

April 2021

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

May 23

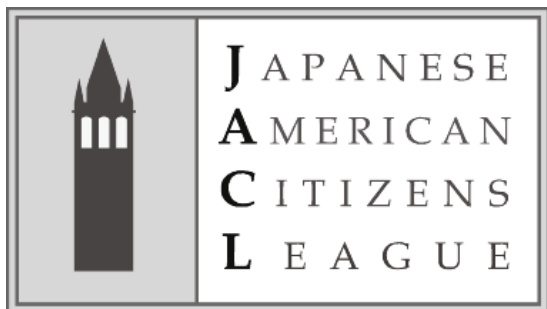
2021 Berkeley JACL Scholarship, Pioneer, and Youth Leadership Awards;
See attached Flyer

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/



B E R K E L E Y

2020 Berkeley JACL Scholarships, Pioneer and Youth Leadership Awards

By Ron Tanaka

The chapter's annual scholarship and other awards event is scheduled for Sunday, May 23rd, from 11:45 AM to 1:30 PM, via Zoom video conference. RSVP with your name & e-mail by May 19 to Ron Tanaka. Zoom information will be e-mailed to you prior to May 23rd.

High School Scholarships Recipients

The chapter proudly announces presentation of scholarships to five high school seniors who will be entering their college freshman year in the Fall:



Christy Ko
Oakland Technical HS



Kyle Kuwahara -
Berkeley HS



Scott Kuwahara
Berkeley HS



Lucille Taylor
El Cerrito HS



Amanda Tsuetaki
Carrboro HS, NC

Undergraduate Scholarships Recipients

This year, the chapter is proudly able to present undergraduate scholarships to four undergraduates who are currently enrolled in East Bay universities and colleges:



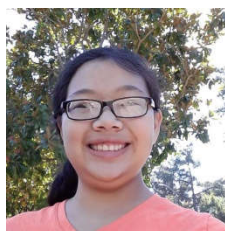
Annika Masaki-
UC Berkeley



Ellie Matsuno –
UC Berkeley

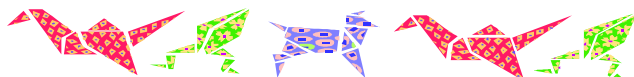


Bryce Nakahara
UC, Berkeley



Allison Nakao
Diablo Valley
College

The Berkeley JACL recognizes the Carolyn Adams, Bea Kono, Terry Yamashita, Dan/Kathleen Date, and George/Yoshimi Nakamura families for their major contributions to the chapter's scholarship program.



Pioneer Award

Mark Fujikawa and Leroy M. Morishita will be honored as its **Pioneer Award recipients**. Established in 1996, these awards are presented to them in recognition of their long history of dedicated community service, and service to the Berkeley JACL. This award provides a link to those that have led us in prior years with our scholarship recipients, who are our future leaders.

Youth Leadership Award

Elizabeth (Beth) Uno will be awarded the chapter's 3rd Annual Youth Leadership Award. This award recognizes Elizabeth for her desire, vision, and skills to make a positive difference in areas consistent with Berkeley JACL's mission.

Mark Fujikawa- Berkeley Pioneer



Pioneer Award recipient, Dr. Mark Fujikawa, has served on the board of the Berkeley JACL for the past 25 years. He has served on the grants, scholarship, and membership committees, as well as organizing the annual A's and Warriors games. He is currently serving his second year as chapter treasurer.

Mark was born in Los Angeles and grew up in Gardena, the second of four boys. His father, John Misuo Fujikawa was a gardener and was active in the Gardena Valley and Southern California Gardeners Associations. His mother, Miyoko Sugi Fujikawa, worked part-time at the local school cafeteria. In their later years, they became active in the South Bay chapter of the JACL, serving as co-presidents.

After graduating from Gardena High School, Mark attended UCLA for three years. He transferred to the University of California, School of Optometry, where he graduated in 1973. He then did a yearlong clinical residency at the University of Waterloo, School of Optometry, in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. The highlight of that year was a summer-long stint as leader of a team of 4 students traveling in bush planes up and down James Bay, performing eye exams and dispensing glasses to First Nation Peoples living on the various Indian reserves.

On the way back home from Canada, Mark and his wife Georgia were passing through Berkeley, visiting his older brother who was attending grad school

at CAL. He was approached by Oakland optometrist, Dr. Ernest Takahashi, who offered him a position in his recently retired brother Henry's practice on Shattuck Avenue in Berkeley. After a while, Ernie sold the practice to Mark and Stephen Chun, and the Berkeley Optometric Group was formed. It is now the longest serving practice in Berkeley.

Georgia and Mark have two children, Kelly and Matthew. They are both married and have one child apiece, with one more on the way. Kelly is living in Kirkland, WA with her husband Jeff Dizon, and Matthew is in Oakland with his wife Nancy.

In addition to his JACL activities, Dr. Fujikawa has served on the boards of the Alameda-Contra Costa Optometric Society, Berkeley Bears Youth Organization, Berkeley JayCees and the Berkeley Lions Club. He coached youth baseball with the Berkeley Bears for twenty years and has gone backpacking yearly with the same group for the past thirty years. He has also participated in Lions Club sponsored vision clinics to Mexico (3 times), Peru, Panama and Vietnam.

Mark has continued working, even through the pandemic, though he is now only working 3 days a week, leaving time for gardening, Lions Club activities and keeping in shape for his annual backpacking trip. He is also a very accomplished home chef.

Leroy M. Morishita- Berkeley Pioneer



Leroy was born in Fresno, California and raised on a 40 acre family farm in Del Rey, CA. His father and two brothers ran the farm growing table grapes and plums with their wives and raising their families. Leroy has two older sisters and a

younger brother and all of them and the other five cousins who also grew up on the farm went to college and graduated with degrees. They were all the first in their families to become college graduates.

Leroy received a bachelor's degree in Psychology from UC Berkeley and then a master's in Counseling from San Francisco State University. While his original goal was to become an attorney, he decided to go into counseling so that he could work with young people to offer them the opportunity to attend college as he had. His upbringing in the Valley with over half of his schools being comprised of

Chicanos whom he felt were tracked into technical degrees at best led him to these degrees. Leroy worked at a few counseling positions and then was hired at SF State as a counselor in the Educational Opportunity Program. A few years later he married Barbara Hedani and they moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts where Leroy attended the Harvard Graduate School of Education to pursue a doctorate in Administration, Planning & Social Policy and Barbara worked to support them.

Leroy returned to SF State working in the Admissions & Records unit doing data analysis. He would spend the next twenty-seven years at SF State in a variety of positions in institutional research, budget planning, enrollment management, student housing, capital planning, facilities development and ultimately became the executive vice president for administration and finance & chief financial officer. During this period he also did an administrative fellowship at California State University, Hayward – now CSU East Bay.

During these years, Leroy and Barbara had two sons. As they grew up, Leroy coached them as they played baseball with the Berkeley Bears (Mark Fujikawa was their head coach) and also in basketball with the Berkeley Buddhist Temple. In the community, he was board president and member of the Asian Community Mental Health Services for a number of years, former board member of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California, active in the Berkeley Buddhist Temple, currently chairs the JA Health Benefits Trust, and is now the chair of the board of trustees for the Institute of Buddhist Studies.

While Leroy never imagined nor intended becoming a university president, he was selected to be the president of California State University, East Bay in 2011. He soon discovered that this was the best position he ever held because of the deserving, appreciative and humble students and alumni, plus an outstanding faculty and staff who strongly supported and cared about the students at Cal State, East Bay. While president, he served on several committees for the California State University 23 campus system. He was the founding and lead president for the President's Commission for the system-wide CSU STEM-NET affinity group, a member of the CSU Commission on Online Education as well as the Presidents' Commission for the Program for Education & Research in Biotechnology. In addition, he served as co-chair of the Taskforce for a Sustainable Financial Model for the California State University system, co-chaired the

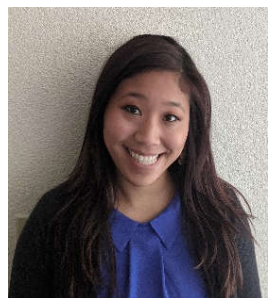
Gateways East Bay STEM Network, and chaired the Presidents' and Chancellor's Board of the California Collegiate Athletic Association.

Leroy also served on national and local organizations. He served on the WASC College, Senior Colleges and University Commission, was immediate past chair of the California Campus Compact Executive Board and a Director of the National Campus Compact Board, a member of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) Investment Committee, and sat on the Higher Education Advisory Council for the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC). He also served on the board of directors of the Bay Area Council and the East Bay Leadership Council and actively served as a member of the Executive Committee and board member of the East Bay Economic Development Alliance. He was a founding member of the Chabot Space and Science Center Leadership Council and currently serves as a founding member of the Oakland Promise Governing Board.

Leroy retired from CSU, East Bay in December 2020 after serving forty years for the California State University. He is very happily married to Barbara for 40+ years and is proud of his sons, Kyle married to Heidi Huey with their daughter Theodora (1.5 yrs) and Derek married to Michelle with daughters Mikaela (nearly 11) and Makena (nearing 4).

Elizabeth Uno- Youth Leadership Award

By Karen Kiyo Lowhurst



The Berkeley JACL Board of Directors is excited to award our 3rd Annual Youth Leadership Award to Elizabeth (Beth) Uno. The Berkeley JACL Board of Directors recognizes the critical need to nurture the next generation of leaders.

The Youth Leadership Award helps to fulfill the Berkeley JACL's commitment to growing and recognizing youth leaders with the desire, vision and skills to make a positive difference in areas consistent with Berkeley JACL's mission.

Beth generously served multiple terms as the Berkeley Chapter President, in 2017, 2019, and 2020. She accomplished great things in promoting the JACL's core goals. These are raising awareness of civil rights issues in our country, and drawing attention to the special obligation that Japanese Americans have to

stand up to race-based discrimination and hysteria when we see it.

Beth led the charge in raising awareness within our Board and the greater membership, many of whom are "Nisei", about the connections between our own incarceration history and the current day anti-Muslim rhetoric, the police brutality giving rise to the Black Lives Matter movement, and the separation of families at the southern border of the country. She has been instrumental in obtaining Board authorization for JACL grants to fellow East Bay civil rights and immigrant support groups in the fights against these social problems. In bringing successful motions to fund these groups, she diplomatically managed vigorous Board debate on sensitive topics surrounding the causes. Beth arrived on time, prepared, and ran our meetings smoothly and efficiently. She is universally regarded as a natural leader, hard worker, and the first to volunteer whether it is at the Food Bank, voter registration, organizing a dramatic production, or speaking at a scholarship luncheon.

Beth's work with the JACL began early, with her roots in the Florin chapter, where her parents, Richard and Irene Uno, have been active for many decades, and where she and her brother, Ricky, grew up in close contact with their Japanese American community. Beth was the recipient of both the Florin chapter JACL scholarship and National Youth Leadership scholarship in 2007 and 2014, respectively. Beth's commitment to JA issues and to service continues in her professional achievements.

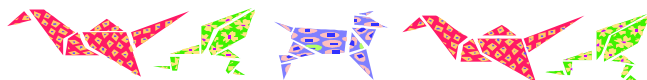
Beth Graduated *cum laude* from UCLA in 2011, earning her Bachelor of Arts in History with a minor in Applied Developmental Psychology. At UCLA, her passion for our heritage and for community service shined through, as she was the co-chair of the Nikkei Student Union cultural awareness and community services committee. Beth also was recognized as a "Distinguished Belle" in the UCLA Bruins Service Association. Beth went on to earn a master's degree in Education, with a perfect 4.0 GPA, from UC Davis, in 2015.

Beth was the Robert T. Matsui United States Congressional Fellow in 2010. She also worked as a research assistant for Dr. Satsuki Ina from 2011-2013. She has dedicated years of work as an elementary school teacher to under resourced students at Burbank Elementary School in the Hayward Unified School District. Beth also worked for Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson as an Education Team Administration

Associate, where she got a closer look at education public policy. At present, Beth is working in cutting-edge curriculum development while she ponders the many attractive choices she has for the future.

Beth's activism within our Chapter brought us a critical shift into the present day. Her work shifted our Chapter's focus from one of a Japanese social and culture club, returning us to our roots as a civil rights and advocacy organization. She re-vitalized our membership and brought unprecedented success in recruiting younger generations of Japanese Americans. Beth demonstrated an uncanny ability to see problems within an organization and to identify creative solutions. Perhaps even more important, Beth can look at what an organization does well and figure out how to push it to do even better.

Please join us in honoring Beth!



Postal mail or Email?

This issue of our quarterly newsletter is being sent via postal **and** email to all members who have not previously requested electronic delivery only. To change or update your preference, please email Val per details below.

This past year, Berkeley JACL chapter newsletters have been sent electronically to all current members based on emails on file per their membership information and sent postal mail to those for whom we do not have emails. Please let us know your preference for receiving our quarterly Berkeley Chapter JACL Newsletter. If you would prefer to receive only a paper copy or both a paper and electronic copy of our newsletter, please email Val _____ and let her know your preferences. She continues to work on updating our chapter membership database for future newsletter distributions. We also periodically send out the "JACL Berkeley Blast" (email only) to alert you of timely events and chapter activities.

Thank you for your continued support of our chapter. We look forward to hosting in person events later this year. As we all get vaccinated, we hope you continue to stay safe and healthy.

Valerie Yasukochi and Jim Duff, our Sapphire Pin Awardees!

By Beth Uno



The Berkeley chapter of the JACL congratulates our long-time former executive board members Val Yasukochi and Jim Duff as this year's recipients of the Sapphire Pin award on behalf of the Northern California-Western

Nevada-Pacific (NCWNP) District. Val and Jim are a dynamic duo who are very well-deserving of the Sapphire Pin award for their countless contributions to JACL at the local, district, and national levels. The NCWNP Executive Board presents their Sapphire Pin awards in recognition of stalwart members' incredible work for the JACL. The Sapphire Pin nominee must meet criteria established by National JACL, including being a current member with a minimum of 10 consecutive years of active service to the JACL and having participated at least 5 years at the national or district level.

The NCWNP Executive Board recognized Val and Jim for their 20+ year commitment to our chapter board as well as being representatives for the NCWNP district at the national level. Val was the Pacific Citizen (PC) representative as well as a dedicated PC supporter by raising funds for the PC through the Holiday Ad Campaign as Berkeley chapter's chair for many years. Jim has also served as the PC representative for two terms and a member of the National Constitution and Bylaws committee.

Both Val and Jim have been active board members of the Berkeley chapter since the 1990s. They have each taken on various vital roles for the chapter, including Co-President and Co-Chair of various committees such as Civil Rights, Grants, and Membership. Additionally, Val and Jim have attended National JACL conventions on behalf of the chapter since 2002. Most notably, Val and Jim are wonderful, welcoming mentors to several youth leaders of the current Berkeley chapter board, and have served as enthusiastic youth mentors for many years. The Berkeley Board of Directors is so grateful for Val and Jim's numerous, invaluable contributions to the chapter, and for their ongoing leadership and dedication to our

youth and the civil rights mission of our organization. Congratulations Val and Jim!

Berkeley JACL Condemns Anti-Asian Hate Crimes in the Bay Area

The Berkeley chapter of the Japanese American Citizens' League (JACL), condemns the recent rise in Anti-Asian hate crimes throughout the country and in our nearby Oakland Chinatown, San Francisco, and San Leandro. We applaud the actions of Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley in the creation of a response unit focusing on the hate and violence targeting our Asian American communities. We stand with our fellow Asian American communities in solidarity against these hateful crimes and thank our allies for their support. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen a significant increase in hate speech and hate crimes against Asian Americans, bolstered by comments made by the previous administration. We call on the media to bring attention to these horrific events and call on our elected leaders to implement solutions to address the increasing racism and attacks against Asian Americans in our community.

Berkeley JACL Condemning Atlanta Shootings and Hate Crimes

The Berkeley chapter of the Japanese American Citizens' League (JACL) grieves the loss of the people who were killed in the Atlanta shootings on March 16, 2021 and all those who have been impacted by the violence and hatred targeting Asian Americans and other marginalized communities. In 2020, there was a nearly 150% increase in hate speech and hate crimes against Asian Americans, fueled by false statements and anti-Asian sentiments expressed by the previous administration. We recognize that this hate and violence towards the Asian American and all marginalized communities is not new and it is important for us to continue to work together and speak up against the hate and violence.

We stand with the Asian American community and all marginalized communities in solidarity against these hateful crimes. We deeply appreciate our allies for reaching out and supporting the Asian American community during these troubling times. We all need to stand together, tell our stories of who we are, and support each other in healing from the hate and violent attacks we have witnessed over the past year. We continue to call upon our local and national elected officials to investigate these acts of hatred. We also call on the media to continue to illuminate and publicize the

Asian American perspective and recent hate crime incidents.

Some ways you can help:

- Check in with yourself and how you are feeling
- Check in with friends and family - ask if they want support and how you can support
- Actively listen to others impacted by the violence
- Report Hate Incidents at Stop AAPI Hate: stopaapihate.org
- Contact your representative to see what they are doing to ensure safety in the Asian American community:
<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>
- Volunteer and donate
 - [Compassion in Oakland:](https://compassioninoakland.org)
compassioninoakland.org
 - [Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Atlanta:](https://www.advancingjustice-atlanta.org) www.advancingjustice-atlanta.org
 - [Action Network](https://actionnetwork.org)
 - [Hate is a Virus:](https://hateisavirus.org/)
<https://hateisavirus.org/>

Co-Presidents	Karen Kiyo Lowhurst, Tara Umemoto
Secretary	Tiffany Ikeda
Treasurer	Mark Fujikawa
Directors:	
	Carolyn Adams, Emily Itoku, Vera Kawamura, Matthew Kojima, Ryan Matsuda, Kaz Mori, Neal Ouye, Al Satake, Tak Shirasawa, Ron Tanaka, Marco Torrez, Nancy Ukai, Beth Ono, Gordon Yamamoto, Dani Yang



Newsletter

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Jim Duff, Valerie Yasukochi, Carolyn Adams

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

2021 Berkeley JACL
Scholarship, Pioneer, & Youth Leadership Awards
(Via Zoom Video Conference)

Honoring High School Scholarship Recipients:



Christy Ko (Oakland Tech HS)
Kyle Kuwahara (Berkeley HS)
Scott Kuwahara (Berkeley HS)
Lucille Taylor (El Cerrito HS)
Amanda Tsuetaki (Carrboro HS, North Carolina)



Honoring Undergraduate Scholarship Recipients

Annika Masaki (UC Berk)
Ellie Matsuno (UC Berk)
Bryce Nakahara (UC Berk)
Allison Nakao (Diablo Valley College)

Honoring Pioneer Award Recipients:

Mark Fujikawa
Leroy M. Morishita

Honoring Youth Leadership Awardee:

Elizabeth Uno

When: Sunday, May 23, 2021:

11:45 am to 1:30 p.m (PST) (11:45-12:00 zoom check in)
Zoom Video Conference (no cost to user)

RSVP with your name & e-mail by May 19:

To: Ryan Matsuda &
Ron Tanaka

Name/E-mail: _____

Phone # _____

RSVP required to receive Zoom video conference event information
(Zoom information will be e-mailed to you by 5/20)

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 Club Life	\$5,000.	One-time payment for lifetime membership
Millennium 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**

Join the Berkeley JACL Board on Zoom to honor Scholarship Winners on May 23, 2021