



# JAWA Connections

*The Japanese American Women Alumnae of UC Berkeley Newsletter*

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**Japanese American  
Women Alumnae of UC  
Berkeley**

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 [www.facebook.com/JAWAUCB](https://www.facebook.com/JAWAUCB)

## Welcome!

Dear JAWAUCB Friends,



The year 2020 will be remembered as a critical moment in history as COVID-19 disrupted the ways in which we have understood and experienced every facet of our lives. As I continue to reflect on and mourn the challenges and uncertainties of this past year, I find great inspiration and comfort in the acts of courage, compassion, and creativity of our next generation of leaders in particular to realize a more just and humane vision for our campus, our nation and our world.

I remain deeply appreciative as well of the unfaltering commitment of the JAWAUCB Board of Directors to ensure that our work continues despite the pandemic, efforts which have included:

1. Transitioning our quarterly “in-person” Board meetings to bi-monthly Zoom meetings.
2. Hosting our first-ever virtual annual awards celebration on October 3rd in honor of our 2019-2020 undergraduate and graduate student scholarship recipients and Outstanding Alumna.

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3. Hosting our first-ever Homecoming panel on October 20th, “Lives and Legacy: Celebrating Japanese American Women at Cal,” to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the UC Regents decision to admit women into the university on “equal terms” with men.
4. Redesigning our soon-to-be-published website.
5. Publishing this inaugural online newsletter.

While 2021 remains uncertain, we remain steadfast in our dedication to furthering the legacies of gracious resilience upon which our chapter has been founded. We also remain grateful for your continued engagement and generous support of our efforts.

With our best wishes for a new year of abundant health, joy, and hope,

Dr. Lisa Hirai Tsuchitani, Chair  
JAWAUCB Board of Directors

## About Us

The Japanese American Women Alumnae of UC Berkeley (JAWAUCB) is a chartered club of the California Alumni Association (CAA). Our mission is to “inspire and support Asian American women as learners, leaders, and contributors to local and global communities in the spirit of our founding Japanese American women alumnae.” Since 1970 our scholarship program has granted over 160 undergraduate and 70 graduate student scholarships to Asian American women. We also have sponsored a variety of events and activities with campus partners such as the UC Berkeley Nikkei Student Union, the Asian American & Asian Diaspora Studies Program, and the Center for Race and Gender to engage and support current students and alumni of UC Berkeley.

### Thank you



The JAWAUCB Board of Directors would like to thank Marion (Hironaka) Cowee for her years of service on the Board from 2017–2020, during which time she not only served as a director-at-large but also more recently as our Communications and Publicity Chair.

# Campus Updates

By Lisa Hirai Tsuchitani

## Japanese American Studies Advisory Committee (JASAC)

Leslie Tsukamoto, past Co-chair and current Corresponding Secretary of the JAWAUCB Board of Directors, serves as the JAWAUCB liaison to the UC Berkeley Japanese American Studies Advisory Committee (JASAC). Under the auspices of the Asian American & Asian Diaspora Studies (AAADS) Program, JASAC was founded in 2017 by AAADS faculty member Lisa Hirai Tsuchitani to promote a comprehensive and complex understanding of the historical and contemporary, structural and cultural contexts of Japanese American communities. For further information about JASAC, please contact Lisa Tsuchitani at: [lhtsuchitani@berkeley.edu](mailto:lhtsuchitani@berkeley.edu)

## Asian American Research Center (AARC)

After six years of fundraising efforts, capped off by a generous grant from the state of California, the Asian American & Asian Diaspora Studies (AAADS) Program is thrilled to announce the launch of the Asian American Research Center (AARC). The Center will serve as an intellectual hub to advance and support interdisciplinary research about the status and experiences of Asian American ethnic communities

On Friday, October 23, 2020, AARC held an official ribbon-cutting event to mark its launch that drew over 200 attendees. The inaugural event featured a timely presentation by Taeku Lee, the George Johnson Professor of Law and Professor of Political Science, on Asian American Millennial and Gen Z voter beliefs and participation. For additional information about AARC, please visit: <https://aarc.berkeley.edu>

## Asian American and Pacific Islander Standing Committee (AAPISC)

Constituted in Fall 2019 under the executive sponsorship of Vice-Chancellor of Equity and Inclusion Oscar Dubón, the Asian American and Pacific Islander Standing Committee (AAPISC) is an inaugural advisory body dedicated to raising

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greater awareness about and developing strategic solutions to address the diverse and complex needs and interests of AAPI undergraduate and graduate student, staff, and faculty members on campus. The objectives of AAPISC include but are not be limited to the following:

- Improve the recruitment and retention rates of underrepresented AAPI ethnic groups at both the undergraduate and graduate student levels.
- Develop and strengthen existing social, personal, and academic support systems for AAPI students.
- Expand existing professional development and career enhancement opportunities and resources for AAPI staff and faculty.
- Increase the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity of those occupying critical campus senior management positions.
- Ensure the continued growth and vitality of teaching and research efforts by and about Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders on campus.

On April 30th, 2020 AAPISC presented a set of recommendations to Chancellor Carol Christ, all of which were endorsed in full. Additional information about the work of AAPISC can be found here: <https://diversity.berkeley.edu/aapisc>

## Meet Our New Board Members!

By Carol Tateishi

Over the past year, we welcomed three new members who we would like you to meet. Already, their ideas, energies, and contributions are making a difference.



**Adena Ishii** was born in Los Angeles and grew up in Pasadena and Agoura Hills. She graduated with a degree in business in 2014 from UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business and is currently pursuing a law degree at Santa Clara University School of Law with an interest in criminal law. She works as an intern at UC Berkeley with its Student Legal Services attorney; serves as Voter Services Director of the League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville; secretary of the Santa Clara

University School of Law (SCU Law) Black Law Student Association; and Vice President of the SCU Law ACLU. She also is a mentor with the Berkeley Community Scholars and a volunteer with the Japanese American Museum of San Jose.

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Adena joined the board due to her respect for JAWAUCB's history and feels it is an honor to be part of an organization with so many impressive women. In looking towards the future, she would like to see JAWA engage our members beyond its current programs and more actively recruit recent alumna. She also wonders if JAWA could get involved with assisting students with housing which she sees as a great need and a way to honor our roots that connect JAWA to the founding of the historic Japanese American women's dormitory in 1937.

In addition to her professional work and interests, Adena loves to cook, bake and travel to visit family and friends. She lives in Berkeley with her husband Andrew Kitirattragarn, their adopted daughter, Chanda, and their dog, Ichiro.



**Stacy Kono**, Executive Director at Hand in Hand: The Domestic Employers Network, grew up in San Ramon and graduated from Cal in 1995 with a degree in Women's Studies. She later earned her Master's from SF State in Public Administration with an emphasis on Nonprofit Administration in 2017. Stacy joined the board because she is interested in being part of a multigenerational community of women leaders to support the next generation and uplift our community's history at UC Berkeley and beyond.

She hopes JAWAUCB can play a role in supporting more Japanese American and Asian American women students to take visible and bold leadership and help make sure they have no barriers to becoming leaders. She believes JAWAUCB can work for and invest in a shift of power in our society to ensure all voices are heard and valued and that our history and that of other communities of color are not buried but recognized.

Regarding Stacy's personal interests, she loves reading biographies and oral histories about social justice leaders and movements and enjoys arts and crafts, including sewing, which she learned from her maternal grandmother. She also loves baking cookies and desserts, which she gets from her mother. Other Cal grads in her family include her father and her older sister who is a professor of Japanese literature at Smith College.

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**Lynn Nakada** is a 1975 Cal graduate in sociology and the 1975 recipient of the Kenneth Priestley Award for Student Leadership. From early on, she was actively involved on campus and after graduation she became a member of the UC Berkeley staff, working in Student Activities and Programs, EOP/Affirmative Action, and Housing and Food Services, and also served as Associate Development Director in University Development and Alumni Relations. In 2006 she received the Chancellor's Outstanding Staff award. As an alumna, while working at Cal, she served as Secretary for the Class of 1975 and as Alumni Advisor for the Mortar Board Senior National Honor Society.

Lynn was the first female member of the Order of the Golden Bear to serve as its Alumni Secretary. She has served two terms on the California Alumni Association (CAA) Board of Directors as well as three terms on the Board of Directors of the Prytanean Alumnae, Inc., proudly serving as President when it was honored as CAA's 2011 Alumni Group of the Year. In 2019, Lynn was named Outstanding Alumna by JAWAUCB.

In 2016, after over 40 years of service to the campus, Lynn retired from Cal. Currently, she volunteers for CAA, John Muir Health in Walnut Creek, and the Pleasant Hill Senior Center. She also serves on the Advisory Board of the UC Berkeley Retirement Center and on the Advisory Committee of Cal's Academic Talent Development Program.

Her personal interests include cooking, Cal athletics, art museums, Japanese performing arts, ballet, Broadway musicals, and jazz. As a child and youth, Lynn performed Japanese dancing, attaining Natori status as a teenager and was conferred the stage name, Sanjo Kanhiro. As a JAWAUCB board member, she sees significant potential for growth in its future.



## A Tribute to Irene Tekawa, Class of '59

By Leslie Tsukamoto

The JAWAUCB Board of Directors was saddened to lose a valued member of our board this past October. Irene Tekawa joined the JAWA board in 2007 as our Website Coordinator, overseeing the regular maintenance and updating of our website. In addition to these duties, she served as board Co-chair from 2009 to 2013. In 2013 she accepted the position of Treasurer, which she held until 2020. Given her background in statistics, Irene's attention to detail and accurate record keeping was especially appreciated. She was always open to new ideas and participated enthusiastically in board discussions.

In addition to her commitment to JAWAUCB, Irene was a dedicated member of the Berkeley Methodist United Church, where she played the piano, sang in the choir, participated on various committees, and served as Treasurer. She also was an avid golfer and tennis player, member of the Sakura Kai Taiko group, and volunteer math tutor at a local middle school. Irene took special joy in spending time with her daughter and two grandsons. She will be greatly missed by all.



Irene with Board Members at the 2018 Scholarship Award Luncheon



Irene playing a taiko drum at Crystal City

# A Brief History of JAWAUCB



- **1920s, 1930s:** Japanese American women and all people of color studying at Cal faced racial discrimination in housing.
- **Fall 1937:** Following a decade of fundraising within the Japanese American community, seven co-eds and their housemothers moved into the newly purchased, five-bedroom Japanese Women's Students Clubhouse on 2509 Hearst Avenue.
- **1940s:** Executive Order 9066 resulted in the wartime incarceration of Japanese Americans from the West Coast. In 1942, the Clubhouse was rented out until 1945 when it was reopened, first under the supervision of Lillian and Harry Matsumoto and then under the direction of the alumnae board.
- **1960s:** UC Berkeley offered racially integrated coops and dormitories.
- **January 10, 1967:** The Japanese Women's Students Clubhouse was sold for \$72,000. Proceeds from the sale were given by the (Nisei) Board of Directors to the UC Regents for the Japanese Women Alumnae Scholarship Fund. The fund has continued to grow thanks to the generosity of families and friends.
- **1991:** The first Japanese Women's Alumnae (JWA)/UC Berkeley Scholarship luncheon was hosted by Dr. Elsie Sata Baukol, Class of 1971. Keynote speaker, UC Regent Yori Wada, spoke on "The Mission of Higher Education."
- **1992:** Under the leadership of Dr. Yoshiye Togasaki and Dr. Elsie Baukol, the alumnae club became a chartered club of the Cal Alumni Association. The scholarship fund has grown with contributions from members, families and friends. Each year JAWAUCB honors its scholars at a general meeting/luncheon.
- **2020:** To date, in partnership with Cal, the Japanese American Women Alumnae of UCB (JAWAUCB) has awarded 236+ scholarships to undergraduate and graduate Asian American women who are learners, leaders, and contributors.

More details about the history of JAWAUCB are in the monograph, "Lives and Legacy" by Joyce N. Takahashi, Ph.D., the second edition of which will be available on the JAWAUCB 2021 website.

# "Lives and Legacy"

As a means of preserving the history of Japanese American alumnae at UCB, JAWAUCB conducted a number of oral histories which served as the inspiration for the 38-page monograph, "Lives and Legacy." Additional details about the history and structure of JAWAUCB are provided in the monograph, which was included in Bancroft Library's "WWII American Home Front" and on the "150 Years of Women at Berkeley" website: [www.150w.berkeley.edu](http://www.150w.berkeley.edu) The first edition of the monograph can be accessed at:

[https://150w.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/takahashi\\_joyce\\_lives\\_and\\_legacy.pdf](https://150w.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/takahashi_joyce_lives_and_legacy.pdf)

## Hats Off to Our 2019-2020 JAWAUCB Scholarship Recipients

By Barbara Kawamoto

Congratulations to the JAWAUCB scholarship recipients for the 2019-2020 academic year! Undergraduate recipients were Olivia Canak, Juliette Franzman, Nicole Inaba, Areyon Jolivette, and Gemma Vanover. Our graduate student honoree was Maya Lemon-Kishi. Read more about these amazing women scholars:

- Olivia Canak (who passed away in February 2020) was a Philosophy major, interested in becoming an elementary school teacher serving urban and low-income communities.
- Juliette Franzman, an Applied Mathematics major and 2020 graduate, is a data scientist interested in targeting ecological issues.
- Nicole Inaba, now finishing her senior year studying Society and Environment, looks forward to a role in a Bay Area environmental and social justice organization. Beyond that she hopes to study law or international environmental governance.
- Areyon Jolivette is a 2020 Film Studies graduate and senior staff writer for the *Daily Californian*. She has been involved in the publication and media community on campus since she transferred to Cal in 2018. She shared how her Japanese American and African American heritage made this JAWAUCB scholarship personally meaningful and culturally validating.

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- Gemma Vanover, a History major, is passionate about educating high school students on Japanese American history. She plans to become a high school History teacher and wants to ensure JA history is given proper attention in American history classes.
- Maya Lemmon-Kishi is pursuing her Ph.D. in Computational Biology. Through her research on adaptation processes to environmental change, Maya hopes to understand why certain species do or do not survive.

It is always inspiring to hear how our scholarship recipients plan to apply their Cal studies to their future careers. We look forward to getting acquainted with our next scholarship awardees in 2021.

## Our 2020 Annual Scholarship and Awards Luncheon

By Stacy Kono



Keynote Speaker, Satsuki Ina

On October 3, 2020, JAWAUCB hosted our annual scholarship awards event to bring together our membership and the broader community to recognize the inspiring work of our scholarship recipients, and to celebrate the leadership of Japanese American women alumnae in our communities. Due to COVID-19, JAWAUCB postponed the in-person event scheduled in March and shifted the “venue” online to continue our annual tradition and be able to safely come together. About 80 people participated.

During the program, we were honored to have Clothilde Hewlett, the Executive Director of the California Alumni Association (CAA), address our group as a charter club of the Association. We then celebrated five of our scholarship recipients who each were given the opportunity to briefly share about their experiences at UC Berkeley. The students’ studies reflected a wide range of significant work including Applied Mathematics, Society and Environment, Film, History and Computational Biology.

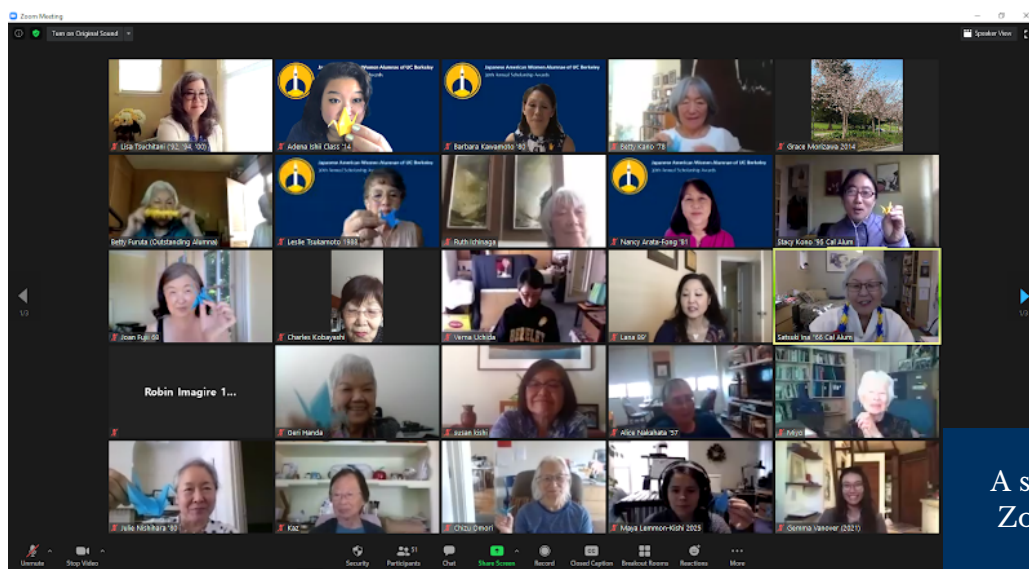
Betty Sasaki Furuta was honored as our 2020 Outstanding Alumna in recognition of her academic career, professional accomplishments, and service to the...

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...community. Betty graduated cum laude with a BS in nursing from UCSF in 1957 and subsequently earned a MS in nursing in 1959. She served in numerous capacities during her illustrious career at UCSF, including Coordinator of Academic Services and Special Studies, Assistant Dean of Student and International Academic Services, and Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Mental Health. In 1995, Betty was recruited by the Kawasaki University of Mental Health in Kurashiki, Japan, where she spent eight years as a professor and administrator. Betty has served on the JAWA Board of Directors for over ten years in various positions, and has long served her community as a volunteer in the reading program for elementary students.

Finally, Satsuki Ina was our featured keynote speaker who offered a talk entitled “Social Justice and Community Healing.” Satsuki started her comments by sharing about her own experience as a student at UC Berkeley during the Free Speech Movement, learning about the power of protest. Today, Satsuki is applying the lessons about protest in her current work with Tsuru for Solidarity, which is focused on ending immigration policies that have separated and incarcerated families seeking asylum. Through Tsuru, she is working to highlight the parallels between Japanese American incarceration during WWII and present day anti-immigrant policies, with a commitment to support people to heal through the trauma of racism.

The event truly exemplified our vision: “To inspire and support Asian American women as learners, leaders and contributors to local and global communities in the spirit of our founding Japanese American women alumnae.” Thank you to all who participated!



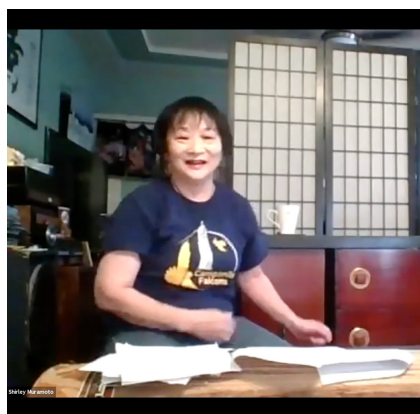
A screenshot of our Zoom Celebration

# Please Save the Date!

Please join us for our 31st Annual Scholarship and Awards Event via Zoom on **Saturday, April 17th, from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM** featuring a keynote address by Sherry Hirota, CEO of Asian Health Services and Co-Chair of One Nation Commission.

In addition to our 2021 undergraduate and graduate scholarship award recipients, we also will be honoring our 2021 Outstanding Alumna, Chizu Omori. Details to follow!

## UC Berkeley Homecoming 2020: Lives and Legacy- Celebrating Japanese American Women at Cal



As part of Cal's 2020 Homecoming events, JAWAUCB was honored to present a multigenerational panel entitled, "Lives and Legacy: Celebrating Japanese American Women at Cal" on October 17th. This virtual discussion was moderated by Dr. Lisa Tsuchitani and featured alumnae Joyce Nao Takahashi (Class of '55), Shirley Kazuyo Muramoto (Class of '77), Nina F. Ichikawa, (Class of '00) and Sarena Kuhn (Class of '22).

Each of the panelists offered a different and unique story about why she came to Cal, relating fascinating details about the campus culture at the time of their attendance at Berkeley. When Joyce Takahashi attended Cal, for example, there were no women faculty in the Physical Sciences. Shirley Muramoto was the first woman to join the ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps), while Nina Ichikawa restarted the Nikkei Student Union. Sarena Kuhn has had to deal with the pandemic and virtual classes. In spite of the differences in their experiences, a common theme...

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...all panelists shared was how Cal helped shape their identities and provided new and broad opportunities academically, personally and professionally.

This panel discussion may be viewed by visiting the California Alumni Association UCB website: <https://homecoming.berkeley.edu/event/lives-and-legacy-celebrating-japanese-american-women-cal>

## Alumni News

By Grace Morizawa

**Janet Daijogo** is a veteran kindergarten teacher at Marin Country Day School, having taught children for over 40 years. She incorporates Aikido, a noncompetitive form of martial art, in her teaching and attributes her journey in teaching and Aikido as a mental practice where she found her space and purpose. Her story is featured in *Berkeley Online*, October 9, 2020 to mark UCB's 150th anniversary of women on campus. The article's author cites her for openly speaking about the mental challenges of stressful life events and the importance of self-care and patience, noting that "[h]er vulnerable story reminds us that that life is a journey of continued learning, and we are all along for the ride."

<https://update.lib.berkeley.edu/2020/10/09/janet-daijogo-japanese-internment-and-finding-her-place-through-aikido-and-teaching/>

**Satsuki Ina**, PhD, was awarded an American Psychological Association (APA) 2020 Presidential Citation for her dedication and lifelong achievement for the Japanese American community in researching and treating the long-term health implications of those individuals who were wrongly incarcerated during World War II. APA recognized her work with Tsuru for Solidarity in solidarity with other communities that have experienced forced removal, detention, deportation, and the separation of families. Ina was the 2020 keynote speaker at JAWAUCB Annual Luncheon.

<http://satsukiina.com>

**Midori Kono Thiel**, Seattle artist, was featured in *The Daily California*, December 23, 2020, as part of UCB's celebration of 150 years of women at Berkeley. Today, she practices many different Japanese art forms, including calligraphy and sumi-e painting. In addition to visual art, Thiel is also trained in the performing arts of Noh and Kyogen drama, having taken lessons with the Nomura Kyogen Troupe. Thiel has also studied the shamisen and koto instruments. In Seattle, she was for many years a part of a Japanese performing arts group. She is artist-in-residence for Washington State Arts Commission. <https://www.dailycal.org/2020/12/05/midori-kono-thiel/>

*Alumni News is a place to celebrate and note the honors and accomplishments of JAWAUCB alumnae who, in the spirit of our vision, "inspire and support Asian American women as learners, leaders and contributors to local and global communities in the spirit of our founding Japanese American alumnae." Please send notices to [jawaucbnews@gmail.com](mailto:jawaucbnews@gmail.com).*



# JOIN US!

Please consider joining the Japanese American Women Alumnae of UC Berkeley!

For a \$20 annual membership fee, you will:

- Join a community of Japanese American women and friends with common interests and experiences and further the legacy of Japanese American women at UC Berkeley.
- Know you are supporting current Asian American women undergraduate and graduate students at Berkeley to reach their educational goals.
- Receive advance word of special community and educational events on campus.

The Japanese American Women Alumnae of UC Berkeley (JAWAUCB) exists to (1) present scholarship and fellowship awards from the JAWAUCB Endowment Fund established by agreement with the Regents of UC Berkeley; (2) promote donations, gifts, and bequests for continued growth of the JAWAUCB Endowment Fund for student awards at UC Berkeley; and (3) support research and educational initiatives focused on or related to Asian American women. Learn more at [www.jawaucb.org](http://www.jawaucb.org)

## JAWAUCB Board Members

• Lisa Hirai Tsuchitani	Chair	• Julie Nishihara	Website Administrator
• Grace Morizawa	Vice Chair	• Betty Kano	Lunch Reservation Coord.
• Nancy Arata-Fong	Treasurer	• Nina Fallenbaum Ichikawa	Mem. Chair
• Carol Tateishi	Recording Secretary	• Ruth Ichinaga	NSU Liaison
• Leslie Tsukamoto	Corr. Secretary	• Adena Ishii	Newsletter Editor
• Joyce Takahashi	Historian	• Stacy Kono	Director at Large
• Leslie Tsukamoto	Nominations Chair	• Lynn Nakada	Director at Large
• Barbara Kawamoto	Scholarship Chair	• Kay Yatabe	Director at Large