

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.

Pastor's Message

February 2024

Happy Valentine's Day

"Thy drugs are quick. Thus with a kiss I die." are Romeo's romantic last words after he poisoned himself. Romeo thought his beloved Juliet was dead and he could not imagine living on without her. Shortly after, Juliet enters the stage and is equally dismayed. She tries to lick some poison off Romeo's lips but it wasn't enough to kill her. So she stabs herself with his dagger. What a deadly passion! William Shakespeare knew that love can be brutal. He was part of a long and proud tradition that understands that passion leads to the cross, that dedication can get you killed.



This week is Valentine's Day and usually this day is celebrated with flowers and chocolates. I am a really big fan of chocolate covered strawberries – very festive, very sweet, very loving. But amidst all that sweetness, the bitterness of the day usually gets overlooked. Valentine's Day is named after St. Valentine. Not much is known about his life and ministry, but he is known for his passion. Valentine was a Christian martyr of the 3rd century. The Roman Empire cracked down on the early Christian church and killed great numbers of them. Valentine passionately refused to give up his faith and was consequently beheaded. Romeo died for Juliet, Juliet died for Romeo, Valentine died for Jesus, Jesus died for all of us. So much death, so much love, so much passion. The symbols for February 14th are neither dagger, nor poison, nor cross nor an ax to chop off heads. But amidst all the romantic sugary sweetness, St. Valentine's raises inconvenient questions like: What are you passionate about? What are you willing to die for?

Blessings,

Rev. Daniel Haas, BCC-SP

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:

Debbie Homma

Yeiko Homma

Tom Reed Jr.

Steve Fukushima

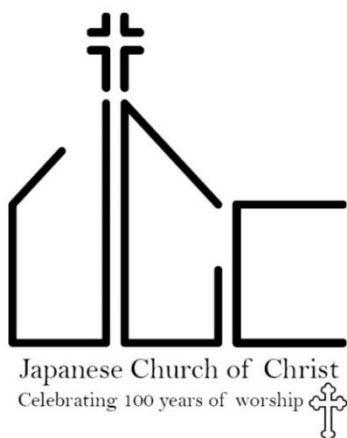
Yoko DeRose

Pastoral Nominating Committee

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: Karen Okawa

Session

Lynne Ward
 Julee Mori
 Elise Mori
 Karen Okawa
 Alan Shino

Deacons

Nancy Umemura, Stephanie Mori-Nakao, Allyn Nakashima, Akiko Oki, Laura Olson, Marc Stillman, Yuri Uyeda

Trustees

Jani Iwamoto – President; Pauline Vosburgh – Vice President, Rick Aoki – Treasurer, Daniel Cheung – Secretary, Ron Nishijima

Newsletter articles are due on the third Saturday of each month at noon. Send your articles to jccherald@gmail.com.

Website: www.jccslc.net

New JCC Officers

New officers were nominated and installed at the Annual Meeting on January 21, 2024.

Session: Alan Shino

Board of Deacons: Marc Stillman, Laura Olson (second term)

Trustees: Lorraine Crouse, Pat Price

We thank the outgoing officers whose term ended 2023: Steve Fukumitsu and Lorraine Crouse (Session); Jan Aramaki, Elaine Iwasaki (Deacons); and Karla Paige (Trustees). We appreciate you all for giving your time and serving as leaders of the JCC.



Pastor Haas installs new officers and Pastoral Nominating Committee members. Photo courtesy: Elise Mori

Search for a Permanent Pastor**Issuing a Call**

By Lynne Ward, Elder for Personnel

Many thanks go to the Mission Study Committee and to those of you who participated in the surveys. The Study helped define the goals and direction of JCC. The next step in moving JCC forward is to begin the search for the permanent pastor.

At the Annual Meeting, held on January 21, the membership voted to accept the nominations for the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC). You'll hear this acronym many times as the PNC works through the process to nominate a pastor for the Church. Because Pastor Daniel Haas' appointment for JCC was as interim pastor, the Session determined his selection. The permanent pastor will be nominated by the PNC and will be voted upon by the members.

The PNC members are: Rick Aoki, Jan Aramaki, Lorraine Crouse, Michiko Jones, Marc Stillman, Nancy Umemura, and Lynne Ward. Allyn Nakashima will serve as an alternate. Assisting is the Executive Presbyter, Rev. Mirjam Haas-Melchior. She will give initial guidance to the PNC at its first meeting on February 2.

Rev. Haas-Melchior's message about the PNC and the process to the members was:

- The process is for a Call, not a Hire
- Be patient
- The process is confidential
- Allow the PNC to look deep and thoroughly at the candidates
- The PNC will do the wrestling on behalf of the congregation
- Trust the PNC, they will do their very best
- The process could take a minimum of 6 months
- Above all, Pray for the PNC

Welcome Marc

On Sunday, January 21, 2024, Marc Stillman was baptized as a member of the JCC during worship service. Marc has served as a pianist for our weekly services and will also be serving as a Deacon. We welcome Marc into the JCC church family with open arms!



Pastor Haas and Marc Stillman

February Nikkei Senior Center Luncheon

The JCC will be hosting the February luncheon for the Nikkei Senior Center on Saturday, February 3, 2024 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. If you are a senior (only 62 and older), please plan to attend. A \$2 donation is suggested, but those 85 years and older are free.

As the host, the JCC will be providing the food for the luncheon. A short program will be presented (chair yoga demo) with a raffle and prizes to follow.

Annual Meeting Wrapup

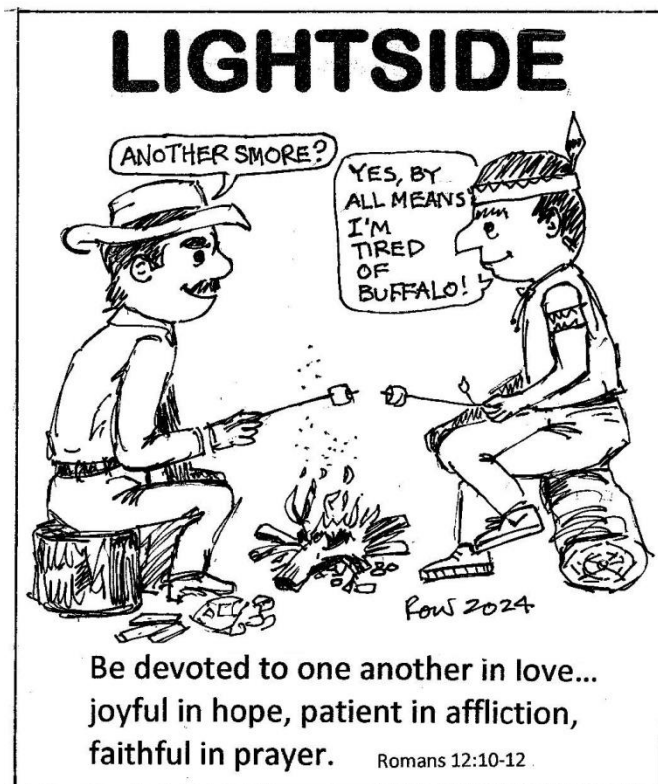
The Annual Ecclesiastical Meeting of the JCC occurred on Sunday, January 21, 2024 following worship service.

New officers and Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) members were installed (see article on Page 2). Rev. Mirjam Haas-Melchior congratulated the new members and explained the next steps for this committee.

Individual reports were reviewed and approved by the congregation. Al Kubota presented the Cascade Corporation financial reports. The 2024 Budget was presented and approved by the congregation.

A printed copy of the Mission Study Report was distributed for review and approved by the congregation.

Thank you to Ron Nishijima for the beautiful cover on the Annual Report!



Souper Bowl of Caring



This is a project for the Presbytery of Utah, Matthew 25 Presbytery Committee. All churches in Utah are invited to participate. The goal is to earn as many points as possible in "tackling hunger!" Collection Day will be **February 14, 2024**. As the same as last year, the JCC will be collecting for the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake, in memory of Kay Nakashima.

We earn points via donations of money and/or cans of food (no elapsed dates please) to donate to charity. 1 non-perishable food item = 1 point OR \$1 = 1 point. We will count points every week. On February 14th, we will take total points and divide by church members. The final number will be our total team points.

Place donations on the north table in the Fellowship Hall. Or if you prefer to donate monetarily, make your check out to Rescue Mission of Salt Lake and give it to Karen Okawa.

Our total point count will be submitted to the Matthew 25 Presbytery committee. The top 3 teams will be announced and applauded at the next Presbytery meeting.

Building and Grounds Update

Submitted by Steve Fukumitsu

Last week, the Building and Grounds committee met with Namba Construction to review the start of the renovations in the chapel. We're excited to begin this project which we anticipate starting at the end of February.



Oshogatsu 2024 Wrap Up

Oshogatsu (Japanese New Year) was celebrated on Sunday, January 7, 2024 after worship service. It was quite the spread including traditional New Year's specialties such as makizushi, nishime, ozoni, and kuromame. Thanks to Akiko Oki for her hard work in organizing and preparing the foods for this special Sunday and bringing us all good luck in 2024!



Gochisosama Deshita!

JCC February 2024 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Parking – Jazz vs 76ers, 7pm	2	3 -Nikkei Senior Center luncheon, noon
4 -Communion Service, 10:30am -Deacons Meeting, noon -Parking, Jazz vs Bucks, 6pm	5	6 -Parking, Jazz vs Oklahoma, 7pm	7	8	9	10
11 -Worship Service, 10:30am	12 -Parking, Jazz vs. Warriors, 7pm	13 -Session Meeting, 6:30pm	14 -Parking, Jazz vs. Lakers, 7pm	15 -Parking, Jazz vs. Warriors, 7pm	16 -Parking, WWE Event, 5:45pm	17
18 -Worship Service, 10:30am	19 PRESIDENTS' DAY	20	21 -Parking, Bad Bunny Concert, 8pm	22 -Parking, Jazz vs Hornets, 7pm	23	24 -Parking, Bill Burt, 7:30pm
25 -Worship Service, 10:30am -Parking, Jazz vs Spurs, 6pm	26	27	28	29 -Parking, Disney on Ice (through 3/3)		

*Calendar current as of Herald printing, 1/30/2024.

Deacon's Report – January Meeting

Submitted by Allyn Nakashima

The following issues were discussed at the Board of Deacons meeting held on January 7, 2024.

- Jan Aramaki, our outgoing moderator, presented a draft of the report of our activities that was included in the Annual Report.
- The Board of Deacons has two outgoing members (Jan Aramaki and Elaine Iwasaki) and will accept one new member, Marc Stillman, in 2024. In case we are shorthanded, Jan and Elaine volunteered to continue to assist as needed. At the February meeting new officers will be elected; we will also discuss coffee fellowship rotations and review progress and update our strategic plan.
- The next Deacon's meeting will be held on Sunday, February 4, 2024.

Nihon Matsuri Volunteers

This year the annual Nihon Matsuri festival will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2024. The JCC will be participating in the festival with exhibits in the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall and selling food. If you would like to volunteer to help with this festival, contact Jan Aramaki.



Wanted: Nisei Soldier Artifacts

The National Veterans Network (NVN) is facilitating an artifact/loan process for the Nisei Soldier traveling exhibition, "I Am An American: The Nisei Soldier Experience." In preparation, there is a nationwide call for artifacts (objects/artifacts, photos, images, maps and/or documents) to be considered for the exhibit. All offers must be submitted by May 1, 2024.

For more information on this project, contact Jani Iwamoto or <https://nvnvets.org/nisei-soldier-traveling-exhibition>.

Session Report – January Meeting

Session met on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 via Zoom due to inclement weather.

The Committee on Ministry will approve the JCC Mission Study, after which a Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) will be organized.

A generous donation was received to be used to steam clean and seal the Fellowship Hall kitchen floor.

The Annual Report is almost ready to send to print.

Individual reports:

- *Pastor's report* – The Christmas service with the Anchored in Christ Tongan-American Free Wesleyan Church and Trinity Kachin church was successful. Future speakers: January 7 – Rev. Mirjam Haas-Melchior; January 21 – Annual Congregational Meeting; January 28 – Rev. Monica Hall.
- *Building and Grounds* – Committee for renovation of the sanctuary is meeting next week.
- *Mission Study* – The COM is reviewing the Mission Study which will most likely be approved so it can be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.
- *Finance* – Pledges are more than expected. Kachin congregation made a large donation. Payroll system is changing to direct deposit.
- *Membership/Stewardship* – Youth account at National JACL Credit Union has been closed and will now be part of General Fund. Working on end-of-year reports.
- *Personnel* – Continuing to work on bank and investment accounts and will coordinate the Nominating Committee. Background check forms have been sent to new class of officers.
- *Worship* – Working on February schedule. Lorraine's term on Session is over, but she will work with the new Elder for Worship and continue to serve on the Worship committee.
- *Deacons* – Discussion to purchase some new kitchen equipment, specifically knives. Coffee Fellowship rotation will be once a month instead of quarterly.
- *Kenshin Taiko* – Filling in performance schedule for 2024.

The next Session meeting date will be scheduled once the new Elders are installed at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Day of Remembrance 2024 Events

JACL Event (Mount Olympus, Salt Lake and Wasatch Front North chapters)

Saturday, February 17, 2024

Utah State Bar Law and Justice Center

645 South 200 East

1:30 p.m.

The Day of Remembrance observes the day that Executive Order 9066 was signed, authorizing the Japanese American internment during World War II. This year, Day of Remembrance will be recognized with guest speaker Dr. Duncan Ryokan Williams, professor of American Studies and Ethnicity and Religion at USC.

Dr. Williams will speak about the Irei Project, a multi-faceted project to recognize the individuals of Japanese Ancestry who experienced wartime incarceration. The Ireicho contains the first comprehensive listing of over 125,000 persons of Japanese ancestry.

Westminster University Event

Monday, February 19, 2024

Gillmor Hall – Jones Recital Hall

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

A panel discussion featuring Jeanette Misaka, Lily Havey, Karie Minaga-Miya, Kenzie Hirai and Dianne Fukami as well as art and artifact exhibition. Parking is free on the Westminster Campus.

Saturday, March 2, 2024

Topaz Museum and Historic Site Visit

Leaves from Westminster at 8:30 a.m. returning 6:00 p.m. Free charter bus, museum and historic site tour. Space limited to first 55 people. Contact Kelly Asao (kasao@westminsteru.edu)

University of Utah Events

Both Legacy and Memorial: Japanese-American Incarceration in the American West February 15 – 17, 2024

A three-day symposium exploring the history and legacy of Japanese-American incarceration in the American West. See flyers on bulletin table in the Fellowship Hall.

February 15, 3:30 p.m. – Dr. Steph Hinnert, author of *Japanese American Incarceration: The Camps and Coerced Labor in WWII*.

February 15, 7:00 p.m. – Brandon Shimoda, poet and non-fiction writer at Finch Lane Gallery.

February 16, 3:00 p.m. – Dr. T.T. Takemoto, artist and filmmaker at UMFA.

February 17, 9:30 a.m. – Bus trip to Topaz museum and site. Space is limited to 50. RSVP Michelle Judd at michelle.judd@utah.edu by February 10, 2024.

Pictures of Belonging

February 24 to June 30, 2024 – “Pictures of Belonging”, Utah Museum of Fine Art, University of Utah. Miki Hayakawa, Hisako Hibi and Mine Okubo were 3 of the most active female artists of Japanese descent of the pre-World War II generation. This exhibit will feature more than 100 artworks by these trailblazers.

Hibi and Okubo were unjustly imprisoned at Topaz from 1942 to 1945. Their depictions of life in Utah during this time add special significance to this exhibition.

A Preview Party for this exhibition will be held on Friday, February 23, 2024 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the UMFA. Tickets are \$75 per person. Go to: <https://umfa.utah.edu/gala> to make reservations.



Images from left to right: Hisako Hibi, *Study for a Self-Portrait*, ca. 1944. Japanese American National Museum 99.63.1; Miki Hayakawa, *Untitled (Woman with Blue Hair)*, ca. 1930s. Oil on canvas, 18 x 19.25 in. Collection of Richard Sakai; Miné Okubo, *Portrait Study*, ca. 1937. Tempera on panel, 23.5 x 19.5 in. SAAM

Virtual Yoga Class

Bob Matsueda is conducting online yoga classes on Monday evenings via Zoom, beginning at 7:00 p.m. All ages and physical conditions are welcomed.

The Zoom link to the class is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86910657449?pwd=MTk2VnFvU2VRR1YvUGZyUXdZS09Hdz09>

If you would like to receive notifications on this virtual yoga class, contact Steve Fukumitsu.