

April 2026

Berkeley JACL Newsletter

SERVING THE BERKELEY, OAKLAND, AND ALBANY COMMUNITIES

Coming Events

- Apr 19 **2026 Berkeley JACL Scholarship, Pioneer, and Youth Leadership Awards;** 10:00AM -1:00PM; See attached Flyer
- Apr 19 **Albany Reads: Poetry & Resilience with Satsuki Ina;** 2:00-4:00PM; Berkeley JACL director Nancy Ukai to speak, see article inside
- May 12-13 **Ireichō at JSei;** see article inside
- May 31 **Vitual Event with George Takei: They called us Enemy;** 2:00-4:00PM; see article inside
- Jul 29-Aug 2 **National JACL Convention;** Las Vegas, Nevada.
- Open **2026 Grant Applications.** Grant Applications are available at the Berkeley JACL website, www.berkeleyjacl.org/endowment-fundgrants/, 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/



B E R K E L E Y

2026 Berkeley JACL Scholarships, Pioneer, and Youth Leadership Awards

The chapter's annual scholarship and other awards event is scheduled for Sunday, April 19, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, in person at the Richmond Country Club. RSVP with your name & e-mail by April 10th to Ryan Matsuda (ryan.matsuda@outlook.com) or call 808-281-1041 (see attached flyer for more details).

High School Scholarship Recipients

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



Audriella Matano Kang -
Albany HS, Albany



Ty Manning-
Berkeley HS, Berkeley



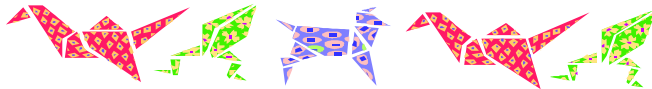
Tiegan Nagafuji -
Albany HS, Albany



Elisa Abigail Reinhart -
Kanagawa Prefectural
Yokohama International
HS, Japan



Casey Taylor -
El Cerrito HS, El Cerrito



Pioneer Award

Rosalyn Tonai will be honored as the **Pioneer Award recipient**. Established in 1996, this award is presented to her in recognition of her 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

Emily Torres will be awarded the chapter's 8th Annual **Youth Leadership Award**. This award recognizes Emily for her desire, vision, and skills to make a positive difference in areas consistent with Berkeley JACL's mission.

Rosalyn Tonai – 2026 Berkeley JACL Pioneer Awardee



The Berkeley JACL is proud to honor Rosalyn Tonai as this year's Pioneer Award recipient. A graduate of UC Berkeley (BA, Social Welfare) and the University of San Francisco (MPA, Nonprofit Management), Rosalyn is also an alumna of the Getty Museum Management Institute and the Coro Foundation Asian Pacific leadership program.

As Executive Director of the National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS) since 1990, Rosalyn has led the organization—originally known as Go For Broke, Inc.—since 1987. She has served as project director and curator for numerous award-winning exhibitions and documentaries with national impact, including *Strength and Diversity: Japanese American Women, 1885–1990* (co-produced with the Oakland Museum), *FRAGILE FREEDOMS*, and *The Enemy Alien Files: Department of Justice Internment of WWII*. Based in San Francisco Japantown, NJAHS serves as a premier model of museum-community collaboration, offering vital exhibitions and resources for educators. Rosalyn is a frequent speaker at national conferences on diversity, collections, and effective community partnerships.

Under her leadership, and in partnership with the National Park Service and the Presidio Trust, NJAHS developed the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) Historic Learning Center at Building 640 in the

San Francisco Presidio. This historic site housed the first secret U.S. Army Language School for Nisei linguists during WWII, the precursor to the Defense Language Institute in Monterey. The center highlights the Japanese American experience through the lens of MIS soldiers and their legacy of peace and reconciliation.

NJAHS has consistently produced groundbreaking research and curricular materials. Rosalyn has co-edited four essential classroom guides covering the Bill of Rights, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and Japanese Americans in baseball. Most recently, she led a team in securing a million-dollar federal grant to train teachers at sixteen WWII confinement and historic sites nationwide. She remains dedicated to mentoring the next generation of leaders through internships and talent development.

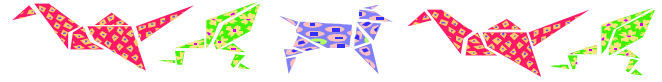
Beyond NJAHS, Rosalyn has been a board member of the East Bay Asian Local Development Corp. (EBALDC) since 1986. She participated in EBALDC's transformation from a small, grassroots project into a nationally recognized community development organization with assets valued at \$500 million in affordable housing and healthy neighborhoods.

Rosalyn's civic leadership includes serving as a founding board member of the Japantown Task Force, Inc. and co-chairing the committee overseeing the \$5 million restoration of Osaka Way and the Ruth Asawa Fountains. She has served on the Day of Remembrance Committee for 35 years and spent 18 years on the Advisory Board of the National Veterans Network, which secured the Congressional Gold Medal for Japanese American WWII soldiers. She also contributed to the Amache stakeholders committee, helping establish it as a National Historic Site.

Her achievements have been recognized by the University of San Francisco, which named her a Distinguished Alumna. In 2013, she received a commendation from the Consulate General of Japan for fostering mutual understanding between Japan and California. She has also been honored by the Japanese Community Cultural Center of Northern California and received the Nihonmachi Spirit Award from Kimochi for her lifelong leadership.

Born in Los Angeles and educated in California, Massachusetts, and Tokyo, Rosalyn has lived in Oakland for over 30 years. She has been married for 38 years to Grant Din, a genealogist and consultant. They are members of the Berkeley Buddhist

Temple and the proud parents of Kiyoshi Marcus and Charlene Kiyomi.



Emily Torres - 2026 Youth Leadership Award



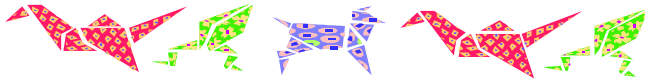
Emily Torres grew up in Vacaville, California before attending the University of California, Berkeley, where she studied Molecular and Cell Biology. During her time at Berkeley, she became deeply involved in the Nikkei Student Union (NSU), serving as a community service and issues committee member, chair, and ultimately president. After graduating, Emily joined the Berkeley JACL Civil Rights Committee. Through these roles, she developed a strong commitment to community engagement, cultural education, and leadership.

Emily's interest in civil rights began with her studies of the women's suffrage movement and her desire to better understand public policy. This early interest, combined with her previous leadership roles, led to her selection for the American Legion Auxiliary CA Girls State program. Building on that experience, she sought out opportunities at UC Berkeley that connected her Japanese American identity with civic engagement, which led her to join NSU.

Through NSU, Emily deepened her commitment to civil rights by organizing programs centered on the incarceration of Japanese Americans during the Japanese American Internment. She played a key role in planning Day of Remembrance events and helped lead the club's first pilgrimage to Manzanar National Historic Site since the pandemic. Through her work with the Berkeley JACL Civil Rights Committee,

she has continued to organize programs focused on community engagement and civil rights.

Through her leadership, Emily has fostered community awareness, historical reflection, and continued advocacy for justice. She plans to pursue a PhD in biology at Columbia University this fall, while continuing her commitment to serving and uplifting the Japanese American community.



College Corner

By Kiki Taylor
2025 Scholarship Awardee



Hi everyone, I'm Kiki Taylor from Berkeley City College. I'm both a member and JACL scholarship recipient as well as a current first year student! I'm studying Business at Berkeley City College. I'm still exploring different areas of business and how I can connect it to my main passion of fashion. Being at BCC has helped me feel more confident in this path I'm taking without feeling rushed to decide everything yet.

The transition was much smoother than I expected. The classes are definitely way more independent but the difficulty isn't too bad compared to high school, just in a different way. Professors expect you to manage your own time, but that also makes some things feel more flexible and less stressful in ways.

Campus life is very chill and welcoming, and there are tons of good resources. I've met a few students from various areas, with different backgrounds. The thing that surprised me the most was the age gaps, you'd meet people somewhere in their 30s and then some way in their 70s, although I think this is more common in Community College. People are much

more focused on their goals, but very open and friendly which makes it easier to connect.

What's gone well is learning to manage my time better and feeling more in control of my education. I also like having more freedom on how I structure my schedule, classes, and days. Something that hasn't gone well is staying motivated all the time, since there isn't a person constantly checking in on you, so it takes a bit more discipline than high school.

My biggest advice is to not be afraid to ask for help or use the resources that your college offers. And don't stress too much if you aren't sure about your major yet, even in senior year. College is a time to learn about yourself just as much as your classes.

Berkeley JACL Endowment Fund Grants Available

Berkeley JACL invites interested parties to apply for an Endowment Fund Grant. Grants up to \$2,000 are available. Because the total amount of grant funds is limited each calendar year, applications should be submitted sooner rather than later.

Berkeley JACL Endowment Fund Grants are offered 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. More information about the grant program is included in the grant application.

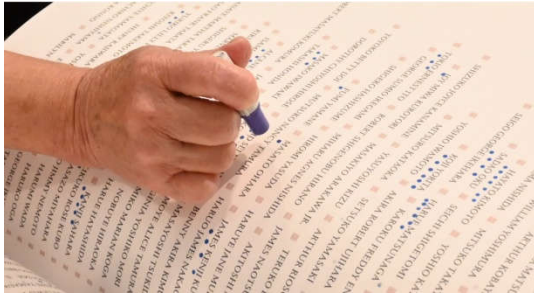
Applications are available at the Berkeley JACL website, www.berkeleyjacl.org/endowment-fund-grants/. If you have any questions, please contact Jojiro Takano, jxtakano@gmail.com.

IREICHO at J-Sei

J-Sei has been added as an Ireichō host site for Tuesday, May 12 and Wednesday, May 13 to allow more individuals and families to participate. J-Sei is located at 1285 66th Street, Emeryville, CA.

On February 18, 2025, an ambitious effort was launched to bring the Ireichō, a book monument containing the names of 125,284 individuals of Japanese ancestry unjustly incarcerated during World War II, to different camps and communities throughout the US.

The tour kicked off at the National Archives/Navy Memorial Visitors' Center in Washington DC, where the Book of Names was displayed alongside the original copy of Executive Order 9066. The 100-year old Masaharu Ishii stamped his sister's name in the Ireichō to officially kick off the national tour which continued with stamping opportunities to commemorate the Day of Remembrance at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History from February 19-21, 2025.



Named after the Japanese term for “consoling the spirits,” the Ireichō monument honors both those who have gone before us as well as those who carry on the memories and legacies of forced removal, unjust incarceration, and family separation. Every visitor to the monument is invited to contribute to the creation of the monument by marking one or more names in the Ireichō with a blue hanko stamp. For many camp survivors and descendants, leaving this mark has been a way to honor the personhood of a family member who suffered the indignities and losses of the wartime incarceration.

J-Sei was honored to hear from Duncan Ryūken Williams when he shared the early inception of IREICHO and his wish to honor all past, present, and future generations who carry on the legacies of the wartime incarceration. The Berkeley JACL sponsored a trip to Los Angeles for its members to stamp the book.

By participating in the stamping of the book during the national tour, you, too, become part of the permanent record of the names and the honoring of them. After the tour, the Ireichō will be formally gifted to the Japanese American National Museum by the [Irei Project](#).

Signs of Connection at No Kings March

By Nancy Ukai

Right before we left for the No Kings march in San Francisco on March 28, I made a sign using a copy of a Berkeley Exclusion Order and a Berkeley High photo of my mother.

In early 1942, my mom left LA, where she was attending art school so that the family wouldn't be separated into different camps. During Redress, she testified in a church meeting that when she took the train to Berkeley, she was issued an official travel permit that identified her as an “Enemy Alien.” She was born in Oakland, raised in Berkeley and was a U.S. citizen.



About 30 strangers asked to take photos of the sign. I received comments such as “my parents were at Gila River and Tule Lake.” Or “I’m fourth generation Chinese. It was so terrible what happened to your people.” A young man said, “that Pearl Harbor remark was disgusting!” And a white man in sunglasses (photo) said, “my wife’s family (Fudena) was at Topaz.”

We American Japanese have a special duty to protest the ICE abductions and illegal detentions of U.S. citizens and immigrants. It felt hopeful to be in solidarity with fellow protestors and to be part of a growing culture of protest. I learned that No Kings marches were held in Germany, Spain, France and the UK.

Walking back to the car, I saw a giant poster on the wall of the SF Public Library showing the cover of George Takei’s graphic novel, “*They Called Us Enemy*.” It’s the inaugural selection for the new “One Book, One Coast” community reading program that will run from March to May in California, Washington and Oregon. Takei will speak about his childhood in a livestream on May 31, 2-4 pm broadcast from LA County Library.

And in nearby Albany, Satsuki Ina’s memoir, “*The Poet and the Silk Girl: a Memoir of Love, Imprisonment, and Protest*,” is the city-wide community read for the next several months. Check out the calendar for events. On April 19, I’ve been invited

to speak about camp objects that tell the complexities of the Ina family story. Artifacts hold protest stories, too.

Links:

Albany Reads: <https://aclibrary.org/albany-reads/>

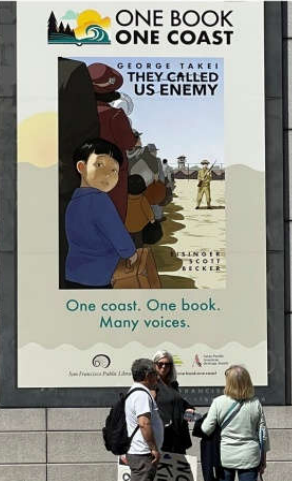
One Book, One Coast: <https://sfpl.org/books-and-media/read/one-book-one-coast-they-called-us-enemy>

Events > Albany Reads:
**Poetry and Resilience with
Satsuki Ina**



Albany Reads: Poetry and
Resilience with Satsuki Ina

Sunday, April 19, 2014
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Albany



Community Action Through Art

On March 15, the Berkeley JACL hosted a wonderful event, *Community Action through Art: Art Making and Protest Safety*. The event was hosted at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple and was the first of its kind put on by our chapter. The event began with an informative presentation on protest safety and situational awareness at public demonstrations. The presentation also provided a brief discussion of protest art, including art created by Japanese Americans in incarceration camps during World War II. To conclude, there was a discussion about actions you can take now, such as writing to your representatives to [Repeal the Alien Enemies Act](#).



Following the informative presentation, attendees were invited to create art with supplies generously provided by UC Berkeley's Nikkei Student

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Union and Berkeley JACL. It was truly inspiring to create art with members of our Berkeley Japanese American community and see all the beautiful and varied works everyone created at this event! Thank you to everyone who came out and we hope to see you at the next one!



Berkeley JACL co-presidents in their *Repeal the Alien Enemies Act* t-shirts.

Co-Presidents
Secretary
Treasurer
Directors:

Tiffany Ikeda, tara u.
Karen Kiyoko Lowhurst
Mark Fujikawa

Sandra Doi, Matt Kojima,
Vera Kawamura, Scott Kagawa, Halie Matsui,
Ryan Matsuda, Kaz Mori, Neal Ouye,
Al Satake, Joe Takano, Ron Tanaka,
Kenji Tachibana, Nancy Ukai, Gordon Yamamoto



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

**2026 Berkeley JACL
Scholarship, Pioneer, & Youth Awards Brunch**

Honoring High School Scholarship Recipients:

Audriella Matano Kang

Ty Manning

Tiegan Nagafuji

Elisa Abigail Reinhart

Casey Taylor



Honoring Pioneer Award Recipient:

Rosalyn Tonai

Honoring Youth Leadership Award Recipient:

Emily Torres

When: Sunday, April 19, 2026 (10:00 AM to 1:00 PM)

Where: Richmond Country Club

1 Markovich Lane, Richmond, CA

Scrambled cage-free eggs, country potatoes, chicken apple sausage, bacon, choice of breads, and assorted fruit platter. Coffee, tea, water included.

Cost: \$45.00 for all chapter members, \$20.00 students, \$50.00 for all other attendees

Please RSVP by April 10 to: Ryan Matsuda

Email: ryan.matsuda@outlook.com / Phone: 808-281-1041

Scholarship Brunch (checks payable to: Berkeley JACL)

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

Names / Email: _____

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
Bronze Premium	\$125	Annual contribution
Silver Premium	\$250.	Annual contribution
Gold Premium	\$500.	Annual contribution
Platinum /Millenium Premium	\$1,000.	Annual contribution
Sapphire Life Trust	\$3,000.	One-time payment for lifetime membership
Ruby Life Trust	\$5,000.	One-time payment for lifetime membership
Diamond Life Trust	\$10,000.	One-time payment for lifetime membership

Along with this form, your tax-deductible check payable to JACL can be sent to JACL National Headquarters, P.O. Box 45397, San Francisco, CA 94145-0397.

Payment by credit card can be made at <https://jacl.org/member/>. Specify you want to be a **member of the Berkeley Chapter**

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.

**Japanese American Citizens League
Berkeley Chapter
P.O Box 7609
Berkeley, CA 94707-0609**

Join the Berkeley JACL at our Scholarship Event