

June/ July/ Aug 2017

Berkeley JACL Newsletter

SERVING THE BERKELEY, OAKLAND, AND ALBANY COMMUNITIES

Coming Events

- Jun 10,24 **Berkeley Nikkei Seniors Group** at the
Jul 8, 22 North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901
Aug 12, 26 Hearst Ave., Berkeley. This group meets
Sep 9, 23 every 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month.
For information contact Howard Fukuda
(howardfukuda@gmail.com)
- Thru Aug 13 **Dorothea Lange Exhibit**, Oakland
Musuem; see article inside
- Jun 19 **Last day to order Berkeley JACL T-
Shirts**; see article inside
- Jun 25 **Creativity Unconfined: Life in a WWII
Japanese American Incarceration
Camp**; see flyer attached
- Aug 1 **Asian Pacific America (Channel 11,
NBC) with Robert Handa at 7:15PM**;
see article inside
- Aug 12 **Baseball and Bento with the Berkeley
JACL and Oakland A's**; 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. **MAKE SOME NOISE!!!**

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



B E R K E L E Y

Baseball, Bento and Bombs Bursting in Air

By Mark Fujikawa

The 14th Annual Berkeley JACL Baseball and *Bento* event will take place on Saturday, August 12, 2017 at 6 pm, when the Oakland A's play the Baltimore Orioles. In addition to plaza infield seats, a delicious *bento* dinner, and a bottle of water, there will be a **fireworks show** following the game. **All this for only \$42.**

We have reserved 75 tickets for this popular event, so get your checks in early. There is an **early** deadline this year. Last chance to get tickets will be Saturday, **July 15th**. I will mail the tickets about one week before the game.



Berkeley JACL Awards 12 Scholarships and Honors Al Satake and Ranko Yamada as Pioneer Recipients

By Ron Tanaka

The Berkeley JACL chapter awarded scholarships to 12 high school seniors and presented Pioneer Awards to Al Satake and Ranko Yamada during its April 30th awards luncheon held at Richmond Country Club in Richmond.

The chapter awarded scholarships to the following high school seniors based upon their academic achievements, community involvement, school activities, work history, JACL involvement, written essay, letter of recommendation, and group interview. Martha Castro (College Prep HS) will attend Pomona College and major in molecular biology – Martha is also the recipient of the Dan/Kathleen Date memorial scholarship. Hope Fa-Kaji (Berkeley HS) will attend USC or Rice University and major in chemical engineering. Kelsey Hirota (Berkeley HS) will attend UC San Diego as a Computer Science major. Rachel Hirota (Berkeley HS) will attend UC Davis as an Animal Sciences major - Rachel is also the recipient of the Carolyn Adams Family scholarship. Amelia Huster (Berkeley HS) will attend UC Santa Cruz as an undeclared major. Kyra Kawamoto (Albany HS) will attend the University of Hawaii as a Marine Biology major. Mia Li (College Park HS) will attend Seattle University and major in International Business. Akira Roueche (Berkeley HS) will attend Cal State University at Fullerton and major in Kinesiology. Cailyn Sakurai (El Cerrito HS) will attend Chapman University as a Biological Science major. Toshio Steimetz (Berkeley HS) will attend UC Santa Barbara as an undeclared major. Courtney Tamaki (Albany HS) will attend UC Berkeley as a Genetic & Genomic Development major – Courtney is also the recipient of the Terry Yamashita Memorial Scholarship. Junko Taniguchi (Lowell HS) will attend Smith College as an undeclared major - Junko is also the recipient of the Bea Kono Memorial scholarship

Al Satake and Ranko Yamada were presented with the chapter's Pioneer Award. This award honors those with the vision, compassion, and energy to lay a foundation for building the Japanese American community into the active and vibrant one we share today, as well as linking past leaders with our future leaders.

The chapter recognized long time major sponsors Union Bank (Dimitry Bokman), Wells Fargo

Bank (Vance Oishi/Jonathan Shindo), and memorial scholarship donors: the Beatrice Kono family (George Kono), the Terry Yamashita family (Reiko Nabeta), the Dan/Kathleen Date family (Gail Yamamoto), and the Carolyn Adams Family.

The scholarship committee includes: Mark Fujikawa, Tiffany Ikeda, Lindsey Kuwahara, Vera Kawamura, Neal Ouye, Al Satake, Sharron Sue, and Ron Tanaka (Chair).



Photo (from left to right)

Seated: Junko Taniguchi, Courtney Tamaki, Kelsey Hirota, Rachel Hirota, Kyra Kawamoto

Standing: Carolyn Adams, Reiko Nabeta, Jonathan Shindo, Mia Li, Cailyn Sakurai, Toshio Steimetz, Amelia Huster, Hope Fa-Kaji, George Kono, Al Satake, Ranko Yamada

Berkeley JACL at Satsuki Bazaar

Invited by the Berkeley Buddhist Temple to participate at its Satsuki Bazaar on Sunday, May 21, five board members volunteered to man the JACL membership table from noon until 7 pm at the event. The board sends a big thank you to Tiffany, Lindsey, Nancy, Amelia and Tara.

The Berkeley JACL banner was set up. We shared a space with J-Sei next to the shaved ice stand and in front of the stage. We had great public exposure with the banner. We displayed copies of the Berkeley Legacy history pamphlet, which we are offering as an enticement with a new membership, and a few people looked at that.



Nikkei Student Union

By Monique Angelina Gomes

The UC Berkeley Nikkei Student Union (NSU), founded in the spring of 2002, is the only Japanese-American interest group on campus. It is a student led organization that melds interests in Japanese-American heritage with social and community events. In the upcoming academic year, NSU plans to host another annual Culture Show during December, this time directed by Culture Show chair Christo Wang. The culture show theme revolves around preserving the narrative of our community and the bridge between two heritages. Next spring, NSU also plans to host the Day of Remembrance in conjunction with other campus groups who wish to stand in respect and solidarity with us. In Spring 2017, NSU had guest speaker Robert M. Wada, a former intern and Korean War veteran, give a riveting speech about his experience in the camps. It was a great opportunity for the youth to become more in touch with their roots within JA history. Both Culture Show and Day of Remembrance are events open to the public, and members from the JACL community are warmly invited!

Volunteering is another important core value for the club. You might have even found them working booths at the SF Cherry Blossom Festival in Japantown, or elsewhere! When NSU members are not already preoccupied with studying, volunteering, or attending a social, they may also compete in intramural sports such as the NSU Dodgeball Team, this year headed by Team Captain Momo Gomes. Through the various activities offered by the club, students are able to express Japanese-American culture in countless ways.

Whether students at Cal are interested in getting involved in the JA community, looking to make

friends, or want to play sports, NSU offers a variety of options for them. Feel free to check out the club via the NSU Facebook page, or catch them tabling on Sproul Plaza during the semester.



Berkeley JACL Board Members at NSU Year End Banquet

Dorothea Lange: Politics of Seeing

Oakland Museum of California

Through August 13, 2017



Few 20th Century photographers have produced such instantly recognizable and iconic works as Dorothea Lange. Gain a new understanding of this beloved American photographer in OMCA's exhibition *Dorothea Lange: Politics of Seeing*. Through the lens of her camera, Lange documented American life with riveting, intimate photographs that showed the major issues of the times. This spring, view the emotional and political impact of her works in this major exhibition, which coincides with the 50th anniversary of the artist's gift of her personal archive to the Oakland Museum of California.

From documenting the plight of Dust Bowl migrants during the Great Depression to magnifying the grim conditions of incarcerated Japanese Americans during World War II, Lange's photographs demonstrate how empathy and compassion—focused through art—

can trigger political action. View approximately 100 photographs, including vintage prints, unedited proof sheets, personal memorabilia, and historic objects. Examine how Lange's artistry and advocacy swayed minds and prompted significant change in this nation's history. Discover how her work continues to resonate with millions, illustrating the power of photography as a form of social activism.

National Japanese American Historical Society Director's Report

By Rosalyn Tanai- Executive Director



It was common occurrence growing up in an all-white neighborhood, that I would be asked, "Who are you? Where did you come?" When my pat answer "Los Angeles" was not enough to satisfy their curiosity, they would persist, "No, really, where did you come from, your ancestors? Annoyed by being singled out as identifiably different from my peers, I grew to resent these questions about my identity. Fast forward to today, in the Bay Area where multicultural families are common, such inquiries are usually cordial guessing games. "Hey, are you Japanese American? Are you part Chinese? Are you hapa?" I'm not so bothered by the questions. I suppose it depends on the context of how I am asked and who is doing the asking.

In the context of the presidential campaigns, the rancor and fear-mongering over people's national origin, ethnicity or religion is a tactic nothing less than political scapegoating. They are not too different from school yard bullying. We've seen it time and time again; we've also experienced it personally and collectively as Japanese Americans. The vestiges of wartime hysteria and racial prejudice creep into the political arena and become a toxic mix igniting a fear of and hatred toward others.

It was after all, race prejudice, wartime hysteria and failure of political leadership that led to the

egregious incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII. The government acknowledged its grave mistake with redress and reparations as well as funding for civil liberties educational initiatives to begin to set the record straight. But did it? Even today, we find the same misrepresentations about the justification for camps for Syrian refugees or Muslim Americans being resurrected in the political discourse.

As Japanese Americans, we need to step up and set the record straight. That is why in coalition with other Muslim and Arab American civic groups, the Bay Area Day of Remembrance Committee held a press conference to clarify what occurred historically and to combat the toxic mixture of fear and hate directed at innocent members of the Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian communities.

Just as it is NJAHS' mission to share the Japanese American experience as part of the larger American narrative, it should be every Japanese American's responsibility to aid in that effort by speaking up and being heard. By doing so, we help shape that American historical narrative.

NJAHS continues to keep a busy pace in the coming year. Teaching the next generation continues to be our priority at our office and museum in San Francisco's Japantown and at the Military Intelligence Service Historic Learning Center in the Presidio of San Francisco. Under the direction of Dr. Grace Morizawa, and NJAHS Program Development Associate Melissa Ayumi Bailey, our regional ties and our newly developed historic-inquiry and place-based curriculum is now accessible on-line. As part of the National Veterans Network, we are working with the Smithsonian Institution to bring the little known story of the Nisei soldier to light through an interactive online website.

We are strategically re-designing the space for our site in Japantown to create a more accessible visitor-friendly experience that helps re-vitalize Japantown. In this 110th commemorative year for SF Nihonmachi, we look toward new ways to promote "this great place to be" with social media and creative audience engagement. Speaking of accessibility, we are undertaking our most ambitious project to date: digitizing much of our WWII camp collections of documents, manuscripts, videos, audio tapes under the direction of Project Manager Paloma Anoveros and Exhibition and Collections Manager Max Nihei, who recently completed his Masters in Museum Studies at the University of San Francisco.

Our loyal and supportive board members make us proud to be a part of NJAHS. And without a doubt, we appreciate our our enduring members and supporters, volunteers and interns for their strong support. I am most grateful for your steadfast belief that we are making a difference in this world.

Go to <https://www.njahs.org> for more information about NJAHS

NCWNP District Awards Banquet & Celebration

The Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific (NCWNP) District of the Japanese American Citizens League held its Award Banquet and Celebration on Saturday, April 22 at the Crow Canyon Country Club in Danville.

Twenty Berkeley JACL members attended to honor Ron Tanaka as the chapter's Unsung.



Berkeley JACL Attendees

Asian Pacific America with Robert Handa

Mark your calendars!! Two of the Berkeley JACL Board members, Amelia Huster and Nancy Ukai, will be on Asian Pacific America (Channel 11, NBC) with Robert Handa on Tuesday, August 1, 2017 at 7:15.

Amelia Huster will be on the Segment 3, new generation of JACL, Millennials; and Nancy Ukai will be on the Segment 4, Nikkei artifacts/Smithsonian.

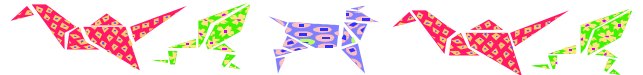
Berkeley JACL T-Shirts

Show your Berkeley JACL pride by ordering a t-shirt today! Our chapter is ordering t-shirts with our chapter logo on the front and the national JACL logo on the back. The shirts will be American Apparel and will cost about \$15.50 each. The shirts will be heather gray and the print will be white. Please email Beth by Monday, June 19th if you are interested in ordering a shirt with your size (XS-XL available). Attached are drafts of the shirt design.



Front

Back



150th Anniversary of the Founding of the Wakamatsu Silk and Tea Farm Colony, 1st Japanese Colony in North America

On May 20, 1869, the steamship China landed in San Francisco carrying the first group of settlers from Japan to the United States. These settlers fled a bloody civil war in Japan, and intended to establish a permanent agricultural colony in California. This group from Aizu Wakamatsu, led by John Henry Schell, traveled upriver by boat to Sacramento and overland by wagon to establish the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm Colony on 640 acres at Gold Hill, near the historic gold rush town of Coloma in El Dorado County on June 8, 1869.

The colonists brought thousands of mulberry trees for silk farming, tea plants, bamboo roots, and many other Japanese agricultural products. They prospered at first, and participated in the 1870 San Francisco Horticultural Fair, displaying tea plants and plant oils. In the early 1870's, however, the colony suffered numerous setbacks. The drought of 1871-72 exacerbated the water shortage and financial help from Japan never arrived. The remaining colonists sold off

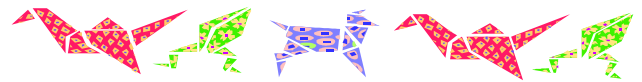
most of their belongings in order to survive. Some were able to return to Japan, and others moved elsewhere to find more gainful employment. Matsunosuke Sakurai, Kuninosuke Masumizu, and Okei Ito are known to have remained behind at the colony site. They were befriended and employed by the Francis Veerkamp family. Matsunosuke Sakurai stayed with the Veerkamps until his death on February 25, 1901, and is believed to be buried at the Vineyard Cemetery at Coloma, the historical site of Marshall's gold discovery a few miles from Gold Hill. Kuninosuke Masumizu married Carrie Wilson, a woman of African and American Indian descent in Coloma in 1877 and later he and his family moved to Sacramento. Kuninosuke died in 1915 and is survived by an extensive family still living in the Sacramento area.

Okei, the Schnell's nursemaid, died in the spring of 1871, believed to be the first Japanese immigrant to die in this country, and was buried on the knoll of the hill which she reputedly liked to climb to watch the sunset and look towards her homeland. A marble headstone now marks her grave, inscribed in both English and Japanese, "In memory of Okei, Died 1871, Age 19 Years, A Japanese Girl". In the ensuing years, the Wakamatsu Colony was lost and forgotten until after World War I, when a search was undertaken by several Japanese Americans from the Sacramento and Placer County areas. These historians first interviewed 75-year old Henry Veerkamp, the son of the pioneer family that befriended the Japanese colonists. Mr. Veerkamp shared many memories of the Wakamatsu Colony, and was able to disclose the location of the original colony and Okei's grave.

The State of California designated 1969 as the centennial year of Japanese immigration to the United State. On June 7, 1969, then-Governor Ronald Reagan and Japan Consul General Seiichi Shima dedicated a state historical plaque designating the Wakamatsu Colony as California Registered Historical Landmark No. 815. On October 9, 2009, The Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Colony property was registered as reference number 09000397, in the National Register of Historic Places which is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation, authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Efforts to preserve the site of the Wakamatsu Colony are currently underway, thanks to a partnership coordinated by the American River Conservancy, the Japanese American Citizens League, the Veerkamp family, and many others in the neighboring communities. Preservation of the colony site will recognize the

contributions of Japanese to the development of the agricultural industry of California, will acknowledge the historical achievements of the pioneer Veerkamp family, and will contribute to a better understanding of the legacies of the Native Americans who originally inhabited the Gold Hill region. The State of California recognized May 20, 2007, as the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm Colony Day encouraging all members of the legislature and the governor to help educate all Californians about the Colony's history in California.

The JACL National Convention will consider a resolution recognizing this major event on July 7, 2017 in Washington DC.



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Newsletter

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