

March 2008

# Berkeley JACL Newsletter

SERVING THE BERKELEY, OAKLAND, AND ALBANY COMMUNITIES

## Coming Events

- Mar 22 **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 Kayo Fisher (707) 372-5843.
- Apr 10 **“Dust Storm – Art and Survival in a Time of Paranoia,”** California State University, East Bay University Noon-1:30 p.m.; see article inside
- May 4 **Berkeley JACL Scholarship Luncheon**, see attached flyer
- May 18 **From a Silk Cocoon-** film by Satsuke Ina; Speakeasy Theatre, 10070 San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito ; 2-4 PM.
- Jun 14 **Sakura Kai Festival**, see article inside
- July 7 **Bento and A’s Baseball**, see article inside

**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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## Ted Jitodai- 2008 Berkeley JACL Pioneer

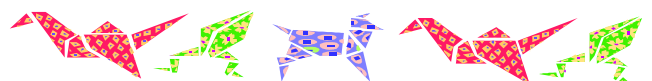
This year, the Berkeley JACL will honor Ted Jitodai as our Berkeley Pioneer. Ted has been an active board member for over 10 years. The Pioneer Award was established in 1996 and is given to individuals in recognition of their long history of dedicated service to the community and to the Berkeley JACL. He has served as one our vice presidents and had been our representative to the JASEB Board all of those years.

Ted was born and raised in Seattle, Washington and he is a “true” Nisei in a demographic and historical sense -- his parents were born in the Meiji Era in Japan and immigrated to the U.S. at the turn of the nineteenth to twentieth century. His father came as a laborer and his mother came later as a “picture bride.” Ted grew up in a close- knit Japanese American community. He received my BA from the University of Washington, MA Washington State University and PhD from the University of Michigan. All of the degrees were in sociology.

Ted started his teaching career in sociology at the University of Oregon (5 years) and then came to San Francisco State where he taught for 27 years. After he retired from SF State in 1992, he then taught sociology at Nanzan University in Nagoya, Japan for 2 years.

Ted’s wife was originally from Yokoyama, Japan and they first met as students at the University of Michigan. She retired as a librarian but is still very active teaching koto. They have one son who went to UCLA and is now working for a computer consulting firm in San Francisco. Ted celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and recently became grandfather. One of his life ambitions was to master the art of fly-fishing.

Help us honor Ted Jitodai by attending the Berkeley JACL Scholarship Luncheon on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> (see the attached flyer).



**Berkeley JACL Luncheon- May 4th**

The 2008 Scholarship Awards luncheon will be held on Saturday, May 6, starting at 12 noon, at the Berkeley Doubletree Hotel & Conference Center, 200 Marina Blvd, on the Berkeley Marina. The chapter will honor five scholarship recipients –

*Louaren Ashizawa, Tiffany Hamasaki, Stephanie Hironaka, Janet Kenmotsu, Sachi Siegelman*

One of the recipients will be selected as the Chapter's second **Bea Kono** scholarship recipient. Ted Jitodai will be honored as this year's Berkeley JACL Pioneer.

This year's guest speaker is Gene Nakamura, Berkeley High Girls' Basketball former coach. Gene coached for 24 seasons, winning 2 state and 7 NorCal titles, along with over 560 wins which ranks him 6<sup>th</sup> in state history. He was quoted as saying that what he missed most about coaching was *"the relationships with my players and the practices. I just love teaching so much. I could take or leave the game, but teaching young people is very rewarding."*

**Sakura Kai Festival**

The sounds of taiko drums can be heard at Sakura Kai's first annual Festival on Saturday, June 14, 2008. Sakura Kai's taiko drummers will be there along with a variety of Japanese entertainment of singing and dancing by our talented members. There will also be a silent auction, crafts and food for sale. It's a fund raiser for Sakura Kai, a Japanese speaking senior center.

Sakura Kai Festival will be held from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM at Fairmont School Auditorium, next to the El Cerrito Library at Stockton Avenue and Lexington Avenue in El Cerrito. See a Sakura Kai member for tickets or email [ECSakurakai@hotmail.com](mailto:ECSakurakai@hotmail.com).

Performers include our famous Sakura Kai line dancers, shigin, karaoke, taiko, and much more. Come join us Saturday, June 14, 2008 from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM for an afternoon of fun.

**Bento and Baseball is Back!**

*By Mark Fujikawa*

Bento and baseball will be back for the 4th year in a row. The Berkeley JACL is planning to purchase tickets for the Monday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, A's vs Seattle game. To reserve your seat, contact Mark Fujikawa, 1402 Navellier Street, El Cerrito, CA 94530 or phone him at 510-232-0724. Tickets will be mailed to the address on

the check (unless otherwise indicated) about one week prior to game time.

**Sharron Sue Retires from the ACMHS**

After 34 years of service with the Asian Mental Health Services (ACMHS), Sharron Sue retired as Director of Operations. She was honored at an emotional evening reception at the Asian Resource Center on December 13<sup>th</sup>. During her years with ACMHS, the organization expanded from an 8-person staff to 100 employees providing services in 11 languages. Sharron played a key role in the agency's emergence as a leading provider of culturally competent mental health services for the Asian and Pacific Islander community in the East Bay.

Sharron has been a long time, active member of the Berkeley JACL. She is part of the Scholarship committee that has organized the annual Scholarship luncheon where Freshman Scholarship winners and the Berkeley Pioneers are honored.

**Berkeley JACL @ Cal Women's B'Ball**

*By Carolyn Adams*

On Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, twenty five Berkeley JACL members and friends gathered in front of the Haas Pavilion on the UC Berkeley campus to attend the Cal-Stanford women's basketball game. The Cal Straw-hat bad was playing outside as thousands of fans were crowding into the arena. Once inside we realized we were making history- the largest crowd for a women's Pac-10 Game, 10,525 fans!!! The arena was packed to the rafters to see Stanford and Cal battle it out for the Pac-10 lead.

Cal got off to a slow start but eventually caught up to be tied at half-time. In the second, the lead went back and forth with the game decided in the final second with Cal's Ashley Walker barely missing a 3-pointer. Stanford won, 60-58, disappointing thousands of Cal rooters.

Despite the loss, the Berkeley JACL members and friends had a great time standing and cheering while eating the delicious bentos provided by the Berkeley JACL as part of the admission ticket. Al Satake was able to arrange for the bentos which were provided by Edoko Restaurant on University Ave in Berkeley.



*Cal Strawhat Band*



*The Satakes handing out Bentos*

### **Stephanie Miyashiro**

*By Carolyn Adams*



*Stephanie Miyashiro*

Stephanie Miyashiro is a remarkable person and we are proud to claim her as a member of the Berkeley JACL! There are many others who agree with us as evidenced by her recent award- the 2008 Clifford Uyeda Peace and Humanitarian Award which was presented to her on February 17, 2008 at the Day of Remembrance Ceremonies at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California. Past recipients of this award were Congressman Mike Honda (2005), Art Shibayama (2006) with the Campaign for Justice- Redress for Japanese Latin Americans, and Samina Faheem (2007) with the American Muslim Voice.

This award honors the legacy of Dr. Clifford Uyeda whose life championed the civil and human rights of Japanese Americans. As president of the National JACL during the 1980's, he provided critical

leadership to the campaign to educate the nation about the WWII Internment.

Stephanie was born and raised in Hawaii. Her father was a veteran of the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion whose fighting spirit convinced the US Government that they wanted more Japanese Americans fighting for the US. This fighting spirit led to the government to expand the battalion to a regiment, the famous 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team. Her mother, a Sansei from Sacramento, was fifteen when she and her parents were interned at Tulelake, and then later sent to Topaz when Tulelake became the segregation center. As Stephanie grew up she came to feel that WWII had a massively painful impact on her parents and the JA community. She said, "I knew I wanted to do something about it!"

The other issue which influenced her life choices was that at nine months old, she contracted polio. She became an activist around disability rights and awareness when she realized that she didn't want to be seen with other disabled folks because then people would think that she was disabled. She found this odd because she was disabled! She realized that she had internalized society's attitudinal stigma against disability, and that attitudes were the real disability.

In 1981 Stephanie came to California to attend grad school in Psychology. She encountered the Japanese American Redress movement and knew she wanted to be part of it. A cancer diagnosis gave her the opportunity to choose what was really important to her in life and she left the graduate program to work on the Redress movement which included pilgrimages to Tulelake, one of the most tumultuous of the War Relocation Authority (WRA) camps. The pilgrimages continue post redress and have transformed into a community healing experience.

Today she is working for a genuine apology and comparable redress for the Japanese Latin Americans who were kidnapped from South American countries and brought to the US to be used as hostages in exchange with the Axis countries. Stephanie is also an ardent supporter of Lt. Ehren Wataka. "He speaks for me on the issue of defending and upholding our Constitution. I believe he is right that the Iraq war is illegal." She is also a dancer and is learning to sing.

I hope you have gained an idea of what kind of person Stephanie Miyashiro is and what she stands for. She closed her award acceptance speech with this quote, "When the Power of Love overcomes the Love of Power, the world will know peace" (Jimi Hendrix).

### Berkeley JACL Installation

By Al Satake

The board of directors and officers were installed on February 3<sup>rd</sup> at Fentons Ice Creamery. It was billed as "Have a Sundae On Sunday" We had over 25 in attendance and were installed by two distinguished individuals, KG Ouye and Maxine Satake. We shared the rooms with members of the Oakland Raiders and their family. One of their children was having a birthday party at the same time as our installation. Now the 2008 Berkeley JACL Board is official.



Installers KG Ouye and Maxine Satake



Co-President Al Satake with Board Member, Alison Satake

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### JACL Membership Musing

By Tom Nishi, MPH

Recently, the JACL national office sent out a survey to solicit input for the National Youth/Student Council in an attempt to generate interest for youth in JACL. Simultaneously in the Pacific Citizen newspaper, articles on the change in name for JACL to "Asian American" instead of "Japanese American"

Citizen's League and the declining membership appeared. The inclusion of young members and membership recruitment are certainly connected. Yet there were only 15 survey responses nation-wide. 5 years ago as I thought about the JACL membership decline I discovered that the population of Japanese Americans is the only Asian American population in decline. All other Asian American groups are increasing in population. An excerpt from an article on this topic with a table follows:

*"As you can see, all the Asian ethnic groups listed above grew at a rather healthy rate between 1990 and 2000, except for Japanese Americans. Their population actually declined by almost 10%. Why? Several reasons, actually. First, there are very few Japanese who immigrate to the U.S. these days so therefore they do not experience the type of phenomenal growth that large immigrant groups experience, such as Asian Indians.*

*Second, as many Japanese American families are into their fifth or higher generation in the U.S., they have become one of the most assimilated of all Asian American groups. Perhaps as a direct result of this, they also have one of the highest **intermarriage** (interracial marriage) rates of all Asian Americans (see the page on [Interracial Dating and Marriage](#) for more details). As more Japanese Americans intermarry, the less likely their children are to identify themselves as Japanese American."*

Growth Rates and Percentage of All Asian Americans			
Asian Ethnic Group	Growth Rate 1980-1990	Growth Rate 1990-2000	% of Asian American Popul.
Asian Indian	125.6%	113.4%	16.4
Bangladeshi	n/a	350.3%	0.1
Cambodian	n/a	20.8%	0.2
Chinese	104.1%	39.8%	22.6
Filipino	81.6%	32.5%	18.3
Hmong	n/a	88.8%	1.7
Japanese	<b>20.9%</b>	<b>-9.4%</b>	<b>7.8</b>
Korean	134.8%	34.3%	10.6
Laotian	n/a	12.6%	1.7
Pakistani	n/a	124.7%	1.5
Taiwanese	n/a	80.5%	1.2
Thai	n/a	21.5%	1.1
Vietnamese	125.3%	80.7%	10.9

Le, C.N. 2008. "Population Statistics & Demographics" *Asian-Nation: The Landscape of Asian America*. <<http://www.asian-nation.org/population.shtml>> ( February 29, 2008).

We can conclude that since the population of Japanese Americans is declining, recruitment of

members cannot only be from Japanese American communities. To increase membership, non-Japanese Americans must be recruited and retained. The conditions in which JACL was founded no longer exist. Most organizations founded as JACL was do not last for long. As the need for the organization diminishes, and different needs arise, organizations fade. It might be constructive to determine if JACL has outlived the needs of the people, and to reassess the needs of the people. It might be constructive to review the way JACL came into prominence, and how JACL has managed to survive for such a long period.

Such reviews may have taken place, and although I have been a member of four chapters, and participated on chapter boards in Hawai'i, Michigan and Berkeley, I have not learned of such a discussion except at the chapter level. Personally, I must review regularly my commitment to JACL, because I have many doubts and unease regarding the history of the organization, and the way in which it continues to operate. If the concern for the organization is fiscal solvency through membership, then recruitment of non-Japanese Americans is essential. Certainly, there is little interest in young members, as the response to the national survey shows. A survey of the non-Japanese American JACL members might be instructive, and of interest to all members. I challenge each member to re-evaluate their reason for JACL membership, and ask that each person make their thoughts known to their chapter officers and to the national officers.

### **Shinya Yamada- Newest Berkeley JACL Board Member**

*By Shinya Yamada*

I was born and grew up in Kyoto, Japan. Originally I came to the U.S. for my graduate study in architecture at UCLA. After graduation I worked with firms in Los Angeles and obtained architect's license. This past winter I moved to the Bay Area to set up a small architecture practice.

I met the Berkeley Chapter co-president, Al Satake, through a mutual friend while I was working as project architect for the Lafayette Library & Learning Center. Al kindly invited me to join this Chapter. Thanks to JACL, I feel closer to the Japanese American Community here than I was in Los Angeles. Recently I learned how much young Japanese Americans are concerned about their cultural identity and was impressed to see many actions and discussions are going on among them, which is quite contrast to the Japanese of my generation in Japan. Fortunately living

in the U.S. allowed me to appreciate Japanese culture better: It was through George Nakashima and Isamu Noguchi's works that I began rediscovering my own culture.

I very much enjoy living in California. I like the cultural openness, the great weather, of course, air quality, and the overall health consciousness, too. Bay Area is the capital of 'green' building movement and as architect it has been very interesting. While it is a relatively recent trend in the U.S., Japanese culture had very 'green' tradition. Being Japanese, I wish to be a part of efforts to introduce the Japanese 'green' tradition to California through building materials, construction systems, as well as designs.

Although JACL's membership count has been declining recently, I know JACL is an organization that generously invites and brings together those who relate to Japanese culture in one way or another—including me. As Japanese-born Japanese, I look forward to serve the community through Berkeley JACL Board. Thank you for this opportunity.

### **Watada Case Status**

*Submitted by Thomas M. Nishi, MPH*

On June 22, 2006, U.S. Army 1st Lieutenant Ehren K. Watada stepped forward as the first commissioned officer to publicly refuse deployment to the Iraq War and occupation. Lt Watada's court martial in February 2007 came to an abrupt end when a mistrial was declared. In response to charges re-filed by the government, the Defense filed a motion to dismiss on the basis of double jeopardy with the court at Ft Lewis, followed by appeals to the Army Court of Criminal Appeals and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

Having exhausted all available military court remedies with respect to his double jeopardy petition, Lt Watada has won an emergency stay of court martial from U.S. Federal Court, which considers his double jeopardy claim meritorious and will hear from the Army and Lt Watada's attorney before deciding how long he will continue the stay.

In his decision, Judge Settle made the following significant points:

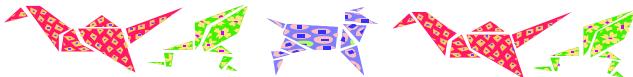
1. The remedy sought by Lt Watada -- a writ of habeas corpus in a pretrial setting -- is rare but appropriate;
2. Lt Watada will suffer irreparable injury if relief is denied;

3. Lt Watada is likely to succeed on the merits;
4. Military Judge Head abused his discretion in rejecting the Stipulation of Fact;
5. Even if Judge Head did not abuse his discretion in rejecting the Stipulation of Fact, there was still a lack of "manifest necessity" for declaring the mistrial;
6. Judge Head failed to adequately consider possible alternatives;
7. The balance of potential harms weighs in Lt Watada's favor; and
8. The public interest favors granting relief.

According to Lt. Watada's attorneys, this is an enormous victory, but it is not yet over. This has not yet ripened into a permanent injunction, though the judge did indicate that the attorneys have demonstrated a likelihood of success on the merits. The judge's order did not indicate what the next steps will be; nor did it give the parties a briefing schedule. However, he did state that no trial proceedings could occur until his further order or until this injunction is modified or dissolved by himself or by a higher court. Watada attorneys, Jim Lobsenz and Ken Kagan infer that the burden is now on the government to come forward and ask the court to modify or dissolve the injunction. Lobsenz and Kagan are enormously gratified at the care with which Judge Settle approached the matter. It is not over, but they believe they have come a long way toward achieving their goals for Lt Watada in this litigation.

Lt Watada's attorneys are also asking that he be allowed to leave the Army. His term of service ended in December, but the pending legal proceedings have prevented his discharge. In support of his courageous action, the Lt Ehren Watada Campaign is working to educate and broaden the dialog on constitutional rights while mobilizing grassroots action to insure that our government upholds Lt Watada's right to speak out and refuse to participate in illegal military action in Iraq.

Information from <http://www.thankyoult.com>



**Solo Performance and Original Art Tell Japanese American Internment Story on CSUEB Stage**

"Dust Storm – Art and Survival in a Time of Paranoia," comes to California State University, East Bay University (CSUEB) from noon-1:30 p.m. Thursday, April 10. The performance will be in the 500-seat University Theatre, on the northeast side of the

Hayward campus, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd. Admission is free.

The story of the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II will incorporate the art of the late UC-Berkeley art professor Chiura Obata and the solo performance by Zachary Drake. Zachary Drake, a resident of Albany, CA, has extensive performance experience, especially in the areas of Asian American theatre. "This will be a riveting, historically flawless performance about a fictional Japanese American teenager's odyssey during the internment era. It will propel us into a discussion about the contemporary meanings and importance of civil liberties, nationality, citizenship, borders, difference, and more," said Colleen Fong, professor of Ethnic Studies and event organizer.

While admission is free, reservations are requested for groups of 10 or more at 510-885-3181. The University Theatre is on the northeast side of campus. Parking is available in pay lots for \$3.50 per day. Machines take quarters and dollar bills.

<b>Co-Presidents</b>	Al Satake, Neal Ouye
<b>Secretary</b>	Thomas Nishi
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tak Shirasawa
<b>Directors:</b>	Carolyn Adams, Mark Fujikawa, Ted Jitodai, Alison Satake, Ron Tanaka, Shinya Yamada, Gordon Yamamoto, Jim Duff

**Newsletter**

**Editor** Neal Ouye

**Contributors** Carolyn Adams, Mark Fujikawa, Tom Nishi, Al Satake, Ron Tanaka, Shinya Yamada

**Production and Circulation**

Jim Duff, Wayne Meade, Valerie Yasukochi.



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Berkeley Chapter  
Membership  
PO Box 7609  
Berkeley, CA 94707-0609

**2008 Berkeley JACL**  
**Scholarship Awards Luncheon**

**Honoring our 2008 Scholarship Recipients:**

**Lauren Ashizawa (Piedmont HS)**  
**Tiffany Hamasaki (Berkeley HS)**  
**Stephanie Hironaka (Piedmont HS)**  
**Janet Kenmotsu (Berkeley HS)**  
**Sachi Siegelman (Head Royce HS - Oakland)**

**And Honoring our 2008 Pioneer Award Recipient:**  
**Ted Jitodai**

**Where: Berkeley Doubletree Hotel & Conference Center**  
200 Marina Blvd., Berkeley Marina (ample free parking)

**When: Sunday, May 4, 2008**  
12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Cost:** \$28.00 per person - students 18 years and younger \$18.00

**GUEST SPEAKER: Gene Nakamura**  
**Berkeley HS Girls' Varsity Basketball Coach (Retired)**  
**Two Time California State Champions**

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Please RSVP by April 28 to:  
Ron Tanaka, 2960 Windtree Ct., Lafayette CA. 94549 (Questions - 925-932-7947)

\_\_\_\_ Yes, we will attend, enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for # \_\_\_\_\_ lunches - Salmon(S) Chicken(C) Pasta (P)  
Name(s)\* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\* If possible, please seat us with \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ No, unable to attend, but would like to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Scholarship Program  
Please make check payable to: JACL, Berkeley Chapter

# BERKELEY JACL - Renewal or Gift Membership Application

If gift, membership is from: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First MI Last Name

Spouse's Name, if family membership \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Age (optional):

- under 18
- 18-30
- 31-40
- 41-50
- 51-65
- over 65

*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	\$25	\$5		\$30
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular/Individual	\$60	\$5		\$65
<input type="checkbox"/> Couple/Family	\$105	\$5		\$110
<input type="checkbox"/> Thousand Club	\$100	\$0		\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Century Club	\$175	\$0		\$175
<input type="checkbox"/> Millennium Club	\$1,000	\$0		\$1,000

Send completed application and check to:

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

**Please make check payable to the JACL or pay by credit card.**

VISA \_\_ MASTERCARD \_\_ CREDIT CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Thank you for supporting the Japanese American Citizens League!*

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

**Join the Berkeley JACL; Attend our Scholarship Luncheon**