

# Berkeley JACL Newsletter

SERVING THE BERKELEY, OAKLAND, AND ALBANY COMMUNITIES

## Coming Events

- Jan 10, 24     **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.
- Jan 18        **Tri-Chapter Installation Luncheon**, see article inside
- Feb 8th       **JASEB Crab Feed**, see article inside
- Mar 15        **Grant Applications** due, see Berkeley JACL website
- Mar 27        **Gala Dinner**, NCWNPD; see president's message

**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!!!**

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



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B E R K E L E Y

## President's Corner

*James Duff, Jr.*

Happy Holidays to everyone! I'll try to be brief so you can resume enjoying the spirit of the season. There are lots of upcoming events that should secure a place on your calendar.

- We are inviting all interested parties to attend our tri-chapter Installation dinner in January when 2004 chapter officers and directors are sworn in. Members from the Berkeley, Contra Costa and Diablo Valley chapters will be present. We're pleased to announce Lane Nishikawa (playwright, actor and filmmaker) will be the guest speaker. This is a wonderful opportunity to see old friends and make new ones. The event will be held at Yoshi's in Oakland and a delicious bento lunch will be served. Please send in your reservation ASAP (see flyer in this newsletter for additional details).
- In 2004, JACL will be celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the Northern California Western Nevada Pacific District is planning a **Gala Dinner** in Danville as part of the festivities. This event takes place on March 27th at 6 p.m. at the renowned Blackhawk Museum, an associate of the Smithsonian. The address for the event is 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle in Danville. Cost is \$100 per person with an "early bird" special of \$90 if you reserve by February 13th. Optional dress code is a "black and white" theme, but not necessarily tuxes & gowns. Please contact Patty Wada, Regional Director, at (415) 345-1075 or email [jacl-ncwnpro@msn.com](mailto:jacl-ncwnpro@msn.com) for reservations. For more information, please visit the NCWNPD website at [www.jaclncwnp.org/](http://www.jaclncwnp.org/).
- Save the dates for JACL's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bi-annual Convention, convening August 10-14, 2004 in Honolulu, Hawaii with many exciting events and activities planned. The National Council, with over 250 JACL delegates, will debate issues that impact our lives, adopt our Program for Action, elect the Board of Directors, and set the civil and human

rights agenda for the 23,000-member organization. JACLers and friends can look forward to events and festivities including a Welcome Mixer, various workshops, tribute in celebration of the contributions of WWII veterans, Youth Diversity Summit, Obon dance and a fabulous Sayonora Banquet. There will also be many offerings including special events, tours and sightseeing packages. For more information visit their website at [www.jaclhawaii.org](http://www.jaclhawaii.org).

- For our youth, both high school and college age young people are eligible to **win a free trip to Hawaii**. The Min Yasui Oratorical Competition will be held at the convention. The purpose of the Min Yasui Oratorical Competition is to develop, encourage and reinforce verbal communication skills among the younger members of the JACL. The contestant's orations shall be 3-5 minutes and must be composed by the contestants. Contestants are judged on content, delivery and use of language during the oration. The competition is open to high school students, age 16 or older, or full time undergraduate college students. Contestants are not required to be a JACL student member before any District or National Competition.
- We have lots of volunteer opportunities for all ages. We assist JASEB in fundraising events and were instrumental in the founding of Daruma No Gako. We continue to support them today. We have awarded grants for community projects ranging from a garden project for Asian immigrant women through Asian Community Mental Health Services to funding a student created mural at McClymonds HS in Oakland. The next grant application deadline is March 15, 2004.
- Can't think of a gift for that person who seemingly has everything? Give them a JACL membership! Membership forms are available here [www.berkeleyjacl.org/](http://www.berkeleyjacl.org/)
- We need your help! Community Service requirements for students can be met by working with us at the Berkeley JACL!!

Have a Happy Holiday and a safe and healthy New Year!

*Jim Duff*

### **T'is The Season to GIVE Gift Memberships to Loved Ones**

Our chapter still has pocket of money to be used for giving one-year memberships. If you have a friend, relative, or anyone else who may benefit from JACL, please let us know. Our membership is dear to our survival, so please submit as many names as possible. Of course, you can also give one-year memberships on your own by completing the regular/gift membership application located on the back flap of this newsletter. If you need another copy, more information, or would like the Berkeley Chapter to gift a membership, please contact Emily Teruya at [membership@berkeleyjacl.org](mailto:membership@berkeleyjacl.org).

### **Moonlighting Becoming Common in Japan**

The Japanese have long been famous for working extra long hours. During Japan's rise to economic superpowerdom managers and executives typically skipped their annual vacations. Some of them, like the founders of Sony, slept in their factories or offices rather than take the time to go home. (Their wives brought food and clean clothing to them.)

Now there is a new twist to the working habits of a growing number of Japanese. Moonlighting, that is, having a second job, is becoming more and more common, as many Japanese strive to make ends meet in an economy that has slowed down. A survey conducted last year revealed that 73 percent of men and 86 percent of women in the work force said they would like to have a second job.

Until 1995, more than 80 percent of the companies responding to a Japan Institute of Labor survey said they banned or limited the rights of employees to have second jobs. Now, it appears that most companies either approve of their employees moonlighting, or tacitly allow it. Among the second jobs recently noted in a book on the moonlighting trend: teaching surfing and coordinating fishing and diving trips.

*Reprinted from "Amazing Japan- 5 December 2003"*

### **Washington DC Leadership Conference**

Just a reminder that applications for next year's Washington DC Leadership Conference (March 12-16) are due into NCWNP Governor Mark Kobayashi by January 15th. The district selection committee will review the applications and choose our participants. The names of those selected are due into National JACL by Feb. 1st. Applications are available on the JACL website: [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org). Send completed applications to:

NCWNP Governor Mark Kobayashi, 2726 Middleborough Circle, San Jose, CA 95132.

### Jaseb Crab Feed

JASEB will be holding its annual Crab Feed on **Sunday, February 8, 2004** at the **Oakland Asian Cultural Center** (388 9<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor). Tickets for the Feed are \$25 (\$30 at the door). Early Seating: 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm. Late Seating 5:30pm – 7:00 pm. Take out available from 4:30 pm.

There will also be a raffle with a Grand Prize of \$1,000. The drawing will be at 6:30 pm at the Crab Feed. Raffle tickets are \$2.00 each or 6 for \$10. For purchase of the Crab Feed and/or Raffle tickets contact: **Ted Jitodai at 510 524 3142** or **JASEB at 510 848 3560**

### Hanging on to Rice Traditions

For nearly three thousand years, rice was not only the primary food staple in the lives of the Japanese, it was also a measure of wealth and a medium of exchange as well as an offering to the gods. Each spring the Emperor planted rice as a ritual on behalf of the nation—a custom that is still followed.

When the present public school system was established after the fall of the Shogunate form of government in 1867, it was made mandatory that all 5th graders in the country learn how rice is cultivated. Since that time, schools throughout Japan, in collaboration with their PTAs, have organized spring trips to rice fields for their 5th graders.

*Reprinted from "Amazing Japan- 5 December 2003"*

### A Trip to the U.C. Berkeley Japanese American Culture Night

*by Andy Noguchi, Florin JACL*

Rolling 100 miles from the Sacramento Valley through rainstorms and San Francisco Bay Area traffic; packed in mini-vans, SUVs, and cars; and hell-bent on converging on U.C. Berkeley in one piece, 28 adventurous students (and parents) enjoyed a fun-filled, eye-opening November 14th trip to the U.C. Berkeley Japanese American Culture Night by the Nikkei Student Union. The Florin, Marysville, and Placer County JACL Chapters organized this trip, co-sponsored by the Northern California JACL's (NCWNP) District Council Youth Committee (DCYC).

Most of us gathered at the International House, home to foreign and American students learning about international affairs and cultures, where we enjoyed dinner in the dining commons. I-House showed

students one of the unique housing options available at U.C. Berkeley

From I-House we made our way down the street to the Bancroft Hotel, site of the 1st Annual Japanese American (J.A.) Culture Night organized by the 2 year old Nikkei Student Union (NSU). They put on an amazing program to a packed house, having to turn people away when the 350-person crowd started to flow out the door.

An expertly-written (and acted!) student skit on the Japanese American experience wove throughout the night's program. In poignant, touching, and even rollicking scenes, it told the history of JAs from Issei to Yonsei through several key junctures. It amazingly touched on Issei immigration, creating a foothold in the U.S. during the anti-Asian period, the forced evacuation, getting established after the War, playing b'ball, dating, and Obon odori. It closed with the Yonsei generation learning about the earlier struggles and tough wartime decisions of the Nisei.

The scene with a racist loan officer insulting the Issei farmer made my normally-calm wife Twila want to run up to the stage and grab the actor by the throat. The vignette on the young basketball players checking out the girls had my 15 year old daughter Annie bursting out in laughter.

A rousing performance by the San Francisco Taiko Rising All-Stars had everyone cheering. This collection of young, dedicated performers, all with at least 10 years experience, really stood out with their driving, complex, and tightly choreographed arrangements. Student performances also included some hard-hitting spoken word (dramatic poetry) by gifted play write Rick Kitagawa, an NSU hip hop group, and koto duet by talented sisters Kim and Emily Yoshihara.

All in all, the evening showcased a highly capable and aware group of college students. We received great comments on this trip from many students and parents in our group. My congratulations go to the Nikkei Student Union, Culture Night Chairperson Sarah Sasaki, and Co-Presidents Lisa Masai and Kim Yoshihara.

I would strongly recommend that JACL Chapters consider organizing this type of visit to college events. They are excellent opportunities to open the minds of high school students to Asian Pacific American experiences; familiarize them with vibrant campus organizations, academic programs like Asian

American Studies, living situations like Asian Theme dorms; and have a lot of fun doing it.

All it takes is some organization, dedicated carpool drivers, a minimal amount of funds, and a desire to reach out and involve young people. I'm glad our Placer County, Marysville, and Florin JACL Chapters organized this trip - for both the students and us parents. I look forward to more youth events in the future. The JACL needs them!



Left to right: Taka Miyaji, Lisa Masai, and Kristina Kozen (photo by NSU)



Skit shows checkin' out the guys & gals at b'ball.  
Left to Right: Brady Fukumoto, Chris Jocson, Mike Lee,  
Lisa Masai, Michelle Otani, and Vanessa Hatakeyama  
(photo by NSU).



### 2004 Tri-Chapter Installation

The Tri-Chapter Installation Luncheon (Berkeley, Contra Costa, Diablo Valley) will be held on Sunday, January 18, 2004 at Yoshi's Restaurant, 510 Embarcadero, Oakland (cost is \$20.00 for a delicious bento box lunch). District Governor, Mark Koboyashi, will install the officers and directors for the 3 chapters. Lane Nishikawa (Playwright, Actor, Filmmaker) will be the guest speaker. Make your reservations now (see flyer attached).

### Casting Call

By Thomas Wei

Casting beautiful Asian women for Warner Bros.' The Last Samurai Premiere After-party to be held in Westwood on Dec 1st.. Women will be dressed as village women and geisha from the film's wardrobe department and mingle "in character" through the party, helping to create the ambience of ancient Japan, circa 1870's. There is no pay, but a chance to be part of this year's biggest Hollywood premiere with a guest list including Tom Cruise and the rest of The Last Samurai's fantastic cast!! If interested please forward a picture and information ASAP to:

Cheryl Rave, Entertainment Producer  
Warner Bros. Special Events  
(818)954-3549 phone  
(818)954-3011 fax  
Cheryl.Rave@Warnerbros.com

Sounds like something from the 1950s? Well, "The Last Samurai" is a movie starring Tom Cruise that opened number one in the box office last week (Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>). This casting call caught the eye of certain people and is currently circulating in APA activism circles.

In the movie, Cruise plays a washed up Civil War hero who is hired by the Emperor of Japan to train the country's army in modern warfare to eradicate the Samurai class. When his character is injured and captured, Cruise learns about the warrior code from the samurai's leader, and, in the end, he's conflicted over which side to fight for.

Sounds all nice and inspirational, but there were a couple of issues that Hollywood glossed over, such as the fact that Japan's Meiji government hired primarily German and British military advisors. These advisors never took part in the actual battles. Cruise's character also showed such amazing talent with martial arts that he was able to defeat high-ranking samurai warriors after only four months of training. The list goes on, but let's chalk those up to Hollywood drama and glitz,

which are basic elements in most movies. After all, their purpose is to entertain and not to educate, right?

The problem is, this is yet another movie where Asian males are portrayed as traditionally rigid and asexual while the non-Asian male not only wins the heart of an Asian woman (who happens to be the wife of a samurai he killed) but apparently enjoys an after-party surrounded by beautiful Asian women dressed as villagers and geishas.

The culprit is not just "Samurai." Notable writer, radio commentator, and social advocate, Irwin Tang ("Why I Boycott The Last Samurai"), points out that recent movies like "Kill Bill" and "Lost in Translation" all portray Asians, and especially Asian men, as evil or silly. Can anyone remember the last time Asian/Asian American males were positively portrayed on TV or the big screen? Better yet, when was the last time Asian American males had relationships with Asian American females, or any females, in our media? Occasionally, we get hopeful when we see things like the new Volkswagen commercial that revolves around a South Asian American family with young children. Or the positive portrayal of Asian American youth in certain children's shows and Disney movies. But these are isolated cases that I can count with two hands, and in the meantime, society's bombarded with negative stereotypes constantly.

What are people doing about this? Well, for one, activists are getting the word out about ridiculous casting calls like the one above (notice that Warner Brothers' contact info is included...hint, hint). People like Irwin Tang are encouraging others to boycott films like "Samurai" not just domestically, but also in Asia, and everywhere that United States' cultural domination extends. College students like Adriel Luis are rolling out projects like "Stop Masturbating In My Culture," that are both educational and effective (check out <http://www.ill-literacy.org/stopmasturbating/>). And at the very least, after reading this article, we can go and share it with someone else.

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*Thomas Wei is the chair of Berkeley JACL's Civil Rights Committee (CRC). For more information on the CRC, please contact [thomas\\_w99@yahoo.com](mailto:thomas_w99@yahoo.com). Historical facts thanks to Dwight Sora's (Chicago native Japanese translator and actor), "The Last Samurai" Study Guide*

### **2004 Scholarships Applications Available**

Applications for the Berkeley Chapter Scholarship program are now available for high school students who are entering their freshman year of college, beginning in the Fall 2004. Applications can be obtained by contacting Ron Tanaka, Scholarship Chairperson, at 2960 Windtree Court, Lafayette, CA 94549 (phone 925-932-7947).

Applications submitted to the Berkeley Chapter must be postmarked by March 1, 2004. Berkeley will award local Chapter scholarships of up to \$1,200. Additionally, applications will be forwarded to the JACL's National Scholarship Program (awards announced in late 2004).

Eligibility requirements are: 1) Each applicant must be a Berkeley Chapter JACL member (parent/grandparent membership will not meet this requirement) 2) Each applicant must be planning to attend a college, university, trade school, business school, or any other institution of higher learning as an undergraduate in Fall 2004. Students deferring enrollment will not qualify for the 2004 program 3). Each applicant may apply under one scholarship category.

The Berkeley Chapter has awarded scholarships totaling over \$30,000 to over 50 deserving East Bay area students during the past 12 years.

### **Welcome New Members**

We'd like to thank and welcome the following new members:

*Bradley Hasegawa, Rod & Nancy Maekawa, Sandra K. Lee Takei, Roger Tanaka, Tsuetaki Family, and Renee Yasamura.*

Another big "thanks" to members who renewed their membership this past quarter. Your continued support of JACL is appreciated by everyone.

### **Bea Kono Scholarship Fund**

At the December 2003 Berkeley JACL Board meet, on behalf of the Kono family, Gordon Kono presented a \$10,000 check to establish the Bea Kono Scholarship fund.

The Kono family had donated the Koden to the Berkeley JACL Scholarship Fund. Every year, the Berkeley has been awarding over \$4000 of scholarships. This generous donation will be used for these scholarships so that she will live on in the memories of new young members of the JACL.



*Ron Tanaka, Al Satake, Gordon Kono, DeAnn Tabuchi,  
Jim Duff*

### Thanks for the donations

The Berkeley JACL appreciates the donations to help us support the Nikkei Christmas party from *Alice Arita, Bill Fujita and Larry Suzuki.*

### BERKELEY JACL – Past Presidents

1942 Kimio Obata

*Reactivated May 1947 as part of East Bay Chapter,  
decentralized in 1953.*

1953 George Yasukochi; 1954 Sho Sato; 1955 Ben Fukutome; 1956 Paul Yamamoto; 1957 Jiri Nakaso; 1958 Ko Ijichi; 1959 Satoshi Otagiri; 1960 Masuji Fuji; 1961 Frank T. Yamasaki; 1962 Roy Marubayashi; 1963 Jack Imada; 1964 Tad Hirota; 1965 Thomas Ouye; 1966 Takeo Shirasawa; 1967 Vernon Nishi; 1968 Goro Endo; 1969-1970 Harry Takahashi; 1971 Akira Nakamura; 1972 Jordan Hiratzka; 1973-1974 Beatrice Kono; 1975-1976 Min Sano; 1977-1978 Paul Takata; 1979-1980 Gordon Kono; 1981 David Inouye; 1982-1983 Kiyoshi Katsumoto; 1984-1986 Tad Hirota; 1987-1989 Gordon Yamamoto; 1990 Neal Taniguchi; 1991-1992 Ann Yabusaki and Ken Yabusaki; 1993 Al Satake and Gordon Yamamoto; 1994 Neal Ouye and Al Satake; 1995 Jane Ogawa and Neal Ouye; 1996 Jane Ogawa and Ron Tanaka; 1997 Neal Taniguchi and Mike Kamimoto; 1998 Mike Kamimoto and Mark Fujikawa; 1999 Mark Fujikawa and Howard Fukuda; 2000 Howard Fukuda and Valerie Yasukochi; 2001-2002 Valerie Yasukochi 2003-2004 James Duff, Jr.

### Japanese Idea Of A Quiet Relaxing Holiday- Tokyo Water Park

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<b>Co-Vice President</b>	Thomas Wei
<b>Co-Vice President</b>	Emily Teruya
<b>Co-Vice President</b>	DeAnn Tabuchi
<b>Secretary</b>	David Mun
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tak Shirasawa

#### **Directors:**

Carolyn Adams, Mark Fujikawa, Howard Fukuda; Ted Jitodai; John Kawamura; Gordon Kono, Neal Ouye; Al Satake, Ron Tanaka; Gordon Yamamoto; Valerie Yasukochi

#### **Newsletter**

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George Yasukochi; Emily Teruya; Noriko Teruya; Valerie Yasukochi, Jim Duff.

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**2003 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_  
application

Send completed membership

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

and check to:

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_

Berkeley JACL

**State:** \_\_\_\_\_

Attn: Membership

**Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Country:** \_\_\_\_\_

P.O. Box 7609

**Phone #:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Berkeley, CA 94707-0609

Please allow 4-6 weeks for processing.

**Membership Category\*** (please check box):

<u>Categories</u>	<u>National Dues</u>	<u>Chapter Dues</u>	<u>Total</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth	\$20 +	\$5 =	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular	\$55 +	\$5 =	\$60
<input type="checkbox"/> Couple/ Family	\$100 +	\$5 =	\$105
<input type="checkbox"/> Thousand Club	\$100 +	\$0 =	\$ 100

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

\* For membership category upgrades to Thousand Club, Century Club, Thousand Club Life, or Century Club Life, please call the National JACL membership office at (415) 921-5225.

*Thank you for your support of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)!*

**Japanese American Citizens League  
Berkeley Chapter  
P.O Box 7609  
Berkeley, CA 94707-0609**

**Happy Holidays...Come to our Installation Luncheon**

# 2004 Tri-Chapter Installation Luncheon

Japanese American Citizen's League  
Berkeley - Contra Costa - Diablo Valley

**Sunday, January 18, 2004**

**12 noon - 2:30PM**

Registration: 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM

**Guest Speaker: Lane Nishikawa**  
(Playwright, Actor, Filmmaker)

**Location: Yoshi's Restaurant**  
510 Embarcadero  
Oakland, CA

■ Raffle ■ Door Prizes

Cost: \$20.00 per person (bento lunch box)

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## 2004 JACL Tri-Chapter Installation Luncheon

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

- I plan to attend. I am enclosing my check made payable to Berkeley JACL \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ person(s)
- I am unable to attend, but enclosed is a contribution to the Berkeley JACL of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Please return completed form by January 9, 2004 to  
Japanese American Citizens League  
Berkeley Chapter  
P.O. Box 7609  
Berkeley, CA 94707-0609

Questions - Contact Al Satake (510-528-1900) or Ron Tanaka (925-932-7947)