

# Berkeley JACL Newsletter

SERVING THE BERKELEY, OAKLAND, AND ALBANY COMMUNITIES

## Coming Events

- May 25      **Berkeley Nikkei Seniors Group** at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave., Berkeley. This group meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month. For information contact Terry Yamashita (510) 237-1131 or Tazuko White (510) 528-1524.
- Jun 1,2,8, 9      **Suzuki Studio Open Studio**, 11-6; 2240 Grant St. Berkeley, 510-849-1427
- Jun 9      **East Bay Living History Project**, 2-4 PM
- Jun 26-30      **JACL Biennial National Convention**; see articles inside
- Jul 14      **East Bay Living History Project**, 2-4 PM
- Aug 11      **East Bay Living History Project**, 2-4 PM

**Making Noise** is a monthly means to exercise your right to express your views, humor, concerns, or anything else of interest. We will be happy to print it in our Newsletter. Please write to the JACL Berkeley Chapter newsletter, c/o Berkeley JACL, P.O Box 7609, Berkeley, CA 94707-0609, or e-mail Berkeley JACL at [Berkeley@JACL.ORG](mailto:Berkeley@JACL.ORG). **MAKE SOME NOISE!!!**

E-mail the Berkeley JACL at: [Berkeley@JACL.org](mailto:Berkeley@JACL.org)

Visit our Website at [www.berkeleyjacl.org](http://www.berkeleyjacl.org)



## **East Bay Living History Project (EBLHP)**

The Berkeley JACL Civil Rights Committee is currently working to bring the East Bay Living History Project into reality. The series is scheduled for three Sundays this summer at the Buena Vista United Methodist Church in Alameda from 2-4 PM. It is aimed at bringing different generations of people together to both relive the experience of Japanese Americans in the East Bay and to bring this up to date with a discussion of youth concerns.

Professor Jere Takahashi, Asian American Studies Department at the University of California at Berkeley, will be the moderator. The format will be a series of panels, each moving up through time, with the moderator asking questions to draw out our reminiscences and memories of what life was like in the East Bay from the early 1900's to the present. The focus will be on those from Alameda, Berkeley, and Oakland.

Nisei panelists will include Chiz Iiyama, Min Sano, Nellie Takada, Tony Yokomizo, Cookie Takeshita, Marvin Uratsu, Tats Tajima and George Yasukochi. This group represents the Nisei who will discuss the early settlement and communities before WWII, and the relocation and life after the war. The first two sessions will be held on June 9<sup>th</sup> and July 11<sup>st</sup>.

Sansei's, Yonsei's, and Shin-Issei's will make up the third panel who will discuss the political activism of the 1970's and 1980's, touch on current issues with the community- mix-race relationships and the concerns of more recent Japanese American citizens (Shin-Issei's). These panelists will include Chiori Santiago (writer) and Akira Komine (owner of Kirala Japanese Restaurant). This panel on contemporary issues will be held on August 14<sup>th</sup>.

The sessions will be recorded in sound and videotape, will be kept as an oral history record for the Berkeley Chapter. It is hoped that we will repeat the series in the future, to listen to, and acknowledge the experiences of those who have come before us.

Admission is free. Contact the Berkeley JACL if you wish to make donations and/or to volunteer your time.

**Liberty Lost ... Lessons in Loyalty – Remember, Acknowledge and Learn**

*By Valerie Yasukochi*

An extraordinary event - 16 months in the making, was held Saturday, April 27, in downtown Watsonville. At noon, exactly 60 years to the day, a re-enactment of Pajaro Valley residents' forced evacuation under Civilian Exclusion Order No. 16 took place in front of the Veterans Memorial Building. Signs of the evacuation and exclusion orders were posted on telephone poles along the route. With suitcases in hand, these residents took only what they could carry. Escorted by Watsonville Police and U.S. Army military police (dressed in costume of the period), they were given ID tags to wear and place on their suitcases and luggage. The families boarded a 1940's Pacific Greyhound bus and were transported to detention camps at Salinas Rodeo Grounds. In July 1942, these families were then relocated to Poston internment camp on the Colorado River Indian Reservation, 12 miles south of Parker, AZ.

During the re-enactment 13 stories were told - 2 being very specific to Pajaro Valley residents. The stories included those of a father who was taken by the FBI and sent to a camp apart from his family; a high school student who could not graduate; a little girl who had to leave her dog behind; a family who lost their farm; and young Norman Mineta, now U.S. Transportation Secretary, whose baseball bat was taken by a guard before he left for camp.

The event was also a way to recognize, acknowledge and thank local residents who had the courage to stand up and help Japanese Americans during that difficult period. During the program at the Mello Center, following the evacuation re-enactment, presenters told Salinas Assembly Center and Poston Internment stories. Families of local veterans who served with the MIS and 100th/442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team shared incredible and heart wrenching military stories. The leadership of JACL was also highlighted during the event. More than 1300 people attended.

The re-enactment was the lead story on that evening's news and organizers were invited to appear on the Today show. Sandy Lydon, Cabrillo College Historian Emeritus, was Narrator and Host, and along with other supporters, helped to preserve this history

through extensive research, documentation and publications. Special kudos and honors to Mas & Marcia Hashimoto and the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACLers for an exceptional job well done!

The Berkeley JACL donated \$500 towards the event and representing our chapter at the event were President, Valerie Yasukochi and VP, James Duff.



Jim Duff, Mike Honda, Val Yasukochi

**Nicole Howard Needs Your Help**

Nicole is a bright, independent, fun and beautiful 5-year-old from Seattle who loves to ride her bike, pretend she's a dog and play with her 7-year-old brother. Suddenly, in May 2001, she could not walk. That same day she was admitted into the hospital her parents, Rob and Trish Howard, were given the devastating news that Nicole had chronic myeloid leukemia (CML). CML is a very rare type of leukemia found in only one child out of a million under the age of ten. The only known cure is a bone marrow transplant. Of the over 4.5 million people on the National Bone Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) Registry, no match has been found. Nicole is multi-ethnic, half Japanese and half Caucasian, which makes her search for a bone marrow match much more difficult. Because minority and multi-ethnic populations are extremely underrepresented in the NMDP Registry, Nicole's chance of finding a bone marrow donor is less than 2%.

The way we can help is to find Japanese, other ethnic and multi-ethnic people between the ages of 18 and 60 that are not on the NMDP Registry and encourage them to be tested and registered. Assuming that they are in good health, they will give a small sample of blood, consent to be entered on the NMDP Registry and provide the names of two close contacts. If you need be contacted because you are a potential match, one of those two contacts may make a difference.

Our local NMDP Recruitment Group is Asian American Donor Program (AADP) in Oakland. AADP's logo is an origami crane. It was chosen in fond memory of Sadako Sasaki. At the age of 11, Sadako was hospitalized with leukemia, the result of radiation poisoning from the atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Sadako's friends told her that if she made a chain of a thousand cranes, Sadako's wish to live would come true. Sadako had finished 644 cranes when she died. Her friends completed the chain with the wish that others might live.

The Executive Director Carol Gillespie can be reached at 510-568-3700. AADP is having several drives in near future. Please contact us at [Berkeley@JACL.org](mailto:Berkeley@JACL.org) or Valerie Yasukochi ([valerie\\_yasukochi@apl.com](mailto:valerie_yasukochi@apl.com) or 510-336-3371) if you have any questions or would like a list of the upcoming dates. You can also call ahead and arrange to have your blood drawn at the American Red Cross Blood Bank at 6230 Claremont Avenue, Oakland. Their telephone number is 510-654-2924 ext 5147.

Register or ask someone you know to register as a bone marrow donor with the wish and the hope that others, like Nicole Howard, might live because you cared enough to find a bone marrow donor. And for Nicole's sake, please hurry.

### **Berkeley JACL Grants Awarded**

The Board of Directors of the Berkeley JACL and the Trustees of the Berkeley JACL Endowment Fund have awarded grants totaling \$2,250. Asian Community Mental Health Services was awarded \$1250 to fund a community victory garden for Laotian and Cambodian women.

API Legal Outreach (formerly Nihomachi Legal Outreach) will be receiving \$1,000 to partially fund a summer project for middle and high school aged students. The Asian Domestic Violence prevention Collaborative, consisting of API youth from San Francisco and Oakland, will paint a community mural in Oakland, having an anti-violence theme. The money will be used to purchase painting supplies and to hire the services of a local artist to serve as a consultant.

Up to \$2,000 in grants will again be awarded later this year. Applications are available online at the chapter website or by calling Mark Fujikawa at 527-5453. The next deadline is September 15, 2002.

### **Politics on the Presidio: Portraying History in a Popular Setting**

*by Alan Ohashi, AIA, Chairman, Civil Rights Committee*

An exhibit of the work of undergraduate architecture students from the University of California at Berkeley, opened on May 17<sup>th</sup> at the National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS) at 1684 Post Street, San Francisco. The subject of their design study is an old aircraft hanger, known as Building 640, at Crissy Field in the San Francisco Presidio. The Presidio Trust and National Park Service is considering giving the use of the building to NJAHS for conversion into an interpretive learning and event center. The U.S. Postal Service built Building 640 in the 1920's as an airplane hanger. Starting in November 1941, it served as the barracks and classrooms of the first class of Nisei soldiers trained to be interpreters and interrogators for the Pacific war against Japan.

Ironically, General DeWitt, had initiated organizing this group of Japanese American soldiers for the U.S. Military Intelligence Service at Building 640. He executed Executive Order 9066 interning over 100,000 Japanese Americans into relocation camps during WWII. Standing at the building today, you can just imagine these soldiers' thoughts, one month after being brought to this site, having learned that Japan had just attacked Pearl Harbor. This class of soldiers has been memorialized in a plaque placed at Building 640, recognizing their efforts during WWII.

When NJAHS discovered that Building 640 still existed, they inquired as to whether they might be given occupancy of it, as many founders of NJAHS were ex-MIS soldiers. When indications were positive, Rosalyn Tonai, executive director of NJAHS, asked if I would consider using the future interpretive learning center at Building 640 as a design project for U.C. Berkeley's Department of Architecture. We ran the project in an undergraduate, honors-level design studio in the Fall of 2001, under the leadership of Professor Dana Buntrock, and assisted by Lynn Horiuchi, a PhD. Architecture, candidate.

The class responded to the challenge of designing the renovation and re-use of the existing hanger, and absorbed many hours of discussion about what it means to be Japanese American, in order to form their design responses. The class consisted of nine students, six women and young men, three Hispanics, five Asians and one Caucasian student, all of whom became immersed in the Japanese American historic

experience. In the middle of the class, the September 11<sup>th</sup> tragedy occurred, galvanizing their thoughts and feelings about how to interpret the Japanese American wartime experience.

Please visit the NJAHS gallery and review the student's work. The results of their efforts are impressive, and moving, and we hope that you will have a chance to see and appreciate their efforts and get a glimpse into the future of NJAHS.

### **Civil Rights Committee Roundup**

On March 29, 2002 Catalyst, Colorado College's student newspaper, released highly offensive material as April Fool's humor. In the "News in Briefs" section of the paper, the title of a short article is "College Student 'disappointed' at Lack of Hot Asian Babes." The anonymous author of this material goes on to describe that a fictional student by the name of "Daniel Leap" says, "Man, where are all the hot Asian chicks?" asked Leap. "There has to be one in Colorado Springs who wants to give me some sucky-f\_\_ky." The article ends with, "Leap than exclaimed his need for an Asian slut was so great he would buy one from a mail-order bride magazine if nessesary." Another equally offensive article printed in the paper is the article entitled, "Nickalodeon launches controversial new sister channel, Niggalodeon." This article was produced in the same terrible humor, perpetuating negative stereotypes about African-Americans and trying to twist a culture into a slapstick type comedy.

Once word got out about this issue, a nationwide uproar focused on the college. Alan Ohashi, Berkeley JACL Civil Rights Committee Chair, wrote letters to both the Colorado College president and the newspaper advisor. A few days later, college president, Kathryn Mohrman, made an apology at a news conference and a campus publication board accepted the resignations of the editor in chief and the managing editor (Audrey Thompson and John Traub) of the student paper. Mohrman also vowed to follow up with mandatory diversity training for Catalyst staff; removal of the three-year provisional status for the Glass House, a multicultural center on campus; establishment of a minority admission recruitment task force; and diversity training for faculty and staff.

### **Town Hall Meeting**

There will be a Town Hall Meeting on June 6<sup>th</sup> (7:00-9:00 PM) at YWCA in Oakland 1515 Webster

St./14th Room 2. All are invited to discuss to equal rights for same sex couples. There are currently 1300 rights and protections afforded married heterosexual couples while same sex couples through a separate and inherently unequal domestic partnership system have only 13. The topic of same sex marriages will be discussed and the goal to have Alameda County pass a non-binding initiative in support of marriage equality for same sex couples. This town hall discussion will be sponsored by Marriage Equality California and Californians for Civil Marriage. Representative from both organizations will speak. Interested community leaders and local politicians will attend event.

For more information log on to [www.marriageequalityca.org](http://www.marriageequalityca.org) or call Davina Kotulski, Ph.D. at (510) 594-4019.

### **Grace Tsujimoto**

The Berkeley JACL Board was saddened to hear that Grace Tsujimoto recently past away. Grace was our 2000 Berkeley Pioneer Award Recipient who served on the Berkeley JACL Board for many years. She had served as corresponding secretary, Membership co-chair, and on the PC Ads committee.

Donations to Berkeley JACL in her name were made by Yaeko Yedlossky and Tsujimoto family (Judy M. Tsujimoto).

### **Uncommon Courage**

"Uncommon Courage: Patriotism and Civil Liberties," the documentary by Producer/Writer/Director Gayle K. Yamada will air on PBS stations nationally. "Uncommon Courage" tells the story of the Military Intelligence Service, primarily Japanese Americans, who served in the United States Army as interrogators and translators during World War II.

"Uncommon Courage" will be aired in the Bay Area on KQED, San Francisco (Friday, May 24, 9:00pm); KCSM, San Mateo (Tuesday, June 18, 9:00pm); and KVIE, Sacramento-Stockton-Modesto (Tuesday, May 28, 9:00pm).

Also, you can see a profile of Gayle K. Yamada at the National Asian American Telecommunications Association (NAATA) website.

<http://www.naatanet.org/community/filmmaker/index.html>.

### 2002 JACL/OCA Washington, D.C. Leadership Conference

*By Isaac Shinobu Yamagata*

With more than a handful of memories from this year's JACL/ OCA Washington, D.C. Leadership Conference, I commend both organizations on their efforts to develop this outstanding program. I'm probably not alone when I say that the experience was well worth the time and I highly recommend other JACL members to promote and participate in the event, if given the opportunity. ....

For me, one of the highlights of the conference was the talk Congressman Robert Matsui had with the conference participants at the dining room of the Speaker of the House. Congressman Matsui talked about his experiences in Washington and the changing dynamics of Congress that he has seen during his tenure as a U.S. Congressman. He talked about the Japanese American community's need to recruit and develop future leaders, which inspired me as he challenged the group to become leaders in our own communities or even become a colleague of his one day.

I came away with three important ideas from the conference that I wish to share: 1) Through the JACL, Japanese Americans can retain their heritage and pride, but as Asian Americans we need to develop strong unified coalitions to protect and preserve the rights of Asian Americans; 2) We need to actively recruit, train, and promote new leaders as we move forward, by encouraging our youth to take on less traditional career paths; 3) We need to embrace our ability to speak out and voice our opinions and actively seek out leadership roles at the federal, state, and local levels of government.

### Art and Literary Competition - May 28 deadline

The California State Library Foundation (CSL) in Sacramento and the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP) have just announced an Art and Literature Competition. Open to all (students, adults, seniors, including now deceased Internees), as part of the 60th Anniversary Commemoration of the signing of Executive order 9066, a first prize of \$1,000.00, and two honorable mention prizes of \$200.00 each are to be awarded IN EACH of these five categories:

1. Short Essay (not to exceed 750 words)
2. Tanka and Haiku
3. Poetry

4. Visual Art (oil, watercolor, sumie, pencil, ink, photo, computer graphics)
5. Visual Art or Written Documents by now deceased Internees.

There are official registration forms to fill out, and submissions must be postmarked May 28, 2002. For further information you may email:

[dmtsuda@library.ca.gov](mailto:dmtsuda@library.ca.gov) or [lturgeon@library.CA.gov](mailto:lturgeon@library.CA.gov) or phone (916) 653-5862. You may also request copies of the application form from Valerie Yasukochi, [Berkeley@JACL.org](mailto:Berkeley@JACL.org) or (510) 336-3371.

### JASEB Saturday Day Care Program

JASEB is now offering a new programs for seniors, the JASEB Saturday Day Care Program. This adult version of day care provides social and recreational activities for seniors in need of some assistance and supervision. This once a month program is also an opportunity for a family caregiver to take a short break from their caregiving responsibilities.

The program is located at 2320 Channing Way in Berkeley at Alzheimers Services of the East Bay. The program coordinator is Juneko Martinson. For now the program is offered once a month, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM. The suggested donation is \$30 for each session. For registration or reservations, contact JASEB at (510) 848-3560.

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