Berkeley JACL Newsletter
SERVING THE BERKELEY, OAKLAND, AND ALBANY COMMUNITIES

Coming Events

- Sep 14, 28  Berkeley Nikkei Seniors Group at the West Berkeley Senior Center, 1900 Sixth Street, Berkeley. This group meets every 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month. For information contact Howard Fukuda (howardfukuda@gmail.com)

- Sep 14  Discussion- Tule Lake: America’s Worst Concentration Camp; Buddhist Church of Sacramento, featuring historian Roger Daniels and Tule Lake preservationist Barbara Takei. 1:00-3:30pm. Free


- Oct 12  Garage Door Opener: Growing up Sansei- Anna Head Alumnae Hall; Noon to 3:30PM – see flyer attached

Making Noise is a 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/

Cole Huster – 2019 Freshman Scholarship Recipient

Cole Huster awarded National JACL Scholarship

By Ron Tanaka

The Chapter is proud to announce that Berkeley Chapter member, Cole Huster, has been awarded the 2019 National JACL Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial scholarship. This $5,000 National Scholarship was established by the estate of Henry and Chiyo Kuwahara. Mr. Kuwahara, a resident of Los Angeles, was a well-known investment and securities broker in Little Tokyo. Due to the Kuwahara’s strong belief in youth and the value of education, their estate funds a number of JACL scholarships.

Cole is a June 2019 graduate of Berkeley High School and was also awarded the Berkeley Chapter Dan/Kathleen Date Memorial Scholarship. Among his major high school accomplishments included: 1) recognized with a National Merit Scholarship Program Letter of Commendation, 2) served as President of his high school’s Youth and Government organization 3) Captain of the Men’s Water Polo Team, 4) selected as the “Outstanding Delegate” at the Youth and Government Mock Trial Defense Team held in Sacramento.

Cole also served on the Chapter’s Board of Directors and acted as a liaison between the Board and Berkeley High School and represented the voice of high school age youth. While attending the National JACL Convention in Philadelphia in the summer of 2018, Cole was selected as the District Youth Representative for the Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific SERVING THE BERKELEY, OAKLAND, AND ALBANY COMMUNITIES

Japanese American Citizens League

Berkeley
Region. Cole will attend the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor this Fall. Congratulations Cole!!!!

November 10th Deadline for Holiday Ads in the Pacific Citizen!

By Valerie Yasukochi

Holiday Ads in the Pacific Citizen will kick off in October. This special year end issue will celebrate JACL’s 90th Anniversary. Please support the Berkeley JACL by submitting a “Season’s Greeting” or advertisement in this year’s Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue. This is our chapter’s largest (and only) fundraiser for the year.

Your support helps us continue awarding grants and scholarships, support activities for our seniors, sponsor youth involvement in the Nikkei community including participation at the JACL National Convention, host relevant and culturally sensitive events, maintain civil rights and hate crime awareness and print our wonderful newsletter. We count on your generosity to assist us in these worthy endeavors by placing a holiday ad in the Pacific Citizen.

The ad rate remains unchanged at $25 per column inch. A 2 column x 2 inch (business card size) ad costs $100. There are a variety of ad sizes to choose from. Each column is approximately 1¾” wide. We encourage you to increase the size of your ad – the additional income for the chapter is appreciated! Please don’t hesitate to contact us with any questions. The deadline for the holiday greetings is November 10.

However, if you need additional time, please give one of us a call and we’ll work with you to ensure your submission appears in the Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue. The Berkeley JACL receives a percentage of our sales proceeds (based on total column inches sold) and your participation is a reflection of our past success.

New ads are encouraged and welcome! Renewals are as simple as (1) sending us your approval via email OR (2) calling by phone to give us “the go ahead” OR (3) returning the ad form to the address noted below. Please let us know if you have any changes (new graphic, change greeting, update year, etc.). Renewal forms will be emailed/snail mailed to you in October. If you wish to place a new ad, please email us your ad copy or business card and graphics, if any.

Payment: Your check should be made payable to Berkeley JACL and mailed to PC Holiday Ads – Berkeley JACL, c/o Valerie Yasukochi, 2840 Steinmetz Way, Oakland, CA 94602. Sorry, but we are unable to accept credit card payments. Contact details for our holiday ad coordinators will be provided soon. In the meantime, you may call or email Valerie Yasukochi: 510-336-3371 (preferred), 510-387-8335 (text/call).

Thank you very much for your generous support!

Tule Lake Apology Passes

By Nancy Ukai

Delegates vote to approve after three hours of debate.

In a historic decision, the JACL voted overwhelmingly to apologize to the Tule Lake resisters at the national convention in Salt Lake City last month. A sea of pink voting cards filled the room when the vote was called after three hours of debate on Aug. 3. The Berkeley chapter voted to approve. A roll call vote was not taken, but the vote appeared to be 80% in favor of passing the “Recognition of and Apology to Tule Lake Resisters,” with 60-61 for, six against, three abstentions and four split votes.

The three-hour debate included a failed proposal to postpone voting until next year. Berkeley board member Cole Huster, who represented the Youth Council, urged delegates not to postpone, earning a burst of applause. The controversial resolution addressed fractures in the community that were created during WW II by the loyalty questionnaire.

Two questions divided friends and families: No. 27, which asked the incarcerated if they would serve in the military, and No. 28, which asked for unqualified allegiance to the U.S. and the forsaking of loyalty to Japan’s emperor. The latter question, if answered in the affirmative, would leave the Issei stateless. Answering “no” to the questions implied disloyalty to the U.S. and landed the “No-Nos” into the maximum security Tule Lake segregation center.

The JACL had urged inmates to demonstrate their loyalty by cooperating with the government and supported the segregation of the “loyal” and “disloyal”
to Tule Lake. The resolution provides for education in chapters about this history; an update of the curriculum guide; and a public ceremony to recognize the resisters in 2020-2021.

**Civil Rights Committee - Service Events**

*By Ryan Matsuda*

The Civil Rights Committee from the Berkeley chapter held a service event at the Alameda County Community Food Bank on Sunday, June 23rd. Eight Berkeley JACL members attended the event. The group, along with other organizations that help with the food bank, sorted and bagged approximately 4000 pounds of plums and corn. The food was used to provide approximately 3300 meals. On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank all those who attended the event. We look forward to putting on other service events in the future to do our part to make our community a better place.

*June 23rd Berkeley JACL Volunteers*

With the success of the June 23rd event, the Civil Rights Committee organized a 2nd service event at the Alameda County Community Food Bank on Saturday, September 7th. Fourteen Berkeley JACL members and friends volunteered. Together with the other groups at the food bank we packed 21,000 pounds of produce which will provide approximately 18,000 meals. We look forward to working with you again on future events.

*September 7th Berkeley JACL Volunteers (3 missing)*

**Tsuru for Solidarity -- Paper Cranes to Protest Migrant Detention**

A Japanese American plan to carry 125,000 handfolded origami cranes to Washington, D.C. in spring 2020, is drawing supporters at local events and across the country to fold and string origami “tsuru.”

Tsuru for Solidarity, a nonviolent direct action project to protest the imprisonment of migrants and separation of families, is organizing the 2020 action in the capitol, according to Nancy Ukai, a co-organizer of TFS and a member of the Berkeley JACL board. The date will be confirmed shortly.

The idea to bring cranes as a symbol of peace and solidarity developed in March this year. A group of 60 Japanese Americans traveled to south Texas to visit the Crystal City WWII alien enemy camp, including seven survivors who spent part of their childhood imprisoned there.

After holding a remembrance ceremony at the camp, led by Rev. Ron Kobata of the Buddhist Church of San Francisco, the group drove an hour east to the South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, the largest private prison for migrants in the U.S., and hung 25,000 handfolded cranes on the barbed wire fence to the beat of taiko drummers from Denver and New York.

The cranes had been folded by volunteers nationwide, drawn by a social media campaign that is
now active on Facebook @tsuruforsolidarity and a website Tsuruforsolidarity.org

In support, the recent JACL convention in Salt Lake City used paper cranes as a theme and donated 5,000 paper birds folded by members from some 70 chapters. The Berkeley chapter will be holding a folding event to support the action, so please stay tuned and get ready to fold.

Paper Cranes from National JACL Convention

Common Ground
By Beth Uno

From September 2017 through July 2018, I took a one-year leave from my elementary school teaching job and lived and worked in Tokyo as an English teaching assistant at Shirayuri University, an all-girls, private Catholic college. At Shirayuri, I helped college students who were fairly proficient in English improve their English skills and prepare to study abroad in English-speaking countries. After all the delicious yakitori, ramen, and sushi, it was an incredible learning experience.

I had never felt more American than during my time living in Japan. Americans have many strong values including freedom, open-mindedness, and equality, which can look or feel very different in Japan. I realized how different Japanese and American thinking and values can be. However, I was surprised to find how many similarities exist between American and Japanese college students with regards to their views of the world.

The Japanese college students at Shirayuri University were much more like their American counterparts than I had expected! Many of them were not perfect students, just like in America. Many wanted to travel abroad to see the world and were very open to experiencing other cultures different from their own, which is very similar to most American college students. As Japan struggles with a shrinking population and attempts to slowly increase the number of working foreigners in the country, I learned that several of my students believed that Japan should open its borders much more to refugees and allow more foreigners to work and live in Japan than the government currently does. Many young Americans also believe we should allow more immigrants, and especially refugees, into our country.

Finally, every year Shirayuri has an annual English speech contest where students can give a short speech about any topic of their choosing. I helped many of my students craft speeches that expressed ideas for more inclusive Japanese society, such as treating those with physical disabilities the same as able-bodied people. These young women are the future leaders of the country, and hopefully once their generation is older, there will be some more liberal changes implemented more quickly in Japan. Overall, I found that most Japanese students, like most American students, want to create a more peaceful, inclusive world. They inspired me to believe in a better future for both countries.

Beth (right) with Graduating Student
Calling our Nisei Members!

Would you like to share memories of your issei parents with the Berkeley chapter? Our chapter is greatly supported by a fund that originated in the contributions of the Berkeley issei and we would like to honor the memory of this generous generation through a series of articles of remembrance.

If you happen to know of a Berkeley family whose Issei member belonged to the Berkeley Japanese Association -- an organization for immigrants -- please contact the chapter at berkeleyjacl@gmail.com. Or write to us at JACL, Berkeley Chapter; P.O Box 7609; Berkeley, CA 94707-0609

We look forward to sharing our community stories with chapter members!

An Issei couple, Tokutaro Takayanagi and Hide (Ishikawa) Takayanagi ca. 1915 who operated a nursery on Sixth Street near University Ave.

JACL National Convention Reports

The Berkeley JACL chapter sent a number of representatives to the National JACL Convention. Here are reports from some of them.

Kana Kobayashi

The 2019 National JACL Convention was the first JACL Convention I attended, though not my first foray into JACL activities outside of my local chapter. This year's convention was held in Salt Lake City, Utah, and took place over the course of four days of convention activities with the last day reserved for an optional excursion to the Topaz Museum. I attended the convention as an alternate delegate for the Berkeley chapter and had the chance to sit in on the National Council Meetings and assist in voting when necessary.

Although I can't say that the National Council Meetings had me on the edge of my seat (though there a few nail-biting moments), the workshops that were available were impressive. The Plenary session: “Where are the Youth?”: Investing in Youth Leadership & Membership, consisted of a panel of members of NYSC and YPC who were incredibly well-spoken and informed. Considering JACL’s continuing issues regarding youth engagement and retaining membership, I would have liked to see plenaries like this one to have been made mandatory, or highly encouraged, for delegates to attend as the plenary session really demonstrated how to engage with youth members and would have been a great resource for all chapters.

A source of disappointment and hopefully a non-recurring occurrence for national conventions was the choice of speakers for the opening reception. The attorney general of Utah, Sean Reyes, was invited by Floyd Mori to come speak for the reception, but doing so made me feel incredibly uncomfortable and reflected the often cloudy mission of JACL’s stance as a civil rights organization. Sean Reyes is a staunchly anti-LGBTQ politician that was also appointed by Trump earlier this year as part of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islanders. Since being sworn into office, Reyes has been working to take away LGBTQ workers’ protection in the state of Utah. At the opening ceremony, Reyes repeated, like a mantra, that we must be the voice for the voiceless while practicing the exact opposite in his position of power.

As we move forward, I hope that future national conventions will not be utilized as spaces for politicians whose agendas consist of stripping civil
rights from people and instead convention organizers will be conscientious of how actions like this reflect upon JACL as a national organization and can be better aligned with our intentions.

Marco Torrez- (new Berkeley Chapter board member)

Marco Torrez along with Niki Nojima Louis were the New Mexico JACL delegates at this year’s JACL National Convention in Salt Lake City. Marco has started graduate school at UC Berkeley and has joined the Berkeley Chapter of the JACL.

This was JACL’s 90th anniversary and it was composed of many noteworthy people such as, Secretary and Mrs. Norm Mineta, Consul-General Midori Takeuchi, Densho, past National presidents, Director Tom Ikeda, and a few directors of documentaries that were screened at the convention. During the voting proceeds in the National Council sessions, JACL voted with a large majority to pass a historic vote that would provide an apology from the organization to all the wartime resisters of Tule Lake.

Another notable event during the convention was the use of origami cranes during the Sayonara banquet. The cranes were donated by every chapter in JACL and they beautifully decorated each table during the banquet. The cranes themselves act as a symbol of JACL’s support of Tsuru for Solidarity. This is the group that organized a protest at Fort Sill and other confinement sites.

The 2019 JACL President’s awards were given to Wat Misaka and Arlene Inouye for being national role models for their activism in sports and teaching across the country. “The two honorees this year represent tremendous leadership that extends beyond the Japanese American community,” JACL President Jeffrey Moy said.

Marco attended National Youth events, met with the present district governors, networked with future leaders of JACL, and attended many workshops that focused on building more involvement from the youth, defending against discrimination and bridging the gaps between generations.

Including some of the people that Marco met with were Berkeley JACL’s very own Beth Uno, Kana Kobayashi, Cole Huster, and Nancy Ukai.

Next year’s JACL National Convention will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, in June.
The Berkeley Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens’ League (JACL) and the UC Berkeley Nikkei Student Union (NSU) present

GROWING UP SANSEI

A Community Event about Our Uniquely JA Upbringing

Featuring a live reading of
“GARAGE DOOR OPENER” — A JA Dysfunctional Family Play by Soji Kashiwagi

Saturday, October 12, 2019
Noon to 3 p.m.
Anna Head Alumnae Hall
2537 Haste Street, Berkeley, CA 94720

GENERAL ADMISSION: $25.00 | Free for UC Berkeley Nikkei Student Union (NSU) members
(includes play reading featuring Haruye Ioka, Dian Kobayashi, Kurt Kuniyoshi, Shaun Shimoda and Ping Wu, post-reading discussion/Q&A facilitated by Dr. Satsuki Ina, and singing by the Grateful 4, Grateful Crane’s Yonsei Acapella singing group, featuring UC Berkeley Alum Michael Murata.)

FOR RESERVATIONS, GO TO: https://growingupsanseiberkeley.brownpapertickets.com/

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, EMAIL THE BERKELEY JACL AT berkeleyjacl@gmail.com

Just the mention of a “Japanese American Dysfunctional Family Play” has brought smiles and laughter from Baby Boomer Sansei who grew up in a uniquely JA family environment. What is it about growing up Sansei and family dysfunction that brings immediate recognition from those who were there to experience it?

These questions and more will be addressed in Soji Kashiwagi’s new comedy/drama, “Garage Door Opener.” In the play, we meet Glenn and Sharon Tanaka, a Sansei brother and sister faced with the daunting task of cleaning out their parents’ garage and house after they passed away.

As they sift through dozens of empty tofu containers, kamaboko boards and broccoli rubber bands, Glenn and Sharon begin to uncover items from their past that they knew nothing about, and in the process, begin to gain a better understanding of their parents—and themselves—by the items their mom and dad left behind.

After the reading, Dr. Satsuki Ina, an expert on JA family dynamics, will facilitate a dialogue about the play with Soji Kashiwagi, and answer questions about issues such as camp trauma and its after-effects on the Nisei, Sansei and subsequent generations, shame and not bringing shame on the family and decluttering one’s life of both emotional and physical baggage.
**Berkeley JACL Membership Application**

Names(s) – primary and spouse/partner ________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Address _______________________________________________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip Code __________________________________________________________________________________________

Phone# and Email ______________________________________________________________________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Category</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular/Individual</td>
<td>$70.</td>
<td>National dues $65+$5 Chapter dues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couple/Family</td>
<td>$115.</td>
<td>National dues $110+$5 Chapter dues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student/Youth</td>
<td>$35.</td>
<td>National dues $30+$5 Chapter dues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thousand Club</td>
<td>$100.</td>
<td>Annual contribution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thousand Club Life</td>
<td>$3,000.</td>
<td>One-time payment for lifetime membership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Century Club</td>
<td>$175.</td>
<td>Annual contribution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Century Cub Life</td>
<td>$5,000.</td>
<td>One-time payment for lifetime membership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millenium Club</td>
<td>$1,000.</td>
<td>Annual contribution</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your tax-deductible check payable to Berkeley JACL can be sent to our PO Box 7609, Berkeley, CA 94707-0609 or JACL National Headquarters, P.O. Box 45397, San Francisco, CA 94145-0397.

Your membership includes a digital subscription to the Pacific Citizen (be sure to include your email address). If you prefer a hard copy, please check the box below and include your check for an additional $17/year.

☐ MAIL me the Pacific Citizen – enclosed is my check for an additional $17.

For more information, contact JACL National Membership in San Francisco at 415-921-5225 x25.

Payment by credit card can be made at [https://jacl.org/member/](https://jacl.org/member/). Please specify you want to be a member of the Berkeley Chapter

---

**Japanese American Citizens League**

**Berkeley Chapter**

P.O Box 7609

Berkeley, CA 94707-0609