May-June 2004

Berkeley JACL Newsletter

SERVING THE BERKELEY, OAKLAND, AND ALBANY COMMUNITIES

Coming Events

Jul 10, 24 Aug 14, 28 Sep 11, 25	**Berkeley Nikkei Seniors Group** at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave., Berkeley. This group meets every 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month. For information contact Terry Yamashita (510) 237-1131 or Tazuko White.
July 11	**Berkeley JACL Youth BBQ,** contact Jim Duff (see President's Corner)
Aug 10-14	**National JACL Convention in HAWAII,** go to www.jaclhawaii.org for more information

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**. **MAKE SOME NOISE**!!!

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JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE
BERKELEY

History of the Berkeley Chapter, JACL

By Valerie and George Yasukochi

The Berkeley Chapter was organized in early 1942 with Kimio Obata (son of U.C. Art Professor Chiura Obata) as president. WW II and the evacuation of Japanese Americans from the West Coast suspended the chapter's activities. An East Bay Chapter was formed after the war to include Berkeleyans but was split in 1953 into Oakland, Berkeley, and the Contra Costa Chapters. Later the Oakland Chapter was absorbed into the Berkeley Chapter.

Berkeley was fortunate to include the more active East Bay members like Tad Hirota, Masuji Fujii, Frank and Toshi Yamasaki, Albert and Ruth Kosakura, George and Bess Yasukochi, Mas Yonemura, Paul and Kay Yamamoto, and Bill Fujita. They carried on a vigorous community program, which included promotion of Issei citizenship, scholarship awards, open forums on civic issues, benefit movies, picnics, talent shows (one of which included the now famous Pat Morita), and sports team sponsorship.

The Berkeley Chapter became beneficiary of an old-time Berkeley Issei Association, which owned a modest downtown site used as the JACL meeting room with one apartment above. The property was sold for $40,000 in 1966 and the fund, supplemented with other donations, has grown substantially and now provides annual income for chapter scholarships, community project grants, chapter sponsored activities, and subsidies for youth to attend major JACL events including the National Student Youth Conference and National Convention.

Membership has waxed and waned through the years. The beginning goal was 200-300 members. In 1957 Ko Ijichi, as Vice President and Membership Committee chair, set a goal of 500. The following year with vigorous effort, under President Ijichi's leadership, the chapter reached its high of 487. With so many Nikkei organizations these days, as well as the integration of the community, maintaining a high

enrollment has its challenges. Recently, the chapter is making determined efforts to attract the younger Nikkei crowd, especially those at the University level and young professionals. Their energy and outlook add much to the chapter's well being. Its close proximity to the University of California, Berkeley and other nearby colleges helps. The future of the JACL lies in their hands. Among our young activists are Howard Fukuda, Paul Goshi, Jessica Kawamura, John Kawamura, Kyle Morishita, David Mun, Sarah Sasaki, DeAnn Tabuchi, Emily Teruya, Thomas Wei and Kim Yoshihara.

President's Corner

By Jim Duff

We're hosting a JACL Berkeley youth BBQ on July 11. All our youth members and friends are invited. **Place**: 2840 Steinmetz Way; Oakland, CA. **Time**: 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM or more... Please come and share your thoughts on the issues that you and your contemporaries are concerned about. Indulge in some great food, fun and camaraderie. RSVP to Jim Duff, 510-384-3712 (or via email to James_Duff@apl.com).

Please visit our JACL runboard at http://com1.runboard.com/bjapaneseamericanyouthforum and share your experiences and hopes with other JA's (See the accompanying article)...

On another note we mourn the loss of two long time JACL supporters, Sada Mori and Bob Yamada. Our condolences to both families. Thank you to the Mori Family for their generous donation to the Berkeley JACL in memory of Sada Mori. Our recently recognized Pioneer Awardee, Bob Yamata passed away on June 23. We will miss him. Bob was a popular historian of Berkeley and the community. A memorial service will be held on July 1.

We received a 'Thank You' from the Nisei Chapter of the VFW for our annual donation to their Memorial Day ceremony honoring Nikkei veterans.

JACL chapter delegates are off to the 75th JACL Convention in August. Please share your feedback, criticisms, concerns, ideas, suggestions and compliments on the JACL with us before we leave. Email to: James_Duff@APL.COM or Berkeley@JACL.org .

Hey, Youth! Do you have any opinions?

By Emily Teruya

If you do, please consider writing for the Pacific Citizens' Youth Forum. Last year, the Pacific Citizen, with the help of some Berkeley JACLers, created a visible space for youth and by youth to voice opinions. You can write about anything you want, so don't feel as if you need to create artificial borders pertaining only to JA culture or issues.

If you're reluctant to write because you feel you won't get the support you need, the PC staff is very supportive of youth and encourages submissions including Letters to the Editor. They know as we know that the only way youth can have a regular voice in the PC is if youth are willing to write. If you have some ideas but want to flesh them out, feel free to take advantage of Berkeley JACL's newly formed Japanese American Online Youth Forum at http://com1.runboard.com/bjapaneseamericanyouthforum. You can bounce your ideas and get feedback from youth who frequent the Forum. There's also an area dedicated to the Pacific Citizen. Samples of previous youth articles covering a variety of topics are posted for your review.

Once you start writing, please keep the following in mind:

- be creative
- voice your opinion and give it your best shot
- there is no right or wrong viewpoint.
- articles are subject to editing and space limitations
- submissions should be about 500-750 words, double spaced

Interested? Want more information? Please contact Caroline Aoyagi, PC Executive Editor, at paccit@aol.com or 1-800-966-6157. Please send your completed articles to Caroline as well. New writers: Please include a digital photo (head shot) with your submission. Essentially, there are rolling deadlines for articles. If your article does not appear immediately, please be patient.

Scholarship Recipients

Berkeley JACL Scholarship banquet

By DeAnn Tabuchi

The annual scholarship awards luncheon was held Sunday, April 25th at the Silver Dragon restaurant in Oakland. Scholarships totaling $3,500 were awarded to four graduating High School Seniors. Thomas Leong of College Preparatory School in Oakland plans to attend Cornell University in the Fall and study Biology and Society. Douglas Suda of Campolindo High School will attend UC Berkeley or UCLA and pursue a Biology degree. Michael Leong will study Electrical Engineering/Computer Science at UC Berkeley. Kimberly Nakamura of Skyline High School will attend UC Berkeley and major in International Relations. Ms. Nakamura was awarded the first annual Bea Kono Memorial Scholarship. A generous donation was made from the Kono family in memory of Mrs. Bea Kono, a past Berkeley JACL "Pioneer Award" recipient and longtime JACL supporter. Gordon Kono, a member of the Berkeley JACL Board of Directors was on hand to champion the legacy his mother began, and encourage the young people and their parents to continue to support JACL and ensure its existence for future generations.

Attendees were treated to words of wisdom from past scholarship recipients. Lindsay Nakano, a freshman at UC Davis, and a 2003 Berkeley JACL scholarship recipient, stressed the importance of not taking family and friends for granted, and to enjoy the little things like care packages that make college more bearable. Roger Tanaka, a 1996 recipient, UCLA graduate, and current scholarship committee member, gave practical advice on planning for the future, and understanding the value of the dollar.

The chapter also honored "Pioneer Award" recipients, Ko Ijichi and T. Robert Yamada. This award recognizes the contributions of individuals for their dedicated and distinguished service to the Berkeley JACL and/or the communities it serves.

The keynote speaker was Sydnie Kohara, CBS 5 Eyewitness News Early Edition anchor. Born to a Japanese Father, and Caucasian mother, she recounted her ups and downs after graduating High School in Louisiana, with no firm plans on how to support herself. Kohara advised the attendees to follow the road less traveled, for you never know where it will lead you. She also stressed that failure is just as important as success in learning how strong you are, and encouraged the audience to use the failures to move forward and grow. After taking many roads less traveled herself, and experiencing failures along the way, she came to the conclusion that we must never take what we have for granted. Our family, friends, and jobs may not be there tomorrow, and we need to realize that sometimes the only person who will believe in us is ourselves. The scholarship recipients, as well as the others present were inspired and encouraged by her wisdom and candor.

The Berkeley JACL gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions of major sponsors: Gary, George and Gordon Kono; Union Bank of Berkeley; Wells Fargo Bank of Berkeley; Bank of America, San Jose; and Horizon Beverage in Oakland. Thank you for other donations by: Neal and KG Ouye in memory of Daniel Tsukayama; Marvin and Minnie Uratsu; Ken and Virginia Fujita, David and Joan Fujita (in memory of Tad Fujita and Bea Kono); David Fujita; Jim Duff and Valerie Yasukochi (in memory of Daniel Tsukayama and Tad Fujita); Steve and Diane Leong; Ko Ijichi, Tak and Maye Shirasawa; Makoto and Amy Oto; Crystal K. Hishida; Kaz and Fusae Takei; Ken and Ann Yabusaki; Karen Kiyo Huster; and Berkeley Optometric Group.

The 2004 Berkeley JACL scholarship committee members are Ron Tanaka (Chairman), Neal Ouye, Al Satake, Kelly Shintani, Sharron Sue, DeAnn Tabuchi, Roger Tanaka.

Bob Yamada

Ko Ijichi

Want to be a Role Model?

You can – just upgrade your membership!

As a grass-roots organization, we certainly live and die by our membership. The past few years have shown a slight yet, steady decline in that area. As such, revenue from membership is also on the decline. Still, have no fear. JACL will get out of this predicament with your help. Please upgrade your membership to a Thousand Club, Century Club, Thousand Club Life, or Century Club Life.

The **Thousand Club** and **Century Club** membership categories are for an exclusive group – those that make a larger annual contribution to chapter and national programs. Those who are either **Thousand Club Life** or **Century Club Life** members are part of an elite class. Thousand Club Life members pay a $1000 lump sum to establish a lifetime membership. Century Club Life members pay a $2000 lump sum. Both provide a lifetime of benefits including a subscription to our national, bi-weekly newspaper, Pacific Citizen; support for our civil rights, youth advocacy, and educational programs; and so much more with no worry about annual dues. Even better, a contribution of $1,000 is tax deductible. Since life memberships are individual-based, there is a 1000 Club Spouse category with a reduced annual membership rate of $32.

If you would like to upgrade your membership, please contact Emily Teruya, Vice President of Membership, at membership@berkeleyjacl.org.

Note: *There are also non-monetary ways to be a role model within the JACL -- volunteer for chapter activities like Bingo Night, district gala events, chapter scholarship and installation luncheons, etc. If you would like to volunteer, please contact us at berkeley@jacl.org. Thanks in advance for your support.*

Two Grants Awarded

Two grants were awarded for the first half of 2004. The Grants Committee that is headed by Howard Fukuda reviewed these grants. The Grants Committee's recommendations were accepted by the Berkeley JACL Board of Directors who recommended that Issei Fund fund these grants. The Issei Fund Trustees voted to fund these grants.

The first grant is for ACHMS. They are publishing a book, "Sum and Soul", an anthology sharing the recovery, resiliency and triumph for Asian and Pacific Islanders with mental illness and developmental disabilities as they overcome language, cultural and economic barriers.

The second grant was awarded to the Third Thursday. This group sponsors a monthly dinner series for people interested in Asian American & Pacific Islander issues. Their programs are funded by donations. The Berkeley JACL chose to donate in support of their facilitator training. One of their recent programs were on "Combating Human Trafficking of Asian Pacific Islanders Locally and Globally".

Are "Jap plays" acceptable?

By Emily Teruya

I certainly hope not. On June 7, Bill Parcells, the Dallas Cowboys coach, explained to reporters that he has to keep an eye on his defensive coordinator, Mike Zimmer, and quarterbacks coach, Sean Payton, because "Mike wants the defense to do well, and Sean, he's going to have a few ... no disrespect for the Orientals, but what we call Jap plays. OK. Surprise things."

As someone eloquently said on Berkeley JACL's newly created Japanese American Online Youth Forum, "A remark like 'Jap plays,' obviously referring to the 'sneak attack' at Pearl Harbor, plays upon an unspoken racialized assumption that all Japanese people are sneaky, predatory, deceptive, 'dastardly', or complicit with those kinds of behaviors in other Japanese. The underlying assumption [is] that because of a 'shared race' we all share certain character traits and behaviors, thus assuming that biological racism is valid, is the problem I have with remarks and assumptions like these."

How did JACL respond to Parcells comment? John Tateishi, JACL's executive director said, "Bill Parcells is a brilliant coach. Unfortunately, he is ignorant about racial slurs. I take great offense by what he said. Parcells ought to know better. He sorely needs more education on what is offensive and non-offensive to Japanese-Americans. I am shocked that he would say this."

Parcells has since apologized for his remark. He said, "I made a very inappropriate reference, and although I prefaced it with the remark, 'no disrespect to anyone intended,' it was still uncalled for and

inconsiderate. For that I apologize to anyone who may have been offended."

This apology is completely unacceptable. First, he changed his words. His original comment was "no disrespect for the Orientals" not "anyone intended." In other words, the usage of such terminology is perfectly acceptable in crowds without Orientals (he should've said Japanese-Americans) nearby. Second, the apology is not a reflection of why his comment was offensive. However, I must say, JACL did not try to educate him.

My personal take is that JACL's stance is weak. Its only concern is about the proper/improper usage of derogatory terminology. In this instance, JACL did not address anything beyond the surface level. It took the same stance when Al Franken used the term "Jap" in his book. And, it took a similar stance when it discussed the usage of the term on eBay. I have a feeling this trend is due to JACL's relatively small membership. Without a larger membership, the national director can't represent the JA community. Without much political clout, he doesn't even have the authority or privilege of questioning racialized assumptions. Maybe it's up to a few "radicals" to stir him and other Asian American leaders into action. We can't simply take passive roles… can we?

To discuss this issue or view other reactions, please log on to the following link established by Berkeley JACL:
http://com1.runboard.com/bjapaneseamericanyouthforum.fjapaneseamericanissues.t9

For instructions on how to get started, please see our flyer on the last page of this newsletter.

Welcome New Members!

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

Christopher Anderson and Emi Matsuo, Yokomizo Family, and Kim Yoshihara.

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

If you have any questions about your membership, please write to membership@berkeleyjacl.org or Berkeley JACL, P.O. Box 7609, Berkeley, CA 94707-0609.

The 2005 Fundraiser Dinner

The 2005 fundraiser dinner will be held on April 2 at the Blackhawk Museum**.** As the planning begins and committees form, please join us. We can use any help at the level you are able to contribute and participate. If you would like to work on the planning committee or one of the subcommittees (registration, silent auction, decorations, speaker, awards, etc.), come to the next meeting, or contact Larry Oda (tsuneo1@msn.com or 831-375-3314) or Debbi Hatanaka (dhendow@aol.com or 209-477-6905).

Future meeting dates are as follows:

Saturday, July 17, 2004 (Time & location to be determined).

Saturday, August 28, 2004 10:00 AM San Jose JACL Building

Starting in September: Monthly meetings will be scheduled on the second Saturday of the month . (Should there are conflicts witha date, we can reschedule.) Also, if you can't serve on one of the committees, but have ideas or suggestions, please pass them on to any of the committee members.

Our 2004 event was successful because of the enthusiasm and participation of so many. We look forward to another wonderful event in 2005.

THE MENDOCINO ART CENTER PRESENTS: JAPAN WEEK 2004: A CELEBRATION OF JAPANESE ARTS

Sponsored by The Stanford Inn by the Sea.
Sake for the week's events provided by Gekkeikan Sake Company.

The Mendocino Art Center has a long history of involvement with Japan, and is pleased to continue that association with Japan Week 2004: A Celebration Of Japanese Arts, August 7 - 14.
Workshops, demonstrations, lectures, performances, exhibits, and a "Nippon Matsuri" (Japanese fair) are just part of the week's activities.

http://www.mendocinoartcenter.org/level2/events.lasso

Wanted: New Members

Do you know anyone who cares about civil rights? Japanese culture? Networking? Then that person can benefit by becoming a JACL member. Our district, the Northern California Western Nevada District, has a new membership campaign: for every three new members we recruit to our chapter, the district will give a one-year complimentary membership. Our deadline is August 30.

Please keep in mind that Berkeley JACL has money tucked away specifically for new members. We can also give a one-year complimentary membership to someone who promises to renew in the future. If you know of anyone who can benefit by being a JACL member, please contact Emily Teruya, membership chair, at membership@berkeleyjacl.org.

Long Awaited Graduations

With a big thumbs up which brought a roar from the 2004 Emery Secondary School's 40 graduates, Rayko Sekiguchi Kojimoto received her high school diploma. The recurring dream that has haunted Rayko for more than 60 years finally was finally put to rest.

The push for diplomas for internees received a big boost last year when Gov. Gray Davis signed a bill allowing school districts to award diplomas to Japanese American students who were taken out of school during the war. As graduation season approached, Rayko's granddaughter, Heather Nagano, a 25-year-old graduate student at the UCLA, took action by contacting Emery Secondary School principal Mark Miller and told him of her grandmother's situation. When Principal Miller informed the senior class of his plans to include Rayko in their graduation ceremonies, the seniors whole heartedly accepted her. They felt that having Rayko with them would make their graduation special.

Rayko joined other Japanese Americans who received their diplomas this month from high schools in Hayward, Berkeley, Mountain View and Oakland. Twenty-seven former internees graduated in Alameda County. Berkeley High School's graduation included a special presentation of diplomas to eight Japanese Americans who were prevented from completing classes at Berkeley High. They included El Cerrito resident, Robert Hata, 78, and San Francisco resident, Margaret Kusaba, 79.

President	James Duff, Jr.
Co-Vice President	Thomas Wei
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Co-Vice President	DeAnn Tabuchi
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Carolyn Adams, Mark Fujikawa, Howard Fukuda; Ted Jitodai; John Kawamura; Gordon Kono, Neal Ouye; Al Satake, Ron Tanaka: Gordon Yamamoto; Valerie Yasukochi

Newsletter

Editor	Neal Ouye
Contributors	Dan Date, Emily Teruya; Valerie Yasukochi, Jim Duff, Neal Ouye, DeAnn Tabuchi
Production and Circulation	George Yasukochi; Emily Teruya; Noriko Teruya; Valerie Yasukochi, Jim Duff. Carolyn Adams

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Do you want to connect with other JA youth? Here's your chance!

(Already read this? Go to: http://com1.runboard.com/bjapaneseamericanyouthforum)

Dear Fellow Youth and Young at Heart,

Berkeley JACL is excited to introduce the "Japanese American Youth Forum," an online medium where you can say whatever's on your mind -- whether it be about JA issues or not. This forum is in no way limited to youth. We hope it will promote an exchange of ideas, encourage feedback, and broadcast events.

There are several interesting discussions -- e.g. William Hung, hero or foe; Bill Parcells' "Jap Play" comment; racial slurs; gender issues in and out of the JA community; Japanese TV shows/entertainment; there's even a comment about exploding miso soup! If you have a few free moments, please check out the forum and get a feel for it. When you have a chance, please start commenting. If you don't see anything that makes you raise an eyebrow, feel free to post something completely new. Last, but not least, encourage your friends to log on!

How to get started:

1. Go to: www.runboard.com
2. Go to and click: "Open Account"
3. Fill in the fields, e.g., login/screenname
    a. Once you create an account, you'll be directed to another page that says, "**Congratulations! Your account is now created**.
    Before you can log in your account, you need to **activate** it. An email message has been sent to the primary email address you just entered (**youremail@address.com**)."
    b. Check your email and activate your account by clicking on the link provided
    c. When you click on the link, you'll be directed to a new page. You'll get a temporary password that you can change later. It's *not* necessary to "upgrade account to premium," so just scroll all the way down and click "Continue as free account" located at the lower left-hand corner
    d. At the control panel, change your password. Just in case, click the box next to "Send the new password to my primary email address." Then, click "Submit info"
4. Go to: http://com1.runboard.com/bjapaneseamericanyouthforum
5. Go to and click: "Welcome" and then "A Place For New Members to Introduce Themselves!"
6. Click: "Post a topic." You'll be directed to a new page where you can type a comment. If you'd like, type a little something about yourself so others know who you are (e.g., name, age, etc.)
7. Go back to the main page, look around and feel free to read comments, respond to them, or post your own

Note: We have several areas where you can post a comment. If you'd like to see other areas, please let us know.

Have questions? Contact: Emily (chibi500@hotmail.com)
Paul (DuskOfDead@aol.com)

BERKELEY JACL

☐ New Member ☐ Gift Membership

2004 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

From: _____

Name(s): _____

_____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____ **Country:** _____

Phone #: (_____) _____

Send completed membership application and check to:

Berkeley JACL
Attn: Membership
P.O. Box 7609
Berkeley, CA 94707-0609

Please allow 4-6 weeks for processing.

Membership Category* (please check box):

	Categories	National Dues		Chapter Dues		Total
☐	Youth	$20	+	$5	=	$25
☐	Regular	$55	+	$5	=	$60
☐	Couple/ Family	$100	+	$5	=	$105
☐	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

Attend the JACL National Convention in Hawaii