

April 2009

# Berkeley JACL Newsletter

SERVING THE BERKELEY, OAKLAND, AND ALBANY COMMUNITIES

## Coming Events

- Apr 11, 25 **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 26 **Berkeley JACL Scholarship Luncheon**, see attached flyer
- Jul 25 **Berkeley JACL at the "Wicked"**; See details inside
- Aug 22 **Berkeley JACL with A's: Bento and Baseball**, see details 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!!!**

E-mail the Berkeley JACL at: [Berkeley@JACL.org](mailto:Berkeley@JACL.org)  
Visit our Website at [www.berkeleyjacl.org](http://www.berkeleyjacl.org)



Quality Blue Shield health plans since 1965  
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## JACL/OCA Leadership Conference

*By Jessica Kawamura*

This March, I had represented Berkeley JACL and our District at the JACL/OCA leadership conference in Washington, DC. The purpose of conference, sponsored by State Farm Insurance, is to educate emerging leaders about the public policy issues facing Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities.

As a public policy grad student at Cal and an aspiring public servant, I found the experience invaluable. I got to know many young Asian American leaders from across the country, hear from prominent speakers in the advocacy community in DC, and meet prominent AAPI elected officials including Congressman Mike Honda and Senator Daniel Inouye.

Our days were jam-packed with panelists and speakers, but I would like to share the stories of two people I met at the Leadership Conference to give you a taste of my experience.

Luckily for me, my roommate for the weekend was Annie Lee, another young Asian American woman interested in social justice and housing policy. Annie attended the conference as a representative for the National Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF), which engages in cutting-edge work on reproductive justice and human trafficking in AAPI communities.

In addition, I also had the opportunity to meet Liza Normandy, a recently elected school board member in South San Francisco. She is a young leader who will to fill our AAPI pipeline to the California Legislature. It was exciting to learn about her work on behalf of children in South San Francisco and to hear about her nascent political career.

My long weekend in DC was filled with conversations and discussions with people like Annie and Liza. I came back to Berkeley better informed and excited about working on behalf of AAPIs in the realm of public policy. I would like to thank Berkeley JACL

and the NCWPN District for the opportunity to be part of the conference.

### **WICKED TIX AVAILABLE NOW!**

*By Mark Fujikawa*

The Berkeley JACL has reserved 40 balcony seats to the Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup> matinee performance of the smash hit musical, **WICKED**, at the Orpheum Theatre in San Francisco.

**WICKED** is the untold story of the witches of Oz. Long before Dorothy drops in, two other girls meet in the Land of Oz. One, born with emerald-green skin, is smart, fiery and misunderstood. The other is beautiful, ambitious and very popular. **WICKED** tells the story of their remarkable odyssey, how these two unlikely friends grow to become the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good Witch.

If you would like to join in the fun, send \$50 per ticket along with your contact information to:

Mark Fujikawa  
1402 Navellier Street  
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup>, first come, first served. I will call you to confirm receipt of your payment, so include your phone number with your request.



## **Berkeley JACL Newsletter**

### **MY GREAT GRANDMOTHER'S GIFT TO ME**

*By Caroline Shizuko Chao*

Last year, I was assigned to research and write a paper for my English class about a significant event in my family's history. I decided to write about my great grandmother, Chiyo Fujioka. She has a tragic, yet remarkable and inspiring story.

My great grandmother was a woman ahead of her times. The only daughter of a prominent family in Shizuoka, Japan, she was one of a few women to attend college at the Ochanomizu Women's College. Training to be a teacher, she married my great grandfather who decided to start a new life in the U.S around the turn of the century. She traveled to America by ship for many seasick days. As the wife of a journalist and community leader in Los Angeles, she resigned herself to being a devoted wife and mother. She loved children and had 12 of them. One son died shortly after birth and another died before he reached age three from illness. With so many children to feed and clothe, she abandoned any thought of a teaching career. She tried to earn extra money by teaching art, poetry, and flower arranging, despite being a busy wife and mother. She sewed and mended used clothing, made soup from nearly spoiled produce brought home from my uncle's job as a produce man, and scrimped and saved so that all of the children might someday go to college.

In 1942, Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, suspending the constitutional rights of over 110,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, many of them citizens. They were hastily sent off to "internment camps" in the country's most desolate and barren places. Shortly after Pearl Harbor, my great grandfather was taken by the FBI to a detention center in Missoula, Montana and held for 4 months. During this time he developed severe gall stones, and was released only because he was critically ill. My great grandmother nursed him back to health. My great grandparents and their children were first sent to the Santa Anita Assembly Center in California where they lived in horse stalls and ate in makeshift mess halls. The family was then sent to Heart Mountain, Wyoming where the summers were hot and dusty and the winters cold and icy. Shocked and humiliated, she struggled to adjust to life behind barbed wire, crowded living conditions, and the physical and emotional isolation of life in an internment camp. And yet she endured probably the greatest tragedy of her life. Ted, the child who "had it all"—keen intelligence, strong leadership ability, athleticism, and a rare ability to bring people

together, volunteered to fight for the country that had imprisoned him and his family against the country of his ancestry. Even though Ted, a U.S. citizen, had never visited Japan, he felt he needed to prove his loyalty to the U.S. so that it could be a better place for generations to come.

Ted fought in the highly decorated all-Japanese American 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Unit and experienced some of the fiercest fighting in Europe. He wrote letters home often describing the beauty of the French countryside through the seasons. He never once complained despite the harsh reality of war, and often asked his mother not to worry. In November, 1944, my great grandparents received the dreaded telegram informing them that Ted had been killed in action by falling shrapnel in the Vosges mountains of France.

The family was devastated, and my great grandmother never got over the loss. But somehow, she continued on, moving back to the family home that had been watched over by kind neighbors, to start life over after the war.

For my project, I gathered information by interviewing my mother and grandfather, piecing together my great grandmother's story. I imagined she felt great sadness and devastating loss. She had already endured the death of two other children, and now the son with perhaps the greatest potential was gone at age 19. Then, also at age 19, her youngest child was stricken with polio. Against the odds, he survived, but lost the use of one of his arms.

It must have been so difficult to leave her family in Japan in her early twenties, start a new life in a far away country where she did not know the language or customs, and raise 12 children through the Great Depression. The upheaval of being sent to Heart Mountain and living in barracks behind barbed wire must have taken its toll on her. I cannot imagine the pain of losing three children. I am told my great grandmother was a strong and resilient woman who took pride in carrying out her duties as a wife, mother, and teacher of Japanese arts and culture. She lived to 80 and was able to see many grandchildren born.

By researching and writing about her life, I have come to know my great grandmother and my great uncle Ted, even though I have never met them. This assignment opened my eyes to my family's rich history, and made me realize that despite adversity and tragedy, it is possible to recover and carry on. I am inspired by my great grandmother and grateful that I had the opportunity to learn about her life. By documenting her

story, I have the opportunity to preserve it for future generations. Perhaps they, as I, will learn that when hope is shattered, it can be restored again through perseverance and the personal resolve to make life better.

*Note: Caroline Shizuko Chao is a senior at Head-Royce School in Oakland and is one of our scholarship recipients.*

### **JACL Supports Redress Now For Japanese Latin Americans**

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) reiterates its support of Redress Now for Japanese Latin Americans who suffered from Wartime Relocation and Internment during World War II. Floyd Mori, National Executive Director of the JACL, said: "Our organization is working with those involved and supporting this effort to bring justice to Japanese Latin Americans."

A Congressional Hearing was held on March 19, 2009, on Bills to Study U.S. Treatment of World War II "Enemy Aliens" of Japanese, German, Italian, and Jewish Ancestry in the U.S. and from Latin America. The two bipartisan bills would establish commissions to study the wartime violations against people within these groups. Testimony was given by former German and Japanese Latin Americans who were interned in Department of Justice camps in the United States as well as by historical researchers and scholars.

H.R. 49/S.69, the "Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act," would establish a federal commission to study the wartime violations committed by the U.S. government against Japanese Latin Americans during World War II. The bill has already passed the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and is now being heard on the House side. In 1980, the Congress authorized a similar fact finding Commission that examined the treatment of Japanese Americans during World War II. During the course of that study, information began to surface about the treatment of the Japanese Latin Americans. It was found significant enough to include in the published report and warrants deeper investigation.

The U.S. government went outside its borders and violated the rights of civilians in nineteen Latin American countries. Thousands of men, women, and children of German, Italian, and Japanese ancestry were taken from their homes, forcibly deported, and interned

in U.S. concentration camps for the purpose of prisoner exchange. They were apprehended, detained, and interned without charges and held without trial.

Larry Oda, National JACL President, stated, "The American public needs to be aware of this human rights violation against citizens of another country by our own government during World War II. It is truly sad that it has taken us 67 years for this to just begin to be acknowledged."

### **Postal Service Stamp Committee prohibits Stamp that Honor Nisei Vets**

The United States Postal Service continues to look at the proposal for the Japanese American World War II veterans. Its next meeting is in July. David Failor, Executive Director of Stamp Services for the Postal Service, has acknowledged that the main sticking point has been an internal guideline which is not publicly posted in its criteria. The Postal Service's stamp selection body is the 15-member Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC), which reviews an estimated 50,000 proposals each year and recommends a select few to the Postmaster General, who has the final say. Mr. Failor explained that the CSAC has the ability to amend its guideline, established in the mid-1990s, that states "*Stamps will not be issued to honor individual sub-branches, units, or divisions of the military.*" The CSAC claims that the Japanese American WWII veterans stamp proposal falls under this guideline, but others disagree. Representing the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA), Gerald Yamada countered this month in a letter to the CSAC that the guideline does not apply to this stamp proposal. Mr. Yamada argues that the proposal seeks to honor all of the Japanese Americans who served in the military during WWII, and not one particular sub-branch, unit, or division in the military.

### **Help Support Berkeley JACL**

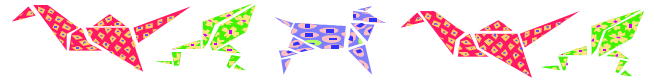


eScrip is a hassle-free way for Berkeley JACL to raise funds through everyday purchases made at eScrip merchants. eScrip and over 150 merchant partners have created a system that rewards customer loyalty by contributing a percentage of purchases to your chosen group. You shop the way you like to shop for groceries, clothing, travel and entertainment. It's simple and convenient; all you need to do is register

your debit and/or credit card(s). We have been receiving funds from your participation alone!

**Please note:** Berkeley JACL does not receive money from Safeway purchases.

Go online to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) to sign up. Our group name is "Berkeley JACL" and our Group ID No. is 500000928.



### **6<sup>th</sup> Annual California Asian Pacific Islander Policy Summit**

***"Connecting the Dots: The Catalyst for a Stronger Community Voice"***

**Be Part of a Long-Term Strategic Planning Effort to Strengthen and Build API Advocacy Capacity**

*May 26<sup>th</sup> – May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009*

*Sacramento Convention Center - 1400 "J" Street, Sacramento, CA 95814*

#### **At This Empowering Two Day Summit:**

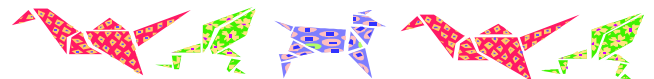
- Demonstrate the collective power of APIs and increase our visibility at the State Capitol
- Connect with key state agencies and non-profits at the API Summit Resource Expo
- Empower your staff and volunteers, improve your organization's advocacy operation, learn how to play a role in the state legislative and budget process, and discuss new API community issues and research data
- Meet with elected officials to build long-term working relationships and advocate on API issues
- Develop legislative proposals with other stakeholders at API Summit issues tracks

For more information, please contact:

Andrew T. Medina; API Joint Legislative Caucus; (916) 319-3686 or [andrew.medina@asm.ca.gov](mailto:andrew.medina@asm.ca.gov)

Diane Ujiye; Asian and Pacific Islanders California Action Network; (310) 532-6111 or [apiscandiane@sbcglobal.net](mailto:apiscandiane@sbcglobal.net)

Leilani Aguinaldo Yee; Asian Americans for Civil Rights and Equality; (916) 321-9001 or [layee@aacre.org](mailto:layee@aacre.org)

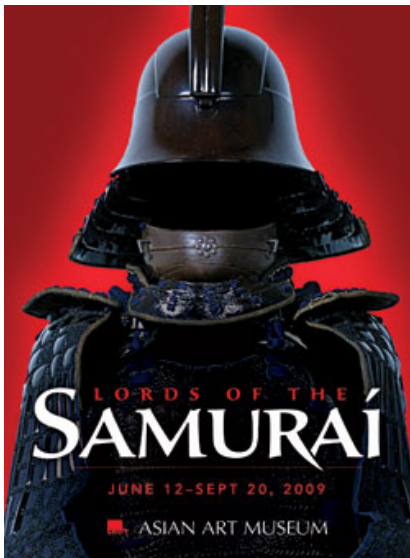


**Brilliant Warriors. Artistic Masters.**

The samurai culture and code of conduct, *bushido*, have long captivated the imaginations and aspirations of young and old in the Western world. More than just fierce warriors, Japanese samurai of the highest rank were also visionaries who strove to master artistic, cultural, and spiritual pursuits.

*Lords of the Samurai* takes an intimate look at the *daimyo*, or provincial lords of the warrior class in feudal Japan. The Hosokawa clan, powerful military nobles with a 600-year-old lineage, embodied this duality of fierce warrior and refined gentleman.

The exhibition features more than 160 works from the Hosokawa family collection housed in the Eisei-Bunko Museum in Tokyo, the Kumamoto Castle, and the Kumamoto Municipal Museum in Kyushu. Objects on view will include suits of armor, armaments (including swords and guns), formal attire, calligraphy, paintings, teaware, lacquerware, masks, and musical instruments. The Asian Art Museum is the exclusive U.S. venue for this exhibition.

**TICKETS**

**General Public** : There is a \$5 surcharge for *Lords of the Samurai*:

Adults: \$17; Seniors: \$13; College Students with ID: \$12; Youths 13-17: \$7 (*no surcharge*)  
Asian Art Museum members, children (12 and under), and SFUSD students with ID: FREE

After 5 pm on Thursdays: \$10 for Adults, Seniors, and College students; \$5 for Youths (*no surcharge*). FREE for AAM members, children (12 and under) and SFUSD students with ID.  
Target First Free Sundays\* (the first Sunday of each month): \$5



*Bento and Baseball Fans (2008)*

**Bento and Baseball**

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Berkeley JACL *Bento and Baseball* event will be on Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 6 pm. (Oakland A's vs Detroit Tigers) This year there will fireworks after the game. Details to follow in a future newsletter.



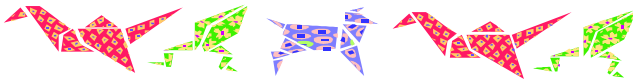
*Come get you Bento (2008)*



*Berkeley JACL's Youngest Member*



*Berkeley JACL Installation Attendees*



*George and Cole Yoshida performing "Joe Nisei" for the Day of Remembrance Program*



*Berkeley JACL Volunteers at JASEB Crab Feed*



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

**Newsletter**

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**Moving and changing your address?  
Send us a *Change of Address* card at:**

Japanese American Citizens League  
Berkeley Chapter  
Membership  
PO Box 7609  
Berkeley, CA 94707-0609

**2009 Berkeley JACL**  
**Scholarship Awards Luncheon**

**Honoring our 2009 Scholarship Recipients:**

**Caroline Shizuko Chao (Head Royce HS - Oakland)**  
**Jaime Tieng (Oakland Tech HS)**

**And Honoring our 2009 Pioneer Award Recipients:**

**Taye Oda**  
**Hike Oda (Posthumously)**

**Where: Edoko Japanese Restaurant**

1722 University Ave., Berkeley

**When: Sunday, April 26, 2009**

12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$20.00 per person - students 18 years and younger \$15.00

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Please RSVP by April 20 to:

Ron Tanaka, 2960 Windtree Ct., Lafayette CA. 94549 (Questions - 925-932-7947)

\_\_\_\_ Yes, we will attend, enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_ for #\_\_\_\_ lunches  
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

**Berkeley JACL Scholarship Lunch, April 26th**