

April 2022

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 (howardfukuda@gmail.com)

May 15

2022 Berkeley JACL Scholarship, Pioneer, and Youth Leadership Awards; See attached Flyer

Jun 3

Berkeley JACL's A's and Bento is back!!; see article inside

Aug 3-7

National JACL Convention; register at www.JACL.org/2022-JACL-National-Convention

Oct 1

2022 Grant Applications are due. Grant Applications are available at the Berkeley JACL website, www.berkeleyjACL.org/endowment-fundgrants/

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/



2022 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 15th, from 11:45 AM to 1:30 PM, via Zoom video conference. RSVP with your name & e-mail by May 10th to Ron Tanaka (ron_tanaka@yahoo.com) or call 925-932-7947. Zoom information will be e-mailed to you prior to May 11th.

High School Scholarships Recipients

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



Jared Nakahara
Albany HS



Justin Takano -
El Cerrito HS



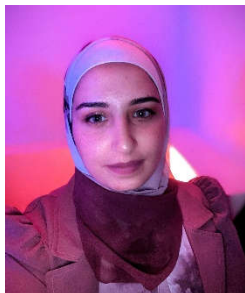
Zora Uyeda-Hale -
Albany HS

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:

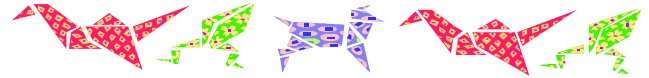


Bayan Al Rawas -
Merritt College



Batool Rawoos -
Berkeley City 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

Vera Kawamura and Ron Tanaka 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

Ryan Matsuda will be awarded the chapter's 4th Annual Youth Leadership Award. This award recognizes Ryan for his desire, vision, and skills to make a positive difference in areas consistent with Berkeley JACL's mission.

Vera Kawamura- Berkeley Pioneer



Vera has served on the Board of the Berkeley JACL for 10 years. Al Satake invited Vera to attend a Board meeting and encouraged her to serve on the Board. She has chaired the grants committee, and serves on the scholarship and nominations committees. Vera is grateful to the JACL for enabling her family to have health insurance and for encouraging her as a young student with a scholarship.

Vera was born and raised in Berkeley, California. Her father, originally from Kauai, moved to California after the birth of her older sister, Lurline. Her mother, a native of Sacramento, attended high school in Oakland and was incarcerated with her family, in Tanforan, and Topaz. Despite facing racism, including being denied membership in the union, her father was able to support their family as a solo house

painter. Since he was a small businessowner, JACL health insurance was critical to the family's wellbeing.

Vera was blessed to grow-up in the Japanese American community in West Berkeley. She attended Berkeley Christian Layman Church and played basketball and softball for the Berkeley Bears. Vera is a product of Berkeley Public Schools (Washington Elementary, Willard Jr. High and Berkeley High School where she served as vice-president of the Senior Class). Thanks to Yosh Isono, Vera received a JACL scholarship. She graduated from U.C. Berkeley with a double major in Sociology and Social Welfare. Vera graduated from Hastings Law School where she met her husband, Eric.

Vera and Eric have two children. Her daughter Jessica and her husband Kyle live in Hawaii, where Jessica serves as the pastor of Wahiawa United Methodist Church. Her son John, his wife Kate, and their son Ben live in San Leandro. One of the greatest joys of Vera's retirement has been babysitting Ben, who will turn two years old in July.

Vera began her lifelong career in public service as an Enforcement Attorney with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in San Francisco. She transferred to the California Department of Corporations, Enforcement Division where she investigated and took action in security fraud matters and administrative regulatory cases. Vera transferred to the health care service plan division where she led a team of attorneys who recovered more than \$1.7 million in health care services for California consumers enrolled in full service and specialized HMO's. She later served at the Department of Managed Health Care, where she analyzed regulatory filings for legal compliance.

Vera served as Chief Counsel and Deputy Director of the DMV. She managed the Los Angeles and Sacramento offices of the Legal Affairs Division and provided legal advice to the Director and the Executive Staff. Vera ended her career as a Deputy Attorney General with the Employment, Regulation and Administration Section of the Civil Division of the California Attorney General's Office. For a brief period during this part of her career, Vera served in the office of state senator Jackie Speier. Vera retired from state service in 2009.

Vera's other community activities include: co-chairing and serving on the Board of the Japanese American Women Alumnae of U.C. Berkeley, volunteering with the Buddhist Temple of Alameda, the

Berkeley Methodist United Church, the National Charity League Oakland/Piedmont Chapter, and the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California.

Ron Tanaka- Berkeley Pioneer



Ron Tanaka, a longtime member who serves on the chapter's board of directors, is being honored as one of this year's Berkeley JACL Pioneer Award recipients. Ron's time in the Berkeley JACL began in the late 1980s when current board members Al Satake and Mark Fujikawa invited Ron to attend one of the chapter's board meetings. The chapter's community service programs were appealing to him and he subsequently joined the chapter board. He has served in various positions including Co-President in 1996/1997 and currently serves on the nominations and community service committees. Since the early 1990s, Ron has served as the chapter's scholarship chair. He is very fortunate to chair an energetic and fun-filled scholarship committee. Additionally, the chapter's membership has provided tremendous support for the scholarship program. Since the early 1990s the chapter has been fortunate to provide scholarships to 165 high school seniors, with awards totaling over \$161,350 to further student education in college and other institutions of higher learning. He recognizes all contributions to the program, and especially major contributions from the Bea Kono, Terry Yamashita, Dan/Kathleen Date, and the George/Yoshimi Nakamura families. In addition, Union Bank and Wells Fargo Bank have provided donations for multiple years.

Ron's parents were interned at Tule Lake in 1942, and upon their release from the camp in 1945, moved initially to Penryn, California and later to Lincoln, California where his parents ran a fruit farm on behalf of the owners. Ron was born a couple of years later. At age 8, the family moved to Auburn, California, where his parents purchased a 20-acre farm where they raised plums, pears, and cherries. Ron

gained significant appreciation for the hard work and long hours required to be successful in farming.

Ron attended grammar school and high school in Auburn where he found that participating in school athletics was a positive way to meet and interface with other students. While at Placer High School, Ron was a member of the cross country, basketball, and track teams. A significant event that he remembers is being selected to carry the Olympic torch for a one-mile leg in the Auburn area as the torch was being hand-carried across the United States to its final destination at the Olympics in Tokyo in 1964.

His parents were members of the Placer Buddhist Church in Penryn, California and Ron became a member of the church's YBA basketball and baseball teams where the team competed against other church organization teams from the area (Marysville, Sacramento, Lodi, Stockton areas, etc.).

After two years of school at Sierra Community College in Rocklin, California (prior summer home of the SF 49ers), Ron transferred to San Jose State University (SJSU) and graduated with a BS degree in Business Administration in 1970. Upon graduation, Ron was hired by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) into the firm's management training program at the company's San Jose office. Here, he began his 40-year career with the nation's largest gas and electric utility. His initial position was in Redwood City where he functioned as the Company's representative to home and apartment builders to connect gas and electric services. At this time, Ron also began graduate school at Santa Clara University and obtained his MBA degree in 1978. Ron moved to other positions in PG&E offices located in Davis, Berkeley, Oakland, Concord, San Ramon, West Sacramento, Stockton, and retired in 2010 as Senior Manager, Revenue Operations in the firm's corporate headquarters in San Francisco.

It was at SJSU that Ron met his wife Carol, and they were married in April 1971. Ron and Carol have two children. Daughter Renee was born in 1974 and son Roger was born in 1977. While raising his children, Ron was able to coach his daughter and son as they joined basketball teams from the Berkeley Buddhist Temple (Berkeley Sangha) and the Oakland Buddhist Church (Oakland Rams). He and Carol remember those days fondly as they were able to meet and interface with several families they knew from their early years. Today, they are very fortunate to have both Renee and Roger living close to them in Lafayette, where they can enjoy watching their five grandchildren

grow up – Kaitlyn 17yrs, Keith 15yrs, Robbie 3yrs, and twin boys Ryan and Matthew 14 months.

Ron's participation in community service extends beyond the JACL. He has previously served in other service organizations including the Sunrise Lions Club of Redwood City, the Greater Davis Kiwanis Club, the Berkeley Lions Club, the Lafayette Rotary Club, and the Concord Chamber of Commerce.

The chapter is proud to honor Vera and Ron as its two 2022 Pioneer Award recipients.

Ryan Matsuda- Youth Leadership Award



Ryan has served on the Board of Directors of the Berkeley JACL for over the past three years. He joined the JACL very shortly after his move to California. Being from Hawaii where most of the Japanese Americans there were not incarcerated as a result of Executive Order 9066, he very quickly learned that the situation for Japanese Americans on the West Coast was unfortunately very different. Through his involvement with the JACL, he has gained a better understanding of the plight of the West Coast Japanese Americans and the suffering they were forced to endure. As a result, he embraces the JACL mission to protect the civil rights of all citizens so that this shameful chapter in our country's history will never be repeated. Accordingly, he served as a Civil Rights Committee Co-Chair from 2018-2019.

Ryan is a member of the Berkeley JACL Scholarship Committee and is Chair of the Grants Committee. The primary task of these committees is to screen and approve monetary awards to worthy college bound students and worthy community service projects. Ryan knows first hand how monetary awards can defray the educational or program expenses. He is also keenly aware that such awards are investments as promising students and nascent organizations or projects often make innumerable contributions to the

community after they become more firmly established. As such, Ryan takes great pride in the work of both committees, and he knows that the Berkeley JACL network expands each time an award is presented.

Ryan Matsuda was born and raised in Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii. He is the only child in his family, and his parents, Wayne and Sandy Matsuda, continue to live in the town of Wailuku. Ryan is a fourth generation Japanese American and is descended from Japanese immigrants who moved to Hawaii to work on the sugar plantations in the early 20th century.

After graduating high school in 2006, Ryan moved to the mainland to attend college at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in chemistry. Influenced by a chemistry professor who graduated from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Ryan followed in his professor's footsteps and attended the same school. Ryan earned a Ph.D. in chemistry in 2015, and then did a postdoctoral fellowship at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland.

In 2016, Ryan moved to Kansas to work as a research scientist for a pharmaceutical company. While in Kansas, Ryan was a member of the Heart of America Japan-America Society. He helped with the group's cultural festivals and fund-raising efforts. Despite enjoying the "Midwest comfort", Ryan moved to the Bay Area in 2018 because he felt that the cultural environment of the West Coast was more similar to that of Hawaii. He began a career in public service in Albany as a chemist for Food Safety and Inspection Service within the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He is now a Supervisory Chemist and leads a team of chemists that conducts regulatory analysis of chemical residues in meat, poultry and egg products.

In December, 2018, due to a government shutdown of several weeks, none of the employees at Ryan's place of employment were paid. It was then that Ryan began to realize the anguish that can be brought on by possible food insecurity. Although he was not yet at the stage where his resources were depleted, he was so surprised and grateful when a Foodbank team showed up at his work site and presented each worker with a bag of groceries. It was then that Ryan began to seriously think about the daily struggles that individuals with food and housing insecurity experienced each day. Shortly thereafter, as Chair of the Community Service Committee, he coordinated volunteer events between Berkeley JACL and the Alameda County Community Foodbank in

which JACL volunteers sorted and packaged food items for Foodbank distribution. Unfortunately community service activities came to a halt because of COVID-19. Ryan is hoping JACL can resume volunteer services after the COVID-19 situation is under control.

Without any ties to the Bay Area, Ryan is grateful that the Berkeley JACL opened its doors to him. He is thankful for the expert advice provided by JACL members who work in various fields, and he appreciates the sharing of wisdom and life experiences by the senior members. He is also very thankful for the assistance and support from JACL members whenever he has asked for help. As some people in Hawaii say, "Had plenty kokua so was pau fast." (Translation: The work was completed quickly because there was a lot of help.)

In addition to his work and his involvement with Berkeley JACL, Ryan is a member of the Berkeley Buddhist Temple. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors there. In his spare time, Ryan enjoys golfing. His golfing group includes a few former schoolmates from Wailuku who now reside in the Bay Area. The golf outings give Ryan and his former schoolmates an escape from the rigors of big city life and a chance to return to being plain "country folk" from Maui. Ryan returns from these outings refreshed and prepared to do his small part to make the community a fairer and safer place.

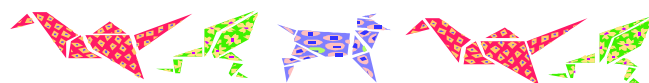
Baseball and Bento is Back!

By Mark Fujikawa



After a two-year absence, Baseball and *Bento* is back. Join us on Friday, June 3rd at the Oakland A's vs Boston Red Sox game. Watch the game while enjoying a delicious *Bento* dinner, and stay for a Fireworks show following the game. The first pitch is at 6 pm.

Tickets are \$40. Reserve your tickets by Saturday, May 7th by calling Mark Fujikawa at 510-232-0724 and leaving a voicemail with your name, call back number and number of tickets desired.



DARUMA NO GAKKO OPENS ITS DOORS THIS SUMMER!

by Emiko Katsumoto

In the midst of the Covid pandemic and after two summers of Zoom sessions, Daruma no Gakko, celebrating its 44th year, will once again open its doors for in-person learning for grades 1-6 this summer from June 20-July 1, 2022, at the Berkeley Methodist United Church. The importance of holding this program cannot be overestimated in this climate of Asian hatred and misunderstanding, as the school strives to help develop strong positive self-images and pride in its students with its unique curriculum. Organizers were pleased that over 60 elementary students filled up the available slots very quickly, indicating that there is still interest in and a need for this exposure to Japanese American culture, which includes arts/crafts, stories, food, music, Japanese, taiko, ikebana and for the sixth graders, learning about the difficult period of forced removal of Japanese Americans from the West Coast and beyond during World War II.

There are a few changes in the program due to Covid precautions: there is no class for entering kindergarteners, and rather than the previous four-week session it is condensed into a two-week program running five days per week. What has not changed is the hiring of credentialed teachers, the use of Daruma alumni as aides, and its after-care program. In addition, guest community leaders will be invited to present their special skills to the students, exposing them to a multitude of talents within the JA community.

Over 45 years ago, a group of 10 mothers spawned the idea of creating a special school where their children could learn about and appreciate being Japanese American Nikkei. Over coffee and playdates, this idea became a reality when Daruma no Gakko held its first session at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple with over 90 students. The Berkeley JACL was very supportive in kick-starting this endeavor by generously granting seed money of \$2,000, allowing Daruma to establish itself in 1978. And then the rest is history. Its success is due to the commitment of dedicated parents and volunteers who believe in this cause, and the built-in continuing rotation of leadership. Two of the current co-directors, Amy Fujimoto and Andrea Maoki attended this school and their own children now attend. Akiko Takashima is the third co-director.

The faces of Daruma's current students reflect the times with children of mixed ethnicity and color, but all eager to learn about their cultural heritage. A

former music teacher once described Daruma no Gakko as the happiest place in Berkeley, and one only has to visit this special school to find that this could very well be true. Nowhere else can one see the joy in children's faces being with others like themselves and singing Daruma-san, Daruma-san...



Co-Presidents

Karen Kiyo Lowhurst, Tara Umemoto

Secretary

Tiffany Ikeda

Treasurer

Mark Fujikawa

Directors:

Carolyn Adams, Sandra Doi, Vera Kawamura, Matthew Kojima, Ryan Matsuda, Kaz Mori, Neal Ouye, Nick Sanford, Al Satake, Tak Shirasawa, Ron Tanaka, , Nancy Ukai, Beth Ono, Gordon Yamamoto, Dani Yang



Newsletter

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Neal Ouye

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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

2022 Berkeley JACL
Scholarship, Pioneer, & Youth Leadership Awards
(Via Zoom Video Conference)



Honoring High School Scholarship Recipients:

Jared Nakahara (Albany HS)
Justin Takano (El Cerrito HS)
Zora Uyeda-Hale (Albany HS)



Honoring Undergraduate
Scholarship Recipients:

Bayan Al Rawas (Merritt College)
Batool Rawoas (Berkeley City College)

Honoring Pioneer Award Recipients:

Vera Kawamura
Ron Tanaka

Honoring Youth Leadership Awardee:

Ryan Matsuda

When: Sunday, May 15, 2022

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, and phone # by May 10:

To: Ryan Matsuda (ryan.matsuda@outlook.com) &
Ron Tanaka (ron_tanaka@yahoo.com)
or call 925-932-7947

Name/E-mail: _____

Phone # _____

RSVP required to receive Zoom video conference event information
(Zoom information will be e-mailed to you by 5/11)

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**

Berkeley JACL Honor Scholarship Winners on May 15th and A's & Bento on June 3rd