



# JAWAUCB Keynote Speakers 2011 - 2020



2011

## Wendy Tokuda

Broadcast Journalist, Author, Producer

Tokuda spoke on "Students Rising Above" based on an Emmy Award-winning series she produced called "Beating the Odds." The series featured extraordinary high school students, who overcame tough odds to succeed in school and life.

She began her career at KING-TV Seattle, as a secretary in Public Affairs and later became a news reporter there. In 1978, she joined KPIX as a reporter and anchor. During her 14 years at KPIX, she won many awards, including the Golden Mike Award. She also received a Leadership Award from the Japanese American Youth Council and from the American Women in Radio and Television.

She received received her BA in Political Science from the University of Washington.

2012

Karen Tei Yamashita

Professor, Author

Yamashita addressed “Roots/Routes: Japanese-Brazilian Migrations.”

She is a Professor of Literature at UC Santa Cruz, where she teaches in the Critical Race and Ethnic Studies Program. She has published many books including *I Hotel*, a 2010 National Book Award Finalist and winner of the 2011 California Book Award in fiction. Her areas of research are history and anthropology of Japanese immigration to Brazil and Asian American literature, modern fiction and playwriting.

She received her BA in English and Japanese Literature from Carleton College.



# 2013

## Honorable Tani Cantil-Sakaue Chief Justice, California Supreme Court

Judge Cantil-Sakaue is the first Asian-Filipina American and second woman to serve as California's Chief Justice. Her presentation was entitled, "Conversations with California's Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakaue."

She explained how the judicial branch strives to be the balance between the executive and legislative branches of the government, noting her position is a "meaningful access to justice" -- something she cares for deeply, having grown up in an environment with a history of injustice.

She received her BA in Rhetoric from UC Davis, and JD from the UC Davis School of Law.





2014

## Jan Yanehiro

TV Journalist, Lecturer, Producer

Yanehiro addressed “This Was Not The Life I Ordered...But I Loved It.” She is Director of Multimedia Communications at the Academy of Art University, San Francisco.

After college, she was a flight attendant before moving into radio broadcasting. She is one of the first native-born Asian-American female journalists. Later, she hosted and produced documentaries for public access stations and KCBS radio. She is best known for her 20-year TV career with KPIX, where she co-hosted the “Evening Magazine” show.

She received her BA in Journalism from California State University, Fresno.



2015

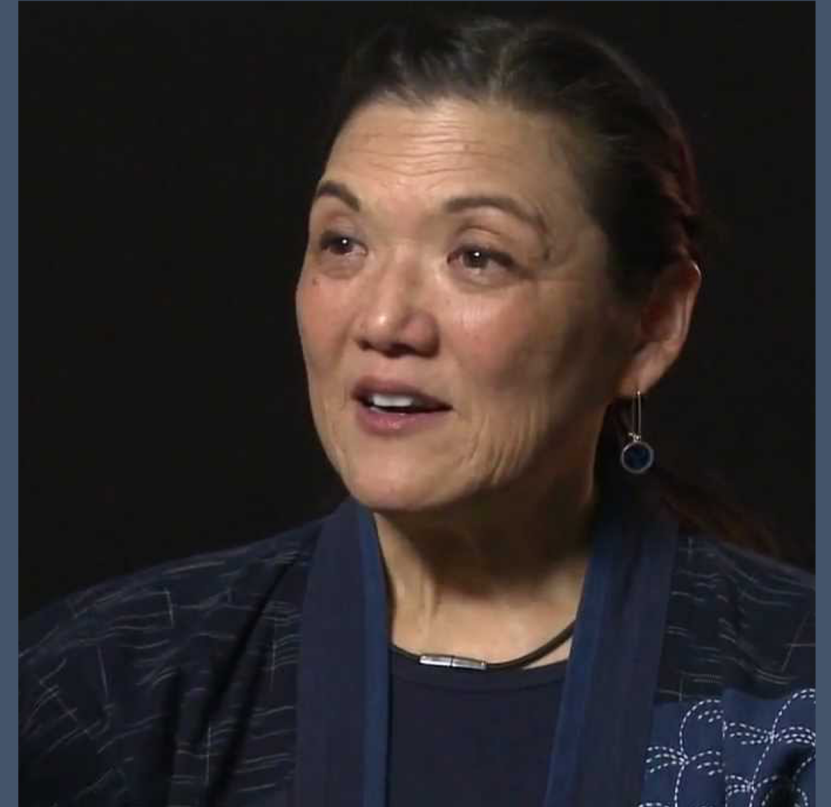
## PJ Hirabayashi

Artistic Director Emeritus, San Jose Taiko

Hirabayashi's talk, "Full Circle" was illustrated through the creation and development of a piece for obon for which she invited audience participation.

She is Artistic Director Emeritus and founding member of the San Jose Taiko. She created a movement, Taiko Peace, to promote a culture of peace through art and movement. In 2011, she and her husband Roy, received a National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship Award for their lifelong contributions to North American taiko.

She received her BA in Asian American Studies and MA in Urban and Regional Planning from San Jose State University.



# 2016

## Mariko Yamada

### Social Worker, Assemblywoman

Yamada spoke on "Journey to Justice" drawing from her experience as a Social Worker in Yolo and Solano Counties and as an Assemblywoman from 2008-2014.

She has committed her life to pursuing social, economic, educational, and environmental justice issues. She learned a great deal about these areas growing up in a family struggling in the aftermath of the World War II incarceration. Her top priorities include aging and long-term care, agriculture and natural resources.

She received her BA in Psychology from the University of Colorado, and MSW from USC.



2017

## Nancy Ukai

Writer, Researcher, Project Director

Ukai spoke on "Heirloom Histories of JAWAUCB." She is Project Director of a history website, 50 objects.org that explores the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans through objects belonging to camp survivors. A descendant of Topaz, she discussed artifacts (e.g. the diploma mailed to incarcerated graduates) and stories of early JAWAUCB members, and the impacts of World War II on these Nisei women.

Currently, she is co-administrator of the "Japanese American History: Not for Sale" and the "50 Objects" Facebook pages.

She received her BA in Anthropology and East Asian Studies from UC Santa Cruz and an MA in Media Anthropology from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.





2018

Diane Fukami

Producer, Media Consultant

Fukami spoke on "A Life Behind the Lens: Documenting Japanese America."

In 1991, after 15 years in the CBS newsroom, she founded Bridge Media, Inc., a media production and consulting company. She has produced and directed several award-winning documentaries on Asian American history. In 2018, her documentary, "An American Story: Norman Mineta and His Legacy" premiered.

She received her BA in Journalism from the UC Berkeley School of Journalism.



2019

## Brenda Wong-Aoki

Playwright, Performer, Storyteller

Wong-Aoki shared "A Storyteller's Journey." As an anthologized playwright, producer, artistic director, and performer, her stories are based on her family's 121-year history in the San Francisco Bay Area.

As the first nationally recognized API storyteller in the U.S., her work was featured in the American Folk Life Collection at the Library of Congress, and she was an artist in residence at the Smithsonian, Duke University, Tokyo, and Sapporo University.

She received her BA in Community Studies from UC Santa Cruz, and a K-12 credential from San Francisco State University.





2020

## Satsuki Ina

Community Activist, Writer, Filmmaker, Psychotherapist

Ina addressed “Social Justice and Community Healing.” She was born in the Tule Lake Segregation Center, a maximum security concentration camp for Japanese Americans during World War II. As Professor Emerita in the School of Education at California State University, Sacramento, she researches the long-term and intergenerational impact of the incarceration trauma. She is currently a psychotherapist, serving Bay Area communities confronted with trauma related to clergy abuse, acculturation, racism, and captivity.

She produced two award-winning documentary films about the World War II Japanese American incarceration: *Children of the Camps* and *From a Silk Cocoon*.

She received her PhD in Counseling Psychology from Oregon State University.





## Historical Note

The Annual JAWAUCB Meeting originally scheduled for March 2020, was held virtually on October 3, 2020 due to the COVID-19 global pandemic.