



JAWA Connections

The Japanese American Women Alumnae of UC Berkeley Newsletter

In This Issue

**JAWA Partnership
Events with Nikkei
Student Union p. 3**

**New JAWA Board
Members p. 6**

**Japanese American
Women Alumnae of UC
Berkeley**

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Welcome!

Dear JAWAUCB Members and Friends,



What a joy to work on behalf of JAWA with our incredible Board and JAWA volunteers during my tenure as Board chair. In the last two years, we implemented the strategic plan that began under the leadership of former chair Lisa Tsuchitani. We now have a committee structure that includes membership, programs and partnerships (with the university and community), publicity and communications, and governance, all consisting of Board members and other JAWA members.

The committee makeup helps the Board stay in touch with the talents, ideas, and wishes of all of our members to make the JAWA activities relevant to Japanese American and Asian Pacific Women as we work together towards the future. All this work happened on Zoom! You are invited to join a committee; the Board welcomes your voices. The best part of being chair was joining you at our Annual Awards and Luncheon at the Alumni House on campus.

cont'd p.2

I look forward to seeing you at future events under the leadership of our new chair, Nancy Arata Fong.

Dr. Grace Morizawa, Chair
JAWAUCB Board of Directors

Grace is a retired elementary school teacher and principal and currently works as the Education Coordinator for the National Japanese American Historical Society. She received her Doctorate in Education (Ed.D) from Cal in 2014.



Greetings from JAWA's New Chair

Hello, my name is Nancy Arata-Fong, and I am delighted to assume the role of JAWAUCB Chair for the 2023-2025 term. I have been a member of the JAWAUCB Board since 2017 and have cherished my involvement with the organization. Back in 2009, I had the pleasure of attending my first JAWAUCB scholarship luncheon and reconnecting with Cal. Currently residing in Sacramento, I am grateful for the technology that allows me to actively engage in JAWAUCB's affairs remotely. I would like to express my gratitude to Grace Morizawa, our outgoing chair, for providing focused leadership to the organization. Under Grace's guidance, JAWAUCB successfully developed specific goals to fulfill our Strategic Plan in order to move the organization forward. These goals serve as a valuable blueprint for the Board's future endeavors.

I look forward to collaborating with the Board and you, our members, in order to fulfill our Vision Statement... 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 alumnae.

Nancy currently works at UC Davis Health in the Government Reimbursement department. She is a certified public accountant and graduated from Cal in 1981 with a B.A. in Music.

About Us

The Japanese American Women Alumnae of UC Berkeley (JAWAUCB) is a chartered chapter 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 178 undergraduate and 73 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.

JAWA Partnership Events with the Nikkei Student Union

This past spring, JAWA continued to strengthen its partnership with NSU through the following events:

- Day of Remembrance: NSU’s DOR was held this year on February 17th in the Tilden Room at the ASUC Student Union. Seven JAWA board members took part in the candle-lighting ceremony in observance of the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.



cont'd p.4

- Faculty Club Lunch, April 5: This annual lunch at the Faculty Club provides NSU and JAWA members a chance to talk informally and get to know each other better and discuss issues of the day and ways to JAWA can best support NSU.



- 2023 Graduation Reception, May 5: For the second consecutive year, JAWA honored NSU’s 2023 graduates with a reception held in the Ethnic Studies Conference Room in the Social Sciences Building at UC Berkeley. Attendees were welcomed by Lynn Nakada, NSU Liaison, and the graduates received congratulatory remarks from JAWA Chair Grace Morizawa and Cal Alumni Association Senior Program Operating Officer Joanna Aguiar. Bryce Nakahara, NSU President, introduced the graduating seniors, who introduced themselves and shared future plans. The reception ended with socializing over a buffet of Japanese food.

More about NSU can be found at:

<https://life.berkeley.edu/meet-nikkei-student-union/>



NSU graduates, Cole Whang, Daniel Spohr, Sean Shimohara, Ryan Horne and JAWA Liaison, Lynn Nakada



NSU graduation reception group photo
Photo credit: Stacy Kono

JAWA's 33rd Annual Scholarship and Award Luncheon



Rosalyn Tonai at podium

On March 11, 2023, for the first time since 2018, JAWA's annual luncheon was an in-person event, held on campus at the Alumni House. More than 100 friends, colleagues and family joined the JAWA board in honoring scholarship awardees — undergraduate students Julia Cristiano, Sarah Risoen, Hannah Saib, and graduate student, Camryn Shiroma, and JAWA's Outstanding Alumna, Shirley Kazuyo Muramoto (Class of '77). Luncheon attendees enjoyed an meaningful and inspiring keynote speech by Rosalyn Tonai (Class of '82), Director of NJAHS (National Japanese American Historical Society), and a special koto performance by Shirley Muramoto.



(Left to right) Camryn Shiroma, graduate awardee; Hannah Saib, undergraduate awardee; Barbara Kawamoto, JAWAUCB scholarship chair; and Sarah Risoen, undergraduate awardee. Not pictured: Julia Cristiano, undergraduate awardee.

cont'd p.6



Shirley Muramoto, koto performance



Annual luncheon guests

New JAWA Board Members



Aneesa Conine-Nakano graduated from UC Berkeley in 2022 with a B.A. in Psychology. At Cal, she became interested in developmental psychology research, primarily studying the development of stereotypes in children. She is currently working as a lab manager in a psychology lab, researching children's early learning. Outside of research when she was at Cal, she was the Vice President of the Nikkei Student Union for

two years and organized social and cultural events. She also served as the President of Cal Student Philanthropy and fundraised for various student resources, such as the Basic Needs Center. She is currently on the Membership Committee of JAWAUCB.



Beckie Uta Masaki graduated from UC Berkeley as undergraduate in 1980 (double major BA Psychology and BA Art), UC Berkeley Masters in Social Welfare in 1983, and Pupil Personnel from UCB Dept of Education. Beckie has been Co-Founder/ ED of Asian Women's Shelter, San Francisco, CA.; among the first shelters to meet language/cultural needs of Asian survivors of domestic violence/ human trafficking. She also co-

founded + staffed a national cultural resource center, API Institute on Gender-Based Violence.

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Over 5+ years and now into present times, Beckie co-leads the Mending the Arc project, Resonance Network and co-leads Gathering Strength, a cohort of immigrant + refugee gender-based advocates. Beckie creates her best contributions to race + gender justice through an interconnected network of intergenerational, diverse leaders in a new era of shared leadership/ shared power.

Thank you to our Outgoing Board members!

As we welcome our new board members, we are also saying farewell and thank you to others. We can't thank our outgoing board members enough for their hard work over the years, their many contributions that have helped shape JAWA and their warm and inspired support and energy that has marked their tenure. Thank you Adena Ishii, Betty Kano, Stacy Kono, Lynn Nakada and Kay Yatabe!

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

I would like to thank outgoing board member, Adena Ishii, for her invaluable role in JAWA's newsletter. Adena created its distinctive design and format and for each issue, she's done her magic by doing the layout and turning each issue into a polished final product. Thank you, Adena! Your talents and generous spirit will be greatly missed.

Carol Tateishi, Newsletter Editor

Newsletter Team

- Editor, Carol Tateishi
- Adena Ishii
- Stacy Kono
- Grace Morizawa
- Leslie Tsukamoto

