

# Berkeley JACL Newsletter

SERVING THE BERKELEY, OAKLAND, AND ALBANY COMMUNITIES

## Coming Events

- Dec 14,28 **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.
- Jan 11,25
- Feb 8, 22
- Dec 14 **Berkeley Nikkei Seniors & Berkeley JACL Christmas Party & Mochitsuki**; see article inside.
- Jan 12 **Tri-Chapter Installation Lunch**, Silver Dragon Rest.; 12 N – 2:30 PM, \$20 per person, see attached flyer
- Mar 1 **Scholarship Application due**, see article inside
- April **NSU Cultural Night**, see future newsletters for details

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 orOr E-mail the Berkeley JACL at:

[Berkeley@JACL.org](mailto:Berkeley@JACL.org)

Other email addresses:

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## Nikkei Seniors Christmas Party

The Berkeley JACL cordially invites the local Issei and Senior Nisei to a HOLIDAY LUNCHEON AND PARTY. Honored guests will be members of the North Berkeley Nikkei Senior Center and the senior members and friends of the Berkeley JACL

The annual Nikkei Seniors Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 14th, at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave, Berkeley. The Berkeley JACL has sponsored this event for a number of years. Please contact Terry Yamashita (510) 237-1131 or Tazuko White (510) 528-1524 if you wish to participate.

## High School Youth Meet to Discuss the JACL

*By Jessica Kawamura*

On November 3rd, twenty-two high school students from all over Northern California came to Oakland to learn about the JACL and to discuss the role that youth can play in the organization. The day of discussion was part of the first-ever JACL regional youth session, which was held in conjunction with the district council's regular meeting.

As a moderator of the high school discussion and a senior myself, I had the opportunity to spend the day with other youth. The high school students represented six different chapters, some as far away as Florin and Stockton, and ranged from the eighth to twelfth grades. For many students, the event was their first contact with the JACL; for others who had active family members, it was a chance to meet their peers.

The high school students discussed how the JACL can serve younger generations and how youth can become involved. We brainstormed specific activities and events including a visit to the Cherry Blossom Festival and a trip to an NBA game, both of which will hopefully be held this spring.

After the day of discussion, the youth reported back to the district council leadership, proposing our ideas and answering questions from the floor. We plan to hold our next session in February at the district council

meeting in San Jose's Japan Town. If you are interested in hearing more about our next meeting or JACL youth programs in general, please feel free to email me at [jmkawamura@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jmkawamura@sbcglobal.net). We would love to have new youth come out and join our group.

### **Grant Awarded to API Legal Outreach – McClymond's High School Mural Project**

A multi-racial team of McClymond's students under the guidance of API Legal Outreach Youth Advisory Council, created a powerful and vibrant mural on the West Oakland high school campus. Bay Area artists Kendal Wooden-Au and John Santos worked with the students from June to September to design, draw and paint the mural, which stretches over 125 feet long and 7 feet high. Full of both media and real-life images, the mural's message is an anti-violence theme, including gang, domestic, war, police brutality and negative media stereotypes.

McClymond's High School, located in West Oakland is representative of the surrounding neighborhood that features a struggling economy, high crime and unemployment. It is the smallest school in Oakland Unified, with less than 700 students and only 9% of their graduates meeting CSU or UC eligibility. The school is over 99% students of color with almost half the population on the state free-lunch program.

However, McClymond's is working against this bleak state through several school revitalization projects. The most prominent is a peace plaza which replaced the parking lot, featuring over 800 tiles made by students, teachers and community members.. Though the painting process was arduous and went beyond the expected completion date, feedback from students, parents, teachers, administration and custodial staff at the school, has made it rewarding.

"The mural project has really been an avenue for these students to open up," said counselor Jackie Vu. "Jim Ros (a junior) used to be so withdrawn last year. He would just sit in the back of the classroom or in my office, never taking his headphones off, never speaking. This year, all these teachers have come up to me saying how open and engaging in class he is now. They're all 'Jackie, what did you do? He's a totally different person!' I told them, 'it's the mural project.' Jim is one of the most committed students. He's shown up every painting day, on time if not early. In the third week of school he told me he got 100% on his first U.S. History test of the year. He said he studied "hella hard" for it, even having his mother quiz him on the state capitals.

"That's my first A, Naomi," he revealed to Naomi Iwasaki, API Legal Outreach Youth Coordinator, "Usually I get C's, D's, F's, when we gonna start painting today? Though none of the students working on the mural have ever painted before, it became a beautiful, compelling presence right before our eyes. Often times during the day, students will step back to soak the whole image in. "I see it now," Jim said, on our first painting day. "It was just a drawing before, but now I see it, the colors on the wall, how it's look. I see it now."

The Berkeley chapter awarded \$1,000 to the mural project. When Berkeley JACL Vice President Jim Duff attended the dedication of the mural on Friday, November 15. He expressed that "the colorful mural designated *Wall Against Violence* in the peaceful amphitheater, Plaza of Peace are great additions to the atmosphere surrounding the campus and are visible signs of the students' efforts to improve their environment and themselves. I am proud to be part of a local organization that sponsored this worthwhile effort."

Some photos of the mural project can be seen on the internet at

<http://home.att.net/~arize/wsb/html/view.cgi-home.html.html>.



### **Solano Stroll**

We had another successful booth at Solano Stroll on Sunday, September 8. Many interested attendees stop by to check out our colorful posterboards with photos of our recent events as well as information about the Berkeley JACL. This year's theme was Journal of 1,000 cranes (for peace) and our volunteers demonstrated their origami folding talents to children of all ages. The Asian American Donor Program (AADP) was again in an adjacent booth registering potential bone marrow donors.

Thank you to our board members, Tomodachi students (a UC campus organization) and chapter members who volunteered to help at our booth. Special recognition to Jim Duff who organized our participation and provided the tent, tables and chairs for our booth.



### **Berkeley JACL Scholarships**

Scholarship applications for the 2003 National JACL and Berkeley Chapter competitions are now available. The National JACL scholarships are offered to students at the entering freshman, continuing undergraduate, and graduate levels.

One of the scholarship criteria is that the applicant **must** be a JACL member to be considered for a scholarship award. A membership application will be sent with the scholarship application.

Scholarship applications can be obtained from Ron Tanaka at (925) 932-7947 or write him at 2960 Windtree Court, Lafayette, CA 94549. Submittal deadline for freshmen applications to the Chapter is March 1, 2003. All freshman applications received by the Berkeley JACL will be forwarded for consideration for the National JACL scholarships. All other applications should be sent directly to the National JACL by April 1st.

### **Adopt a Family For the Holidays**

How would you like to be responsible for the joy and laughter of a less fortunate family during Christmas? Well now you can. In its second year, adopt-a-family, an organization associated with the Asian Community Mental Health Services- based in Oakland Chinatown, is bringing Christmas to less fortunate families. Here's how it works: The program 'adopt-a-family' pairs up donor families (like you) with a less fortunate family. Then you get information about the gender and ages of your adopted family and purchase gifts, clothes, and a holiday meal for them. If interested you may deliver your presents and meet your adopted family, or simply deliver them to the agency. The great thing about this is that you can experience the true meaning of the holiday season, or simply teach your children about generosity. (This program works well with donor families and even small groups and organizations. ) For more information, or to sign up, please contact Lindsay Nakano: (510) 531-6151, or [LindsayOak@aol.com](mailto:LindsayOak@aol.com) (Since Christmas is arriving fast please respond ASAP!)

### **Sculptor Needed for Japantown!**

There recently had a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for artist and artist teams for the CJALC's Japantown Educational Landmarks Project. They received 10 inquiries, but unfortunately, only received four responses. Because it is so important that they have

the best possible talent to fulfil this project, they have extended the deadline for the RFQ until Dec. 15, 2002. If you know of any interested artist, architects, landscape architects, designers, etc., please have them contact Rob Kawamura at [Rob@OsakiDesign.com](mailto:Rob@OsakiDesign.com).

### **Thanksgiving Thoughts**

*Some time ago, Val Yasukochi received the following note from a family friend, Kiku Funabiki. Kiku is a contributing author to "Our Side of the Fence: Growing Up in America's Concentration Camps".*

Our daughter works as an activity therapist at Laguna Honda Hospital. She plans programs for the residents to keep their minds and spirits alive. One of them is to bring the outside environment indoors so the residents don't feel shut out from the world.

Among other duties, she oversees the domestic animal farm, which is in a pen on the hospital grounds. There are goats, rabbits, a grouchy pot belly pig, turkeys, geese, ducks, and various strains of chickens which she takes in for the residents to pet and talk to. Most of the fowl, she has raised since they were hatched and has treated like her babies.

I visited the pen with some friends recently. We delighted in walking among the animals. As I sat on a rock, a friendly turkey approached me. Close up, turkeys are unattractive creatures with their bluish, crusted faces, not exactly something you want to stroke (ugly enough to be a reject from the Star Wars bar). But without hesitation, she drew closer to me and placed her head on my lap, begging to be petted. I didn't have the heart to turn her down. It was like running my hands over the surface of a very coarse pinecone. The turkey responded pleasurably as her eyelids began to grow heavy. We were bonding! She suddenly wasn't so ugly anymore.

I realized that with an open heart and compassion, we could connect with any and all creatures- the first step towards one world. I don't know if I can eat turkey anymore. Pass the tofuburgers, please.

### **NCWNP District Council Mtg – "thank you"**

Berkeley JACL – I just wanted to thank you for all the extra effort your chapter put in to help with the Youth Forum while planning our regularly scheduled board meeting. Your support of youth is always appreciated and should be used as a model for other chapters.

*Thanks, Suzanne Sasaki, District Youth Rep*



### **MEMBERSHIP: "All We Ask if One" –A call to action**

Edwin Endow, the NCWNP District membership contact from Stockton JACL ([dhendow@aol.com](mailto:dhendow@aol.com)), has asked for our help. The JACL is facing possibly its toughest challenge in its history. The fiscal challenges facing us are extremely serious. Whether we can overcome them will decide if there will be a JACL in the future. The only sure way out is to increase memberships. Instead of sitting back and expecting a few JACLers to try to do the near impossible tasks of getting 2,000 new members, we are asking each member in our district to just get one new member-Not 5 or 10 or 50, just ONE. Now you if you can get more than one new member, great, go ahead and get more.

If you have questions or wish membership materials sent to a friend, relative or colleague, please email us at [membership@berkeleyjacl.org](mailto:membership@berkeleyjacl.org) or, you may write to us at Berkeley JACL, Attn: Membership, P.O. Box 7609, Berkeley, CA 94707-0609.

### **Welcome, New Members!**

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to the following new members:

*Mitsy Amano, Allan Carson, Li-Li Chang, Kori Chen, Douglas Clark, Karen Huster, Yuki Jitoshio, Yuko Kondo, Louise Lue, Emily Mayeda, Sarah Morimoto, Megan Morodomi, Ashley Morris, David Mun, Sean O'Gara, Waichi Ouye, Joy & Gerald Sekimura, Shauna Sullivan, Alan Terasuki, Steven Yamada, Tomodachi Club (UC Berkeley), Nikkei Student Union (UC Berkeley)*

Thank you also to those who recently renewed their memberships. Your continued support is greatly appreciated by the Officers, Directors and Trustees of the Berkeley JACL. Please contact our Membership Chair, Laura Takeuchi, at (510) 848-3560 or Chapter President, Valerie Yasukochi, at (510) 336-3371 if you are not receiving copies of Pacific Citizen, our chapter newsletter, or are encountering any problems related to membership. Email [Berkeley@JACL.org](mailto:Berkeley@JACL.org) or, you may write to us, c/o Berkeley JACL, Attn: Membership, P.O. Box 7609, Berkeley, CA 94707-0609.

### **Thank You!!**

The Berkeley JACL extends our deepest appreciation and thank you the following members and friends who very generously donated to our chapter.

*For the EBLHP: Ted & Sonoe Jitodai; Iwao Kuwano; Alan Ohashi; Neal & KG Ouye; Al & Maxine Satake; Shiro & Ikuko "Cookie" Takewshia; Masaru & Helen*

*Yamasaki; Valerie Yasukochi and James Duff, Jr.; Tony & Nowie Yokomizo. For Scholarships: Sachi Kaneko and Mari Murayama; Christina Jennings. For the General fund: Mary T. Takaki; Laura Takeuchi*

Contributions from our membership and community friends supplement our fund raising efforts, enabling us to stay actively involved in the Berkeley, Albany and Oakland communities. These donations allow us to continue our scholarship program, fund grant awards, support programs for seniors, publish our chapter newsletter and engage in other noteworthy local projects, activities and events.

If you wish your donation to benefit a specific program, please indicate this on the memo portion of your check. If not designated, the funds are deposited into our general chapter account and used for the newsletter expenses, panel presentations/programs sponsored by our Chapter and activities such as participation in the Jr. JACL Olympics.

<b>President</b>	Valerie Yasukochi
<b>Co-Vice President</b>	James Duff, Jr.
<b>Co-Vice President</b>	Ted Jitodai
<b>Co-Vice President</b>	DeAnn Tabuchi
<b>Secretary</b>	Dr. Mark Fujikawa
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tak Shirasawa
<b>Directors:</b>	
	Howard Fukuda; Jessica Kawamura; Kaz Mori
	Alan Ohashi, Craig Oki; Neal Ouye; Al Satake
	Emily Teruya; Ron Tanaka; Thomas Wei; Gordon Yamamoto



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