

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

October 2024

A Bitter Sweet Farewell

As of October 15, I will no longer be the interim pastor of the Japanese Church of Christ. It is a bitter sweet farewell. I have baptized your young, I have buried your old. I have lived life with you.

We have experienced major milestones together: the easing of COVID-19 precautions, the completion of the mission study, hosting the PCUSA General Assembly, and finally the ongoing struggle for Japantown. The JCC has seen a greater integration into denominational life: We received a financial grant from the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ and the Presbytery of Utah has guided us through the search and call process to find a new pastor. We have increased our joint activities and worship services with the Anchored in Christ Tongan American Free Wesleyan Church and the Kachin Trinity Church. And I am happy to report that the state of the JCC is strong.

From the get go, I have made clear that I could not stay as your pastor. I came with the mission to get the JCC ready for its next duly called pastor after over a decade! From October 15 through 31, I will be available for the Rev. Andrew Fleishman to help with transition. That means for me and our time together: mission accomplished.

For this new chapter in the JCC's life, I recommend looking into what the congregation finds most important as expressed through the mission study:

- Wider welcome to increase LGBTQ ministries.
- Wider welcome to open the understanding of Japanese as Asian.
- Wider welcome to have a faith that appreciates our Buddhist and Latter-day Saint friends and family.

When the Issei first landed in Utah, they needed to build a welcoming community and as Utah's 21st century Silicon Slopes continue to attract people from all over the world, the JCC can tap into its roots as a welcoming community. I am glad to have been along for the ride for two and half years and I know God will continue to bless your ministry going forward.

Blessings,

Rev. Daniel Haas, BCC-SP
Cell 801-368-1180

Remember in Your Prayers

Condolences to the family of Karen Okabe, who passed away peacefully on September 19, 2024. Please keep the Hashimoto family 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. Contact any of the Deacons.

Please remember the following friends and family in your prayers:

Tom Reed Jr.

Susan Fukushima

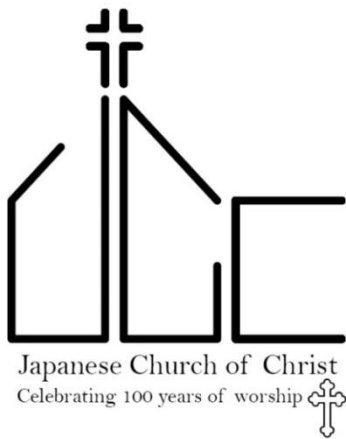
Sandy Ronning

Hashimoto family

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 (through 10/14)

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Fleishman (beginning 10/15)

Clerk of Session: Nancy Umemura
Office Administrator: Patty Price

Session

Lynne Ward, Personnel/Trustees
 Julee Mori, Finance/Kenshin Taiko
 Elise Mori, Worship
 Alan Shino, Building and Grounds
 Nancy Umemura,
 Membership/Nichigo/Deacons

Deacons

Jan Aramaki, moderator, 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, Lorraine Crouse

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

Website: www.jccslc.net

Search for a Permanent Pastor - Issuing the Call to Rev. Andrew Fleishman

By Lynne Ward, Elder for Personnel, PNC Chair

The Congregational Meeting vote is the culmination of a process that started with the Mission Study which defined members’ thoughts about the direction of JCC. Launching off the Study, the congregation appointed the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) to seek God’s guidance in issuing the call to our next pastor.

The PNC members believe Rev. Andrew Fleishman is the right pastor for JCC at this time in our church’s evolution. We also realized that his life’s path led him to JCC. His first step towards JCC was joining the Kenshin Taiko group years ago. In fact, he was drumming front and center at the JCC 100th Chapel Anniversary program.

He brings a deep commitment to God and spreading His word. He’s enthusiastic about the JCC calling.

At the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 29, 2024, members of the congregation approved Rev. Andrew Fleishman as the new permanent full-time pastor. He will begin serving as JCC’s pastor on October 15, 2024. His welcome party will be combined with the October 27, Harvest Party after service.

The Presbytery will coordinate Pastor Andrew’s installation at a later date.

The PNC members were: Rick Aoki, Jan Aramaki, Lorraine Crouse, Michiko Kenmotsu, Marc Stillman, Nancy Umemura and Lynne Ward.

Interim Pastor Daniel Haas - Gratitude for His Service to JCC

By Lynne Ward, Elder for Personnel; Jan Aramaki, Deacons Moderator

The role of an Interim Pastor is to provide a bridge between permanent pastors and in JCC’s case, to also lead the Mission Study.

Pastor Daniel has fulfilled this role beautifully since April 2022. He could have been a mere caretaker, but his approach has been to be proactive in helping JCC grow and prosper.

JCC will always view Pastor Daniel and his family as members of the JCC family. We thank him for his faithful service. (We will miss his enthusiastic “Ohayo Gozaimasu” on Sunday mornings.)

Join us on **Sunday, October 13, 2024**, World Communion Sunday, to express your gratitude and best wishes to Pastor Daniel Haas, Mirjam, Marie, Phoebe and Ben on their future endeavors. Come hear Pastor Haas’ final message and communion during joint worship service. Lunch will be provided; visit with the Haas family following service.



Pastor Haas introduces Pastor Fleishman to the congregation

Photo courtesv: Lorraine Crouse

Chapel Renovation

The JCC chapel renovation is complete! Thanks to the chapel remodel committee: Steve Fukumitsu, Lynne Ward, Alan Shino, Julee Mori, there is now an accessible restroom and enlarged foyer, updated kitchen area, newly upholstered pews, new light fixtures and carpet, TV monitors and sound system. A new accessible ramp at the back entrance is the next project. Thanks to Namba Construction and crew for taking on the challenge of updating a 100 year old building!



Photo courtesy: Lorraine Crouse

Nominating Committee

Submitted by Nancy Umemura

The nominating committee for new officers for the 2025-2027 term has been initiated. Members are Nancy Umemura, Lynne Ward, Elaine Iwasaki, and one Deacon (to be named).

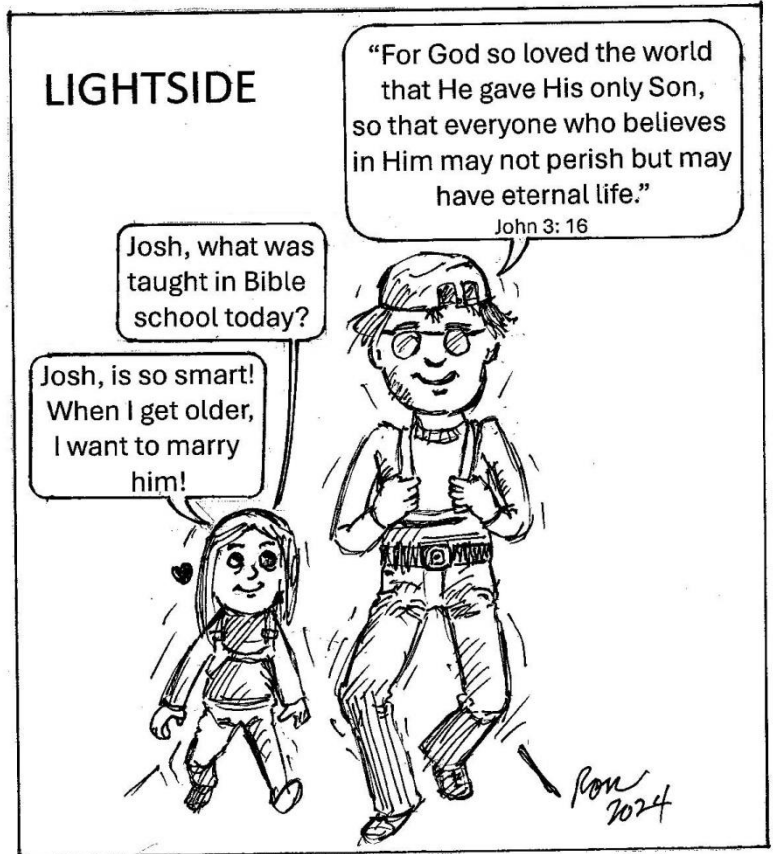
Thank you to those who have already agreed to serve and those still considering. We are looking to nominate and install 2-4 Elders, 2-3 Deacons, and 1 Trustee. It will be an exciting and rewarding time to serve, especially with the new pastor coming on board!

If you have a nomination or are interested in serving in one of the positions, please let one of the committee members know.

Japantown Article in SL Tribune

The JCC and Salt Lake Buddhist Temple are featured in this Salt Lake Tribune article on the future of Japantown:

www.sltrib.com/religion/2024/09/29/slc-japanese-church-christ/



October Harvest Party/Welcome Party for Pastor Andrew Fleishman

Kids, wear your costumes (nothing too scary) on **Sunday, October 27, 2024** for the annual Harvest Party following worship service-- fun games and food will be provided.

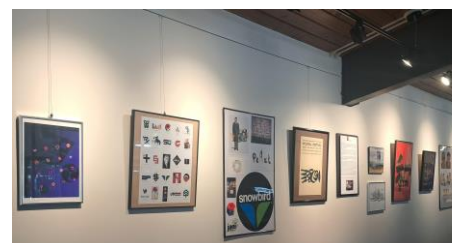


This will also be a welcome party for Pastor Andrew Fleishman. Everyone, come join the fun!

North Wall Gallery

The north wall "Gallery" has changed this month. For the next few months, the art and graphics of Ted Nagata (who recently passed away) will be displayed. Through the spring and summer months, the watercolors of Ron Nishijima were featured. Thanks to Jean Irwin, chair of the Art Committee, for coordinating the gallery, which will highlight local talent from the JCC family on a rotating schedule.

Ted Nagata's graphics on display



Upcoming Community Events

Saturday, October 5: Salt Lake Buddhist Temple Food Bazaar, 211 West 100 South, from 1:00 p.m.

October 12: Nikkei Senior Center Luncheon, at JCC Fellowship Hall, noon. Sponsored by Mount Olympus Chapter JAACL.

Name Tags and New Process for Prayer Requests

Submitted by Jan Aramaki

If you're like me, when I get introduced to someone new, I have a hard time remembering names. Therefore, in an effort to help us to know visitors' names, and to help our visitors and our new Pastor to learn our names, the Deacons will have name tags for everyone. Upon leaving service, place your magnetic name tag onto the magnetic whiteboard located in the foyer as you exit from the backdoor of the chapel so you have your name tag for next Sunday's service.

Alan Shino designed and built a torii gate located in the chapel fellowship area to hang weekly prayers for our loved ones. Prayer request cards will be located in the back of each pew. When you have a weekly prayer for a loved one, complete the card and give to an usher. Pastor will be given your prayer request card and will include loved ones' names during "prayers of the people" and your prayer will later be hung on the torii gate.

Tenth Anniversary Celebration

On September 6 and 7, the Anchored in Christ Tongan American Free Wesleyan Church commemorated their tenth anniversary of worship in the JCC facilities. The Fellowship Hall was turned into a lavish banquet hall!



Do lobsters grow that big?! Photo courtesy: Jani Iwamoto

Immunization Clinic

JCC friends and family received their flu and COVID vaccinations on Sunday, September 15. Thanks to Stephanie Mori-Nakao for making the arrangements for this annual event and to Robin Mayetani of Smith's Pharmacy.



JCC October 2024 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 -Parking, Elevation Nights, 7pm	3 -Parking, Cigarettes, 8pm	4 -Parking, Jazz Pre-season, 7pm	5 -Parking, UFC 307, 4pm
6 -Worship Service, 10:30am -Deacons Meeting, noon -Parking, Christian Nodal, 8pm	7 -CHAPEL ROOF REPLACEMENT -Parking, Jazz vs Houston, 7pm	8 -Parking, NHL Hockey, 8pm	9	10	11	12 -Nikkei Senior Center luncheon, noon (sponsored by Mt. Olympus JAACL)
13 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY -Communion Service, 10:30am -Farewell Party for Pastor Haas, 11:30am -Parking, Korn, 6:30pm	14	15 -Parking, Jazz vs Kings, 7pm	16	17	18 -Parking, Iron Maiden, 7:30pm	19 -Parking, Hockey vs Bruins, 7pm
20 -Worship Service, 10:30am	21	22 -Parking, Hockey vs Senators, 7pm	23 -Parking, Jazz vs Grizzlies, 7pm	24 -Parking, Hockey vs Avalanche, 7:15pm	25 -Parking, Jazz vs Golden State, 7:30pm	26
27 -Worship Service, 10:30am -Harvest and Welcome Party, noon	28 -Parking, Hockey vs. Sharks, 7pm	29 -Parking, Jazz vs Kings, 7pm	30 -Eastern European Network, all day -Session Meeting, 6pm -Parking, Hockey vs Flames, 7:30pm	31 -Eastern European Network, all day -Parking, Jazz vs Spurs, 7pm		

*Calendar current as of Herald printing, 9/27/2024.

Beginning Nerikiri Graduates

On September 10, 2024, Sensei Akiko Oki presented certificates of completion to members of the beginning Nerikiri class. On to intermediate!



Nerikiri beginning class graduates: Joel Umemura (representing father Cary), Karen Okawa, Sensei Akiko Oki (seated), Marc Stillman and Katsuko Gose. Not pictured: Lynne Ward, Teresa Aramaki, Allyn Nakashima, Stephanie Nakamura, Yeiko Nagata, Cary Umemura, Michiko Kenmotsu. Photo courtesy: Suzanne Hata

Future Nerikiri Matcha Party

Submitted by Akiko Oki

To help my students improve their Japanese sweets skills and culminate their lessons so far, we will be holding a Nerikiri Matcha party! We will be serving matcha, so please bring your favorite matcha bowl and enjoy. (For those who can't drink matcha, we will also have green tea.) Please enjoy the combination of Nerikiri Japanese sweets and matcha. If you are interested in participating, please see Akiko. We are looking at January 18, 2025 as a tentative date.

Since everyone makes the Nerikiri by hand, there will be limited numbers; but we will do our best. I didn't expect the students to be able to do this, but everyone has very dexterous fingers! My students listen to me carefully and I am always very moved. I am convinced that this is the only place locally where Nerikiri Japanese sweets are made. The class is only halfway through, but they have created some very unique and wonderful works. I'm very proud of this!

For the Nerikiri Matcha party, we are looking to borrow one or two air pots to put hot water in for the tea. Please let Akiko know if you have one we can borrow for this event!

Stewardship

It is that time of the year for the annual Stewardship Campaign. Please fill out the form below and turn it in with the Sunday offering or mail it in. The form will be collected and given to the finance and budget committee to help plan next year's budget. Due date **October 31, 2024**. This pledge allows the Session to budget for programs, staff, worship, outreach and facility maintenance throughout the year.

Being a good steward in this world is one way of expressing our love for God and our gratitude to Him. "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

JCC Pledge Form 2024

Your pledge to the JCC is a promise to share your resources within the faith community. This pledge allows the Session to budget for programs, staff, worship, outreach and facility maintenance throughout the year. God has blessed us! Our pledges help us to share His blessings with others in our community. Your pledge is a promise to yourself, the faith community at JCC, and the community at large.

Cut out and fill out the form below and either bring it to worship service on a Sunday or mail it to JCC, 268 West 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84101 by October 31, 2024.

Pledge 2024

This pledge is my/our commitment to the Japanese Church of Christ in its call to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and to make a difference in my (our) life and in the life of the community.

I (we) pledge:

- _____ per week
- _____ per month
- _____ per year
- _____ per one time gift

Name:

Street Address:

City/State/Zip:

Email:

Session September Meeting Recap

Submitted by Nancy Umemura, Clerk of Session

The September Session meeting was held on Tuesday September 24, 2024.

Session approved accepting the membership of Rev. Daniel Haas to JCC after his term as interim pastor is completed. Session discussed the positive feedback from our Chapel 100th Anniversary celebrations, updating the rental policy for the Fellowship Hall, pastoral transition events and planning, arrangements for tuning the pianos and organ, JCC representation for meetings on Japantown with Smith Entertainment Group (SEG) and Salt Lake City and County as specified in the SLC/SEG Participation Agreement, and multiple upcoming events.

Individual Reports:

Pastor: Rev. Haas will present his doctoral project paper to the Committee on Ministry on October 10. October 13 will be his last day as interim pastor for JCC and he will support Pastor Andrew Fleishman's transition through October 31.

Building and Grounds: Service was performed on the Fellowship Hall kitchen fire suppression system. Using a Ground Penetrating Radar System, it was determined that there is a cavity behind the chapel cornerstone. A minimally destructive approach will be used to determine whether the cavity contains a time capsule. We are continuing upgrades and adjustments to the chapel sound system. Damage from a roof leak to the north wall of the Fellowship Hall will be repaired.

Finance: The P&L and budget statements for the month of September were reviewed and discussed.

Personnel: The Contract and Terms of Call for Pastor Andrew Fleishman were finalized and approved. Plans for transition activities are proceeding.

Membership: Membership of Rev. Chelsea Page was transferred, per her request, from JCC to the United Church of Underhill in Vermont. Rev. Page will be serving as the pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Jericho, Vermont beginning in October.

Nichigo: The Nerikiri Wagashi basics class graduates were presented with certificates on September 10. An intermediate class also began on September 10. The next class will be October 8.

Worship: A joint worship service and potluck luncheon on Sept. 22 was held in celebration of the JCC chapel 100th Anniversary and the 10th Anniversaries of the Tongan Free Wesleyan and Kachin Trinity Churches worshipping at JCC.

Resolution Supporting Existing Agreements to Preserve Historic Japantown in SLC

Submitted by Jani Iwamoto and Jan Aramaki

Link to Resolution:

<https://slco.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=13289639&GUID=985BF36C-60DA-4ED5-9414-48CAD7208171>

Link to Audio of the meeting:

[County Council on 2024-09-10 1:45 PM \(granicus.com\)](#)

Thanks to everyone for their participation on September 11, 2024! Salt Lake County Council Member Ann Granato appreciated the panel and those who testified during public comment including Jan Aramaki, Metra Barton, Floyd Mori and Troy Watanabe. On our panel included Lorraine Crouse, Paul Iwasaki, Jeanette Misaka, PhD, Kristine Aramaki and myself. I have to say that Lorraine, Paul, Jeanette and Kristine kept my attention and each added their personal stories.

Salt Lake Council Member Ann Granato, who sponsored this resolution, said later, "Awesome job. Knocked it out of the park!" This resolution was to affirm prior memoranda of understandings from the early 2000's regarding the garden, care of the garden, shared parking for festivals; crates on street, etc.

For anything on Japantown Street there needs to be future major funding, except for the Salt Lake City Redevelopment Agency streetscape.

Congratulations!

Submitted by Jeanette Misaka

In August 2024, the government of Japan appointed Jani Iwamoto, Honorary Consul of Japan in Salt Lake City, Utah. She is the first to hold this position in Utah.

Honorary consuls are appointed in local areas where there is no official office established by a country. The assignment includes such matters as promoting and facilitating mutual working relations and promoting cultural and commercial exchange between Japan and the United States.

In 2017, Jani received the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Commendation at ceremony presided by the Consul-General of Japan in Denver, Hiroto Hirakoba, and in 2023 (Autumn Conferment of Decoration on Foreign Nationals), The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays at ceremony presided by Consul General of Japan in Denver, Yoichi Mikami.

Chapel 100 Year Anniversary Wrap

Submitted by Jani Iwamoto

What a beautiful day to celebrate the 100th year anniversary of the Japanese Church of Christ's chapel on Japantown Street (100 South), as well as the 10th year celebrations of the Anchored in Christ Free Wesleyan Church and the Kachin Trinity Church who share our chapel and facilities. This celebration was especially meaningful because of the richness and beauty of these three congregations with different religions and cultures and how we have all become a family.

The celebration started with a ceremony in front of the treasured Japanese garden. For background, this garden was dedicated in the early 2000s to protect against possible vehicular and pedestrian conflict with the then new Salt Palace expansion, as well as to honor our Issei and Nisei pioneers. It was a collaboration with the Japanese Community Preservation Committee (including at that time former Judge Raymond Uno, myself, Brenda Koga, Karie Minaga-Miya, Steven Fukumitsu, Board members Diane Akiyama, Rev. Patricia Alexander, Al Kubota, Jerry Mori, Paul Terashima, and Consultant Kazuo Matsubayashi), Salt Lake County and SMG who runs the Salt Palace Convention Center. More recently, on Veteran's Day 2022, we installed a plaque to honor our Utah Congressional Gold Medal WWII Nisei soldiers. Now, as a new entertainment district will envelope Japantown street (100 South between 200 and 300 West) and buildings of up to 600 feet, this garden takes on greater importance as it will continue to allow light on the JCC Chapel. Recently, the SL County Council sponsored a resolution to express their continued support and involvement for this garden and prior memorandums of understanding.

All three congregations shared beautiful music and performances. Attendance by many including dignitaries from all levels of government, religious leaders and Consul-General of Japan in Denver, Yoichi Mikami.

Posting of the Colors was special as Senior Chief Bob Jones presented it, with a few words by Terry Schow, the long-time past executive director of the Utah Department of Veterans Affairs. The presence of 99-year-old Casey Kunimura who served in the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team – the most decorated in military history, was extremely moving for many in attendance.

Special guest from California, Wayne Osako, co-chair for the Go For Broke commemorative stamp campaign, spoke about the years of effort to obtain this stamp – and showed the short documentary on this story. He helped me pass a concurrent resolution with our legislature and Governor Herbert, with the unanimous support of our federal delegation. I was proud that Utah supported this effort. A special

issuance of the commemorative stamp was made for our celebration with a postmark from the USPS with covers Japantown. Purchase the stamps now from the USPS as they could be destroyed at any time!

https://store.usps.com/store/product/buy-stamps/go-for-broke-japanese-american-soldiers-of-wwii-S_480504?msocid=0ff071730c296018071e62140db46187

There was also a wonderful photographic and archival display, curated by Lorraine Murakami Crouse of the Nisei soldiers, and of the JCC.

There was also a special display curated by Jean Irwin, with the help of the Nagata family, displaying some of Ted Nagata's iconic work. Ted, who recently passed, gave so much time and effort to the JCC and the community.

Thank you to all those from all three congregations who helped with set up, takedown and cleanup, before and after the event (some for days!) to make this celebration a success. It was truly a day to remember!

Also present was the Utah State Historic Preservation Office – Amy Barry who has been working for years, but specifically for the last year to restore the oldest Japanese cemetery in Utah, and Christopher Merritt, a historical archaeologist, and the Utah State Historic Preservation Officer, based out of the Utah Division of State History attended to share their amazing and collaborative work.

With September 21st being the start of the United Against Hate week, we appreciated having Jay Jacobson, chair of United Jewish Federation of Utah's Community Partners Against Hate to share resource booklets with useful information about how to respond to and report illegal threats and actions motivated by hate.

There was also a Torii gate designed and built by Alan Shino where all could write a remembrance of a loved one or a wish for the future of JCC. Thank you to Jan Aramaki's team for your help with this effort.

The hot dogs and stained-window cookies (made and hand painted by Kristine Cottrell) were enjoyed by all. Thanks to the Umemura family for your help with the hot dogs!

These are just some of the pictures that have been taken and received thus far – see Page 8. Thank you to Laura Gaddie and Mark Minaga for being our official photographers, and to all who are sharing their photographs.



A prayer torii, constructed by Alan Shino; hung wishes from visitors



Pastor Tipiloma Pupu'a of the Anchored in Christ Tongan American Free Wesleyan Church gave opening remarks in the Japanese garden



Awng Lot of the Kachin Trinity Church presented a certificate to the JCC

100th Anniversary of the JCC Chapel

Besides the event on Saturday, September 21, a joint worship service was held on Sunday, the 22nd with the Anchored in Christ Tongan American Free Wesleyan Church and the Kachin Trinity Church. A potluck was held after worship service.

Photos courtesy: Jani Iwamoto, Julee Mori



Anniversary Co-chairs Lorraine Crouse and Jani Iwamoto and Wayne Osako (middle) of the Nisei Stamp campaign



Handpainted cookies in the shape of the chapel stained glass window



Kenshin Taiko performed on stage



Kachin Trinity church members performed in the courtyard