihon Matsuri in April.



Suzanne and Mateo



Laura and Jan "mash" the beans.

Photos courtesy: Tomoko Moses

## Session Report – February Meeting

The Session met on February 22, 2023 via Zoom due to the snowstorm that hit Salt Lake that day.

Candice Sweet, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Utah joined the Zoom meeting as a guest to talk about the duties of the Clerk of Session and Session roles. She emphasized the importance of the Elders' roles as an elected position and that the Clerk of Session does not have to be an active member of Session, but must be an ordained Elder.

Candice can provide training for Session, Deacons and Trustees and tailor the training to our needs. It was decided to focus on Session first so that a Clerk of Session can be assigned. This training will take place on Wednesday, March 1. This will benefit all of the Elders; some have never received formal training. The Clerk of Session will be named after the March 1 training as well as appointing Commissioners to the Presbytery of Utah and the UCC. Other roles were temporarily assigned until the March 1 training.

Reports:

Finance – Julee Mori put together the Profit and Loss statement. Donations for Nihon Matsuri and a JACL event were approved. The Presbytery and UCC per capita amounts were approved for payment.

Buildings and Grounds – The NBA All Star Game weekend affected 2 Sundays but we were still able to have worship service as scheduled. Right now bids on windows for the chapel are under review. Need to get input from the congregation and others on the chapel remodel. Investigating live streaming music with the Ogden Christian Church. Steve will continue in this role.

Worship – Maundy Thursday will be planned for this year. Lorraine will continue in this role.

Personnel – Background checks are in process for the new officers. The JCC annual reports are being scanned. There are some years missing. Important to get these and other documents digitized. Reported results of the pastoral feedback survey. Lynne will continue in this role.

Other roles to be filled: Education (Greg), Membership/Stewardship (Karen and Elise), Mission Study (Steve), Nominations (open), Nichigo (Greg), Kenshin Taiko (Julee).

## Deacon's Report – February Meeting

*Submitted by Jan Aramaki, Moderator*

Pastor Haas joined for the first part of the meeting only due to another meeting conflict. Present: Karen Okawa, Julee Mori, Elaine Iwasaki, Stephanie Nakao, Akiko Oki, Allyn Nakashima, Yuri Uyeda, Nancy Umemura, Jan Aramaki Absent: Elise Mori

Karen gave an overview of Deacons' responsibilities, including, but not limited to:

- Write thank you notes for donations
- Write a monthly summary report on Deacons discussions/decisions for monthly Herald publication.
- Coffee Fellowship: Prepare snacks/water each week – keep items stocked, including paper goods. \$500 budgeted as part of General Fund to cover expenses associated with coffee fellowship and other costs associated with supporting church family members.
- First Sunday of the month, prepare communion elements, and keep items stocked. (Nichigo handles first Sunday of the month for coffee fellowship.)
- Gideon's: Deacons will write a note to family when someone passes away informing family. Deacons have donated Gideon's bibles in memory of loved one who passed away.

Current serving Deacons include:

- Moderator: Jan Aramaki
- Secretary: Allyn Nakashima (Nancy Umemura backup)
- Treasurer: Nancy Umemura
- At Large: Elaine Iwasaki, Yuri Uyeda, Akiko Oki, Laura Olson

Pastor Haas shared he relies on Deacons to help with pastoral care – he asks Deacons to be his ears and eyes when Deacons are aware of a church family member who needs pastoral care.

On March 10, JCC will host Church Women United luncheon. Deacons will help prepare to serve 40 people.

## Annual Meeting Recap

The JCC Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, February 5, 2023. Pastor Haas moderated the meeting which included installation of new officers for the JCC and a review of reports of various groups within the JCC. Al Kubota presented the report and financials from Cascade Corporation.

Pauline Vosburgh presented the 2023 proposed budget.

This year's Annual Report cover featured one of Ron Nishijima's beautiful watercolors. Photo: Lorraine Crouse



## Upcoming Community Events

- Saturday, March 11 - Mount Olympus JACL Fundarama fundraiser for scholarships. Hillcrest Junior High School, 178 East 5300 South, Murray. Chinese dinner – Adult \$15; youth (6-12) \$8. Bake sale, sushi, 5 p.m.
- Saturday, March 25 - Nikkei Senior Center luncheon sponsored by Salt Lake JACL at the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple, noon.
- Save the Date; April 21-22, 2023  
 “80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of James Wakasa’s Murder at Topaz” A program and ceremony details will be coming soon. Email [wakasa80th@gmail.com](mailto:wakasa80th@gmail.com) to receive event updates. Sponsored by Topaz Museum and Wakasa Memorial Committee.

## Day of Remembrance

The three local JACL chapters hosted a Day of Remembrance event on Saturday, February 18 at the Utah Law and Justice Center. The event marked the 81<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, resulting in the mass incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans. A short film and panel discussion took place.

During the program, Jani Iwamoto was given an award (Japanese doll and case) for her service to the community and the State of Utah.



Yas and Jani Iwamoto at Day of Remembrance

JCC March 2023 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 -Session Training, 6:30pm	2 -Parking, Disney on Ice, 7pm	3 -Parking, Disney on Ice, 7pm	4 -Parking, Disney on Ice, 11am, 3pm, 7pm
5 -Adult Bible Study, 9:30am -Communion Service, 10:30am -Parking, Disney on Ice, 3pm, 7pm	6	7	8	9	10 -Church Women United meeting and lunch, 9:30am	11
12 -Adult Bible Study, 9:30am -Worship Service, 10:30am	13	14	15	16	17	18 -Parking, Jazz vs. Celtics, 7pm
19 -Adult Bible Study, 9:30am -Worship Service, 10:30am	20 -Parking, Jazz vs. Kings, 7pm	21	22 -Parking, Jazz vs. Trailblazers, 7pm	23	24 -Parking, Jazz vs. Bucks, 7pm	25 -Parking, Reba McEntire, 6:30pm
26 -Adult Bible Study, 9:30am -Worship Service, 10:30am	27 -Parking, Jazz vs. Suns, 7pm	28	29	30	31	

\*Calendar current as of Herald printing, 2/27/2023.

NOTE: Due to the Qualtrics event at the Salt Palace from March 4 to March 12, 100 South from 200 to 300 West will only have one lane access from 300 West.