

The Pegasus Gazette



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Walnut Grove, CA Thursday, January 1, 2026

WEATHER: Rain

Happy New Year 2026!

Celebrating the New Year in Walnut Grove - Then and Now

From the Gazette Blog

Louie Watanabe explains the importance of New Year's celebration in Japan and how it was celebrated in Walnut Grove.

New Year's, was traditionally observed as a family- and community-centered holiday. Families prepared by cleaning their homes and gathering with the community to share symbolic foods such as mochi. Visiting the Buddhist temple was a central part of the observance, with New Year's Eve bell-ringing ceremonies and New Year's Day services emphasizing reflection and renewal.



Kagami Mochi

Louie Watanabe

"Born on August 22, 1925 in Walnut Grove, California, Louie Watanabe was raised in the predominantly- Japanese community on the east side of the Sacramento River where his parents owned and operated Mary's Restaurant. Louie eventually established permanent roots in Sacramento, just 25 miles north of his childhood home. Louie Mitsuru Watanabe, died peacefully at home on February 14, 2018, at the age of 92, surrounded by his family."

Watch the video at:
<https://flyingpigsfestival.com/the-pegasus-gazette>



Walnut Grove's Buddhist Temple

A Raft Along the River

Legacy and Community

Just as a raft helps carry us safely across a rushing river, the temple provided stability and support, guiding the community through the currents of daily life and uncertainty. In this way, like a raft, the temple was both practical and symbolic: a means of passage, a shelter, and a reminder that the journey is easier when undertaken with others. Today it remains a lasting remnant of the once-vibrant Japanese community of Walnut Grove, offering spiritual guidance, cultural programs, and a sense of fellowship, even as its membership evolves. - E.M.

New Year's Day Service

10:30 AM

14105 Pine St, Walnut Grove, CA

The organization seeks to maintain the temple's presence and significance by encouraging community members to take part in their services and social programs scheduled throughout the year. Continued participation is essential to preserving the temple's relevance.

Learn more at: <https://WalnutGroveBC.org>

