



# Bachi Beat



Fall 2008

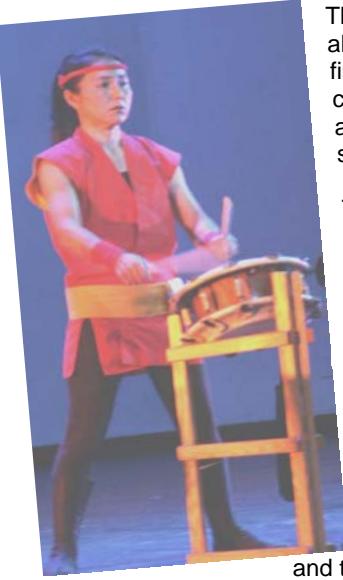
Bachi Beat Editor: Karri Barry

## Watsonville Taiko's 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert

We did it....read what our members had to say about the experience

### *"Fire Was Well Burnt at the October Fire Festival"*

By: Ikuyo Conant

 This year's anniversary production put all 47 drummers on the stage for the final piece of music, Kokomo Bayashi, a children's festival song. Both young and old played the piece with big smiles and joyful hearts.

The practice at Kizuka Hall had been hilarious. With about 35 people and over 40 drums in different sizes with different stands, everything got shoved aside to both sides of the room. People tried desperately to reach for their instruments. They had to take turns to get to their drums, and sometimes they had to wait for what seemed like forever because both corners of the room were crowded with equipment. It took patience, but we persevered and the show was a complete success.

Everyone, thank you so much for all of your hard work –  
*gokurosama!*



### *"Nervous Energy"*

By: Karri Barry

My palms are sweating and in just a few minutes all of us sitting in the green room will stand up, hold hands and send our positive energy around the room. I keep wiping my hands on my pants in a desperate attempt to dry them before I have to hold hands with the other performers. It doesn't work. I'm just too nervous. But in the excitement of the moment, no one cares. Ikuyo says, "oh your hands are sweating", but she holds my hand nonetheless and sends positive energy from her hand through mine....and so the circle of energy begins until it has reached everyone in the group. And now, despite any fears we may have, it is time. Time to walk to the stage where just hours before we had set all of our stage markers for the drums. Now it is time to inspire the audience with our performance.

For some, walking on stage is like putting on a comfortable old shoe. It just fits. Yet for some of us, this is like no other performance we have been in since we joined the group. What is a comfortable old shoe for some, is a too-tight-high-heeled-stiletto for others. And so the wobbly walk to the stage begins....

As I stand in line in the wings ready to walk to my place on stage, my mind screams in silence...."I can't do it! I'm too nervous". I'd performed countless other times, at festivals, parties, weddings....and I loved them all. I love performing, and yet this show is somehow different. Two hours of drumming...would I get my duet-solo with Dave right? Would we stare blankly out into the crowd not remembering what to do like we did at Cabrillo Music Festival (the longest minute of my life!). Would I get Dragon Gate



right? I'd worked so hard on it after having what seemed like amnesia just a week before! "If I can just get past that ONE part" I keep saying to myself, "I'll be home free". But there is little time for these thoughts...it's time. The show is beginning and I will only have one short break before intermission...barely enough time to find the drum I am supposed to set on stage for the next piece. As I stand behind my drum preparing to start the first piece, I'm relieved that I can't see any faces. The audience is dark and I can

## **"Nervous Energy" (continued)...**

only make out some of the shapes. I can't see them....and so I can pretend that they can't see me either.

"Ok...here we go".....the music is fast and my breathing is getting heavier. I'm paying close attention so I don't miss my queue. Dave and I have practiced our duet many times, but every day is different, and I'm hoping we get it right on this opening night. I'm listening hard for the ending of the solo just before ours...and then I hear it...the solo ending and in just a few beats Dave and I will have to come in together....."just breath" I say in my head.."you can do this". And so we did and the weight of the world was lifted if only for a brief moment.

We move the drums on and off stage nearly perfectly. Just a week earlier, we didn't seem to know what we were doing. It took what seemed like forever to find the drums we were supposed to move on and off the stage, and most of us were utterly confused. But here we are, gliding on and off stage without a hitch. It had come together just as all the seasoned performers had said it would. The drums are right where they are supposed to be every time...it was magic.

With each song passing I am getting closer and closer to Dragon Gate. I have gone over it a million times...at home, during rehearsal, while I'm driving, while I'm sleeping, while I'm eating...it is all I can think about. If I screwed up everyone would see it, so I just had to get it right. ....ok...next is Himatsuri...and then the children's music...and THEN.... DRAGON GATE. I just keep thinking...."let the children's music keep going...let it last just a little bit longer". But it doesn't. It ends just as it usually does. I can't make it change no matter how hard I try. I'm panicking inside...my hands are sweating again....time is up....."Oh god...here it comes...the hardest part....please, please let me get it right".....and as the seconds rush past, the corners of my mouth start to turn up and I am "smiling with my eyes" as sensei always says. It's over...the hard part is over and my spirits are lifted and my energy is flowing, and I finish the rest of the music without a single thought running through my head.

I have survived it. I have survived the nervousness. I have survived the physical and mental drain. I have survived the self doubt and fear and yes, I have even survived the ridiculous false eyelashes I put on for "stage presence"! As I pack up my things and head home, I am overjoyed....but then I remember ....there is another performance tomorrow!



My wife and I celebrate our wedding anniversary every year around the time of the Watsonville Taiko Anniversary performance. This was the first year that I was actually able to spend the entire weekend with my wife for our anniversary because I didn't perform with the group. It was a different, but enjoyable experience being able to sit in the audience and watch the performance with my wife Jan. As the group coordinator for Sandoshin Taiko of Morgan Hill, I am usually up on stage, creating drum layouts, coordinating weapon attacks, repairing stands or building new drums and being a performing member of the group.

In talking to the members of Sandoshin Taiko that performed this year in the anniversary show, they were very thankful at how friendly and engaging all the members of Watsonville Taiko and Shinsho Mugen Daiko were to each of them. They had a great time, and I especially enjoyed surprising them in the Green Room after the performance on Saturday night and telling them how proud I was of their playing and hard work. They came away from the experience feeling a new affinity for Watsonville Taiko and all the affiliated groups.

Bryan Burkhardt  
Sandoshin Taiko



### **A MESSAGE FROM DAVE THAYER -- WATSONVILLE TAIKO**

It was a pleasure to be able to perform with Monterey and Morgan Hill Taiko. We all had a common goal - to put on a flawless performance. Although there are always flaws or imperfections to deal with in any production of this size, I was thrilled and impressed at how well it all came together in the final hours of rehearsal. It was definitely a good example of group effort. I personally enjoy being on stage, and it's a wonderful feeling to be able to touch the audience's emotions and entertain them with the powerful sound of our drums playing in unison. The audience was very responsive to our drumming, and it was their energetic applause after every song that gave us that extra boost that we needed to take our energy to the next level. Many Many thanks to all our supporters. I look forward to doing it all again in 2010



## A Real Live Performance By: Mryt Hawkins



The performance was on.... A REAL stage, with REAL lights, and a REAL stage manager. It was overwhelming. Sensei Ikuyo Conant and some of the other performers had spent most of the morning putting down the small pieces of tape that would identify where our drums would go for each piece of music. Preparing the stage was the first major hurdle. Next came the dress rehearsal and then the show itself. Bonnie Chihara had made sure we

were properly attired. Not only did she make the costumes, she washed and ironed them all as well. Pam Daly from the Monterey Taiko group, Shinsho Mugen Daiko, helped too by bringing other costumes there were used for the Monterey Taiko performances. Our makeup was next.... just like in the movies. The experienced drummers sat in front of mirrors and went at it with confidence. I looked on, as did a handful of others, wondering what to do. Laurie Glynn took us under her wing.....she lined our lips, powdered our cheeks, thickened our eyelashes, and smoothed our eyebrows. After we were done primping, we gathered in the greenroom (which was not green at all, but nevertheless called the greenroom) and formed a circle to support each other with our energy.

Then it was show time.. 10... 9... 8 .....4..... and on stage we went. I was glad the house lights were down, making the audience invisible, but also very present. Being on stage gives you a completely different perspective than sitting relaxed in the audience. In a twinkling of an eye, the show was nearly over...only one more piece to go. It didn't seem possible. The second performance came quickly the next day and for me, it was the best one.

After the shows, I had the pleasure of talking to some of the audience members, and without exception they were fired up and had had a great time. One woman said her husband was worried because he had forgotten his hearing aids, but he later decided he didn't need them after all. She also thought the lady playing "The Muffler" which is really called the cannon, was fun to watch. There were two teenagers who thought the performance was "cool" and one of them even said her "organs shook". THAT is a good thing. It means we succeeded. Some audience members were pleased to see the diversity and dedication in the drummers, while others commented on the different skill levels of the drummers, saying they thought it was great that the experienced drummers set such a good example to follow. Still, others liked the large group and the big sound that was made and how we all seemed to be having fun. They were right..it was fun.

It is almost 2 months post performance now. Sensei Ikuyo Conant's organizational and teaching skills are exceptional. She can bring all different kinds of people together ---people with different lives, different skills, different health issues, whatever it may be, to play taiko drums. It's all rather inspirational, these taiko drummers, who have fallen in love with the heart beat of the drum and have dedicated themselves to their sensei and to each other, and who strive to be the best for themselves, the group, and the audience.

One thing will never forget, is Jordan Zimmerman coming off the stage ...dripping with perspiration, and waving a white hankie over his head saying "I SURRENDER! I SURRENDER!. I CANNOT PLAY ONE MORE SONG!" We haven't seen Jordan since!  
– Pat Ordway.



"I love the show experience--I am addicted to the high energy, the strong sense of community and the feeling of stretching my limits in every way--physically and mentally." – Denise Hasegawa



It's been two years since I joined Watsonville Taiko, and participating in the anniversary performance was good closure o the first stage of my taiko studies. I was very nervous waiting for the performance to begin since I had never been on a big stage before. I played the shime for five songs and I thought Ikuyo Sensei was very brave to let me play it on the big stage since I had

very little shime experience. I was honored to play the shime because I felt the trust that Sensei had bestowed upon me. Time flew by, and the day of performance came sooner than I had expected. I was very excited and anxious at the same time, but I knew once I got on the stage I would be fine and enjoy the drumming. The audience's applause encouraged me and gave me the confidence and energy to keep playing. I would be very happy to be on the stage again.



## Cool, Calm and Collected....Yeah Right!!

By: Robin Ferguson

The Anniversary performance was a very rewarding and exciting experience. I had never felt at all nervous on any day leading up to the show or during any of our rehearsals. I felt like I had memorized my three little songs and knew them well. I was just plain looking forward to the whole thing. I had helped haul the equipment over to the Cabrillo Theatre the evening before and I started to get a sense of excitement and camaraderie. By the next morning some of us were busy practicing our "air drumming" while some of the others spiked the stage. As we walked inside the theatre to run through the entire show I FELT THE FIRST SIGNS OF PANIC COMING ON!!! When we broke for lunch, I was too sick to eat! While everyone else was chatting and eating their lunches, I was walking around the stage in near darkness looking for my stage markers. I couldn't find a single one, and I was in full panic mode! All I could think of was what Bonnie had told Lynda, Lori & me at our Monday nights classes (Lynda & Lori had been a little freaked out, but I was calm as a cucumber)....she said "don't worry about playing on stage. It'll seem like nothing compared to worrying about getting the drums in the right place" She was SO right, and I was a nervous wreck! Luckily, I spotted Karen checking her spike marks and I noticed she was counting. She told me that she counts the steps between the spike marks. Hallelujah!!! There IS a method to this madness! I tried it and it worked. I could breathe again! My most favorite time, I have to admit, was in the "makeup" room. Not very many of us wear makeup on a regular basis. It felt like a bunch of 7 year old little girls giggling while experimenting with their mother's makeup. None of us, except Laurie, our makeup expert, knew what we were doing!

It was so exciting and we pulled it off. We truly entertained the audience while having a great time ourselves. This was a first for me. After our last bow, and the curtain closed in front of us, the feeling of accomplishment was almost overwhelming. The hugs I got from fellow drummers that I had previously barely known, and others drummers that I knew well, were so sweet, it pulled at my heart. I was glad it was over, but I hated to walk away.



It has been a busy summer and fall season for Watsonville Taiko climaxing with the 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Performance on October 11th and 12th at the Cabrillo College Theater. The players had been rehearsing every Saturday since the end of August all the way up to the weekend of the performance. The event gave us an opportunity to identify and fulfill our goals while still keeping us humbled by understanding that we have much more to learn. It was a powerful experience for all of the Taiko drummers.

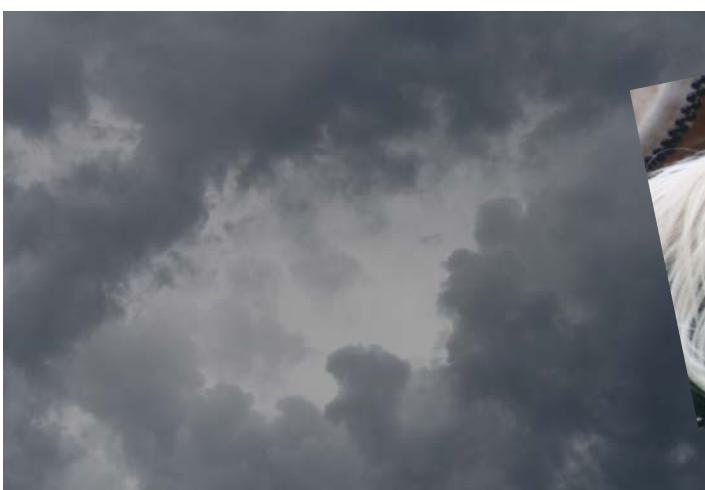
Thank you to our fans and friends who came to see us.

## JUST THE FACTS

If any of you are wondering what it took to put on our Anniversary show, here are some of the facts:

- 47 drummers from 3 different Taiko groups wearing 87 different costumes.
- 2 months of practice, 3 hours a day every Saturday morning including a full dress rehearsal on opening night.
- 28 Chudaiko Drums, 12 shime drums, 3 Odaiko Drums, 1 Okaido drum, 1 cannon, 1 symbol, 15 shakers, and over a hundred bachi.
- 496 audience members from Santa Cruz, Monterey, Santa Clara....and beyond.
- One stage manager, one lighting director, one sound technician and lots of gaff tape.
- 86 sweaty palms, at least 3 pair of fake eyelashes, multiple sleepless nights, and lots of hugs of encouragement.
- Hundreds of posters and flyers and an overwhelming amount of community support.





## "LIGHTENING, THUNDER AND RAIN...OH MY!"

BY: KARRI BARRY

Lightening, Thunder and Rain. These words aren't typically used when describing a summer day in Santa Cruz, but on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June, here we are in the middle of a storm that seems oddly theatrical. The Japanese Cultural Fair is held every year in Santa Cruz at the Mission Plaza Park, and every year Watsonville Taiko joins the celebration by setting up a booth and playing on stage for the eager crowds. Last year brought heat and sunshine, and the people strolled through the park with the cool grass under their feet. But this year, with the summer heat still pushing through, the clouds rushed by bringing with them sporadic rains, thunder and lightening. . It was a spectacular almost unreal spectacle.

This year Watsonville Taiko played late in the afternoon to a crowd that had been building up all throughout the day. It is always one of the most fun events we play in during the year. The audience sit leisurely on the grass - parents with their children in their laps, couples leaning on each other lazily soaking up the sun, friends sitting eagerly for the music to start. We aren't worried about the weather...we are playing under a canopy and the audience doesn't seem to mind it either. The brief showers cool them off and provide some relief when the sun breaks through the fast moving clouds.

We are relaxed and ready to play. We are eager to fill the air with the deep sounds that flow from our drums. And the audience is ready to breath it all in. The smiling faces are everywhere and just as WE give the audience our energy, they too, give us theirs. In the middle of Kodomo Bayashi we stop our drumming and begin clicking our bachi together. I make my way through the crowd, clicking inside the mass of people until it is time to return to the drums. They look up at me, smiling, and I can feel many of the reasons why I play. I am inspired by the people and they are inspired by us. It is the same feeling I get on the first day of spring....when the harsh cold is gone and sun and warm air surround me.

Although the summer has now passed, and Fall and Winter are settling in, I can still close my eyes and bring the memory forward and I can almost feel the warmth of that day tingling on my skin.



## Big Sur Half Marathon – Herlia Kataoka

Every year the Big Sur Half Marathon is a great event for the Pacific Grove area. Many spectators attend and participate in the event, including Watsonville Taiko. Early in the morning the taiko performers unload the instruments and gather around waiting to perform for the runners. It was cold and windy that morning, and we had to cover our drums with plastic to protect them from the light drizzle. As we played, more and more runners passed by us. It was an amazing sight to see so many people running or walking in two different directions..., some of them taking pictures with their cameras, some of them wearing costumes and most of them were cheering and excited. And although they look tired, you could still see on their faces the inspiration that the beat of our drums had given them.

The sun was out for most of the run, but then all of the sudden just before the event ended, the clouds rolled in and the down-pour began. All of the taiko drummers scattered trying to think of how to save their drums. No one cared about getting soaked as long as the drums were ok.

After the race was over, as we were sitting in Denny's having breakfast, one of the new drummers said "we'll do it again next year...rain or shine".



## Hey Diddle Diddle The cat and the fiddle The cow said good-bye to the mouse

Ikuyo Conant has been teaching Taiko at Cedar Grove Elementary School for 2 years. The Taiko program is named Hinoki Taiko, which means "Cedar" in Japanese and was taken from the name of the school. Ms. Becky Shingai, a member of Sandoshin Taiko in Morgan Hill and a special education teacher at Cedar Elementary School, organized the group, and Ikuyo teaches the classes. Hinoki Taiko performs at their school assemblies and local community events. (You can see web photos at <http://www.geocities.com/ikuyoconant/html/kidsworkshops.html>)

Both Ikuyo and Becky believe that music and rhythm helps children advance their academic skills and foster their positive self-esteem. Becky started incorporating music curriculum in her teaching 14 years ago, and decided to bring Taiko into her curriculum two years ago. Since then, she has seen steady progress in her students' learning, both socially and academically. With her Taiko teacher Ikuyo Conant, who also teaches Sandoshin Taiko in Morgan Hill, Becky tries to create positive learning experiences for all the children.



Last February, Hinoki Taiko had a fundraising performance at their school called "Ring in the year of the Rat." This was in celebration of the Chinese New Year. The show was performed not only by Hinoki Taiko but also many other students from Cedar Grove Elementary School. All of the performances were about mice and rats. The stories were introduced

in different art forms -- plays, narrations, computer graphics and more. Two members of Hinoki Taiko performed a very special Lion Dance and everyone loved it! It rained on that day, but many people still came to support the children's performances. It was a great show and fundraising event for the school.

This coming February, Hinoki Taiko will be doing another fundraising performance – this year for the year of the Cow – and Ikuyo and Becky are still searching for good cow stories. The upcoming performance will also include choir songs and will most certainly be a wonderful event bringing smiles to everyone's faces...and we just love to see the children smile!!



## Summer Taiko at Monterey County Libraries - Ikuyo Conant

This summer, I had the very fortunate opportunity to visit 17 libraries in Monterey County. Some of the libraries are new and big and others are very small and homey. I would not have known some of these towns if not for my work with the Monterey County public libraries' Summer Reading Program. Monterey County is vast! Some days I would visit just three sites but would travel over 200 total miles. At each library, children ranging from pre-school to high school age, would attend the workshops. Some of the towns were so small they seemed to be part of a movie set. I once asked a woman about the population of her tiny town and she replied, "...78 including cats and dogs!"

Monterey County is large and towns in South County are very scattered. I had been tied up with a busy schedule all spring; so I enjoyed driving to the small towns during the summer months. I felt like I was traveling through wide spaces. The hills in front of me looked like artwork painted by California artists. The golden hills looked bright under the summer light and the oak trees standing among the hills looked like stocks of broccoli.

During the summer workshops, the children learned about Japanese drums and drumming. Taiko is a big drum and it makes loud sounds. I didn't have a large Odaiko with me, so I showed them a picture of a person drumming the Odaiko. In the picture, the Odaiko was huge and the drummer looked so small in comparison. The children were amazed by the size of the drum in the picture.

Listening to the explanation of Taiko and Taiko drumming is important; but it is much more fun for the children if they get the opportunity to play the drums, and all the children who wanted to drum received that opportunity. Some were scared of the loud sounds and didn't drum much, but others were completely taken by the Taiko and couldn't stop drumming. They all felt the sound and power of Taiko. Of course the adults wanted to drum, too.



There were children at some of the libraries that had good listening skills and were able to follow directions well. These children did wonderfully and were able to memorize a piece of music and put on a mini-concert for their parents and friends. Everyone had a wonderful time.

## What have we been up to since the last newsletter?

Del Mar School Garden Festival - June 6, 2008



Japanese Cultural Fair - June 21, 2008



JACL Picnic - June 28, 2008



New Brighton Beach Campfire - July 5, 2008

Watsonville Obon - July 20, 2008



7<sup>th</sup> Annual Natsu Matsuri - July 26, 2008



Peace Day - August 10, 2008



Cabrillo Music Festival - August 3, 2008

Summer Heritage Day - August 23, 2008

Kidrageous Carnival - September 21, 2008



Alzheimer's Memory Walk - September 27, 2008

17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary performance - October 11 & 12, 2008

UCSC Stevenson College - October 14, 2008

UCSC Crown College - October 21, 2008

KSBW Telethon - December 12, 2008



Big Sur Half Marathon - November 9, 2008

# BEGINNER'S BEAT

## READY, SET, GO.....AND THE DRUMMING BEGINS

In these troubling economic times most of us share in our concern for the future. Some of us worry about what the future will bring for our children. Some worry about what we will do if we lose our jobs. At times, it seems as though the light at the end of the tunnel gets dimmer and dimmer. Oftentimes we are forced into deep thought about what changes we will have to make, and how, as daunting as it seems, will we be able to make those changes and push forward. It is something I think of often. Will many of us have to start over..."back to the drawing board" as they say. Will we have to learn something new and do something different somewhere unfamiliar to us? We tend to get comfortable in our lives and settle in to what is old and familiar. We forget how to adapt with the changes around us and are paralyzed in times of change. As I ponder my own future, my mind continually comes back to Watsonville Taiko and I cannot help but see some similarities. We all joined the group at some point, walking into unfamiliar and uncomfortable territory....wondering if we could do this and if the other members would like us and welcome us with open arms. When we began Taiko drumming we all experienced these feelings and thus should not forget the new beginners who are experiencing them now.

Starting over, beginning something new, is scary, but if we learn to embrace these feelings and learn to embrace others who are experiencing them, we will not only help the beginners grow, but we, in turn, will grow and learn as well. Watsonville Taiko will grow and change, and its members will come and go as time dictates. It is inevitable. Just as children are our future, beginners bring growth and change to the future of our group and provide an opportunity for Watsonville Taiko to evolve and grow. I am glad to see these new faces and will do my best to embrace all that they have to offer...and someday, who knows....maybe someday soon, this same fortune will fall upon me should I become a beginner somewhere else in my own life. . -Karri Barry – Watsonville Taiko Member and Bachi Beat Editor



**Pauline Fujita**

I have wanted to learn taiko since my first encounter with the big drums. And this is no small statement. My first exposure to taiko was watching my dad play at the obon festival in Toronto over twenty years ago as a small child. Although I was far too young to realize the impression it was making upon me I can still remember vividly the bright blue of his happi and the look of intense determination and pure joy on his face. I think of that memory every time I see a taiko performance and I still feel a twinge of pride for the impressive display that was once so much a part of my father's life. As I've grown older my appreciation for my heritage and for music has evolved. I have played the piano since I was very little and it made music an integral part of my life. Thus I was completely surprised to find that taiko was making me experience music in a new way.

The deliberate grace and precision of the movements has forced me to think about the physical experience of taiko. In piano I learned about muscle memory. I repeated patterns of movements with my fingers and eventually my muscles could replay them even with my mind turned off. I suppose the learning process with taiko is similar, just that the muscles involved are much bigger, but learning music with my whole body feels different. The thing I am enjoying most, however, is learning music played in unison. The power of unity in taiko performances never ceases to amaze me and I am excited to be a part of that.

What finally drew me to taiko was the heart with which everyone plays. I see how much everyone is enjoying the simple act of participating, and at long last, instead of thinking "that looks fun" I know that it is.



**Sebastian Modes**

Though I started taking classes about two years ago with Ikuyo Conant, my attendance has been sporadic for most of that time, so I'm still just really learning the ropes, but I feel like the intense effect that taiko has had on me doesn't betray that in the least. My mom had first interested me in the group and invited me to come check it out, and, having never even seen this form of drumming before, I was filled with a passion and energy that I hadn't felt in a long time. The movements are so precise and aware, at once both controlled and unconstrained- in learning this art, it seems so clear that you could study and perfect for your entire life and still have places to go. There's nothing I can say here that can explain how the sounds of ten chudaiko drums together make me tremble, or how the intricate forms captivate me, so I won't try; but I will say that taiko inspires me to train myself so that I can be part of that music. Before this (and still now) I had been drumming with marching bands exclusively, and since I've been learning through Watsonville Taiko, my technique has improved and expanded-- the music of taiko is extremely interesting, since it puts a lot more emphasis on restraint and holding as being a part of the whole sound, and my mind is still reeling from all of it, thirsting for more. As long as I feel challenged (which I'm sure is not unrealistic) and as long as I've still got wild, vivid imaginings for what this group could be, I will continue to play.



**Kathleen Roberts**

I have loved many kinds of drumming for a long time, probably starting when I played in an all-girls rock and roll band in high school. I have studied African drumming, some Haitian, Brazilian and Cuban percussion (my favorite!). I enjoy all kinds of folk music and have been doing international folk dancing for many years. I like Greek and especially, English dancing. I enjoy both English country and English ritual dancing, especially Morris dancing, which involves wearing bells on the legs and clashing big sticks together. I have been aware of Taiko drumming for a long time, as my mother was a big fan of San Jose Taiko. I finally succumbed to Taiko drumming myself at the wonderful dance and music camp, Lark in the Morning, held every year at the Mendocino Woodlands. So here I am learning Taiko from Watsonville Taiko and having a great time keeping the beat, remembering where my feet are and learning to breathe!

# INTERESTED IN BECOMING A WATSONVILLE TAIKO BOARD MEMBER?

Watsonville Taiko is looking for new board members. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Watsonville Taiko board member, please contact [info@watsonvilletaike.org](mailto:info@watsonvilletaike.org) for information on how to apply. Board members are critical to fulfilling the mission of Watsonville Taiko. Board members represent the group and are advocates for its members. Being a board member is a serious commitment and requires active participation in committee work, fundraising programs and general planning. Please consider becoming a board member and help us continue to build a strong and successful organization.

ワツトソンビル太鼓  
辰星太鼓

Watsonville Taiko  
Shinsei Daiko

P.O. Box 1673  
Watsonville CA 95077-1673  
(831) 458-0448

Email:  
[info@watsonvilletaike.org](mailto:info@watsonvilletaike.org)  
Website:  
[www.watsonvilletaike.org](http://www.watsonvilletaike.org)

A non-profit organization  
Tax ID# 77-0355439

Mission Statement  
Of  
Watsonville Taiko Group

The mission of  
Watsonville Taiko Group is to  
foster the evolving cultural  
expression and traditions of taiko  
drumming through performances  
and public education.

December 17, 2008

Dear Friends:

As the new year approaches, we are faced with the reality that the tough economic times will most certainly have an impact on our friends, members and our community. As a non-profit organization, we rely on external support to keep our music flowing through the community and help us reach out to young children through education. We know that many of our past supporters will face hard times. We understand these concerns.

Many of our donors may feel that a smaller donation would go unnoticed, but we here at Watsonville Taiko want to ensure you that every donation, big or small, is important to us. If everyone donated just \$5-\$10 to Watsonville Taiko, great progress could be made to fund our programs.

**Your donation, whether large or small, would help us greatly to keep our music alive in your community.**

**The members of Watsonville Taiko wish you and yours the best for the holidays**

Ikuyo Conant

Art is one of the ways to measure the wealth and health of a community. When Art thrives, the community thrives, because art is one important way to keep possibilities in our lives open. When the door to art closes, our possibilities die. Art transcends the immediate limitations of our human perspectives, and gives us hope by revealing new possibilities.

Art gives us an opportunity to look at our world in a personal way, and it also fulfills a universal human need to be part of something greater than ourselves.

Ikuyo Conant  
Artistic Director  
Watsonville Taiko

Please return the form below with your contribution

## Yes, I would like to support Watsonville Taiko

I am sending a special donation of : \$5  \$10  Other

Name:

Address:

E-mail:

Please use the enclosed envelope to mail your **tax-deductible** donation to:  
**Watsonville Taiko**  
**P.O. Box 1673**  
**Watsonville, CA 95077-1673**

## **Watsonville Taiko and Shinsei Daiko 2009 Upcoming Events and Performances**

Feb 28	Santa Cruz Ballet Auction	Santa Cruz
April 25	Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival	Cupertino
April 26	Big Sur Marathon	Big Sur
April 28	International Day SLV High	Felton
June 20	Japanese Cultural Fair	Santa Cruz
June 27	Private Wedding	San Jose
August (tbd)	Cabrillo Music Festival	Santa Cruz
October 18	Shinsho Mugen Daiko 10th Anniversary	Monterey

For more information go to: [www.watsonvilletaike.org/events\\_calendar.html](http://www.watsonvilletaike.org/events_calendar.html)

## **EARLY BIRDS Saturday's: 9am-10am**

*Oh, if you're a bird, be an early bird  
And catch the worm for your breakfast  
plate. If you're a bird, be an early bird—  
But if you're a worm, sleep late.*

*Poem by Shel Silverstein*

We are the Saturday morning early birds who like to stretch and breath big in the morning. We take our time to experience Taiko. Come join us at Kizuka Hall Saturday mornings. No experience required.

### **TAIKO CLASSES**

For Children and Adults

**Next 10 week session: Starts January 9, 2009**

Location: Kizuka Hall, 150 Blackburn Street, Watsonville

Beginning Children (8+ years): Friday 5-6pm

Beginning Adults: Friday 7-8pm: \$55 per month

For more information: Call (831) 458-0448

[info@watsonville.org](mailto:info@watsonville.org) or [www.watsonvilletaike.org](http://www.watsonvilletaike.org)

### **POWER TAIKO WORKSHOPS**

**SCOTTS VALLEY**

**Next 6 week session: Starts February 4, 2009**

Location: Scotts Valley Taekowndo Academy, Scotts Valley

Wednesdays 7:45pm-8:45pm

Fee: \$85.00 – No Experience Required

For information: Call Taeko D'Andrea (831) 458-5054

or [info@watsonville.org](mailto:info@watsonville.org)

**Non-Discrimination: It is the policy of Watsonville Taiko and Shinsei Daiko to provide equal membership opportunities for all persons without regard to race, political affiliations, national origins, religious creed, gender, color, age, marital status, or gender preference in every aspect of participation**

[www.watsonvilletaike.org](http://www.watsonvilletaike.org)

Watsonville Taiko  
PO. Box 1673  
Watsonville, CA 95077-1673



Daishi Beatz