

Berkeley JACL Newsletter

SERVING THE BERKELEY, OAKLAND, AND ALBANY COMMUNITIES

Coming Events

- Feb 26 **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 (510) 525-2541.
- Mar 1 **Berkeley JACL Scholarship deadline**
- Mar 12, 26 **NCWNPJ JACL Dinner at Blackhawk**, see article inside
- Apr 9, 23 **Berkeley JACL Scholarship Luncheon**; see article inside.
- Apr 2 **NCWNPJ JACL Dinner at Blackhawk**, see article inside
- Apr 24 **Berkeley JACL Scholarship Luncheon**; see article inside.
- May 14 All member mixer

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!!!**

E-mail the Berkeley JACL at: Berkeley@JACL.org

Visit our Website at www.berkeleyjacl.org



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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" to members who renewed their membership. Your continued support of JACL is appreciated.

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

JACL Celebrates it's 76th Anniversary with a Gala Dinner

Save the date and join us April 2!

Join JACL members and supporters in celebration of the JACL's 76th anniversary on April 2 at 6 pm for the Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific (NCWNPJ) District's second annual gala dinner. This exciting event with the theme "Spirit of 76", will be held in the San Francisco Bay Area at the renowned Blackhawk Auto Museum, an associate of the Smithsonian.

Legacy Award honorees, our "unsung heroes" who serve as the backbone of each JACL chapter and share in the "Spirit of 76", will be honored and recognized. Hikari awards will be presented to youth who have demonstrated leadership and made significant contributions to the Japanese American community. In conjunction with the dinner, a fabulous silent auction will be held.



The evening's honorary chair, Olympic gold medalist Kristi Yamaguchi, will present the awards to Legacy and Hikari honorees. Kristi is president of Kristi Yamaguchi's 'Always Dream' Foundation, which supports organizations that have a positive influence on youth and programs that inspire and embrace the hopes and dreams of children and adolescents.

Registration forms which identify your seating request & menu choices can be obtained from your JACL chapter president or downloaded from the district website (<http://jaclncwnp.org>). Send the completed

registration and your check to Carolyn Ishihara, 3425 Waterfront Circle, Stockton, CA 95209, or Jim Duff (510 336-3371) 2840 Steinmetz Way, Oakland, Ca. 94602

Cost is \$100 per person with an "early bird" special of \$90 by February 28. Youth members may be eligible for a partially subsidized registration, contact Jim Duff for more information. The "Spirit of 76" gala event serves as a fundraiser in support of NCWNP district's programs, vital to JACL's continued effectiveness. Proceeds will help support JACL's youth development, cultural enhancement and civil rights programs.

Save the date and mark your calendars for April 2! We look forward to seeing you at the Blackhawk Auto Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle in Danville.

Please join us at "Spirit of '76." We hope that you will celebrate, too by wearing red, white, or blue

For more information about the gala event, please contact Patty Wada, Regional Director, at (415) 345-1075 or email jacl-ncwnpro@msn.com.



Spirit of 76 Honorees

Legacy Award honorees, our "unsung heroes" who serve as the backbone of each JACL chapter and share in the "Spirit of 76", will be honored and recognized. Hikari awards will be presented to youth who have demonstrated leadership and made significant contributions to the Japanese American community.

The following honorees will be recognized with the district's Legacy award at the Blackhawk Auto Museum, in Danville

<i>Berkeley:</i>	<i>George Yasukochi (posthumously)</i>
<i>Contra Costa:</i>	<i>Esther Takeuchi</i>
<i>Diablo Valley:</i>	<i>Kay Seno</i>
<i>Florin:</i>	<i>Marion Kanemoto</i>
<i>French Camp:</i>	<i>Fumiko Asano</i>
<i>Gilroy:</i>	<i>Atsuko Obata</i>
<i>Lodi:</i>	<i>Tom Kurahara (posthumously)</i>
<i>Marysville:</i>	<i>Frank Nakamura</i>
<i>Monterey Peninsula:</i>	<i>Frank Tanaka</i>
<i>Placer County:</i>	<i>Frank Kageta</i>

<i>Sacramento:</i>	<i>As a team: Terry Makishima, Toyo Nakatogawa, Teiko Matsuo and Myra Kiyota</i>
<i>San Benito County:</i>	<i>Tony Boch</i>
<i>San Francisco:</i>	<i>Yo Hironaka</i>
<i>San Jose:</i>	<i>Sharon Uyeda</i>
<i>San Mateo:</i>	<i>Steve Okamoto</i>
<i>Sequoia:</i>	<i>Bud Nakano</i>
<i>Sonoma County:</i>	<i>Martin Shimizu</i>
<i>Stockton:</i>	<i>George Matsumoto</i>
<i>Tri-Valley:</i>	<i>Steve Lai</i>
<i>Watsonville-SC:</i>	<i>Iwao Yamashita</i>

Membership Counts

Keep an eye out for the Berkeley JACL Annual Membership Gathering! Join us for "Re-connecting with old friends, Meeting new friends" this coming May.

Get up-to-date on what's going on in the community. Refreshments will be served! Date and location to be announced.

Scholarship Deadline approaching

BERKELEY CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Due March 1, 2005

Applications for the Berkeley Chapter Scholarship Program, are available for high school students, who are entering their freshman year in college, beginning in the Fall 2005. Applications submitted must be postmarked by March 1, 2005. Berkeley will review applications and award local Chapter scholarships up to \$1,200. By April 1, 2005, Berkeley will forward all applications for further consideration to the JACL's National Scholarship and Awards Program (awards announced in late 2005).

Mail applications to: Ron Tanaka, 2960 Windtree Ct., Lafayette, CA 94549. Questions - Telephone - 925-932-7947

EILIGIBILITY:

Every applicant must be a Berkeley Chapter JACL member (parent/grandparent membership will not meet this requirement).

Applicants must be planning to attend a college, university, trade school, business school, or any other institution of higher learning as an undergraduate in the fall of 2004. Students deferring enrollment will not qualify for the 2004 program

Applicants may apply under 1 scholarship category.



2004 Scholarship Award Recipients (from L to R): Thomas Leong, Michael Leong, Doug Suda, and Kim Nakamura.

Regrets

The Board of Directors and Trustees of the Berkeley J.A.C.L express our deepest sympathy to the families of Skip Yamashita and Tony Yokomizo. Our hearts and thoughts are with their families during this time of loss.

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.

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.

Hey, Youth! Do you have any opinions?

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.

Are "Jap plays" acceptable?

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.

Berkeley JACLeR Selected to Attend JACL/OCA Leadership Conference

Emily Teruya, a member of our chapter, was selected to attend the JACL/OCA Leadership Conference in Washington DC, a joint program operated by the JACL and Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA), the two largest Asian Pacific American civil rights organizations

in the United States. This four-day conference gives thirty emerging leaders of the JACL and OCA an opportunity to learn about the current public policy issues facing our communities. Emily and fellow participants will meet with numerous APA-elected and appointed officials, as well as other community groups and coalition partners.

Berkeley JACL Has One Millennium Club Member!

In our last newsletter, we publicized the Millennium Club, a new membership category where members opt to pay a higher membership due of \$1,000 a year. **Emily Teruya**, one of Berkeley JACL's own, recently joined the exclusive club.

Was it the new Millennium Club pin? Or, the recognition received at significant JACL events? Or, the option of getting the *Pacific Citizen* by first-class mail? Or, receiving National Board meeting minutes? Maybe it's the significant charitable deduction that she can take to reduce her income tax. Well, even with all of those perks, the overriding reason for joining the Millennium Club is to provide JACL with additional funds to carry out the educational and civil rights programs that we are known for and are so proud of.

Can you become a member? Yes! Anyone can. Don't worry, no one is no one is obligated to renew at the \$1,000/year rate. Your contribution will enable JACL to better promote, sponsor, and encourage programs, projects and activities to secure and uphold civil and human rights for all people. It will also help promote the cultural heritage of Japanese Americans.

For additional information please contact Berkeley JACL's VP Membership Emily Teruya at eteruya@berkeley.edu or Millennium Club coordinator, Milo Yoshino at miyoshi@aol.com.

Thank you to all who placed ads in the Holiday Issue of the PC

Proceeds from the Pacific Citizen's Holiday Issue are Berkeley JACL's biggest fundraiser of the year! We earned a substantial amount in 2004 thanks to all who placed ads!

National JACL's 2005 Membership Recruitment Campaign

Win a Four-Day Carnival Cruise to Mexico!

National VP of Membership Edwin Endow has started an aggressive membership campaign for 2005. He would like every JACL member to recruit another member. To entice members to participate, **members who gift or refer a new member will automatically be entered in a drawing for a 4-day Carnival Cruise to Mexico.** This prize includes airfare to and from Southern California. Members can increase their chance of winning by gifting and/or referring as many new members as possible.

If you would like to gift or refer a member, please use the membership application found on the back flap of this newsletter.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Emily Teruya, Berkeley JACL VP Membership at eteruya@berkeley.edu.

Tri-Chapter Installation Luncheon

Berkeley, Contra Costa, and Diablo Valley chapters held a joint installation luncheon at Tony Roma's in Jack London Square on January 30. National Vice President of Public Affairs Heidi Tanakatsubo installed the following Berkeley JACL board members for 2005:

Officers

James Duff, President
Al Satake, Vice President
Emily Teruya, VP Membership
Gordon Kono, Secretary
Tak Shirasawa, Treasurer

Directors

Carolyn Adams
Dr. Mark Fujikawa
Howard Fukuda
Ted Jitodai
John Kawamura, HS Youth Rep.
Bernie Lau
Neal Ouye
Sarah Sasaki, NSU Liaison
Alison Satake
Ron Tanaka
Gordon Yamamoto
Valerie Yasukochi

Kim Yoshihara, NSU Liaison

Master of Ceremonies Milo Yoshino of Diablo Valley acknowledged three Millennium Club members in attendance: Sheldon Arakaki of Lake Washington Chapter, Emily Teruya of Berkeley Chapter, and Reiko Yoshino of Mountain-Plains District.

Joan Yamamoto of Oakland-based Asian American Donor Program (AADP) was the keynote speaker and made a moving speech asking audience members to join the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP). Yamamoto was presented with a \$1,000 check from the JACL Credit Union and proceeds from the luncheon were also donated to AADP.



National Vice President of Public Affairs Heidi Tanakatsubo presents Joan Yamamoto of AADP a check for \$1000

AADP is a community non-profit organization geared towards saving lives. Asians are desperately needed to register as potential marrow/stem cell donors. Many Asian children and adults with life threatening blood diseases need a stem cell transplant in order to survive. Their best hope for matched donors are those within their Asian community. You could be a "miracle match" and save a life by registering as a potential donor. For more information about the AADP, please go to www.aadp.org.

Oakland Public Library's Asian Branch Takes Action

Berkeley JACL's last newsletter contained a story regarding the use of "Ja-p" on Japanese books at

Oakland Public Library's Asian Branch. As of late last year, over the community relations director and director of the library have assured Berkeley JACL that over 600 books have been changed to read "Ja-paperback."

The following is an excerpt of a letter received by JACL's Emily Teruya who brought the issue to the library's attention:

Dear Ms. Teruya,

I wish to offer an apology to you and the Japanese [American] community with regards to the recent incident you experienced at the Asian Branch Library. My sentiments are echoed in the letter you received from Ms. Marjorie Li, Manager of the Asian Branch. We are working with our Asian Branch Staff to increase their customer services skills and heightened sensitivity to "little things" that mean so much to people and their culture. We appreciate your patronage and look forward to continuing that relationship with you and other members of the Japanese [American] Community.

Thank you for bringing the incident to the attention of the Administration staff of the Oakland Public Library.

Julie Odofin
Director of Branch Services
Oakland Public Library

Albertsons' Community Partners Fundraising Program

Our chapter has been approved to receive contributions from Albertsons' Community Partners program. That means Albertsons will give the Berkeley JACL a percentage of eligible purchases made by registered shoppers. The funds will be used for youth programs and activities.

It's easy and free to register! All you need are:

Berkeley JACL Community Partners ID #:
49001002161
Your Albertsons Preferred Savings Card #
The telephone number you registered with

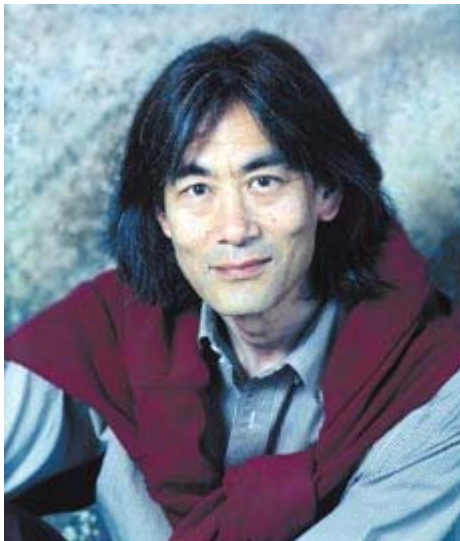
You can register in one of three ways:
ONLINE: Go to www.albertsons.com, click "In the Community." Then find and click the Community Partners logo link. Then log in as a shopper by entering your card number and telephone number and click "log in." Click "My Account." Then click "Add a Partner."

Enter the number 49001002161. Click "Add a Partner" and check that the name Berkeley JACL pops up. If it does, you're done.

IN-STORE: You can provide a cashier with the Berkeley JACL Community Partners number, 49001002161, and your Preferred Savings Card to have the link set up at the checkout stand.

BY MAIL: Registration forms are available at Albertsons customer service counter. You complete the form and mail it to Albertsons.

NOTE: This program lasts until July 31, 2005, at which time you will need to renew your registration. So remember to renew your registration every August. If you want, you can supply Berkeley JACL with your Albertsons Preferred Savings Card # and the telephone # you registered with and we'll do it all for you! Please email Emily Teruya at eteruya@berkeley.edu.



Maestro Kent Nagano of the Berkeley Symphony

Manzanar: An American Story

Kent Nagano and the Berkeley Symphony will be performing the world premier of *Manzanar: An American Story* in Berkeley on May 10, 2005.

The Berkeley Chapter was delighted to donate \$2000 to this worthwhile endeavor. The original score, and written word by Philip Kan Gotanda, will be performed at Zellerbach Hall on the UC campus. Our donation will help fund a program that will visit 3 elementary schools

in Berkeley and Albany and educate the children about the evacuation and internment of Japanese Americans in 1942.

If you are interested in attending this event please contact us at Berkeley@jacl.org and be sure to visit our website www.berkeleyjacl.org.

President	James Duff, Jr.
Co-Vice President	Al Satake
Co-Vice President	Emily Teruya
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**Moving and changing your address?
Send us a *Change of Address* card at:**

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