

March 2019

Berkeley JACL Newsletter

SERVING THE BERKELEY, OAKLAND, AND ALBANY COMMUNITIES

Coming Events

- Mar 23 **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)
- Apr 3 **JACL NCWNP District Gala**; Honoring Nancy Ukai as an Unsung Hero; see article inside
- Apr 28 **Berkeley JACL Scholarship Lunch**; see attached flyer
- May 20 **Norman Mineta and his Legacy**; 9:00PM on PBS; www.Minetalegacyproject.com
- Jun 30 **Go for Broke National Education Center** contest submissions 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/



2019 Berkeley JACL Scholarship, Pioneer, & Grants Awards

By Ron Tanaka

The Berkeley JACL Chapter's 2019 Scholarship, Pioneer, and Grants Luncheon will be held on Sunday, April 28th, starting at 11:30 A.M., at the Richmond Country Club, 1 Markovich Lane, Richmond, CA. The chapter will honor twelve high school seniors who will be entering their freshman year in the Fall 2019. Additionally, the chapter is proud to honor Neal Ouye as its 2019 Berkeley JACL Pioneer Award recipient. The Pioneer Award is presented to individuals in recognition of his/her long history of dedicated service to the community and to the Berkeley JACL. The Pioneer Award provides a link between those that have led us for many prior years with our scholarship recipients, who are our future leaders.

The chapter also recognizes **the Bea Kono, Terry Yamashita, Dan/Kathleen Date and George/Yoshimi Nakamura families** for their major contributions to this scholarship program, as well as other longtime supporters. All details regarding attendance at this scholarship awards luncheon are provided on the attached flyer.

The chapter will also present its 2019 grant awards to the following organizations: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Action Group; Nikkei Student Union (UC Berkeley); and the Oakland/Fukuoka Sister City Association.

George and Yoshimi Nakamura Memorial Scholarship Established

The Berkeley Chapter is proud to announce the establishment of the George and Yoshimi Nakamura Memorial Scholarship. This memorial scholarship honors the legacy of two individuals whose lives have made a difference in



the Berkeley community they called home.

George Nakamura (Southern Cal) and Yoshimi Kawaguchi (Niles) joined the Berkeley community in the late 1930s to attend college at Cal. George received his Engineering degree in 1939, while Yoshimi received her English degree in 1940. They were separated during WWII as Yoshimi's family was incarcerated at Tule Lake and Topaz and George's family ventured to the Colorado area. Reunited after the war, George and Yoshimi were married in 1948 and settled in Berkeley where they raised their three children, Ken, Mari, and Lee (Cubby). George worked as a Design Engineer in San Francisco, while Yoshimi pursued her passion as a Calligrapher/Librarian at UC East Asiatic Library. She had a great love of books and developed an extensive library pertaining to the Japanese American experience. Both were active in the Berkeley Bears, Boy Scouts Troop 26, and the Berkeley JACL. George also coached baseball in the Berkeley City league. Through the establishment of this memorial scholarship, the children of George and Yoshimi Nakamura wish to continue their parents' strong belief in family, community, supporting youth education, and the continued growth of leadership in the Japanese American community.

Freshman Scholarship Recipients



Derrick Chen



Gemma Fa-Kaji



Jared Fukumae



Garrett Hill



Cole Huster



Grant Ikeda



Shuji Kamita



Keiko Masamori



Brennen Norman



Victoria Sakai



Amy Tsang



Luke Williams

Neal Ouye, 2019 Berkeley JACL Pioneer

The Berkeley JACL has selected Neal Ouye as this year's Pioneer. He has served on the Berkeley JACL board since the late 1980's as a board member, several times as president, its newsletter editor for the last 20+ years, and a member of the scholarship committee. He also serves as a trustee of Issei Fund,



administering the trust and scholarship funds. Neal joined the Berkeley JACL board on the invitation of a friend. The reason he remains active on the board is its commitment to civil rights for all Americans, its desire to include younger board members, and friendships that have developed with other board members.

Neal was born and raised on the Big Island of Hawaii in Hakalau, a little sugar plantation village. He is from a family of 3 boys and 3 girls. He is amazed that his parents were able to send all siblings to college. While growing up, the area was dotted with small camps that housed the plantation workers, a majority of whom were of Japanese ancestry. Life was centered on a plantation gym, a movie theater, a plantation store, a Buddhist temple and a local public school that went from kindergarten through ninth grade. All have faded away. One of his fondest memories of Hakalau School was working once or twice a year in the school cafeteria where the students worked all day helping with the meals, serving and cleaning up. They got to be out of class all day and ate as much as they wanted especially cookies and ice cream. Almost all the Japanese American kids went to the Buddhist church to attend an after school program to supposedly learn Japanese but was really just daycare where the boys were often disciplined by the minister teacher.

For high school, he and the other kids were bussed into Hilo all wearing shoes for the first time. Since their village was the furthest away, the bus pickup time was 6:30. They were also the last drop off, leaving school after 3:30. Neal was able to do well enough to get accepted into Cal, the first in his family to attend a school away from Hawaii. His first time away from the islands was when he boarded the San Francisco bound plane. His arrival to San Francisco Bay Area was a physical shock since the only long sleeve clothing Neal had was a loose weave sweater.

Neal graduated Cal with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. He worked in Los Angeles for 5 years during which time he obtained a master's degree in mechanical engineering, attending the University of Southern California at night. When the opportunity arose, he and his wife, KG, returned to the East Bay, taking up residence in Berkeley where they have lived since 1975. While Neal has a stack of business cards with different company names, he worked for 40+ years at the same defense company that was bought, sold and merged. Neal's work took him to Luzern, Switzerland for 20 years. KG and Neal are both retired and have been married for 49 years. They have

one daughter, Kai, who is a pediatrician at the Palo Alto Medical Foundation urgent care clinic in Fremont.

Neal spends much of his retirement traveling, walking on many parts of the San Francisco Bay trail listening to podcasts, volunteering at the Easy Bay Children's Book Project that sorts and distributes free books to teachers, and cheering for the Cal sports teams.

College Corner

*"College Corner" provides chapter scholarship recipients a channel to provide feedback on their college experiences. This article comes from **Kailee Nabeta** (2018 recipient). Kailee is in her freshman year at Boise State University.*



It's senior year of high school which means you are getting ready to make one of your biggest and first adult decisions of your life: where to go to college. For me, this was a process that started in my junior year of high school, since I was a student-athlete who was not only looking at schools based on education, but also if the school's swim team would be a good fit for me. On October 8th, 2017, I made the decision to continue my academics and swimming career at Boise State University, majoring in Kinesiology with an emphasis in Athletic Training and earning a certificate in Sports Coaching.

Since age 6, I have been swimming competitively and over the course of my career as a student-athlete, I have learned time management, self-motivation, and how to handle failure. Development of skills in these areas did definitely help with my transition from high school and throughout my first college semester, but there was more to learn. I learned that college is all about becoming a learner. You learn about things you are interested in learning, experience things that could prepare you for life after college, and meet people who could make a big impact on your life. While pursuing a degree in kinesiology, I'm also taking the opportunity to attend a class for the Games Interactive Mobile and Media major because of my interest in animation. I was able to experience what it would be like to create an animation. I was also able to meet other students who loved being creative.

I chose Boise State not only because it provides a great academic program, but also because when I met

the swim team on my recruiting trip in my senior year, I knew it was the best fit for me. Each week I get the opportunity to train for twenty hours with twenty-four amazing young women who have the same goals: swimming the fastest they can in the pursuit of winning the conference title, making NCAA, and earning a college degree. We have traveled to the University of Idaho, Washington State University, UC San Diego, and Texas A&M for swim meets, and during Thanksgiving break we went to Puerto Rico to train. Throughout my time here at Boise State, I have gotten to be incorporated in a sisterhood that I would consider a second family.

Even though I have a great support system here at Boise State, nothing can really eliminate the feeling of homesickness. It wasn't until Thanksgiving when I was in Puerto Rico for a training trip, that I really started to miss home. This feeling strengthened when I got back to Boise and was diagnosed with vertigo which prevented me from swimming for a few days. I admit that I began calling my family and friends more frequently. You know you have friends at your new home, but sometimes it's more comforting talking to people who you are familiar with. I did my best to handle my homesickness by calling and facetimeing my family and friends, and talking to my teammates. During the weekend of my birthday, I was fortunate enough to be surprised by my family. They not only took me and my freshmen teammates to celebrate my birthday, but also supported me at my first college home swim meet.

Some advice I would like to give to high school students: get the full college experience by learning as much as you can, having fun, and making smart decisions. College provides you the perfect opportunity to learn as much as you can about skills both related and unrelated to your potential career. You are no longer living with your family, so you are held accountable for your own actions and with that, you are responsible for going to class, learning what is being taught, and studying the material. If you are someone who is self-motivated and pursues good grades, you should keep in mind that college provides many events that is a perfect opportunity to have fun and meet new people.

Now to touch on one of the most important piece of advice: make smart decisions. I'm sure you have heard the phrase, "Have fun, but not too much fun." Many young people refer to this phrase as a joke, but it can come a long way. College is a time when adult decisions need to be made. For instance, going to

a party and choosing to not drive after drinking or not drinking at all and looking after your friends. Some decisions don't even have to be related to partying, but also knowing what you need versus what you want. Money, while you are in college, feels almost sacred, so learning about how to budget your money is key.

Now that I have finished my first semester of college, I can truly say that I have had a great experience so far, and I'm look forward to the next couple of years attending classes and swimming at Boise State University.

Movie Matinee – Mineta and His Legacy

By Ryan Matsuda



Ryan Matsuda, Dianne Fukami, Kana Kobayashi

The Berkeley chapter held its first Movie Matinee event on Sunday, March 10th at J-Sei. The feature presentation was "An American Story: Norman Mineta and His Legacy". Forty five (45) individuals including members from the Berkeley JACL and other surrounding JACL chapters were in attendance. A special thank you goes out to Dianne Fukami, director and co-producer of the documentary, who was present at the event and provided a very informative and interesting Q & A session after the movie. Thank you to all who attended and thank you for the generous donations. We look forward to putting on another movie matinee event in the future. For those of you who missed this moving and inspirational documentary, it will air on PBS on Monday, May 20th at 9 PM. Please check your local listings in the event of a schedule change.

Movie Matinee Committee includes: Vera Kawamura, Kana Kobayashi, Ryan Matsuda, Al Satake, and Ron Tanaka.





Nancy Ukai to be Honored



Our illustrious Berkeley JACL board member, **Nancy Ukai**, and other chapters' "Unsung Heroes" will be honored at JACL NCWNP (Northern CA Western NV Pacific) District gala on Saturday, April 6 from 11am-3pm which will be held at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver

Lake Drive, Danville. This is a rare opportunity to honor NCWNP District chapter members for their unwavering dedication to the mission of JACL.

Nancy has introduced and organized some amazing ideas for creative activities and events tied to JA history such as "An Afternoon of Artist Gene Sogioka's Poston: Former Disney Artist's Watercolors Unveiled" and "Talk Story and Treasures: Nikkei Artifacts tells tales we must not forget." It was Nancy who urged the Berkeley JACL to express strong support for the historical landmarking of a pre-war commercial building built in 1897 that subsequently became a Japanese American laundry in 1914, run by a consortium of five families. It now memorializes the Japanese American presence in Berkeley before the war as a City of Berkeley landmark. Nancy is also a founding member of the Facebook page, "Japanese American History: Not for Sale," which protested the 2015 Rago auction of the Eaton collection and which helped stop the auction. Her research into the provenance of the Eaton items continues on behalf of the Japanese American National Museum. We are fortunate to have her as an active board member and community activist. Contact Val Yasukochi at vyasukochi@gmail.com and Beth Uno (bethuno89@gmail.com) for more information.

Go For Broke Scholarships

Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) announced its annual student contest that focuses on the relevance and impact of the Japanese American World War II veterans. The contest is open to

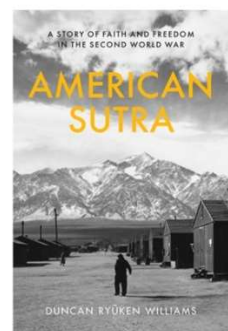
high school students (Grades 9-12) and undergraduate and graduate college students. Cash prizes totaling \$7,000 will be awarded to the top 12 winners. The first-place student in each category will receive \$1,000 in addition to two complimentary tickets to attend GFBNEC's 30th Anniversary Gala/Evening of Aloha Dinner on October 12, 2019, at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites in downtown Los Angeles.

Students may write an essay or poem on one of three topics:

- The Japanese American WWII veteran experience is still relevant to our society today. Explore one of the ways this is true.
- How will you carry on the legacy of the Japanese American WWII veterans?
- This year is the 75th anniversary of the Korematsu v. United States and Ex Parte Endo cases where the courts upheld the constitutionality of Executive Order 9066. Analyze what the Japanese American WWII experience can teach us about the Constitution, rights and responsibilities.

All submissions are due by Sunday, June 30, 2019 and winners will be notified by August 9, 2019. Essays and poems must be emailed to studentcontest@goforbroke.org. Essays should be from 250 to 500 words in length, and poems should not be longer than three typed pages. All entries must be original compositions. The winning entries will be presented in a booklet at the Evening of Aloha Gala Dinner, as well as available on GFBNEC's website, www.goforbroke.org. "Go for Broke" was the motto of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a segregated Army unit composed of Japanese Americans from Hawaii and the mainland.

"American Sutra" Remembers Buddhist Resilience during WWII



Duncan Ryūken Williams' book "is deep, detailed, and timely, especially at a time when the meaning of 'citizenship' in America is still unsettled."

—Gary Snyder, author of the Pulitzer-Prize winning *Turtle Island*

On Feb. 19, we remember the injustice caused by President Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066 and the racial hatred and suspicion of Japanese Americans that fueled the policy of mass incarceration during World War II. But within a feared racial minority was yet another minority: followers of Buddhism. Buddhism was by far the most widespread religion among the American Japanese population in Hawaii and the mainland. Most of the Japanese American soldiers who fought in Europe and served in the Pacific were Buddhist. The immigrant generation, whose suffering and narrative has largely been lost, was predominantly Buddhist. Despite the promise of religious freedom guaranteed by the Constitution, three-quarters of American Buddhist leaders were detained as threats to national security after the bombing of Pearl Harbor compared to just 17 percent of Japanese Christian ministers, according to a new book, "American Sutra: A Story of Faith and Freedom in the Second World War," by Duncan Ryūken Williams.

With the religion under attack, sutras were stored in metal boxes and buried in the ground. Once inside the camps, followers were penalized in myriad ways due to government attitudes that equated non-Christianity with being un-American. On the loyalty questionnaire, negative marks were assigned for being Buddhist. In a defensive move, the Buddhist Mission in North America (BMNA) voted to rename itself the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) and terms such as "temple" and "priest" were changed to "church" and "minister. Williams movingly describes how the faithful "were plunged into the muddiness from which a lotus flower would emerge."

Believers found ways to deepen their faith, he shows, despite incarceration and hardship: the priest who used guard tower searchlights as illumination to guide meditation; a soldier who, unable to designate Buddhism as his religion on dog tags, defiantly chose "P" to emphasize the "protest" in Protestant; and how adjustments that were made under duress led to the development of a more robust and less-sectarian form of American Buddhism.

Williams researched and wrote "[American Sutra](#)" over the course of 17 years. Its sale was launched on Feb. 19, Day of Remembrance, to remind us that vigilance is required to protect our constitutional right to freedom of worship even as different religions and populations become new targets of bigotry and fear today. In January of 1941, President Roosevelt inspired the nation with a state of the union speech that culminated in his exhortation to defend the Four

Freedoms that he said the U.S. was called upon to protect: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want and freedom from fear. Thirteen months later, the president signed Executive Order 9066. Freedom from fear was not available for American Japanese and freedom of worship was attacked.

Berkeley JACL at the Warriors Game



Co-Presidents Secretary Treasurer Directors:

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Newsletter

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Ryan Matsuda, Kailee Nabeta, Ron Tanaka, Nancy Ukai, Valerie Yasukochi

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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

2019 Berkeley JACL
Scholarship, Pioneer, & Grants Awards Luncheon

Honoring our High School Scholarship Recipients:



Derrick Chen (Albany HS)
Gemma Fa-Kaji (Berkeley HS)
Jared Fukumae (Albany HS)
Garrett Hill (Albany HS)
Cole Huster (Berkeley HS)
Grant Ikeda (Livermore HS)
Shuji Kamita (Ygnacio Valley HS - Concord)
Keiko Masamori (Northgate HS - WC)
Brennen Norman (El Cerrito HS)
Victoria Sakai (San Leandro HS)
Amy Tsang (Albany HS)
Luke Williams (Albany HS)



Honoring our Pioneer Award Recipient:

Neal Ouye

Honoring our 3 Chapter Grants Recipients:

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Action Group
Nikkei Student Union – UC Berkeley
Oakland/Fukuoka Sister City Association

Where: Richmond Country Club

1 Markovich Lane, Richmond, CA (Hawaiian Luau Buffet Lunch)

When: Sunday, April 28, 2019: 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Cost: \$45.00 per person - \$20.00 for students

RSVP by April 18 to: Ron Tanaka, 2960 Windtree Ct., Lafayette CA. 94549

Questions -- call 925-932-7947 or e-mail -- ron_tanaka@yahoo.com

Scholarship Luncheon (checks payable to: Berkeley JACL)

___ Yes, we will attend - enclosed is \$_____ for #_____ lunches

Attendee Names _____

If possible, please seat us with _____

___ No, unable to attend, but would like to contribute \$_____ to the Scholarship Program

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
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**

Join Berkeley JACL at its Scholarship Luncheon