

September 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month. For information about restart, please contact Howard Fukuda
- Oct 1      **Grant Application** Deadline; see article inside
- Nov 1      **PC Ads** due to support Berkeley JACL; see article inside
- Nov 7      **Two Nails, One Love**; Zoom Talk by author, Alden Hayashi; 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](mailto:berkeleyjacl@gmail.com)

Visit our Website at [www.berkeleyjacl.org](http://www.berkeleyjacl.org)

[www.facebook.com/BerkeleyChapterJACL/](https://www.facebook.com/BerkeleyChapterJACL/)



## Amanda Tsuetaki Awarded National JACL Scholarship

*By Ron Tanaka*



The chapter is proud to announce that 2021 Berkeley Chapter scholarship recipient, Amanda Tsuetaki, has been awarded the National JACL Mr. and Mrs. Takashi Moriuchi Scholarship. This \$2,000 freshman award was established in 1975 by Takashi and Yuriko Moriuchi. Mr. Moriuchi, a successful farmer, is the past New Jersey State Director of the United States Department of Agriculture Farmers Home Administration, and Mrs. Moriuchi, a professor of Ikebana (Japanese flower arrangement), is the president of the American Guild of Flower Arrangers. Originally from California, Yuriko Moriuchi currently resides in Medford, New Jersey.

The Berkeley Chapter previously awarded the Dan and Kathleen Date Memorial Scholarship to Amanda Tsuetaki. Amanda will be attending Northwestern University this fall majoring in Asian American Studies. Amanda graduated from Carrboro High School located in Carrboro, North Carolina. Amanda's high school accomplishments include: serving as Student Body President at Carrboro High; receiving the AP Scholar with Distinction Award; serving as captain of her high school Lacrosse team; participating on the school's cross-country team; and volunteering as an intern in the Mayor's Office in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Amanda is the daughter of Tracy and Jane Tusetaki (Ogawa). Amanda's mother, Jane Ogawa, served on the Berkeley chapter board of directors in the 1990s and as Co-President 1996/1997. Dr. Jane Ogawa was instrumental in reestablishing the Berkeley chapter scholarship program in the early 1990s. Jane and her family relocated to North Carolina in the early 2000s. She has remained a member of the Berkeley chapter.



### **Endowment Fund Grant Application Deadline Extended to October 1, 2021**

*By Ryan Matsuda*

The Berkeley JACL has extended the Endowment Fund Grant application deadline to October 1, 2021. Grants up to \$2000 may be awarded. Grant Applications are available at the Berkeley JACL website, [www.berkeleyjacl.org/endowment-fund-grants/](http://www.berkeleyjacl.org/endowment-fund-grants/).

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.

### **Watkins Street Japanese American Memorial unveiling September 8, 2021**

*By Sandra Doi*

The Berkeley Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) board was honored to be invited by the Eden JACL to attend the unveiling of a three-plus year project to memorialize events of Watkins Street, where on May 8, 1942, more than 600 Japanese Americans were required to board buses bound for the Tanforan racetrack, and ultimately, to the Topaz concentration camp, near Delta, Utah where they were unlawfully detained throughout the duration of WWII.

The memorial plaques, with pictures and narrative, honor the life experiences of these Japanese Americans of the greater Hayward area. Wholly funded by the City of Hayward, the memorial overlooks Watkins Street where more than 150 families assembled with what scant possessions they could carry for their forced incarceration.

Master of Ceremony, Victor Fujii, presented the speakers including Mayor Halliday, Naomi Shibata (Project Team Lead), Rosalyn Tonai (Executive Director of National Japanese American Historical Society), Pamela Honda (Eden Japanese Community Center), Lois Oda (President of Eden JACL), and Dr. Leroy M. Morishita (President Emeritus of California State University East Bay). A reading of the names of those who survived the events of the day was deeply moving, and many survivors were present.

A community mixer at the Eden Japanese Community Center (JCC) followed with readings from Nikkei authors, many of them former internees, who have attended Nisei writer's workshops hosted by the Eden JCC and Naomi Shibata, to immortalize their experiences in prose.

The memorial is a short, 20-mile, 25-minute drive to Hayward from Berkeley and is situated in the beautiful Hayward Heritage Plaza, which is manicured and dotted with large smooth stone seats. The Plaza is bounded by Watkins Street, C Street, D Street, and Mission Blvd. A free and accessible parking structure is a half block away available at the Hayward City Hall Parking Garage, 22635 Mission Boulevard, Hayward.



**Berkeley Leads JACL National Council in Approving Resolutions in Support Of Black Lives Matter Movement And Opposing Anti Asian Hate**

*By Beth Uno*

The 2021 JACL convention, originally scheduled for Las Vegas, was held virtually via Zoom from July 15 through 18. Berkeley JACL was wonderfully represented by delegates Tara Umemoto and Sandra Doi, and alternative delegate Val Yasukochi. Karen Lowhurst and I participated in the resolution sessions.

While there were numerous webinars and informational meetings, the highlight of the convention was the presentation, debate, and ultimate passage of the resolutions, led by the Berkeley Chapter, in collaboration with the Florin and Twin Cities chapters. This was a historic day for our chapter and National JACL!

Resolution 1 was in Support of the Black Lives Matter Movement, which cited numerous facts regarding incidents of racist acts against Black people since the founding of the US and even before, as well as the killing of unarmed Black people by police officers in the last few years. The resolution calls for the JACL and its chapters to: build relationships with Black civil rights organizations to address systemic racism, support the "Breathe Act" which provides police practices reforms and collaborate with other community organizations in working toward these goals. There was spirited debate around an amendment proposed by another chapter that would have gutted the intent of the resolution, and basically would have eliminated references to problems with police actions. Fortunately, the majority of JACL chapters, recognizing that we are a civil rights organization, rejected the amendment. Ultimately the resolution passed by a large margin.

During the time leading up to, and during the concentration camps, the Japanese American Community stood alone. Only the Quakers and the San Francisco Chapter of the ACLU spoke against the relocation to concentration camps. We need to ensure that Black people and their communities do not stand alone and can count on our support.

Resolution 2 called for preventing and stopping anti-Asian Hate. Resolution 2 cited the numerous laws and acts against people of Asian-Pacific descent, including the concentration camps, Alien Land Laws, exclusionary immigration laws, the 1984 murder of

Vincent Chin by racists, and the recent hate crime killings in Atlanta of Asian spa workers.

Resolution 2 calls for JACL and its chapters to: advocate for ethnic studies curriculum in schools to help educate children about the contributions and history of APIAs in America, call on elected officials, the media and community leaders to denounce racism and white supremacy, advocate for legislation to prevent anti - Asian hate in social media, and to collaborate with other Asian and Pacific Islander organizations in our efforts to combat anti-Asian hate speech and acts. Resolution 2, which had only a few distractors, passed by a wide margin.

Much thanks to fellow JACLers and civil rights activists Rick Uno, Josh Kaizuka, and Andy Noguchi of the Florin-Sacramento Valley chapter, Vinicius Taguchi of the Twin Cities Chapter, and our very own Tara Umemoto and Karen Lowhurst for their time and effort in drafting the resolution, getting co-sponsors, organizing "floor arguments" and guiding both Resolutions, R1 and R1, to passage. I also want to highlight the several amazing younger leaders from across the country who spoke so eloquently in favor of our resolutions. This was a true team effort!

The passage of these two resolutions cements the JACL as a leading civil rights advocacy organization in the Asian American community. Our chapter has led the effort to ensure that our organization will continue to attract younger members and remain a relevant group. The Berkeley chapter has now been recognized as a national leader and we've continued our proud tradition of advocating for civil rights for all as one of the most progressive chapters in the country.

**Berkeley JACL takes a leading role in the 51<sup>st</sup> JACL Convention "Communities Forged Under Fire"**

*By Sandra Doi*

The 51<sup>st</sup> annual convention of the JACL took place virtually for the first time in its history on July 15-18, overcoming technical issues to host dozens of workshops, business sessions, and community-building events. Per David Inoue, Executive Director, who joined the September 7<sup>th</sup> Berkeley JACL Board meeting, the convention had over 400 participants, including speakers and panelists, making this convention one of the most well attended conventions in JACL history. A typical in-person convention draws 200-250 registrants. The virtual forum also allowed strong participation from far-flung chapters, such as



Alaska and Hawaii, and a virtual component is likely to be a part of future in-person events.

Our Berkeley Chapter was represented by attendees Karen Kiyo Lowhurst, Tara Umemoto, Beth Uno, and Emily Itoku and delegates, Valerie Yasukochi, Sandra Doi Sandford. The Berkeley Chapter took a standout leadership role, in putting forth the only two resolutions proposed this year. Tara and Beth spearheaded two significant National Civil Rights Resolutions, built a coalition of support among other chapters, and succeeded in having them unanimously adopted. The Black Lives Matter Resolution, and the Anti-Asian Hate Resolution passed with unequivocal support and firmly established the Berkeley Chapter as a leading force for civil rights initiatives in the organization.

Other highlights of the convention included:

- The launching of the Centennial Education Fund, to raise \$3M over three years to combat the rise in anti-Asian with developing and providing education programs, materials and resources to inform American students of the Japanese American experience during WWII.
- Screening of "The Soul of America" and appearance by Lane Nishikawa, with guest George Takei, who spoke to the rollout of the new video, "Our League of Dreams"
- The Sayonara Gala, honoring many community members, and guests such as the Hon. Norman Mineta, the medal-winning Olympic ice dancing siblings Maia and Alex Shibutani, both rap and taiko performance, comedian Atsuko Okatsukam, as well as honorees for community and JACL achievement awards.

There were many other workshops, and soon, all recorded content will be available to all members. Look for links and registration to access this content in your next Berkeley chapter newsletters and e-edition. To see the convention full schedule and 2021 JACL National Convention Program Booklet, including BJACL's prominent and colorful ad, follow this link: <https://jacl.org/2021-national-convention>

#### **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.

#### **Wakasa Monument Committee Proposes Steps to Topaz Museum**

*By Nancy Ukai*



*Circle shows the top of the buried Wakasa Monument at Topaz, inside the wire fence.*

*Photo Sept. 2020, courtesy Discover Nikkei.*



*Top View of Monument*

A newly-formed committee composed of 19 Topaz survivors, descendants, Japanese Americans and allies sent a letter on Sept. 7 to the Topaz Museum following the Board's sudden unearthing of the historic

Wakasa monument on July 27 without an archaeologist. The museum board did not inform a monument committee that had been formed to discuss the treatment of the historic site and artifact or the broader Japanese American community until after the stone was dug up.

The monument was erected in 1943 by an Issei landscape team. They created it to honor James Hatsuaki Wakasa, 63, who was shot through the heart while walking his dog inside the fence. The Issei were ordered by officials to take it down, but buried it, leaving a small part of it showing.

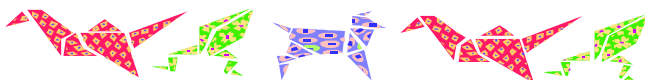
It was “troubling that the Wakasa Monument was unearthed and removed using the services of a contractor hired to clear trash from Block 42,” wrote the JACL’s NCWNP district in a [letter to the museum board](#)....

*“The preemptive removal ... denied our community a ceremony of blessing, remembrance and reflection, a ritual that is very much a part of Japanese American culture. Robbed of this ritual, we are left feeling that this sacred memorial site has been irreparably desecrated.”*

The memorial stone stands 57 inches tall and is said to weigh approximately 1,000 pounds. It was discovered in September, 2020, by two archaeologists who used a detailed map drawn in 1943. The map was found in the National Archives by Nancy Ukai, the director of the 50 Objects project ([50objects.org](https://50objects.org)) and a board member of the Berkeley JACL. Berkeley JACL co-president Karen Kiyo Lowhurst and Ukai are members of the Wakasa Memorial Committee.

An Advisory Council to the committee includes Topaz survivor Tetsuden Kashima, retired history professor; Karen Korematsu, whose family was incarcerated at Topaz; Tom Ikeda, founding Executive Director of Densho; and the JACL NCWNP district. The committee proposes collaboration on future treatment of the memorial and requests that the museum release video and photographs taken on the day of the excavation.

For more information, see <http://wakasamemorial.org> and The Demolished Monument <https://50objects.org/object/the-demolished-monument/>



### **November 1 Deadline for Holiday Ads in the Pacific Citizen!**

*By Sandra Doi and Val Yasukochi*

Holiday Ads in the Pacific Citizen -- will kick off in early October. 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, host culturally sensitive events, and print our wonderful newsletter. Of course, at the forefront is our attention on civil rights, especially this year when we co-sponsored several Anti-Asian Hate awareness events.

We count on your generosity to assist us in these worthy endeavors by placing a holiday ad in the Pacific Citizen. If you have supported us in the past, please consider maintaining or even upping your commitment to allow the Berkeley JACL to continue to fight for justice for our community.

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. Please consider increasing the size of your ad – the additional income for the chapter will be appreciated! The deadline for the holiday greetings is November 1. 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 fundraising success – for our chapter as well as the Pacific Citizen!

New ads are especially 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.). It’s OK to submit in color. Renewal forms will be emailed/snail mailed to you very soon. 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, ATTN: Sandra Doi/Val Yasukochi, P.O. Box 7609, Berkeley, CA 94707-0609.

Unfortunately, we are unable to accept credit card payments at this time, but hope to make digital payments available soon. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to email Sandra Doi, or call or email Valerie Yasukochi.



Happy Holidays from your  
JACL Friends & Family  
In Berkeley, Oakland and Albany

*Typical Holiday Ad Example:*  
2 column x 1 inch greeting = \$50

### **Kay Sekimachi: Geometries**

Through October 24, 2021  
BAMPFA; 2155 Center Street Berkeley, CA  
For information email [bampfa@berkeley.edu](mailto:bampfa@berkeley.edu)

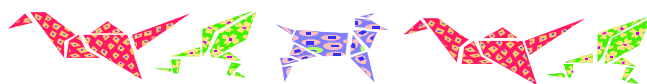
**Kay Sekimachi: Geometries** includes more than fifty objects that highlight the artist's material and formal innovations across her career. First recognized for her woven monofilament sculptures, made between 1964 and 1974, Sekimachi has since used linear, pliable elements—monofilament, thread, and paper, among other materials—to create experimental objects that fold together art and craft, found and made, and Japanese and American artistic traditions.



*Kay Sekimachi: Ikat Box, 1989; linen, acrylic paint, and wood; 11 3/4 x 8 in.; collection of Forrest L. Merrill. Photo: Lee Fatheree.*



*Kay Sekimachi: Katsura, 1971; nylon monofilament; 43 x 15 x 13 in.; Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, Foundation purchase, George and Dorothy Saxe Endowment Fund.*



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



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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



*THE BERKELEY JACL PRESENTS...*

# *TWO NAILS, ONE LOVE*

VIRTUAL BOOK TALK WITH ALDEN HAYASHI



**When?** Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 1:00 pm

**Where?** Zoom (email [admin@berkeleyjacl.org](mailto:admin@berkeleyjacl.org) for the link)

**Who?** All are welcome!



Join us for a virtual book talk with Alden Hayashi's new book *Two Nails, One Love*. Mr. Hayashi's sublimely candid, touching, and relevant writing shares a story of a Sansei man finding himself in modern society and covers many of the universal themes of the Japanese experience in the United States.

There will also be a raffle in which a few lucky participants may win a copy of his book. All proceeds from the book sale, now being sold at East Wind Books in Berkeley, are being generously donated by Mr. Hayashi to the Berkeley Chapter to support continued Civil Rights work by the organization.

We hope to see you there. Thank you for your support.

## **Berkeley JACL Membership Application**

Names(s) – primary and spouse/partner \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# and Email \_\_\_\_\_

<b><u>Membership Category</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
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**

**PC Ads and "Two Nails, One Love" Book Talk to support the Berkeley JACL**