



# Bachi Beat



WINTER 2012

REBECCA TAVISH EDITOR

## Taiko at Grey Bears

## TAIKO

### The Taiko Program in Santa Cruz

by Ikuyo Conant

The Taiko program at Grey Bears is going strong. The students in this program participated in the Taiko performance at Japanese Cultural Fair this summer. We have an intermediate Taiko class now, and some members perform with Watsonville Taiko Community Performers in various events.

It is fun to experience a new activity. If that activity has a goal to promote learning, it gives us challenges. Watsonville Taiko had three mini Taiko workshops for seniors at Grey Bears this summer. Each workshop was a month long, and one of workshops had a performance at the end of the session. Information about the performance was announced at the beginning of the session. The students worked hard to hone their skills to prepare for their participation at the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music in August.

Now the program is moving on to the next step. Watsonville Taiko will have an anniversary performance in October 2013. We will practice for this anniversary show for the next several months.

The program at the Grey bears is open to the general public. There is a discount for Grey Bears' members. If you are interested in taking the class, please contact Ikuyo Conant at [kirintaiko@aol.com](mailto:kirintaiko@aol.com) or (831) 234-4828.



Watsonville Taiko would like to acknowledge and express our deep appreciation for the continued support we have received from the Cultural Council of Santa Cruz Country throughout the past 19 years. The grants, shared knowledge and guidance that we have received has allowed us to continue to offer special classes, scholarships, and trainings throughout Santa Cruz Country. Sharing our love of Taiko with as many people as possible is our goal and greatest joy.



# OCTOBER FUND RAISING EVENT



Come join us for the Holiday Boutique and Raffle. Tell your friends!!



## Holiday Boutique & Raffle

By Watsonville Taiko

Sunday, October 28, 2012

Noon to 5:00PM

Kizuka Hall (150 Blackburn Street, Watsonville)

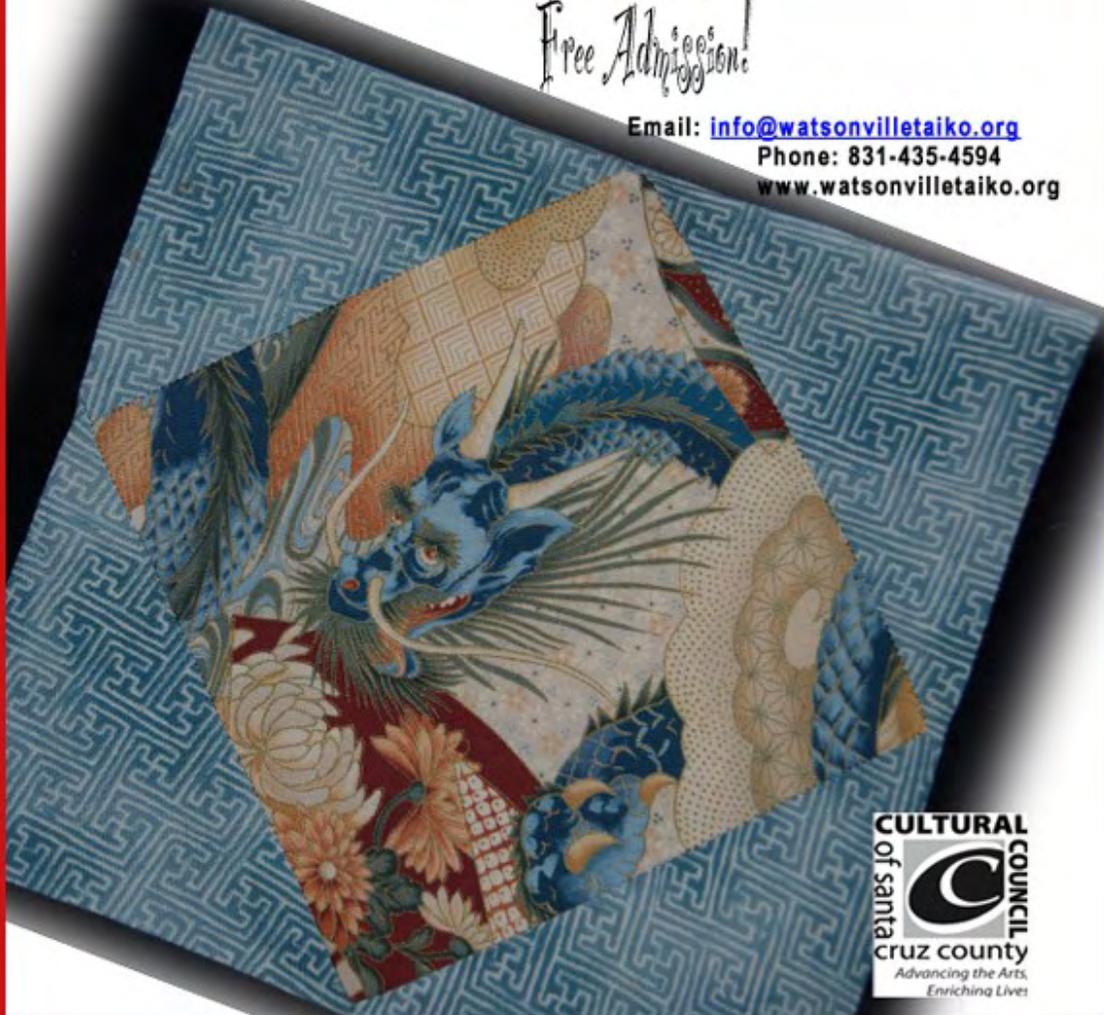
*Join us for Holiday Fun and Shopping!*

*Free Admission!*

Email: [info@watsonvilletaiko.org](mailto:info@watsonvilletaiko.org)

Phone: 831-435-4594

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



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## The Talent of Our Members



### Quilt For Watsonville Taiko Fund Raising Raffle

By Bonnie Chihara

A few years ago I went on a trip to Japan with the Kimekomi doll making group that I belong to. While we were there I bought several cute towels with interesting sayings and artwork on them. One of the sayings roughly translated says "wants to live with a round shaped heart". This thought or saying came up during one of our taiko classes. Now I had heard it twice and it stayed in my mind. I kept thinking about it's meaning. Living with a round heart means there are no sharp edges to hurt or poke someone with. Squares or triangles have sharp edges



on the outside and inside there are dark corners that hide dust and evil or negative thoughts. A round heart is warm and gentle and there are no corners to hide anything. It is open and giving. A simple saying but it can mean so much. Let's all live with a round shaped heart!

The quilt that Hiroshi and I made this year is based on this saying, so there are circles in many of the quilt blocks. Some are obvious and others are small and not so noticeable. We hope you will enjoy our artwork and keep this saying in your heart and mind.



This year Watsonville Taiko will raffle this quilt as part of our fundraising effort. Tickets are \$10 each and the sale of the is limited to 75 tickets, making your chances 1:75 to win this beautiful and unique quilt.

If you would like to purchase a ticket please email us at :  
[info@watsonvilletaiko.org](mailto:info@watsonvilletaiko.org)  
or call 831-435-4594.

Drawing will be held when all 75 tickets have been sold.



# Kids Taiko Workshop



## Leading the Kids Taiko Workshop A Great Experience

by Naoko Yamamoto

It has been almost six years since I became a member of Watsonville Taiko Group. It was honor that Ikuyo sensei gave me an opportunity to teach Taiko for young children, because a person who has six years experience of traditional art is just beginner or intermediate beginner by Japanese standards. Therefore it was humbling and I appreciated the experience of



being able to lead the kids workshop.

When I went to the first class of the workshop I was anxious but full of hope. Karen Groppi, who is another member of Watsonville Taiko, was there to help lead only first day of the class. Unfortunately only one boy showed up because the previous workshop was overlapping with the one we were leading at that time. He was shy and overwhelmed at the beginning of the class, being alone with two energetic teachers. After explaining about Taiko and the etiquette of the class, Karen showed the boy how to walk on time with a steady rhythm by describing it as stepping on grapes thoroughly. I thought that was a great way to explain about the steady firm rhythm because it is concrete so that kids could relate to it.

Around the time when we finished walking and started playing Taiko, the boy seemed more relaxed than at the beginning of the class..

The other days of the workshop more students joined the class. After each one hour class I was exhausted since I kept singing the song while playing Taiko for the students. In spite of my physical exhaustion I felt fulfilled because the kids eyes sparkled with their excitement while they were playing Taiko. As time went by their attitude changed and they became serious and diligent about bowing, saying thank you in Japanese, holding the bachi properly, and having a good posture.



After the workshop, my students joined the other young students' class in order to practice for the performance at Cabrillo Music Festival. The students who took my workshop behaved well, following Ikuyo sensei, lining up neatly, and practicing going up and coming down the stage. One of them was just five years old and the oldest was eight, and all of them looked mature and took the rehearsal seriously. I was proud of them seeing that they were so disciplined. I also appreciated it because I focused on teaching the traditional Japanese way to learn the traditional art.

It was really worth it for me to lead the Taiko workshop for young children because they made me re-realize that teaching is learning. They also gave me great energy for playing Taiko. Leading the kids workshop was an eye opening experience for me and I learned various things from my young students.



# Looking Forward to 2013



## Upcoming Performances

Watsonville Taiko will be celebrating our 22nd year with another great stage production in October of 2013.

Please go to our website to view videos of previous years, check us out on YouTube and Community TV of Santa Cruz.

Keep a look out for announcements of our many other performances throughout the year.

## Taiko Classes

Watsonville Taiko offers classes and workshops for children, adults and seniors in various locations throughout Santa Cruz County

**2013 Beginning classes for Adults & Children in Watsonville begin: every two months on the first Fridays: held at Kizuka Hall, 105 Blackburn St, Watsonville, California 95076**

### **Dates:**

1/4 - 2/28—3/1 - 4/26

5/3 - 6/28—7/5 - 8/30

9/6 - 10/25—11/1 - 12/27

### **Friday nights:**

4:30-5:15 pm - Beginning Children I

5:15-6:00 pm- Beginning Children II

6:00-7:00 pm- Youth and Young Adult Class

7:00 - 8:00 pm - Adults: Beginning



Please return the form below with your donation

## **Watsonville Taiko needs your support.**

**Please consider donating to Watsonville Taiko and help keep our programs going.**

Watsonville Taiko is a non-profit organization. Your donations allow us to continue creating new music, teaching Taiko and producing public performances and cultural events. All donations are tax-deductible and you will receive a thank you letter for your records.

Yes! I would like to donate to Watsonville Taiko : \$\_\_\_\_\_.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please mail your **tax-deductible** donation to:

Watsonville Taiko, P.O. Box 1673, Watsonville, CA 95077-1673

OR

Donate \$20 online today at [www.watsonvilletaiko.org/store.html](http://www.watsonvilletaiko.org/store.html) and click on the "Add to Cart" button

## Help Turn the Bachi Beat Green

Help Watsonville Taiko reduce waste by receiving your Bachi Beat via email. Just send your email address to ([info@watsonvilletaiko.org](mailto:info@watsonvilletaiko.org)) to start receiving your Bachi Beat electronically. You can also be added to our email list for notifications about our upcoming events. Please indicate “**mailing preference**” in the subject header. If you want to receive your Newsletter via e-mail, write “Electronic Bachi Beat”, if you want to continue receiving your Newsletter by mail, write “Mail me the Bachi Beat”, and if you would like to discontinue receiving our Newsletters write “Remove me from the Bachi Beat”. Perhaps our mailing list is outdated, so we understand if you no longer wish to receive the newsletter. Your efforts will help reduce our mailing costs and save resources of our planet.

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