

March / April 2017

Berkeley JACL Newsletter

SERVING THE BERKELEY, OAKLAND, AND ALBANY COMMUNITIES

Coming Events

- Mar 25 **Berkeley Nikkei Seniors Group** at the
Apr 8, 22 North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901
May 13, 27 Hearst Ave., Berkeley. This group meets
Jun 10, 24 every 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month.
For information contact Howard Fukuda
(howardfukuda@gmail.com)
- Apr 15 **Berkeley JACL Grant applications due**; see inside
- Apr 21 **JSei's "Flowers of Spring"**; Contact JSei for more information
- Apr 22 **NCWNP District Gala Luncheon**; see article inside
- Apr 23 **Conversions for Action: Strategies to Unite us**; see attached flyer
- Apr 30 **Berkeley JACL Scholarship Lunch**; see attached flyer
- May 7 **NCWNP District Meeting**; hosted by Berkeley Chapter; at JSei from 9-4
- Aug 12 **Baseball and Bento with the Berkeley JACL and Oakland A's**; save the date

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. **MAKE SOME NOISE!!!**

E-mail the Berkeley JACL at: berkeleyjacl@gmail.com
Visit our Website at www.berkeleyjacl.org
www.facebook.com/BerkeleyChapterJACL/



2017 Berkeley JACL Scholarship & Pioneer Awards

By Ron Tanaka

The Chapter's 2017 Scholarship Awards luncheon will be held on Sunday, April 30th, starting at 11:30 A.M., at the Richmond Country Club, 1 Markovich Lane, Richmond, CA. The chapter will honor twelve high school seniors who will be entering their freshman year in college in the Fall 2017. Additionally, the chapter is proud to honor Al Satake and Ranko Yamada as its 2017 Berkeley JACL Pioneer Award recipients. The Pioneer Award was established in 1996 and is presented to individuals in recognition of his/her long history of dedicated service to the community and to the Berkeley JACL. The Pioneer Award is presented at the scholarship awards luncheon to provide a link between those that have led us for many prior years with our scholarship recipients, who are our future leaders.

The chapter also recognizes **the Bea Kono, Terry Yamashita, and Dan/Kathleen Date families** for their major contributions to this scholarship program, as well as longtime supporters **Union Bank and Wells Fargo Bank**. All details regarding attendance at this scholarship awards luncheon are provided on the attached flyer.

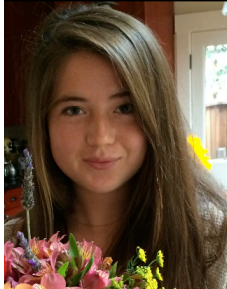
Freshman Scholarship Recipients



Martha Castro



Hope Fa-Kaji

*Kelsey Hirota**Rachel Hirota**Amelia Huster**Kyra Kawamoto**Mia Li**Akira Roueche**Cailyn Sakurai**Toshio Steimetz**Courtney Tamaki**Junko Taniguchi*

2017 Berkeley JACL Pioneers

Al Satake and Ranko Yamada are this year's Berkeley JACL Pioneers. They are being honored for their years of service to several community organizations and the JACL.

*Al Satake**Ranko Yamada*

Alvin (Al) T. Satake

Al Satake, a longtime chapter member, is being honored as one of this year's Berkeley JACL Pioneer Award recipients. The community and the board have benefited tremendously from Al's decades of dedicated service. In 1972, Al joined the Berkeley JACL Board of Directors. Tad Hirota, the first recipient of the Berkeley JACL's Pioneer Award, recruited Al to join the board. Since that time, Al has been exceedingly generous with his time and K&S Company office space, where the Berkeley chapter has conducted its monthly board meeting for forty-five years. Al's service on committees includes: civil rights, scholarships, grants, fundraising, and community service. He served as Co-President twice, from 1993-1994 and from 2007-2008. Significantly, Al has been the Berkeley JACL's primary representative and contact person to the membership and to the community.

Al's dedication to community service extends beyond the JACL. In 1970, Al joined the Berkeley Lions Club whose mission is to meet humanitarian needs and promote peace and global understanding. Al's passion has been to serve on Lions Club projects to provide eyesight to underprivileged communities. Al has volunteered and traveled with fellow Lions Club members to serve in Peru, Mexico, Haiti and Nepal. He also volunteered to serve in the New Orleans area after Hurricane Katrina disaster.

Al was born on October 23, 1944. He is the eldest of four children, including two younger brothers and a younger sister. Al refers to his early childhood as a "three year camping trip on the Gila River," referencing the internment of the Satake family at the World War II Relocation Camp in Gila River, Arizona. In 1945 after camp, the Satake family relocated to a

farm in Colorado. Realizing that “it was too cold there,” two years later, his family returned to California and settled in Linden, a community located about twenty miles east of Stockton. In Linden, the family resumed farming. They raised row crops, including cabbage, lettuce, cauliflower, and cantaloupe and fruits, such as cherries and walnuts. Today, Al’s brother continues to operate the farm.

Al went to grammar school in Linden. He attended Linden High School from 1958 and graduated in 1962. Al was active in sports at Linden High School. He lettered in multiple sports: wrestling four years, football three years and baseball two years. He was also elected as Vice President of the senior class. Because the school was small, Al jokes that “the biggest decision made was to pick the design of his senior class ring.” After graduating from Linden High, Al attended Delta College in Stockton where he earned his AA degree. While attending Delta, Al worked in a grocery store and was able to save enough money to purchase his first brand new car, a two-door Chevy Chevel with a four speed stick on the floor.

In the fall of 1964, Al made a bold lifestyle change. He moved to the Berkeley area and enrolled at Armstrong Business College. Two years later, Al earned his BS degree in accounting and finance. He began employment at Shepard Company, a Berkeley property management firm. Five years later, Al and his business associate, Joe Kelly, purchased Shepard Company. They changed the name to K & S Company Inc. and moved the business from its Shattuck Avenue location to Telegraph Avenue. In 1979, the business moved to its current location at 1035 San Pablo Avenue in Albany, where it continues to thrive.

This was also the time when Al began courting Maxine. In April 1972, the couple married. They lived in San Francisco, moved to Albany, and purchased their current Orinda home in 1979, where they raised their family. First daughter, Alison, was born in 1976. Second daughter, Meridith, was born in 1981. Today, Al and Maxine are the proud grandparents of two-year-old Kai, Alison and Mike’s son; and nine-month-old Soleia, Meridith and Steve’s daughter.

Ranko Yamada

In Berkeley, Ranko Yamada has served on many boards including the East Bay Asian Youth Center (EBAYC), the Berkeley Commission of the Status of Women, and the City of Berkeley Charter Review Task Force. She served eight years as a

Trustee for the Berkeley Public Library, and almost as many years for the Berkeley Public Library Foundation. The best for last and coming full circle, she has been proud to serve the local Berkeley JACL Chapter both as a board member and as a trustee of the Issei Memorial Fund.

Ranko grew up in Stockton, California in a household of seven that included her parents, older sister, younger brother, and her maternal grandparents. Her father Ren Yamada was kibe. His parents were farmworkers in California, and when his father became ill, Ren was sent back to Japan at age 4 to live with relatives. At 17, he returned to Stockton; too old to enter high school and learn English; not too old to be a farmer until the farm was lost during the War. The Yamada family was incarcerated at Rohwer, Arkansas. Ranko’s mother Doris Chiyo, was a Murano, a large extended family in Stockton, starting with three Murano siblings: Ranko’s grandfather and his two younger brothers. The Murano brothers had a fish market and a hotel. The families were sent first to Gila, Arizona during the War; then transferred to Tule Lake as No No’s. Ranko credits her father’s history for her activism and her mother’s family for her wherewithal.

The JACL has played a significant role off and on throughout her life. Her first involvement with social activism was at 15, as a Stockton Jr. JACL chapter member, picketing at Lucky grocery stores to boycott grapes with the United Farmworkers Organizing Committee (UFWOC). While in high school, she campaigned for the 18 year old vote (“LUV” for Let Us Vote, which originated in Stockton on the University of Pacific campus), for a ballot measure to desegregate the schools through bussing (it lost), and organized with the local anti-war mobilizations. She joined her Asian friends who started the “Yellow Seed,” an Asian community organization focused on community service, youth, and Asian identity issues. And throughout, she attended JACL and Buddhist Church youth programs, retreats and events where she met up with many of the leading Japanese American activists of the day.

In 1970 at 17, she and a friend Evelyn Okubo, carpooled to the National JACL Convention in Chicago, IL to be with other JA activists presenting workshops and programs at the convention. Tragedy struck at the end of the convention when a male stranger broke into Ranko and Evelyn’s hotel room, hiding and attacking them when they entered. The man killed Evelyn, and left Ranko for dead. Ranko survived that attack, and for many, many years after, she and her

family worked with, fought with, dealt with the JACL national organization in the filing of a lawsuit against the Hilton Hotel Corporation. JACL national started a national campaign for the "Okubo-Yamada Fund" to pay for the lawsuit and the law firm to present the families. The suit lost at trial, won on appeal, and was settled about ten years later.

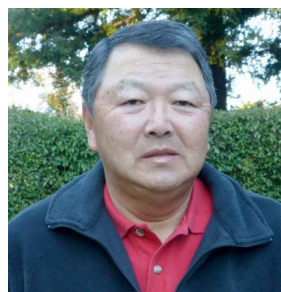
During college at U.C. Santa Cruz, and later at U.C. Hastings law school, Ranko remained active in the Asian community. In law school she worked at the Buddhist Churches of America headquarters in Japantown. She was a founding member of Nihonmachi Little Friends in Japantown, a Japanese bilingual, fulltime childcare center, still running today. In 1976, together with fellow students from the several law schools in the greater Bay Area, the group founded Nihonmachi Legal Outreach, now known as Asian and Pacific Islander Legal Outreach (API Legal Outreach). In 1973 Ranko also became involved with a criminal case of a friend wrongly accused of a murder. The case of Chol Soo Lee, a Korean immigrant, involved two murder convictions, the death penalty, a writ of habeas corpus, an acquittal on retrial, and an appeal which reversed the second conviction. A movement of support grew around the case, galvanizing the Korean immigrant community, and the larger Asian student and activist community. After ten years long years and Chol Soo Lee's entire adult life, he was released from prison in 1983. After this struggle, she was no longer inclined to practice law.

In 1984 Ranko moved to Berkeley and has lived here ever since. She married Bob Matsueda, a like-minded community activist and kendo instructor; and they have one son, Ken Matsueda.

Ron Tanaka to be Honored at JACL - NCWNP District Awards Banquet & Celebration

The Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific (NCWNP) District of the Japanese American Citizens League will hold its Award Banquet and Celebration on Saturday, April 22 from 11 AM – 3 PM at the Crow Canyon Country Club in Danville. The District will be celebrating JACL's Beiju or 88th Golden Anniversary.

Unsung Heroes from the local chapters will be honored. These are individuals who are steady volunteers, always giving, often in the background, who keep things going and shy away from recognition. The Berkeley Chapter's honoree is Ron Tanaka who long term Berkeley JACL Board member. He has served



several terms as Berkeley JACL president. Ron was raised in Auburn, California. He attended San Jose State University as an undergraduate and received his MBA from Santa Clara University. He has retired from PG&E where he oversaw the Company's

revenue operations as well as the college recruitment process in the Customer Operations Department. His greatest service to the Berkeley JACL has been its chair of the scholarship committee. Over the years, Ron has taken the program from a small start to one that gives out over \$10,000 per year in scholarships. His tireless effort has made our annual scholarship luncheon one of the Berkeley Chapter's highlights and a success every year.

The District will also recognize three individuals for their contributions to the NCWNP District. Past newsletter editors, Joan Matsuoka of Contra Costa chapter and Dara Tom of Berkeley chapter, will be honored. Prior to email, the internet and social media, the newsletter was an important means of communicating district information.

Guest speaker will be Dianne Fukami, co-producer and director of the Mineta Legacy Project. The Project will profile the life, career, and contributions of Norman Mineta in a way that's never been done before with an hour-long nationally televised documentary. Norman Mineta is a man of many firsts: the first Asian American mayor of a major city; the first Japanese American from the mainland to be elected to Congress; and, the first Asian American to serve in a presidential cabinet. Jana Katsuyama, Emmy winning journalist from KTVU Fox2 in Oakland will serve as mistress of ceremonies.

The public is welcome to attend. Early Bird rate for registration is \$70.00 per person until March 30. After that, the cost is \$88.00 per person, with registration closing on April 10. For information on how to register and support this event, go to www.jacl-ncwnp.org.

Save the Dates . . .

Friends of Topaz presents
**Confined But Not Silent: The Legacy of
 Topaz Artists, Poets and Writers**
 Saturday, May 6, 2017, 11 am - 3 pm
 San Francisco Buchanan YMCA

Topaz Museum Grand Opening
 July 7-8, 2017
 Salt Lake City Reception on Friday
 Topaz Museum viewing, "camp" site visit and
 opening ceremony in Delta, Utah on Saturday

For more information contact topazallianscommittee@gmail.com

JACL Youth Legacy Program

The JACL Youth Legacy Program connects Asian American youth with the legacy of the Japanese American incarceration during World War II. The program aims to address the search for personal identity experienced by many young Asian Americans who seek greater affirmation and understanding about their collective history. The program also aims to identify the next generation of conservation stewards by connecting them to a National Park Service historic site that has significance to Asian Americans. Session 1 will be on July 25-28, 2017 and Session 2 will be on August 8-11, 2017.

The program is open to Asian American youth between the ages of 18-25. Participants must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. The airfare, meals, and lodging are covered through a grant from the National Park Service. The grant also covers transportation from Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) to the Miyako Hotel and from the hotel to LAX.

Go to <https://jacl.org/youth/jacl-youth-legacy-program/> for an application. Applications are due on April 21, 2017. For additional questions, contact Bill Yoshino at byoshino@jacl.org. Only the 200 applications will be accepted.

*The JACL Youth Legacy Program is sponsored by the
 U.S. National Park Service.*

**Save the Date for Baseball and Bento**

Berkeley JACL's Baseball and Bento returns on Saturday August 12th when the Oakland A's take on the Baltimore Orioles at 6 pm. And yes, there will be fireworks after the game. More details to follow.

**Grant Applications**

The Berkeley JACL is currently seeking and accepting Endowment Fund Grant applications. The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to support Japanese American community-oriented projects or programs that further the aims or purposes of the Chapter. The Chapter goals encompass and embrace upholding human and civil rights of Japanese Americans and all other people, promoting understanding, respect, and appreciation of all cultures, and include strengthening community ties and fostering coalitions with other groups with similar interest as the Chapter. Applications are available by emailing berkeleyjacl@gmail.com and requesting a grant application. Applications should be submitted by April 15, 2017. Grants will be awarded in the sums up to \$2,000.00.



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Newsletter

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