

September 2010

Berkeley JACL Newsletter

SERVING THE BERKELEY, OAKLAND, AND ALBANY COMMUNITIES

Coming Events

- 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 Kayo Fisher (707) 372-5843.
- Oct 9, 23
- Nov 13, 27
- Dec 11
- Thru Nov 21 **Japan's Early Ambassadors to San Francisco, 1860-1927 at Asian Art Museum;** Details inside
- Sep 14- **Blossom and Thorns: Legacy of**
Nov 13 **Richmond's Nurseries;** see attached flyer
- Sep 18 **Angel Island Excursion;** see article inside
- Oct 15 **Grant Applications Due,** See article inside
- Oct 4 **Days of Waiting: documentary;** see article inside
- Oct 16-17 **JAMsj Grand Opening;** 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. **MAKE SOME NOISE!!!**

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2010 JACL Convention (Chicago) Recap

By Valerie Yasukochi, Chapter Representative

JACL's 41st Biennial National Convention was held in the great city of Chicago from June 30 to July 4. This year's theme "Embracing Change" focused on the importance of JACL being relevant in today's ever changing society. We must inspire and engage our youth to join with us as we work to ensure that our national organization is able to adapt and grow, yet remain committed to its core mission and values.

Jim and I were excited and honored to be selected as this year's convention delegates representing the Berkeley Chapter. This was our 5th convention as delegates and similar to previous conventions we've attended, this one was well organized with a variety of excellent workshops, stimulating and thoughtful discussions in the business sessions and lots of fun activities offered for both delegates and boosters/families.

In addition to many vendor/craft booths, information tables representing businesses, agencies and non-profit organizations, this year's exhibits included an excellent self-guided photo display, "Prejudice and Patriotism: The Story of the Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service, 1941-1952" sponsored by National Japanese American Historical Society (San Francisco).

After the delegate orientation, the convention kicked off with a Welcome Mixer, complete with Chicago style pizza, hot dogs and some fun social games. It was a great opportunity to mingle and relax before getting down to work early the following morning at the opening business session that began promptly at 8 am!

Highlights from this year's business sessions included the presentation of 6 resolutions with the Nisei Commemorative Stamp (sponsored by Watsonville-Santa Cruz) and Calendar Year Membership (sponsored by Midwest District Council) proposals voted down. Passing resolutions included Power of Words

(sponsored by Seattle Chapter), Oppose Arizona SB1070 (sponsored by Arizona), Topaz Museum (sponsored by 9 Northern Cal Western Nevada Pacific District chapters including Berkeley) and Opposition to Arizona State Law HB2281 (sponsored by Arizona chapter). If you are interested in receiving a copy of the resolutions or have any questions, we would be happy to answer them.

Debate was lively and occasionally a bit heated during the budget discussions, in particular the proposed membership dues increase and moving the Pacific Citizen office and staff from Los Angeles to San Francisco. Thanks to Milo Yoshino of the Tri-Valley chapter who proposed two budget amendments which were accepted by the national council, these two important issues continue without change or disruption. A more in depth review of these budget amendments can be found on page 3 of Pacific Citizen Issue #3149/Vol. 151, July 16-August 5, 2010. Jim was an active participant in all the business sessions, sharing valuable and insightful thoughts and opinions at the microphone on behalf of the Berkeley Chapter.

The workshops were well attended and covered relevant topics from Asian Americans in Politics to Multiracial Identity to U.S. Japan Relations. We attended an informative workshop facilitated by Intermountain District Governor Brian Morishita and National JACL Membership Director Tim Koide to brainstorm ideas for increasing and retaining membership. By sharing our experiences, both failures and successes, with other JACLers from across the country, we came away with some valuable new tools and techniques that had been effective for other chapters. Membership is the life blood of JACL and we need a results-oriented recruitment program and retention plan to remain viable in the future.

The second workshop we attended was Potential of Social Media presented by Lisa Lee, publisher of Hyphen Magazine. The focus was to explore the various functionalities of Social Media sites, i.e. Facebook, in promoting social causes. Not surprising is that many young people were in the audience getting tips and asking a lot of questions.

Although there were no contested National Board positions, it was interesting to address the candidates one on one during the district caucuses. Chapter delegate Jim Duff raised a key question about media presence lacking at the convention which led to quite a number of comments and kudos by a variety of delegates in the days that followed. It was no surprise

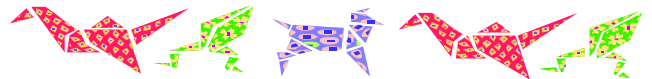
that the election results were David Kawamoto (National President), Gail Sueki (VP for General Ops), Ron Katsumoto (VP for Public Affairs), Jason Chung (VP for Planning & Development), David T. Lim (VP for Membership), Joshua Spry (Secretary/Treasurer), Matthew Farrells (National Youth/Student Chairperson) and Devin Yoshikawa (National Youth/Student Representative). The new officers were duly sworn in by Secretary Mineta during the Business Session

Two plenary sessions were presented during the business sessions, "Reframing Civil Rights" and "Responding to Diversity within the Asian American Community". I was especially moved and captivated by the presentation "Reframing Civil Rights". These prominent civil rights activists included Karen Narasaki, Michael Lieberman, Stuart Ishimaru, Laura S. Washington, as panelists and was moderated by Paul Igasaki.

The Youth Luncheon, Awards Ceremony and last but not least, the fabulous Sayonara Banquet with the former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta and his wife Dani in attendance. These events exceeded all expectations. The food was delicious – Chicago knows how to serve up the tasty stuff! It was time to diet once we arrived back home.

The many hours of planning, coordination and hard work by the Chicago chapter, Convention Committee, JACL staff and board, certainly paid off as all attendees left with fond memories of good times shared, meeting new JACLers, reuniting with old timers and friends from other chapters and plenty of good food!

I hope we fulfilled our responsibility in fairly representing the majority voice and position of the Berkeley chapter at this year's convention. It was another successful JACL convention and looking forward, annual vs. biennial conventions start next year, with the 2011 event to be held in Los Angeles. Please give consideration to joining us there!





A chance meeting with Jesse Jackson & Juwan Howard in Chicago's "Gold Coast" neighborhood.



Berkeley Chapter Delegate, Jim Duff speaks up during the business session



Berkeley Chapter Delegates Valerie Yasukochi and Jim Duff during a business session break.



Val and Jim meet with Secretary Norman Y. Mineta at the Sayonara Banquet.

Fall Grants Applications Due Oct. 15th

The due date for the Fall Grant applications has been extended until October 15th. The Berkeley JACL Endowment Fund is administered by the Trustees and the Board of Directors in order to support community oriented projects or programs that further the aims and purposes of JACL. Applications for funding are accepted from organizations, organizational representatives and individuals for the semi-annual funding cycles. Applications received by October 15th will be eligible for funds to be disbursed by December 15th. Applications and information are available on the Berkeley JACL website, www.BerkeleyJACL.org.

Grants are distributed twice a year, during the spring and the fall.

Calling All Crystal City, Texas, Internment Camp Residents

By Heidi Donald

Were you a resident of the first tax-exempt, gated community in the United States during World War II? My Costa Rican family and I were. I'd like to invite any of you readers who lived in the Crystal City, Texas, family internment camp to participate in a project launched by another former resident, Werner Ulrich (interned 1943-47). If you weren't at Crystal City, but know someone who was, please pass this on.

Werner has a detailed map of the Crystal City camp and he's trying to identify who stayed in each of the living units there. He's also listing where people worked and what they did. He'd like the names of hospital staff, teachers, bakers, mattress factory employees, etc. as well as the names of staff. What are

the names of children born into internment in the camp hospital? What were the names of the children who died there? For example, two young Japanese-American girls drowned in the swimming pool and one German-American boy was hit and killed by a truck. (I had nightmares about the boy's death for years.)

In fact, no detail is too large or too small to be uninteresting to him! He even goes so far as to ask for street names even though they may never have been documented. For those of us who've sent him information, the project has brought a flood of memories, some bitter-sweet, but many others of good friends and interesting experiences—like meeting a rattlesnake or getting our feet stuck in the deep winter mud! Reminiscences are welcome too. In fact, if we get enough information, we'll try to put out a collection of internee experiences for everyone's viewing.

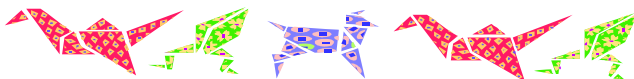
The map (a work in progress) can be seen at <http://www.foitimes.com/CampHousing.pdf>. Magnify to see the details so far; details change near daily. If you are willing to help or know someone else who would be, Werner can be reached at wrulrich@yahoo.com or call him at (631) 828-1027.

Please feel free to call or email me as well- Heidi Donald; (831) 426-5166; donald@cruzio.com; Crystal City, TX alumna of 1943-44

Days Of Waiting: Account of the World War II Japanese American Relocation Experience.

Days of Waiting is a documentary of an extraordinary woman, Estelle Ishigo, one of the few Caucasians to be interned with 120,000 Japanese-Americans in 1942. Estelle refused to be separated from her Japanese-American husband of 13-years and lived with him for three years behind barbed wired in the desolate Heart Mountain internment camp in Wyoming. Her sketches and watercolors formed a moving portrait of the lives of the internees, and the struggle to keep their health, dignity, and hopes alive.

The Program will include a Q&A Session with guests who were interned in the World War II Internment Camps. This is a special treat to be able to meet and hear from Japanese Americans who experienced the Internment Camps. All programs are open to the public free of charge. For more information, please call 749-0220.



Berkeley JACL Newsletter

Presented by Ken Koga
Japanese American Internee, President of Lockheed
Martin Management Association Retirees

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2010

7:30 P.M.

**SUNNYVALE HERITAGE PARK MUSEUM
570 Remington Ave – Behind the Senior Center**



Estelle Ishigo

ELLIS ISLAND EXHIBIT DEDICATED

The dedication ceremony for the exhibit, "Go For Broke: Japanese American Soldiers Fighting on Two Fronts," was held at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum on August 8, 2010.

The exhibit was created by the Japanese American Wartime History Project with Eric Saul as curator. Saul, former director of the Presidio Army Museum, created the original "Go For Broke" exhibit in 1980. Saul said, "This is a wonderful tribute to the veterans on the 65th anniversary of the end of World War II. Their history is one of the great stories in American history." Tribute was paid to the veterans of World War II, several of whom were in attendance.

George Takei, of Star Trek fame, served as Master of Ceremonies with the United States Park Police posting the colors. The National Anthem was sung by Abbi Bingham Endicott. Chaplain Lt. Commander U.S. Navy John M. Miyahara gave the invocation and benediction. Remarks were made by Ambassador Shinichi Nishimiya, Consul General of Japan in New York, and Robert Nakamoto, President of the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA). Floyd Mori, National Executive Director of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), spoke about Mike Masaoka, to whom Saul has dedicated the exhibit, along with Chet Tanaka, who worked with Masaoka in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Mr.

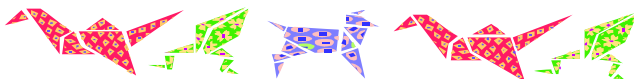
David Luchsinger, Superintendent of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, also spoke at the dedication as did Joanne Oppenheim, author of Dear Ms. Breed.

The keynote address was given by Major General Kelly McKeague, USAF, Office of Joint Chiefs of Staff, Department of Defense. He spoke of the Hawaii National Guard which had been in existence since 1893. They were discharged in 1898 and reorganized in 1899 under the Territory of Hawaii. Japanese Americans were a large part of the National Guard. The 100th Infantry Battalion was formed and sent to Camp Shelby in Mississippi. They were joined by the Japanese Americans from the mainland who made up the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. They did not get along at first until the Hawaii soldiers were taken on a visit to the concentration camp in Rohwer, Arkansas. When they saw the conditions from which many of the 442nd enlisted, their attitudes changed. They began to understand each other and get along. He mentioned President Harry Truman's remarks to the Japanese American soldiers upon their return from the war that they had not only fought the enemy but fought prejudice and had won.

Also shown for those who attended the dedication at the Museum was the film, "442: Live with Honor, Die with Dignity." It is highly recommended for anyone who would like to know more about the history of the 100th/442nd and Japanese Americans.

Comprising the exhibit are 150 rare photographs collected from a number of prominent government agency archives and private collections from Hawaii and the mainland America. The exhibit opened to the public on Monday, July 5, 2010, and will be open seven days a week throughout the summer at Ellis Island. For information or to schedule a visit, call the National Park Service at 212 363-3200 or visit their website at

http://www.ellisland.org/genealogy/ellis_island_visitng.asp. The Ellis Island museum is accessible by ferry from both New York and New Jersey.



JAMsj Grand Opening

The Japanese American Museum of San Jose (JAMsj) will celebrate the reopening of its all-new building on the weekend of October 16 and 17. Saturday, October 16, the grand opening ceremony will start at 1:00 pm and will feature entertainment by San Jose Taiko and a ceremonial blessing. In addition, the ceremony will coincide with the 88th birthday celebration of JAMsj co-founder, curator, historian, and construction manager, Jimi Yamaichi.

Sunday, October 17, will feature a presentation and demonstration by "Camp Days" exhibit artist, Chizuko Judy Sugita de Queiroz, Exhibition runs from October 16 to April 30. The Camp Days exhibition will be accompanied by two special events:

Slide Show Presentation: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Watercolor Demonstration: 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

There is no charge for either event. The watercolor demonstration is for students in Grades 3-12. Since space is limited for the watercolor demonstration, registration is required for that event. Call 408-294-3138 to register.

Japanese American Museum of San Jose (JAMsj)
535 N. Fifth Street
San Jose, CA 95112
Tel: (408) 294-3138
Email: mail@jamsj.org
www.jamsj.org

Angel Island Immigration Station Excursion

Saturday, September 18, 2010

JAMsj and the San Jose Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) are co-hosting a bus tour to historic Angel Island, "The Ellis Island of the West," on Saturday, September 18, 2010. We will be visiting the newly restored 100-year old immigration station on a docent-led tour.

Angel Island is one of the most beautiful state parks in Northern California, yet it also holds a shadowy past for hundreds of thousands of Asian Americans. Although the Angel Island Immigration Station was a major port of entry for Asian immigrants, the experience of Chinese and Japanese immigrants was quite different at the station. While both Chinese and Japanese immigrants faced strong anti-Asian sentiments and exclusionary laws, Chinese immigrants often faced longer detentions and harsher treatment than their Japanese counterparts at the Angel Island Immigration Station. Come to this event and find out why.

This will be an all-day event and it will be an excellent educational experience for all. Seating for this trip will be limited, so please plan to purchase your tickets early. Tickets will be available through Nikkei Traditions and will cost \$70 for members of JAMsj and/or the San Jose Chapter of the JACL. The cost will be \$85 for non-members. Contact Carrie Kimura (JACL) at xaibitara@aim.com or June Honma (JAMsj) at june@jamsj.org for additional event information. Alternatively, you may call the JAMsj office at 408-294-3138.

Lawsuit Seeks Information on FBI Activities in Bay Area Muslim Communities

The American Civil Liberties Union, the Asian Law Caucus and the *San Francisco Bay Guardian* filed a lawsuit against the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to speed the release of FBI records on the investigation and surveillance of Muslim communities in the Bay Area. The civil rights organizations and *The Bay Guardian* have requested the records in order to understand and to report on whether and how the FBI is:

- investigating Islamic centers and mosques (as well as Christian churches and Jewish synagogues);
- "assessing" religious leaders;
- infiltrating communities through the use of undercover agents and informants;
- training agents in Islam and Muslim culture;
- using race, religion and national origin in deciding whom to investigate; and
- identifying particular schools for its Junior Agent Program.

"Clear information about the FBI's activities is necessary in order to understand the scope of their surveillance tactics to assess whether they have had a chilling effect on the right to worship freely or to exercise other forms of expression," said Julia Harumi Mass, staff attorney for the ACLU of Northern California. "This lawsuit is about transparency. The public is entitled to this information under the Freedom of Information Act. The FBI admitted in March that our clients' FOIA requests are entitled to expedited processing because of the widespread media attention on these issues, but the government has yet to provide them a single document," said attorney Raj Chatterjee of the law firm Morrison & Foerster.

The records are sought in part in response to concerns reported extensively in the *New York Times*,

Washington Post, *Detroit Free Press*, *NBC Bay Area*, *New America Media*, and other publications about the chilling effects of possible racial and religious profiling and the potential harm such tactics may have on national security.

Also of interest to the civil rights organizations are details on whether FBI agents are recruiting Muslim and Arab children at Bay Area schools to serve in the agency's Junior Agent Program. Over the past several months, community members from Oakland, San Mateo, San Francisco, and other locals have contacted the ACLU and the Asian Law Caucus to share their personal experiences about visits by FBI agents and to voice broader community anxiety over attempts by the FBI to recruit informants and infiltrators.

Attorneys available to discuss the lawsuit include Veena Dubal of the Asian Law Caucus; Raj Chatterjee of the law firm Morrison & Foerster, who is leading a team of pro bono attorneys working on this case; and Julia Harumi Mass of the ACLU of Northern California. A copy of the complaint is immediately available on request: lsaponara@aclunc.org

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Newsletter

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RICHMOND ART CENTER

Blossoms & Thorns

The Legacy of Richmond's Historic Japanese American Nurseries



Oishi Family, 1940 Courtesy of Oishi Family

A Rose Cape for Greenhouse Number 2 Ken Osborn

Exhibition

September 14–November 13, 2010
Richmond Art Center
2540 Barrett Avenue, Richmond, CA

Reception: Saturday, September 25
Invitational: 1–3 pm
General: 3–5 pm

For more information, please contact:
Emily Anderson, Exhibitions Manager, 510-620-1252
Michele Seville, Arts & Culture Manager, 510-620-6952

What are all those glass-covered buildings next to I-80 in Richmond?

A new exhibit answers this question by documenting the Japanese flower nurseries that began in the early 1900's and continued for over 100 years. The beauty of roses still thriving years after the nurseries that planted them closed, is the intriguing subject of four local photographers: Ellen Gailing, Matt Matsuoka, Fletcher Oakes, and Ken Osborn.

Their work inspired the exhibit, which will also include photographs and artifacts curated by historian Donna Graves that chronicle the history of Richmond's Japanese American floral industry families, including their forced internment during World War II. Partners include members of the Japanese American community, historian Donna Graves, El Cerrito Historical Society, Richmond Art Center, the City of Richmond, and the National Park Service.

A variety of public presentations will take place during the course of the exhibition including films, lectures, and bus tours.

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

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