



# JAWAUCB Keynote Speakers 2000 - 2010



## 2000

### Ruth Asawa

#### Artist, Sculptor

Ruth Asawa shared "My Work and My Art in the Public Schools." She was an internationally respected San Francisco artist and sculptor. Her sculptures and fountains are prominent nationwide and were featured in solo exhibitions by more than a dozen museums.

Her wire sculptures have been featured on USPS Commemorative Stamps. She consistently sought to bring the arts to young people and the elderly. Her amazing life is chronicled in the book, *Everything She Touched: The Life of Ruth Asawa* (Chronicle Books), 2020.

She received her BA in Art from Black Mountain College.

Asawa passed away in 2013.

2001

## Karyl Matsumoto

Mayor, City Council Member (former)

Karyl Matsumoto spoke about her path toward political awareness and urged more young people to go into politics.

Since 1997, she has been continuously re-elected to the City Council and served as Mayor of South San Francisco. She has served on more than 30 civic and nonprofit boards, committees and commissions. She is the daughter of Lillian Matsumoto, a founding member of JAWAUCB.

She holds a BS in Business Administration.





2002

Liane Yasumoto

Executive Director

Liane Yasumoto addressed "How a Disability in Itself Should Place No Limits on One's Aspirations." She was Executive Director of the Corporation on Disabilities and Telecommunication, a Berkeley-based, non-profit whose goal is to change the stereotypical images of people with disabilities.

In 2014, she was elected to Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame, when she was Executive Director of Culture Disability Talent, providing opportunities for filmmakers and performers with disabilities. For years she was the driving force behind Superfest, the Bay Area based Annual Showcase of International Films portraying disability as part of every day. She has produced and hosted a variety talk show on Oakland's KTOP-TV.

She received her BA in Social Welfare from UC Berkeley.



2003

Peggy Saika

President, Executive Director

Peggy Saika addressed the importance of working for those who do not have a voice in this country.

She is President/Executive Director of Asian American/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (APIP), and board member of many other non-profit organizations. In 2019, Saika was elected into the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame. Today she is the Interim CEO of Common Counsel, which focuses on community-oriented philanthropy by expanding resources for progressive social movements across the U.S. She has four decades of experience as a social justice leader intent on empowering women, achieving environmental justice, fighting hate crimes and supporting immigrant and worker rights.

She received her BA in Social Work from Sacramento State University and an MSW from UC Berkeley.





2004

Betty Sasaki Furuta

Assistant Dean Emerita, Professor Emerita

Betty Sasaki Furuta reflected on her experiences living in Japan, *Dancing on the Margin to a Different Tune: A Nikkei's Faculty Experiences in Japan*.

She is Assistant Dean Emerita, UCSF School of Nursing, Professor Emerita, Dept. of Nursing, Kawasaki University of Medical Welfare, Kurashiki, Japan. She served in numerous capacities at UCSF, including Coordinator of Academic Services and Special Studies, and Assistant Dean of Student and International Academic Services. In 2020, she was recognized as the JAWAUCB Outstanding Alumna.

She received her BS in Nursing and an MS in Nursing from UC San Francisco.

2005

## Betty Suzuki

Social Worker, Bureau Chief

Betty Suzuki, a member of the Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, was selected to serve on the International Foundation for Health, Ecology and Radiation for Kazakhstan. Her presentation addressed "The Effects on the Kazakhstani Children of the 550+ Nuclear Tests by the then Soviet Union."

Before retiring in 1993, Suzuki was a Social Worker, Program Manager, Bureau Chief of Child Protective Services, Sacramento County Commissioner of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

She received a BA in Social Work from UC Berkeley, an MSW and an MPA from Cal State University, Sacramento.



# 2006

## Yuri Kochiyama

### Civil Rights Activist

Yuri Kochiyama, a Nisei born in San Pedro, CA, was incarcerated in Jerome, Arkansas during World War II. In 1960 she moved to Harlem, surrounded by Latino and Black families. She joined a movement for safer streets and integrated education. She was acquainted with Malcolm X and was present at his assassination.

In 2005 she was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for her dedication to various causes, including rights of political prisoners, nuclear disarmament and redress and reparations for Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II.

She received a AA in Journalism and English from Compton College.

She passed away in 2014.





2007

## Grace Shimizu

Director, Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project

Grace Shimizu spoke on "The Significance of the Japanese Latin Americans WWII Experience – Post 9/11."

She is Director of the Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project and of the Campaign for Justice: Redress MOW for Japanese Latin Americans! [jlapcampaignforjustice.org](http://jlapcampaignforjustice.org). She works to document and preserve the hidden history of kidnapping, internment and hostage exchange under the US WWII Enemy Alien Program. Shimizu also focuses on the ongoing reparations struggle for US government accountability for such war crimes and the denial of effective redress. Her father was a Japanese immigrant resident of Peru who was seized and imprisoned in the DOJ Crystal City concentration camp in Texas for use in the hostage exchange.

She received a BA in American Studies from Occidental College and a JD from UC Hastings.



2008

## Betty Nobue Kano

Community Activist, Lecturer

Betty Nobue Kano, presented "Painting, Politics and Peace" featuring highlights of her 30 years of her work. Kano lectures at San Francisco State University. She has exhibited her work in more than 200 galleries and museums, and curated over 30 exhibits.

Kano co-founded Art Against Apartheid, Asian American Women Artists Association, and Women of Color Camp. She has served on numerous boards, including the Alliance for Cultural Democracy, the Medicine Warriors Dancers/All Nations Singers Powwow Committee at Intertribal Friendship House in Oakland, the Japanese American Women Alumnae of UC Berkeley board, and the Japanese American National Library.

She received a BA in Fine Arts from San Francisco State University and a Masters in Fine Arts from UC Berkeley.



2009

Hiromi Lorraine Sakata, PhD

UCLA Professor Emerita and Associate Dean



Ethnomusicology Professor Hiromi Lorraine Sakata presented "Through Another Lens: Up Close and Personal" featuring her work over the past 30 years at the University of Washington and UCLA. She also served as Associate Dean of the UCLA School of Architecture and Music.

She is the author of *Music in the Mind: The Concepts of Music and Musician in Afghanistan* (Kent State University Press, 1983) and was a trustee for the American University of Afghanistan in Kabul. In 2020 her "Collection of Afghan Traditional Music" (1966-67; 1971-73) was one of 25 recordings added to the National Recording Registry.

She received a BA in Music from UC Berkeley, and a PhD in Ethnomusicology from the University of Washington.



# 2010

## Joni Hiramoto

### Honorable Superior Court Judge

Honorable Judge Joni Hiramoto of the Superior Court of Contra Costa County, spoke on "Perspectives of An Asian American Woman Judge." Her message was "Do what you love, because opportunities will arise and you'll get to choose."

In 2004 she was named El Cerrito's "Woman of the Year" and was on the faculty of the Bernard E. Witkin Judicial College of California (1999, 2001-2004, 2008, 2009), the New Judges' Orientation Program, and the State Judges' Qualifying Ethics II Program. She also served as faculty with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges' Enhancing Judicial Skills in Domestic Violence Workshop, in Santa Fe, New Mexico and San Francisco, California.

She received a BA in East Asian Studies from Harvard and a JD from the UC Berkeley School of Law.

