

## 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

**May 2025**

Dear Beloved Friends,

As I reflect on the past six months since joining the Japanese Church of Christ, my heart is overflowing with gratitude and joy. I have witnessed so many amazing things taking place in this community—signs of God's abundant presence and grace among us. From the remarkable improvements made to our property to the vibrant spirit of our congregation, it has been nothing short of a blessing to walk alongside you in this journey of faith.

One moment that stands out to me personally was our Maundy Thursday service. It was deeply meaningful and a powerful time of reflection and communion. Thank you to all who attended and helped make that sacred evening come alive. And what a celebration we had on Easter Sunday! From the children joyfully decorating the cross with flowers to the group photo that captured the spirit of our community, I felt truly moved and uplifted.

You have welcomed me with such warmth, and I thank each of you for quickly becoming not just a congregation, but a family—a family that supports, inspires, and challenges me to grow in faith and service.

I was absolutely blown away by Nihon Matsuri! The turnout, the energy, the enthusiasm—it all took my breath away. What a gift it was to offer the opening invocation on behalf of the JCC community. I extend my deepest thanks to everyone who contributed to making the festival such a success. It was a profound honor to represent our church and to see our mission lived out in the heart of the city.

Yes, JCC is very much alive and well!

On the last Sunday of April, I had the opportunity to share about Taro Takeda, one of the foundational figures in our church's life. I am certain that if he could see us now, he would rejoice to know that JCC remains a place of worship, community, joy, and abundant life.

Happy Eastertide, my friends. We are still in the season of resurrection—of hope renewed and life reborn. I thank God daily for each of you and the sacred calling we share to love and serve in Christ's name.

With deep gratitude and love,

**Rev. Andrew Fleishman**

## In Memory

A Celebration of Life will be held for Hiro Iwasaki on **Saturday, May 3, 2025** at the JCC. The service will begin at 11:00 a.m.

A funeral service will be held for Mary "Bea" Aramaki Ichiuji on **Saturday, May 17, 2025** at the JCC. Service will begin at 11:00 a.m.

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## Remember in Your Prayers

Names will appear on the prayer list for one month, so we can keep it updated and current. Contact any of the Deacons or Pastor Andrew to add a person.

Please remember the following friends and family in your prayers:

Iwasaki Family

Mitsuru Tyler

Ichiuji Family

**The JCC Mission Statement**

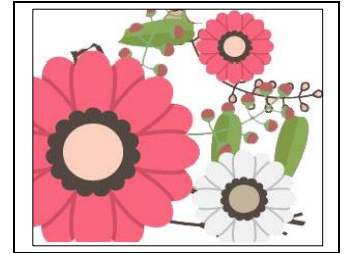
To proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and seek spiritual growth for the entire congregation through:

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

**Mother’s Day Brunch**

Mother’s Day is on **Sunday, May 11, 2025**. A light continental breakfast to honor Mom will be served from **9:00 to 10:00 a.m.** (There is no charge.)

Bring the family to celebrate Mom’s special day and then attend worship service!



*“She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.” Proverbs 31:26-27*

**Call for Graduates – Class of 2025**

If there is a High School or College Senior (or advanced degree) in our JCC family that will be graduating in the Class of 2025, submit the graduate’s name and school by **May 24, 2025** to Karen Okawa. The seniors will be recognized in June.



**Memorial Day Candles**

On **Sunday, May 25, 2025**, we will have our traditional Memorial candle lighting service to remember our friends and family that have passed away. Worship service will begin at **10:30 a.m.** Come and light a candle in memory of your loved ones.

Also on that same Sunday, the Utah JAACL Chapters will be holding its annual Veterans’ Memorial Service at the **Salt Lake City Cemetery** at **8:30 a.m.**, honoring local Japanese Americans who served in the military. It will be held in the Japanese section of the cemetery, off of 10th East and 11th Avenue.

**Garden Party**

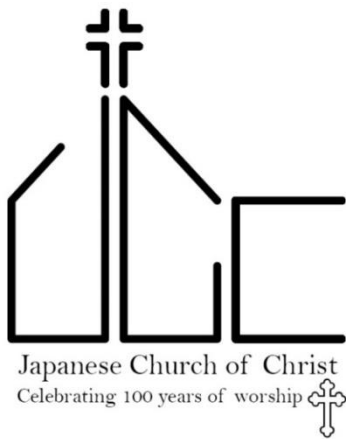
Mark your calendars to attend a Garden Party on **Sunday, May 18, 2025**, hosted by Bob Jones and Michiko Kenmotsu at their home in Layton. This has become an annual event as of late to view their beautiful garden and spend a relaxing afternoon on their patio with friends from JCC. Drive up to their home right after Coffee Fellowship on that Sunday.

Their address is: 3359 North 2550 East, Layton, UT 84040. If you get lost, call (801) 336- 6951 (Bob’s cell).

**New JCC Directory**

*Submitted by Patty Price*

The 2025 JCC directory will be coming out in May through a PDF file to everyone who receives the monthly electronic Herald publication. If you would prefer to receive a hard copy of the directory, please let Patty Price know either by email (patp1406@gmail.com) or text her at (801) 556-1484 no later than **May 20, 2025**. If you see any corrections that need to be made, please let her know before she has the directory printed. (It has been proofread several times and another person proofread it as well, but there could still be errors.)



**THE HERALD**

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

**Pastor: Rev. Andrew Fleishman**  
**Clerk of Session: Nancy Umemura**  
**Office Administrator: Patty Price**

**Session**

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

**Deacons**

Allyn Nakashima, moderator; Teresa Aramaki, Stephanie Mori-Nakao, Akiko Oki, Laura Olson, Kory Shino, Marc Stillman

**Trustees**

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

Newsletter articles are due on the third 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)

**JCC Facilities Usage Requests**

*Submitted by Nancy Umemura*

If you, or someone you know, would like to use the JCC Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary, or parking lots, please send all requests to Patty Price, at patp1406@gmail.com. She will ask for information on the event description, dates, and times and will check the calendar for any conflicts. If there are no conflicts, she will route the request to our newly formed Building Use Committee for approval and coordination.

The Building Use Committee is made up of Pastor Andrew, Patty, a representative from Session, Trustees, Deacons, and a parking coordinator.

**July Lake Tahoe Retreat Filled**

*Submitted by Jan Aramaki*

Sad to report this year's Lake Tahoe Retreat is completely booked. Allyn Nakashima and I will begin reaching out much earlier for next year. Anyone who has an interest in attending would need to register within a couple of weeks once registrations are released. Doc Matsukawa's love of Lake Tahoe Retreat was strong, and he was instrumental in keeping our church involved. Lake Tahoe's welcoming fellowship and beauty of the Lake is one you want to experience 🏞️. Praying for others to attend next year.

**Session Report**

*Submitted by Nancy Umemura, Clerk of Session*

The Session meeting was held March 26, 2025. The Session discussed plans for Holy Week, Nihon Matsuri, Japantown, and upcoming requests for use of the JCC facilities.

We approved the installation of a banner highlighting Easter events and another one to welcome people to JCC showing the regular Sunday worship service time.

The microwave from the Sanctuary kitchen was moved to the Fellowship Hall to replace the broken one. Session voted not to buy another unit at this time.

We are refining our procedures and checklists for funerals and memorial services. We discussed the courtyard project and building security needs.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for April 30, 2025.



**Happy Birthday Bob!**

On Sunday, April 6, 2025, the congregation celebrated Bob Jones' 77<sup>th</sup> birthday with a cake made by his wife Michiko Kenmotsu! Yummy cake enjoyed by all (as noted by everyone's blue lips and teeth!).



Happy 77<sup>th</sup>!  
Photo courtesy - Lorraine Crouse

**Upcoming Community Events**

**Saturday, May 3, 2025** - National JAACL Credit Union Annual Meeting, Rice-Eccles stadium, Ken Garff University Club. Go to jaclcu.com for more information.

**Saturday, May 10, 2025** – Nikkei Senior Center luncheon at noon at the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple, sponsored by Dharma School, Salt Lake Buddhist Temple.

**Friday-Sunday, May 16-18, 2025** - Living Traditions Festival, celebrating the diverse cultures of Utah. Washington and Library Square, Downtown SLC. Workshops, food, crafts and program for the entire family. Kenshin Taiko will be performing on Sunday, May 18 at 5:30 p.m. on the North Stage.

**Saturday, June 7, 2025** - 48th Utah Asian Festival, Utah Fairpark Grand Building, 155 North 1000 West, Salt Lake City, UT, 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Website: utahasianfestival.org

**Finding Your Mon Event**

The Salt Lake JAACL is sponsoring an event to discover the history and meaning behind Japanese kamon (family crest). Bring your mon to share or discover how you can find yours on **Saturday, May 10 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.** in the **JCC Fellowship Hall**. Sheldon Marumoto will share how he discovered his mon with tips on how attendees can find theirs.

This event is free and open to all! There will be light refreshments and a chance to make a stamp or button of your mon if you know it (or create one if you don't!)

**Church Women United May Friendship Day Celebration 2025**

**When:** Friday, May 2, 2025 (1st Friday)

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Where:** Calvary Baptist Church, 1090 S. State (SLC)

**Theme:** “God’s Daughters Living Powerful Lives – Friends Love at All Times”

**Keynote Speaker:** TBA

**Registration:** \$2.00 Lunch: \$6.00

**Annual FLC:** *Fellowship of the Least Coin Collection / Dedication*

**Potential Speakers:** Esther Williams Scholarship Fund Recipients

**Community Outreach:** The CWU Esther Williams Scholarship Fund. Make checks payable to “Church Women United” and note “Scholarship Fund”

**Offering:** Used for CWU Local Programs: Checks need to be made payable to: “Church Women United”

**Lunch RSVP:** To Connee Schoon at conneesch@comcast.net or (801) 942-7675 (please leave message) by Monday, April 28.



JCC May 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 -Hiro Iwasaki COL, 11am
4 -Communion Service, 10:30am -Deacons Meeting, noon	5	6	7	8	9	10 -Parking, Nikkei Senior Center luncheon at SLBT, noon -Know Your Mon workshop, 2pm
11 MOTHER’S DAY -Mother’s Day continental breakfast, 9am -Worship Service, 10:30am	12	13	14	15	16	17 -Ichiuji funeral, 11am
18 -Worship Service, 10:30am -Garden Party at Bob and Michiko’s, 1pm	19	20	21	22	23	24 -Herald article due date, noon
25 -Veteran’s Memorial Service, City Cemetery, 8:30am -Worship Service and Candle Lighting, 10:30am	26 MEMORIAL DAY	27	28	29	30	31

\*Calendar current as of Herald printing, 4/28/2025.

### Japantown Update

Submitted by Lynne Ward

On April 29, 2025, the Salt Lake County Council passed the resolution for the sale of the east west portion of the Salt Palace. This section is the hall and parking garage behind JCC and along 100 South. On behalf of JCC and the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple, Lynne Ward made requests for access to the churches and parking lots, a cleaning and remediation or repair fund, and coordination for road redirection and closures during demolition and construction.

Also requested were: a second access driveway for the Smith Entertainment Group (SEG) residential tower; parking at the Salt Palace as previously committed; preservation and maintenance of the Japanese Garden and the buffer area around the JCC north parking lot: security lighting and fencing due to new bars and restaurants in close proximity; stepbacks of the SEG buildings so they are not up against JCC property; and the front entrance of the SEG hotel be on 200 West instead of 100 South as originally planned.

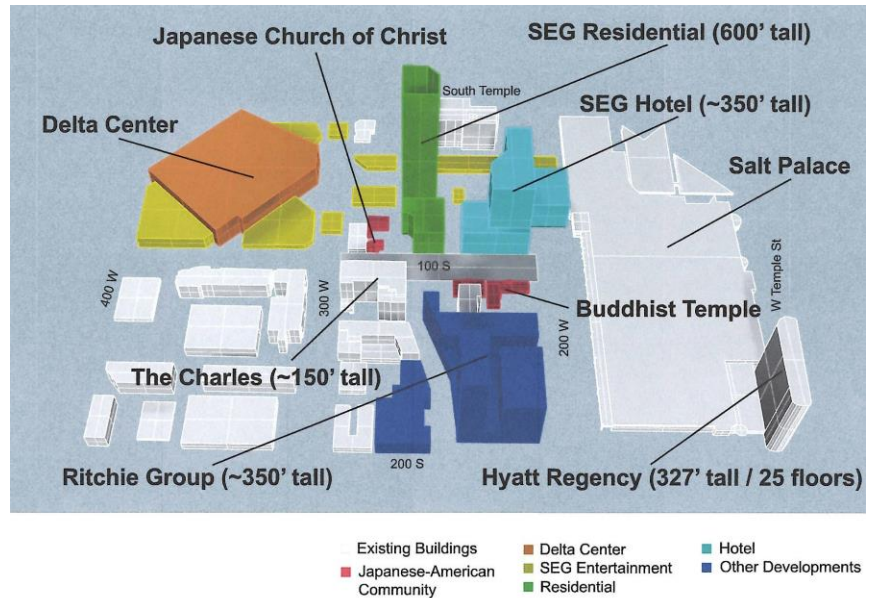
Many of these items are under the jurisdiction of Salt Lake City and we'll make our best efforts to communicate them to the City.

(Japantown Update continued)

Also testifying was Viviane Nguyen, an architecture student at the University of Utah. She explained the research that she and her 50 fellow students did on Japantown and that they produced visionary ideas for the area.

Below is a digital model created by two other University of Utah architecture students: Andrew Jeffries and Michael McLaughlin. They are based on drawings released publicly by SEG and the Richie Group. They are drafts, but give us an idea of the concepts.

### Sports, Entertainment, Culture/Convention District Proposed Developments, Aerial View to the North



### Palm Sunday

Holy week is always full of traditions at the JCC. Events began with a guest speaker, Reverend Andy O'Dowd on Palm Sunday. See Page 6 for other Holy Week activities.



Reverend O'Dowd gives the Palm Sunday message.



Waving palm fronds during the opening hymn.

### Holy Week Activities 2025

On Maundy Thursday, Pastor Andrew gave a short sermon followed by a seder meal. On Saturday, April 18, a spring cleanup was held to prepare our grounds and buildings for Easter Sunday and Nihon Matsuri. Trees and bushes were trimmed and windows were sparkling! On Easter Sunday, the men's group prepared a full breakfast of eggs, ham, Portuguese sausage, hash browns, toast, muffins and fruit! The worship service included a floral processional and Pastor Andrew gave the Easter message, followed by an egg hunt in the courtyard.



Pre-processional poses. Photo courtesy: Lauren Erlacher



Sharing the Seder meal on Maundy Thursday.



Greg Stillman, Kory and Abi Shino enjoy fellowship during breakfast.



Easter egg hunt (hint: look in the tree!).



Easter brunch guests: Yuri, Betty, Jeanette and Elaine.