

December 2020

Berkeley JACL Newsletter

SERVING THE BERKELEY, OAKLAND, AND ALBANY COMMUNITIES

Coming Events

- TBD **Berkeley Nikkei Seniors Group** at the West Berkeley Senior Center, 1900 Sixth Street, Berkeley. This group normally meets every 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month. For information about restart, please contact Howard Fukuda
- Dec 31 **Mail in Ballot to elect Berkeley JACL Board.** See Attached Ballot.
- Jan 5 **Berkeley JACL Board installation on Zoom.** Email admin@berkeleyjacl.org to obtain Zoom link to attend.
- Feb 21 **JSei Crab Feed**, to go only this year; see flyer inside
- Mar 1 **Berkeley JACL Grant Applications due;** see article inside

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/



2021 Berkeley JACL "College Freshman" Scholarship Application

By Ron Tanaka

Applications for the Berkeley Chapter Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) Scholarship Program are available for high school students entering their freshman year in any accredited institution of higher learning in the Fall 2021.

For 2021, all applications must be filled out "online" (JACL.org) and submitted to National JACL (change from prior years when all applications were submitted to the Berkeley chapter). National JACL will receive each application and forward the application back to the appropriate local JACL Chapter for evaluation and awarding of a scholarship at the local chapter level. To apply, please do the following:

- Go to www.JACL.org, Youth tab, Scholarships
- Enter "Berkeley" as the local chapter on the application
- All applicants must be a JACL member
- Questions. contact Berkeley Scholarship Chair, Ron Tanaka

Applicants must be planning to attend a

college, university, community college, trade school, business school, or any other accredited institution of higher learning in the Fall 2021. Students deferring enrollment will not qualify for the 2021 program.

Due Date - March 1, 2021

Applications must be submitted "online" to National JACL by **March 1, 2021**. Berkeley Chapter anticipates awarding multiple **local chapter scholarships**. **Each scholarship may be up to \$2,500.**

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic achievement, community involvement, school activities, work history, letter of recommendation, personal statement, Japanese cultural activities, and a group interview. **Special consideration will be given to applicants who are the first in their family to**

attend college and/or to those who qualify as low income.

JACL Membership Required

While JACL involvement is **not required** to apply for this scholarship, every applicant must be a Berkeley JACL member. Please have your membership application with your \$35.00 membership fee submitted by Jan 31, 2021. A limited number of memberships are available at no cost to the applicant if the \$35.00 fee creates a hardship. Please contact the scholarship chair, Ron Tanaka, for a membership application.

Scholarship Presentation & National JACL Awards Program

All Berkeley Chapter scholarships will be awarded to recipients at a scholarship awards event scheduled for April/May 2021. All recipients are expected to attend this awards event (as guests of the Berkeley JACL) to receive their scholarship. Last year, because of the pandemic, this event was held virtually via zoom.

By April 1, 2021, Berkeley will forward "outstanding" applications for further consideration to the JACL's National Scholarship and Awards Program for 10 National Scholarships ranging in award amounts from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per scholarship. Recipients of these national scholarships will be announced in the 3rd Quarter 2021.



Endowment Fund Grant Applications

The Berkeley JACL is currently accepting Endowment Fund Grant applications. Grant Applications are available on the Berkeley JACL website: www.berkeleyjACL.org. Applications should be submitted by March 1, 2021. Grants up to \$2,000 may be awarded.

The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to support Japanese American community-oriented projects or programs that further the Chapter's goals and purposes. The Chapter's goals include: upholding the human and civil rights of Japanese Americans and all other people; promoting understanding, respect and appreciation of all cultures; and strengthening community ties and fostering coalitions with other groups sharing similar interests as the Chapter.

Making Noise

Making Noise is a means to exercise your right as a member to express your views, humor, concerns, or anything else of interest.

Reflections on a Recent Berkeley Tragedy

By Karen Kiyo Lowhurst, Berkeley JACL Co-President

One of the reasons I jumped at the opportunity to become a Board member, and later, a co-president, of the Berkeley Chapter of the JACL is that I wanted to find a way to support our Nisei and greater elder community. This desire has been rewarded on many fronts: I learned about and now support J-Sei, I have met and spent time with some residents of the Wagaya living community, and I have observed our Board direct funds to various worthy senior support organizations both in and outside the Japanese American community.

Part of my own deeply held identity as a Yonsei has always been rooted in the core value of caring for our elders. I observe this in my own family and in the families of my close JA friends. To me, this says that we are a culture of honor and integrity- *Of sacrifice and loyalty*. It is one of the reasons I am so proud of my Japanese American identity.



*Photo credit
Jeannie O'Connor,
Berkeleyside*



*Photo credit: Zahira Chaudhry,
Daily Californian*

It was against this background that I was so disturbed to learn of the recent death of Mr. Dennis Eimoto, 73, a Berkeley native and graduate of Berkeley High School in the 1960s. According to an article published on November 20, 2020 in Berkeleyside, Mr. Eimoto worked for BART for about 25 years, as an operator, until 2008. Mr. Eimoto also worked as a fishery biologist for the State of California Department of Fish and Game (now known as the Department of Fish and Wildlife). He lived on the 1700 block of Eighth Street in Northwest Berkeley, in the home he grew up in and which he inherited from his late parents.

Though he was known to behave eccentrically at times, Mr. Eimoto was known and well-liked by his

neighbors, all of whom appear to not be Japanese American. They characterized him as talkative and friendly, with an impeccable sense of style. Mr. Eimoto was reported by one neighbor as periodically catching large tuna and gifting pieces of the coveted fish to the appreciative neighbors. He frequented the North Berkeley Senior Center.

Still, at times, Mr. Eimoto showed clear signs that he needed support. Neighbors were aware that he appeared to have mental health problems, and at times would have “bad days” involving “screaming fits,” only to later apologize. He was heard talking to himself from time to time. One neighbor observed that Mr. Eimoto experienced a decline about a decade ago, one that made it difficult for them to keep up with his “rambling thoughts”: “At some point, he changed. He just couldn’t have a relationship with his neighbors. He just kind of lost his way.”

In 2018, Mr. Eimoto’s home caught fire, and he lost his pet dog in the fire. It seems that the dog was Mr. Eimoto’s sole daily companion. A neighbor reported to Berkeleyside that Mr. Eimoto would often talk about his dog thereafter. For unknown reasons, Mr. Eimoto’s home was never renovated after the 2018 fire. A January 30, 2018 article in The Daily Californian reported that the total damage to Mr. Eimoto’s home in 2018 was \$250,000. However the home, a historic and large home with architecturally significant details, appears to have been worth well in excess of a million dollars in 2018.

Berkeleyside reported that Steven Riggs, Berkeley Fire Department acting Fire Marshall, stated that there were many overlapping “burn scars” on the house, making it difficult for authorities to even distinguish between 2018 and 2020 fire damage. Though the home had been red tagged and identified by the city as “completely uninhabitable,” it appears that nothing was done to help Mr. Eimoto bring his home to habitability. It appears he lived there the next two years with only periodic utilities and using a camp stove for heat and cooking. Neighbors believe he was fearful of being forced from his home by authorities, and for that reason he may resist efforts – if any there were—to help him into a safe and comfortable environment. For this reason, some neighbors believed that Mr. Eimoto’s death by home fire was “inevitable.” On the night Mr. Eimoto’s house caught fire last month, his next door neighbor “prayed that he wasn’t there.” Since that time, it has been confirmed that Mr. Eimoto perished in the fire. Clear mental health issues. Obvious isolation.

Housing insecurity. Over the course of a decade. In plain sight.

How can this happen? The Berkeley JACL is first and foremost a civil rights organization. However, we are also deeply committed to supporting our JA community, especially our elders. I do not have words adequate to describe the distress I feel when I realize the series of community failures that led to the “inevitable” death of Mr. Eimoto, someone who had more life to live and more to contribute to our community. Available public records show that he had outlived his family.

His neighbors could have intervened and helped him raise the funds to repair his home to habitability, perhaps obtaining an equity loan or via a Go Fund Me. The City could have gotten involved in providing mental health services to Mr. Eimoto. Our JACL chapter could have connected him to J-Sei, where he would have received meal delivery, JA socializing opportunities, and fellowship. Social services could have facilitated the reconnection of safe utilities for his home. One of the neighbors could have taken him to the Berkeley SPCA for a new dog. The opportunities, large and small, were endless. And perhaps, in the end, he would have refused. But was enough done to try?

If you become aware of a senior in need, please let our chapter know. We are prepared to support both our Nisei elders, our JA elders at large, and our broader community in need. It is at the very core of our mission.

Asians for Black Lives



Sign the 8 Point Resolution Supporting Black Racial Justice Many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs/Asians/Asian Americans) support justice for the Black community and others who have been victimized by unjust treatment by law enforcement. The Florin JACL-Sacramento Valley which initiated this effort, ask all concerned people and organizations to sign the Asians for Black Lives Resolution – Supporting Black Racial Justice. This is one way of raising awareness, support, unity, and

solidarity. The 8 Point Resolution Supporting Black Racial Justice recognizes:

1. The Historical and Systemic Racism and Implicit Bias Against the Black Community: This occurs in law enforcement, just as in other spheres of American life. The widely disproportionate police shootings, arrests, searches, and traffic stops of Black peoples prove this.
2. The Fallacy of pitting “All Lives Matter” and “Blue Lives Matter” against “Black Lives Matter.” “Black Lives Matter” sprung from the unjust discrimination in law enforcement and the institutional racism created by 300 years of slavery and 100 years of racist Jim Crow laws. “All Lives” and “Blue Lives” do matter, but they shouldn’t be used to ignore this reality. When Black Lives matter equally, all lives will matter.
3. The Need for Major Reform in Law Enforcement: Accountability, transparency, independent community oversight, de-escalation of force, just police policies /practices, training/guidance, fair hiring and promotion, investment in the Black community, and other steps are vital now.
4. The Black Community Leadership: Especially from the 1950s on, African Americans pioneered civil rights advances which have also greatly benefited Asian Americans and all Americans. They’ve stood in solidarity with other peoples throughout the decades.
5. The Historic and Systemic Racism Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders: The government, including law enforcement, has also discriminated against Asians, other people of color, disabled people, LGBTQ communities, women, the poor, and the disenfranchised over the years.
6. The Exploitation of Asians as a “Model Minority” Wedge against Others. Some people have used the myth of Asians as a “model minority” to keep Black peoples and other people of color down, stifle Asian advancement, and divide communities against each other.
7. The Opposition to any Unjust Involvement of Asian Americans. Asians also need to take a clear stand against any unjust involvement of other AAPIs, including that of the Minneapolis Asian officer in the death of George Floyd.

8. The Importance of Speaking Up and Building Unity for Successful Black Racial Justice Reform. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, as well as all Americans, should actively speak up and build unity to advance our entire country. Only with millions of Americans standing up and working together can we make crucial reforms in law enforcement. Successful social justice efforts of the past like the Civil Rights Movement show this and point the way.

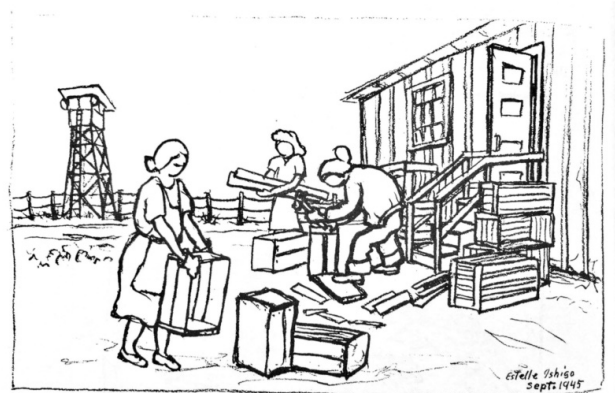
Please email FlorinJACL5@outlook.com for more information. The Berkeley JACL Board of Directors has signed on to this resolution.

What They Carried When the Japanese American Incarceration Camps Closed

December 17, 2019 | Nancy Ukai

This is excerpted from an article in the Smithsonian's Folklife blog to commemorate the 75th anniversary in 2020 of the closing of the Japanese American concentration camps. It will be republished in the Smithsonian's Voices blog this month. The link to the full article (written by

Berkeley board member Nancy Ukai) is <https://folklife.si.edu/Contents/Item/Display/12584>



drawing: Etelle Ishio 8/1945 Heart Mountain, WY.
Courtesy Bacon Sakakini Collection

Dogs and cats abandoned, strawberries unharvested, a favorite chair left behind. This could be a scene from the frantic days in 1942, when 110,000 Americans of Japanese descent and their immigrant parents were torn from their West Coast homes and forced by presidential order into U.S. concentration camps. It was as if a major natural disaster, like a fire, flood, or hurricane, was hitting. Choices had to be made quickly. Exclusion notices had been posted on streets and telephone poles.



*Minidoka, Idaho, November 1942
Photo courtesy of the Frank Kubo Collection (Densho)*

An immigrant nurseryman in Berkeley secretly packed a box that his family learned about only after they arrived at the Tanforan racetrack, which had been converted into a detention camp. Had he packed a cache of special treats? They opened it up to find that he had filled it with eucalyptus leaves. He thought that he would never smell their fragrance again. This landscape of loss and hurried departures occurred in 1942, but it also eerily describes the closing of those camps in 1945.

“When we were first ordered to leave Berkeley for camp, we had to get rid of most of our possessions, taking only what we could carry,” writes Fumi Hayashi, about heading for the Topaz camp in Utah. “Upon our release, we had little more than that.” The closing of the World War II camps marks its seventy-fifth anniversary in 2020. It comes at a time when many Japanese Americans are linking their own family and community histories of incarceration with the Muslim ban, family separations, and the detention of immigrant children and asylum seekers today.

In December 1944, when the exclusion orders banning Japanese Americans from the West Coast were lifted, some 80,000 people were still left beneath the guard towers. Those who stayed behind were disproportionately elderly immigrants. Not fluent in English, denied naturalization because of their race, and left without a livelihood, many didn’t want to leave.

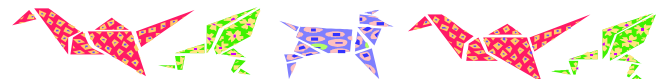
They feared outside hostility and vigilantism. Administrators grew so concerned that the elderly would grow dependent on their secure albeit meager existence, that the situation was discussed internally.

Continued confinement would lead to “a new set of reservations similar to Indian reservations,” officials worried, according to “Personal Justice Denied,” a government commission report. The diary of a WRA administrator, Arthur Kleinkopf, at the Minidoka camp in southern Idaho, reveals his first-hand observations of that camp’s final days. (One) Idaho administrator took a relocation notice to a barrack. He was met at the door “by a Japanese gentleman who carried a long knife in his hand and informed the note-bearer that he was not interested in receiving the notice” or making plans to leave.

On October 9, an elderly man whose wife and daughter were already in Washington was found hiding under a barrack. The man’s packing was done for him, Kleinkopf wrote. Two weeks later, after surveying a barrack, Kleinkopf wrote, “Everywhere there was evidence of hasty departure. Half-opened cans of food remained on one kitchen table. Boxes of matches were scattered about...As I went from barrack to barrack, I was followed by an ever-increasing number of starving cats...A few people in referring to the search for remaining residents indiscreetly and discourteously referred to it as a ‘rabbit hunt.’” (October 23) Half-starved dogs that had served as pets ran wild. “Attempts were made last night to kill some of the dogs which roam the project.” (November 19) Beautiful plants still grew around the deserted barracks. Kleinkopf picked chrysanthemums and asters for the office and gathered strawberries for lunch, tiny echoes of the nurseries and fruit crops that three years ago had been abandoned on the West Coast. (October 1) Much property got dispersed to local scavengers.

In Idaho, scrap lumber that was put on sale the day after Christmas at Minidoka drew a long line of trucks whose drivers also picked up dining tables and cupboards. “One man who paid \$5 for his load refused an offer of \$300 for it,” Kleinkopf wrote. (December 26)

(Nancy’s parents and grandparents were removed from Berkeley and Oakland to Tanforan and Topaz. Her maternal grandfather secretly packed a box of eucalyptus leaves to take to Tanforan.)



Newsletter by Snail or Email?

Berkeley JACL chapter newsletters are now being sent electronically to all current members with emails on file per their membership information. If you would prefer to receive a paper copy or both a paper and electronic copy, please email Val at and let her know your preferences. She is helping to coordinate our chapter database for future newsletter distributions. We also periodically send “JACL Berkeley Blast” (email only) to alert you of timely events and chapter activities.

Your feedback is welcome!!

May you continue to stay safe, healthy and well.



Sunday, February 21, 2021

Pick-up Between 1pm to 4pm
at J-Sei, 1286 66th Street, Emeryville, CA

Cheers to crab! **The 30th Annual J-Sei Crab Feed** will take place this year on a **TO GO** basis.

Fresh Dungeness crab, Asian salad, garlic noodles, bread, and dessert complete the feast. A limited number of dinners will be sold.

Pre-order your delicious crab dinner by **Sunday, February 14**, through J-Sei's website at: <https://j-sei.org/30th-annual-crab-feed-to-go/>

Or mail your order and check to be received by **Saturday, February 13**. Please be sure to include your **phone number** with your order so that we can schedule a pick-up time with you.

Walk up or drive up at your assigned time (between 1pm to 4pm) to get your order at J-Sei. Then, join us online to share a toast to J-Sei's 50 years of community!

DINNER TICKETS \$45

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT J-SEI
BY PHONE (510) 654-4000
OR EMAIL SUZANNE@J-SEI.ORG
WWW.J-SEI.ORG

50 Objects- Ibuki's Doll

Photographer Dorothea Lange happened to take a photo of Ibuki and her mother, Hisako, each holding a doll, on May 9, 1942, in Hayward, California. Find out about this story by going to <https://50objects.org/object/ibukis-doll/>. 50 Objects-Stories is a history project that explores the human impact of the mass incarceration of 120,000 American Japanese during World War II. Through the visual and

textual examination of 50 curated objects, we explore the ramifications of President Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066. The objects have been released in serial fashion beginning in 2018, the 76th anniversary of the presidential order.



Ibuki Hibi, five years, and her mother, Hisako Hibi, hold dolls as they wait in Hayward, California for military transport to the Tanforan detention center. Ibuki's father, Matsusaburo, is attending to their luggage and bed rolls. Ibuki's older brother, Satoshi, is nearby, outside the photo. Dorothea Lange, May 9, 1942, National Archives..

Co-Presidents
Secretary
Treasurer
Directors:

Karen Kiyo Lowhurst, Beth Ono
Tiffany Ikeda
Mark Fujikawa

Carolyn Adams, Jim Duff, , Howard Fukuda,
Emily Itoku, Vera Kawamura, Ryan Matsuda, Kaz Mori,
Estella Nakahara-Hemp, Neal Ouye, Al Satake, Tak Shirasawa
Ron Tanaka, Marco Torrez, Nancy Ukai, Tara Umemoto,
Gordon Yamamoto, Dani Yang, Valerie Yasukochi

**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

JACL-Berkeley Chapter

2021 Officers and Directors

Official Ballot

Instructions:

The following individuals have agreed to serve as Officers and/or Directors for the 2021 term. Officers are also Directors. Put an "X" in the space provided. If you wish to nominate another individual, print the person's name in the "Write-in" space. Please return your ballot by December 31, 2020 to:

JACL, Berkeley Chapter
2021 Election
P.O. Box 7609
Berkeley, CA 94707-0609

Co-Presidents: Vote for Two:

Karen Lowhurst ☐ Tara Umemoto ☐ Write In: _____

Co-Treasurer: Vote for Two:

Mark Fujikawa ☐ Tak Shirasawa (Asst) ☐ Write In: _____

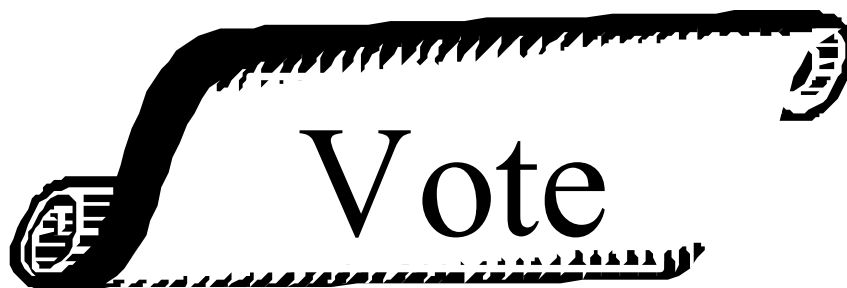
Secretary: Vote for Two:

Tiffany Ikeda ☐ Marco Torrez (Asst) ☐ Write In: _____

Directors: Vote for Thirteen:

Carolyn Adams <input type="checkbox"/>	Emily Itoku <input type="checkbox"/>	Vera Kawamura <input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew Kojima <input type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Matsuda <input type="checkbox"/>	Kaz Mori <input type="checkbox"/>
Neal Ouye <input type="checkbox"/>	Al Satake <input type="checkbox"/>	Ron Tanaka <input type="checkbox"/>
Nancy Ukai <input type="checkbox"/>	Beth Uno <input type="checkbox"/>	Gordon Yamamoto <input type="checkbox"/>
Dani Yang <input type="checkbox"/>		
Write In: _____	Write In: _____	Write In: _____

We appreciate your show of support by participating in this 2021 Election.



*The 2021 Berkeley JACL Board Installation is scheduled for
Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 7:00 PM on Zoom.
All members are invited. If you wish to attend,
email admin@berkeleyjacl.org to receive the required Zoom link to the meeting.
Judge Dale Ikeda will swear in the elected members of the 2021 Berkeley JACL Board.*

Berkeley JACL Membership Application

Names(s) – primary and spouse/partner _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Phone# and Email _____

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

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/>. 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**

Make the best of the holidays and join us at the Zoom Installation of the Berkeley JACL Board