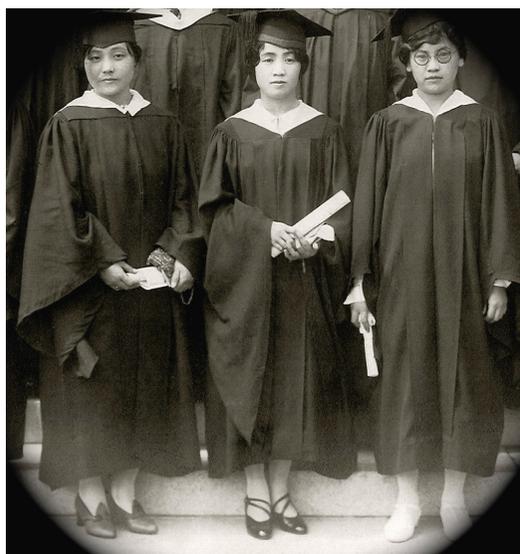


*Japanese American Alumnae of the
University of California, Berkeley:*

Lives and Legacy

Joyce Nao Takahashi



*A Project of the
Japanese American Women/Alumnae
of the University of California, Berkeley*

2018 Edition

Front photo: 1926 Commencement, University of California, Berkeley.
Photo Courtesy of Joyce N. Takahashi

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Preface to the 2018 Edition

The 2013 edition of *Lives and Legacy* has sold out. As part of our legacy, it is important that our story continues to live. This 2018 edition is supported by a grant from the California Alumni Association. Rather than doing a simple reprint, I have taken advantage of this opportunity to make a few updates beginning with the section *Rebuilding Lives: 1945-1951*.

In 2011, the Regional Oral History Office, funded by the National Park Service, was assembling material for their study, The Japanese American Confinement Sites/World War II American Home Front Oral History Project. Project manager, David Michael Dunham, agreed to include our materials. Because of this, many of the oral histories and the original edition of *Lives and Legacy* can be accessed *online* through bancroft.berkeley.edu/ROHO/projects/jacs/transcripts.html.

Copies of all of the JAWAUCB interviews can be located in Bancroft Library at Oskicat at BANC MSS 2015/199. *Lives and Legacy* is in the Bancroft Library (NRLF) Call Number p LD766 .T35 2013.

Our inactive records are in Bancroft Library. Here is the link to the cataloging record that includes the details:

<http://oskicat.berkeley.edu/record=b20592294~S1>.

For contacts and developing information, see JAWAUCB.org.

Joyce Nao Takahashi, Ph. D.

Davis, California, August 2018

Preface and Acknowledgements 2013

I undertook the writing of the article, *Japanese American Alumnae: Their Lives and Legacy* in 2010 when the editors of the *Chronicle of the University of California*, Carroll Brentano, Ann Lage and Kathryn M. Neal were planning their Issue on Student Life. They contacted me because they wanted to include an article on Japanese American alumnae and they knew that the Japanese American Women Alumnae of UC Berkeley (JAWAUCB), a California Alumni club, was conducting oral histories of many of our members, in an attempt to piece together our evolution from the Japanese Women's Student Club (JWSC).

As the daughter of one of the founders of the original JWSC, I agreed to research and to write the JWSC/JAWAUCB story. I completed the article in 2010, but the publication of the *Chronicle of the University of California's* issue on Student Life has suffered unfortunate delays. Because I wanted to distribute our story while it was still timely, I am printing a limited number of copies of the article in a book form

I would like to thank fellow JAWAUCB board members, who provided encouragement, especially during 2010, Mary (Nakata) Tomita, oral history chair, May (Omura) Hirose, historian, and Irene (Suzuki) Tekawa, chair. Ann Wyant Halsted and Ann Lage provided invaluable editing; Kathryn M. Neal, Associate University Archivist-Berkeley Records, The Bancroft Library graciously shared her time and expertise.

Joyce Nao Takahashi, Ph. D.

Davis, California, July 2013

JAPANESE AMERICAN ALUMNAE: THEIR LIVES AND LEGACY

Joyce Nao Takahashi

Introduction

Even in the midst of the Great Depression, Japanese American women pursued higher education at the University of California, Berkeley. They were the trailblazers on the campus and in the community, as they struggled against prejudice. They wanted a better life not only for themselves but for future generations. This article highlights the lives of Japanese American coeds who studied at the university from 1920 to 1951, and includes the options available to them during the World War II forced removal and detention without due process of all persons of Japanese ancestry residing in the Western Defense Area. The first wave of alumnae founded the historic Japanese American women's dormitory; their legacy continues as the scholarship organization Japanese American Women / Alumnae of UC Berkeley.¹

The alumnae group became interested in the history of Nisei (second-generation Japanese American) women at Berkeley after three of its members visited Lillian (Iida) Matsumoto in 2001.² She showed them scrapbooks with memorabilia from her days at UCB, starting with her freshman year and her invitation from the Japanese Women's Student Club to an "informal tea" on September 7, 1929. History came alive as she spoke. In order to capture that history, the Japanese American Women Alumnae initiated its oral history project in 2006. This article places excerpts from those oral histories within their historical time frames. In roughly chronological order, the unique stories of some of these remarkable women are told here, starting with their paths to the university and concluding with the ways they parlayed their education into valuable contributions to society.

Background

The plight of the Nisei was summarized in 1932 by historian Yamato Ichihashi, who wrote, “Notwithstanding many factors likely to produce a different result, American-born Japanese are American in every respect except in race.”³ He continued, “We have shown that these Japanese-Americans have inherited American social and racial prejudices directed against their parents, as the latter had succeeded to the prejudices directed towards the Chinese.”⁴ Like many immigrant groups, the main occupations of the Issei (first-generation Japanese Americans) were farming, small storekeeping within the ethnic community, and domestic work.⁵ The United States categorized Issei as “aliens not eligible for citizenship,” a code name for Asian. These “aliens not eligible for citizenship” were not permitted to own land in California. Furthermore, the Exclusion Act of 1924 prohibited further Japanese immigration. These restrictions did not end until the Immigration and Nationality Act passed in 1952. At its peak in 1920, the Issei population in the continental United States was 81,338, and it dropped to 47,000 in 1940.⁶

The Nisei were United States citizens by birth, and their Issei parents believed in education, having grown up during the Meiji era in Japan, when men and women usually had eight years of schooling.⁷ Their parents hoped that education would provide their children an entree to professions inaccessible to Issei. Thus, many Issei worked hard, saved, and sacrificed *kodomo no tame ni* (for the sake of the children). By 1930, when the average age of the Nisei was ten, the oldest of the Nisei had reached college age.⁸ In 1929, 493 students of Japanese ancestry were attending thirty-nine colleges in California; only eighty-six were women.⁹

With very few exceptions, dating and subsequent marriages occurred only within the Japanese American society. This restriction was consistent with anti-miscegenation laws under which unions between Caucasians and Issei or Nisei were illegal. That was changed in California, with the 1948 decision in *Perez v. Sharp*, which declared such restrictions unconstitutional.¹⁰ As late as 1959, however, a Virginia judge ruled, “Almighty God created the races white, black,

yellow, Malay and red, and he placed them on separate continents. The fact that he separated the races shows that he did not intend for the races to mix." Not until 1967 did the United States Supreme Court finally declare anti-miscegenation laws unconstitutional.¹¹

The First Coeds Form the Japanese Women's Student Club: 1925-1933

In the words of two Nisei coeds, in 1925, "Telegraph Avenue was clean, quiet and sophisticated and women were dressed conservatively, wearing silk stockings and heels."¹² Four years later, there were "about eleven or twelve Nisei women graduating [from] Berkeley that year and about twice as many Nisei men."¹³ But sophisticated Berkeley harbored racial discrimination in housing and jobs, and for these reasons these women founded the Japanese Women's Student Club and began raising funds to build a dormitory for Nisei coeds; this section gives the personal stories of four of these pioneers and their families.

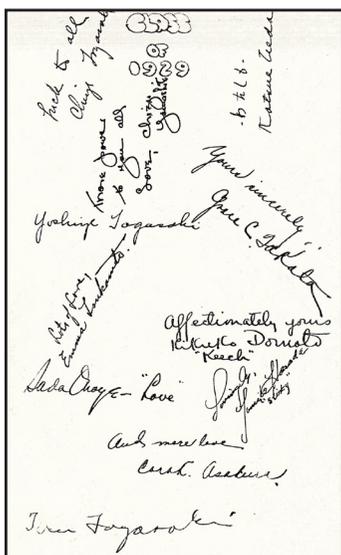
Yoshiye Togasaki (Class of 1929, School of Public Health) was an advisor to the Japanese Women's Student Club in 1929. Her father, Kikumatsu, a lawyer turned import-export entrepreneur, had this philosophy: "I will not leave you any money, I will not leave you any wealth, but I will give you any education you wish to aspire to, and no questions asked."¹⁴

Togasaki's role model was her mother, Shige (Kushida) Togasaki, who had completed the classical education at a Tokyo university before the Women's Christian Temperance Union sent her to the United States to work among the single Japanese women.¹⁵

In 1935, Togasaki received her MD degree from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.¹⁶ Despite this distinguished credential, she met prejudice when she applied to work in public health before World War II. "Sorry," she was told, "we would like to employ you, but the other members of the staff and the community will not accept you."¹⁷ Her public health expertise was vital to the incarceration camps at Manzanar and Tule Lake in California, where she was incarcerated

during World War II. In 1945, she worked in refugee camps in Europe before returning to California to work for the State Department of Public Health. Yoshiye Togasaki retired as chief of preventive medical services and deputy health officer for Contra Costa County.¹⁸

All five of Togasaki's sisters graduated from Berkeley and went on to careers in medicine: Mitsuye Togasaki Shida ('26) attended nursing school at Children's Hospital in San Francisco. Chiye Togasaki Yamanaka graduated from the University of California Training School of Nursing at Parnassus (later known as the UC School of Nursing) in 1930. Yaye Togasaki Breitenbach ('31, College of Letters & Science) became a registered nurse. Teru Togasaki graduated from the UC San Francisco School of Medicine in 1936. Kazue Togasaki ('27, School of Public Health) earned an MD degree in 1934 at the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania, becoming one of the first two women of Japanese ancestry to receive a medical degree in the United States.¹⁹ The three Togasaki brothers went into non-medical professions; their father was grooming his older sons to head the family business.²⁰



"Class of 1929."

Album courtesy of Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley

Barbara (Yamamoto) Takahashi was another advisor to the Japanese Women's Student Club in 1929. Born on Oahu, Hawaii, where her parents had immigrated to work in the sugarcane fields, she later moved to California, where she graduated from Sacramento High School. She rejected traditional plans for an arranged marriage and worked her way through college, much of the time by assisting in her sister Hatsumi Kato's import-export store. Her given name was Tsuru, but that was too difficult for the Western tongue, so she asked to be called Barbara.²¹

By 1930, Takahashi had completed the five-year nursing curriculum, including two years in the UC Training School at Parnassus for Nurses; she received RN and PHN degrees, becoming the first in her family to earn a college degree. In personal papers left with her daughter (the author), Takahashi wrote, "In my UC class, there were three who graduated with a bachelor degree, PH[N] and school nursing credentials. Two of them were hired immediately in their hometowns, but I couldn't be hired anywhere in the state of California. I didn't need the job then, because I got married."²²

On December 24, 1942, from the Topaz incarceration camp in Utah, she wrote to Dr. Frank Herron Smith, superintendent of the Pacific Japanese [Methodist] Mission, "As the only Public Health Nurse of Topaz, I feel too responsible for the lives of 9,000. Now that I have trained 54 Home Nurses and 6 Public Health Nurses Aides, from next week I can enjoy life a little more."²³In 1945, Takahashi became the first Japanese American public health nurse hired by the City of Berkeley; she retired from that position in 1967.

Mary Chiye Takahashi ('32), a 1937 director of the Japanese Women's Student Club, was the fifth of twelve children of the Berkeley tailor Chiyokichi and his wife, Shizu. Her mother, a graduate of a Quaker boarding school in Tokyo, expected each of her children to enroll at Berkeley or Whittier College, and they all did.²⁴ Although Takahashi's first love was art, she became the second woman to graduate from the UC Berkeley School of Optometry. She had an art minor. In a personal interview with the author in 2002, Takahashi said, "I nearly died going through Optometry. The family said I had

to take it. During that time, Japanese couldn't find employment in American firms, so we had to take subjects that we could use among our people. Japanese wear a lot of glasses."²⁵

She and her sister, Grace Nobu (Takahashi) Suzuki ('37) practiced optometry in the Japanese American community in the Bay Area before World War II. Takahashi's first love was ikebana, Japanese flower arranging; she earned a senior professorship in the Ikenobo School of Ikebana and wrote and illustrated the first English-language ikebana texts.²⁶ Two of their other sisters were Ruth (Takahashi) Konomi (UC Training School for Nurses at Parnassus, 1931) and Olive (Takahashi) Suzuki (Berkeley, '37). A 1937 C.Takahashi family portrait appears in *The California Monthly* with the caption, "The C.Takahashi family claimed the largest number of graduates [eight] in a single generation from the University of California, Berkeley."²⁷

Lillian (Iida) Matsumoto ('33; master's certificate, social welfare studies, '35) entered Berkeley in 1929; that was the year that her father, a publisher of a Japanese-language newspaper, moved the family from Salt Lake City. She was active in the Japanese Women's Student Club. At that time, she notes, student fees at the university were twenty-five dollars. In an oral history she recalls:

I wanted to go into social work, and there was no undergraduate course called social welfare. You had to go into the School of Economics and take social economics. And so when you graduated, you got a bachelor's in social economics and then there was the Graduate School of Social Welfare, which was very, very new. It had been in operation only two or three years, but I was admitted within weeks, and then the program was not intense enough to offer a master's. We got what they called a graduate certificate in social welfare... When I finished, I was very fortunate that the Japanese Children's Home in Los Angeles had to have trained social workers in order to get more county funding. I really didn't have to look around for a job.²⁸

Lillian Matsumoto was the supervisor and the essence of the Children's Home for nearly one hundred children incarcerated without families in the Manzanar Incarceration Camp during World War II.²⁹ In her second career she was a librarian at the UC Berkeley Biology Library.

The International House Opens in 1930

International House Berkeley, a racially integrated, coeducational residence opened in 1930 on Piedmont Avenue,³⁰ in the neighborhood of the fraternities and sororities which excluded foreigners and people of color. I-House served as a place to live and/or to work for the two Nisei women of the time.

Anne (Saito) Howden ('34) grew up in Hanford, California, where her high school teacher and her parents, especially her mother, encouraged her to continue her education. A minister friend, the Reverend Hata, arranged a "school-girl" domestic job for her at Berkeley; she helped with meals in exchange for room, board, and carfare.

I vaguely thought of becoming a teacher, even though I didn't know of a single Nisei woman teacher. But I wasn't one of those career-bound people, you know. A whole new world had opened up to me, and I was determined to make the most of it. I found myself taking English literature courses and some business courses on the side.³¹

At the university, Anne Howden met members of the Japanese Women's Student Club and the Japanese Men's Student Club. "It was so exciting to meet Nisei men who were actually going to college!" In 1937, Anne Howden was a director of the Japanese Women's Student Club.

After graduating, Howden worked at International House in Berkeley. During World War II, she taught high school in the Poston incarceration camp in Arizona. When she returned to California she

became a civic leader, served on the San Francisco Fire Commission, where she was “one of the first women members and successfully pushed for hiring of women and minority firefighters” and was appointed in the late 1960s to the state prison terms and parole board for women. Howden received the 1989 Eleanor Roosevelt Democratic Woman of the Year award from the San Francisco Democratic Women’s Forum as “a humanitarian who exhibit tenacity in pursuing issues affecting the disenfranchised.”³²

Tomoye (Nozawa) Takahashi ('37) felt that Berkeley students were conservative and studious.³³ She had two majors, Oriental studies, with an emphasis on ancient Chinese and modern Japanese, and environmental design. Because she didn’t want to commute by streetcar and bus from her family home in San Francisco, Takahashi lived in the International House. She remembered that:

I did not feel any prejudice whatsoever at the I-House, but on campus it existed. Therefore, outside of my major, my friends almost entirely were Japanese Americans. I got together with them as often as time allowed, because for the very first time I felt at home and comfortable among other Nisei students. We had some favorite gathering places. Went to the campus YWCA [the Julia Morgan–designed cottage on Allston Way and Union Street] and we also hung out at soda fountains, both on the campus and on Telegraph Avenue....

Among the men students, [many were] majoring in commerce and the others were engineers, and pre-med students... A few of the outstanding engineers and engineering students couldn’t get a job, even if the professors gave them recommendations. The professors on the campus got jobs for other students, but they couldn’t get them for the Japanese. The ones I knew went to Japan, and they were able to find work, if they were able to manage the language, but not all Nisei had that Japanese language background.

Tomoye Takahashi described her job as the I-House telephone switchboard operator: "Since I am chatty . . . this was the ideal job for me—here I was getting paid...I didn't want to accept very much money from my mother. That was her money and I felt guilty about accepting when already, my parents were paying for my tuition (\$27.50) and all of my living expenses."

Other part-time jobs available to Japanese-American students included front-desk work at one of Berkeley's few hotels, accounting for small businesses, working in dry cleaning shops or grocery stores, and domestic work. Takahashi observed "We accepted being invisible or at the very least, in the background. . . ."

Tomoye Takahashi emerged from incarceration during World War II to build a prosperous trading company and, with her husband, Henri, established the Henri & Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation, which is dedicated to promoting understanding between the United States and Japan. In 2010, the Japanese government awarded their highest honor, the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays to Takahashi and her sister, Martha Nozawa Suzuki.³⁴

Students and Mothers Build a Clubhouse: 1929-1942

The Nisei, born in the United States, were citizens and could purchase property. Their parents, who were, as a category, ineligible for United States citizenship, could not. By 1929, the Japanese Women's Student Club, along with a Japanese mothers' group, had begun putting on plays to raise money to buy a Japanese-American women's dormitory. Some girls performed; others sold tickets door-to-door and in the flower market. In her interview, Lillian Matsumoto [2001] recalled that she and Ann Howden performed plays in English and in Japanese in the auditoriums of two Japanese-language schools, the Kinmon Gakuen in San Francisco and the Wanto Gakuen in Oakland. The community aided in the fund-raising; The March 2, 1934 Japanese Doll Festival Tea, held at the International House

and sponsored by the Mortar Board, featured tableaux arranged by Professor Chiura Obata, ikebana, koto and odori.³⁵

In three years, they raised about \$2,000, which became the nucleus for the fund that enabled the Japanese Women's Student Club to purchase the former Filipino Student Clubhouse on 2509 Hearst Avenue.³⁶



Japanese Women's Student Club Benefit Tea
Fund-Raiser; U.C.Y.W.C.A., March 7,8, 1930

Photo courtesy of Bancroft Library, University
of California, Berkeley



(top) Exterior and (bottom) Mae Iwai and Barbara Takahashi in the interior of the clubhouse, 2509 Hearst Avenue, Photos courtesy of Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

In the Fall of 1937, after ten years of fundraising, the two-story white frame house at 2509 Hearst Avenue became the Japanese Women's Clubhouse.³⁷ It was ideally located across the street from the campus, with a view of the architecture building and around the corner from the Japanese-American men's dormitory.³⁸ First to move in were seven coeds, Mabel Ando, Kiyo (Kitano) Yamashita, Miye Kozaku, May (Morioka) Okamoto, Sadae (Nomura) Iwataki, Takako (Tsuchiya) Endo, and Michi (Yamazaki) Hirazawa, and their housemothers, Ayame Ichiyasu and Mae Iwai. (Kiku Taniguchi became the housemother in 1939.)³⁹ The directors of the nonprofit Japanese Women's Student Club were Tomi Domoto, Shizuko Hikoyeda, Anne Howden, Barbara Takahashi, Mary Takahashi, Yoshiye Togasaki, and Grace (Takata) Uyeyama.⁴⁰



Clubhouse residents, 1938. (L to R, front row) Michi Yamazaki, Kiyo Kitano, Mae Iwai (house mother), Mabel Andow. (L to R, back row) Sadae Nomura, May Morioka, Takako Tsuchiya, Midori Sugita, Ayame Ichiyasu, Bessie Matsuda, Miye Kojuko, Lily Nishi. Photo courtesy of Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Barbara Takahashi wrote notes on the back of a set of clubhouse photos: “Professor Chiura Obata’s paintings decorated the walls of the living room. Much of the furniture was donated. At full capacity, 12-14 women slept in the five bedrooms and the large sun porch.”⁴¹ The residents ate around a large table in the kitchen/dining room. In fact, they were together all the time, except when they were in classes or studying. One student cooked Japanese or Western food for dinner in exchange for room and board. The other students prepared lunch on a rotating basis.⁴²

The idea of a low-cost women’s dormitory was innovative; it wasn’t until after World War II that the first two women’s cooperative dormitories were opened: Ritter Hall, under the auspices of the Prytaneans (the women’s honor society), and Stebbins Hall, established by the University Students’ Cooperative Association.

Here are the stories of four women who were among the first to take advantage of the new clubhouse; two lived in the clubhouse, and two commuted from their family homes in the Bay Area but participated in clubhouse activities.

Takako (Tsuchiya) Endo (’39) said men “had preference [in] going to college,” adding, “If they could only afford one or two children to go to school, the men went.”⁴³ Endo graduated from high school in 1935 and came to Berkeley, where she and Sally (Domoto) Fujii occupied two bedrooms in the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. Moriwaki. The following year, Endo preferred to commute nearly two hours by streetcar and bus from her home in San Leandro, at a cost of \$7.50 a month. She had to be careful with her money, but she had \$2.50 to spend on things “like coffee and donuts.”

When Endo first arrived at Berkeley, she participated in the fundraisers for a women’s clubhouse and became one of the first to move into the clubhouse. She recalls that they mostly had social events at the larger and better established men’s club. She did not socialize with Caucasian students. She remembers:

[I was] playing tennis with this woman and she came up to me and said, "Do you know so and so?" It was a Japanese name. "Well, she's our maid." And she made me so mad. So the next time I thought about that, and my father had employees in his nursery, and so I said "Do you know a John Geary?" She said "No." And I said, "He works for my father." She never said anything to me after that.

Endo majored in decorative arts. One student was planning to be a teacher. The others teased her and asked if she was going to Hawaii to teach. "They were not hiring Japanese . . . around here," Endo said. An enthusiastic sports fan, she loved "to go watch sports. We all went to the football games and basketball games. We went to the Rose Bowl and won."

Endo was a nursery school teacher in the Topaz incarceration camp during World War II, and on her return to California, she became a realtor and at the same time coauthored several books, including *Japanese American Journey* (1985) and *Negro American Heritage* (1967).⁴⁴

Yuri (Sakurai) Moriwaki Shibata ('41) attended Los Angeles Junior College and the University of California, Los Angeles, before she transferred to Berkeley in 1940. Her classes in Italian, French, Spanish, and German were small, and between classes she studied in the library with dorm-mates from the clubhouse. Comparing Berkeley to UCLA, she said:

It was more fun than UCLA. You could walk everywhere. [At] UCLA you would have to drive. It did not have the friendly or informal atmosphere that Cal had. [At] UCLA, most of the women wore heels and a dress. I never had the clothes anyway, so I liked Cal...We [women students] didn't congregate...The fellows congregated more. I'd see them sitting outside, whole groups of them. But the girls didn't.⁴⁵

However, even with her major in public speaking, she was unable to find a job. "If you were a minority," she said, "they expected you to be [a] domestic." After graduation, Yuri Shibata stayed at the clubhouse and attended a business school until the forced removal of the Japanese Americans from the Western Defense Area. Yuri Shibata was incarcerated in the Santa Anita "Assembly Center", one of the several temporary incarceration camps in California, and in the Heart Mountain incarceration camp in Wyoming, where she taught school.

Chizu Kitano Iiyama ('42) came to the university on the advice of her older sister, Kiyō Kitano Yamashita ('38), who had been a housemother at the Japanese Women's Clubhouse.⁴⁶ Their family owned the Kitano Hotel in San Francisco's Chinatown. She majored in psychology because she was told, "You'll learn a lot about yourself, a lot about your family, and you'll be able to work with people a lot better." Iiyama said, "I found Cal so exciting...It introduced me to so many aspects of American life." During her college years, Iiyama lived and worked as a schoolgirl in homes in Berkeley and incarcerated in the Department of Art for forty cents an hour; in the summer she worked at the World's Fair on Treasure Island. She gave all her earnings to her mother. She frequently attended formal dances, for which she and her four sisters shared their wardrobe of gowns.

In her senior year, the "Civilian Exclusion Orders" announced the schedule for and details of the imminent forced removal, and Iiyama recalls, "I began to wake up to what was going on in the world. I joined a committee called the Fair Play Committee.⁴⁷ Students and teachers were generally sympathetic or indifferent. Some were trying to help. They would say, 'You know you are American citizens. You have rights.'" She completed all her class assignments before she was incarcerated and received her diploma in a horse stall at the Santa Anita "Assembly Center", after which she celebrated with "soggy, pink desserts stolen from the mess hall."⁴⁸ At Santa Anita she was initially in charge of education and recreation.

Iiyama holds a master's degree in Human Development from the University of Chicago (1954). She was a social worker and the head of the Early Childhood Education Department at Contra Costa College.

Her service on the Richmond Human Relations Commission is only one of the many ways she has made the world a better and safer place.

Yoshiko Uchida ('42), the author of the autobiography *Invisible Thread*, was the daughter of the assistant manager at Mitsui Bussan, a Japanese industrial giant, in San Francisco. The family lived in Berkeley.⁴⁹ Uchida entered the university as a freshman, majoring in English, philosophy, and history. Although she was unsure of how she would find a job when she graduated, she thought she could work as a secretary because she could type.⁵⁰ She discovered the Nisei community at Berkeley, where she became president of the Japanese Women's Student Club for a year and became active in the Northern California Conference for Nisei Christians. At college, her social activities were exclusively among Nisei, and she dated only Nisei men.⁵¹

In 1942, when she was looking forward to graduating, she was incarcerated at Tanforan "Assembly Center", San Bruno, California. The mailman brought her diploma, a BA with honors, to the horse stall where she was living.⁵² Approximately 150 college seniors in "assembly centers" also received their University of California, Berkeley degrees by mail. *Journey to Topaz*, Yoshiko Uchida's novel based on her wartime experiences, became a standard text in classrooms throughout California.⁵³ In all, she published twenty-five books between 1949 and 1987, all directed toward building bridges between Japanese and Western cultures.

In 1992, the graduates of 1942, wearing leis of blue and gold cranes, were honored at the University Convocation.⁵⁴ Out of the 150 eligible alumni, only eighteen were able to attend.

The Incarceration Interrupts Their Education: 1942-1945

In spite of efforts by President Robert Gordon Sproul and other educators to allow the approximately 2,500 Nisei students to complete their education, by the first week in May 1942, all the Japanese Americans in the Western Defense Area had been illegally detained in War Relocation Authority “assembly centers” or incarceration camps.⁵⁵ Approximately six hundred had been students at Cal.⁵⁶



Wartime exclusion. Last students to leave the clubhouse, March 1942. (L to R, front row) Kiku Kato, Mary Sakaguchi, Shizuwa Fukuhara; (L to R, back row) Mitsuye Yoshinaga, Ruth Doi, Mary Ogi, Mrs. Taniguchi, Hisako Ishii, Helen Miyoshi, Kazue Tanabe

Photo courtesy of Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley

At the request of the War Relocation Authority and Eleanor Roosevelt, the American Friends Service Committee formed the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council to help Nisei students leave incarceration camps and transfer to schools outside the Pacific Coast exclusion zone. Council members included college presidents and deans, representatives of churches, and the campus YMCA and YWCA. The transfer schools had to have military

clearance, and the students were rigorously screened.⁵⁷ Between July 4, 1942, and May 1, 1946, the council handled files of 3,613 students at 680 institutions.⁵⁸

For students in the nursing programs, there was the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps, an army program enacted in June 1943 to relieve the nursing shortage.⁵⁹ In partnership with an approved school of nursing, the government granted a full scholarship, a monthly stipend, and a degree of RN in exchange for a commitment for the duration of the war. Representatives of the Cadet Nurse Corps recruited in the incarceration camps with the result that more than 350 Nisei women joined the cadets. Unlike the soldiers in the well-known all-Nisei 442nd Regimental Combat Team and 100th Battalion units, the cadet nurses were not in segregated outfits.⁶⁰ Nisei women also served in the Military Intelligence Service and Women's Army Corps.⁶¹

The next stories tell of how four women continued their education, during and sometimes long after the war. One of them returned to Berkeley and completed her degree in 1966; the others graduated from other institutions and received honorary degrees from Berkeley in 2009.

Grace (Obata) Amemiya came from Vacaville to Berkeley in 1938 with her sights on a degree in public health nursing.⁶² Before their immigration to the United States from Akita, Japan, in the early 1900s, her mother, Retsu (Funaki) was a middle-school home-economics teacher and her father, Tetsugoro, was a lawyer. Her sister, Mary enrolled at Berkeley in 1928, but returned to Vacaville in 1930 when their father passed away.

Although she was active in the Japanese Women's Student Club, Grace Amemiya said, "There were those who lived there, but we who did not live there, more or less locals . . . didn't get to the clubhouse very often. We went to our churches and we had our own activities, also." She didn't feel any racial discrimination. She was active in the campus branch of Alpha Tau Delta, a professional nursing fraternity. She and her brother Ben Obata ('40) often met at the campus library on Sundays to go to eat at "the Chinese place for twenty-five cents."

During her three years on the Berkeley campus, she was a student during the weekdays and a schoolgirl at night, taking care of young children, first for a Japanese American family and then for a “socially up” white family. Of her first position, Amemiya said that Yo (Yoshiko) Uchida became “a dear, dear friend [who] lived close by.” The second position was a little further away, and she was paid a carfare allowance, which she saved by walking to the campus.

At the end of her sophomore year, she applied for entrance to the UC School of Nursing in San Francisco and was told, “I’m sorry, but you did not take an economics class which is required.” Director Margaret Tracy presented three choices: take the class in summer school, stay another year in Berkeley and take the economics class and some public health classes, or change her major. Amemiya said, “Being a family of very low means, I had to go back home and work in the fruit crops all summer so I could return to college . . . that was why I was over in Berkeley for my third year.”

Amemiya was in nursing school and living in the U.C. School of Nursing dormitory at 610 Parnassus in San Francisco when the “Civilian Exclusion Orders” were issued. In March of 1942, Director Margaret Tracy appealed to the National League of Nursing Education, stating that she had twenty-two Japanese American students who were all scholastically at the top of their class.⁶³ The league was indifferent, but Henrietta Adams Loughran, director of the University of Colorado School of Nursing, was able to effect the transfer of some of her students, including Grace’s classmate, Suzu Shimizu Kunitani.⁶⁴

Amemiya was incarcerated at Turlock “Assembly Center” in California, and Gila incarceration camp in Arizona, where she worked as a nurse’s aide. In 1943, she was accepted into St. Mary’s School of Nursing in Rochester, Minnesota, and into the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps, training for the last six months as a senior cadet at Schick General [Army] Hospital, Clinton, Iowa. After the war, she married Min Amemiya, one of the students who had walked her home from the Berkeley campus.

Thelma M. Robinson's book, *Nisei Cadet Nurse of World War II* included Amemiya's story. In 2006, at a book signing at the National Japanese American Historical Society in San Francisco, Amemiya met Zina Mirsky, associate dean of administration for the UC San Francisco School of Nursing. Three years later, after Zina Mirsky had pursued the issue of granting honorary degrees to incarcerated students on her campus, she asked Amemiya to speak before the University of California Board of Regents at their July 2009 meeting in San Francisco. Since Amemiya had had considerable experience describing her World War II incarceration to groups (thirty-five times in 2009 alone), she replied, "I was just a student nurse, but I'd be glad to do that." After she realized that she was representing 750 students who were on the four campuses, she said, "It was such a humbling experience."

The regents voted in favor of granting the honorary degrees on four campuses. In a ceremony at UCSF on December 4, 2009, Grace Amemiya received her degree.⁶⁵

Kiku Kato entered Berkeley as a foods and nutrition major in 1939. She described her first year:

I remember distinctly the bridge wasn't built then, and so I remember crossing on the ferry early in the morning and looking out on the choppy waters of the bay and getting to Berkeley...The temperature was so different from San Francisco that we would have to shed our clothing to be comfortable...I remember the hike we had from Wheeler Hall to the chemistry lab we had on the hill.⁶⁶

Speaking of her junior year, she said:

[I] stayed at the Japanese Women's Student Club where I met a lot of Nisei students. That's when the war broke out... That fateful Sunday...Saturday there was a dance and everybody woke up late Sunday morning, and a couple of the students and I decided to take a stroll up to the men's clubhouse . . . a

couple of guys came to the balcony and hollered at us, "The United States declared war with Japan." We didn't believe it. We ran back to the dorm and we confronted our other classmates and we found out that, indeed, war was declared. Then the telephone started ringing where the girls' parents wanted them to come home immediately. There was an interesting conversation where one of the girls was talking to her parents and the operator stepped in and said, "Please speak English." So, we knew then that our telephone was tapped.

Kiku Kato recalled that the Berkeley provost gathered all the Nisei students and told them that the university would stand behind them, but that they should obey the curfew laws, and that for those students who remained, they would get full credit for the semester and be granted indefinite leaves of absence. About twelve of the women in the clubhouse remained. When they studied in the library in the evening, they stood up as a group and left the library in order to be home by the eight p.m. curfew imposed by the military on the Japanese Americans. "Incidentally," Kato added, "When I was in the nutrition class in Berkeley, the professor tried to get us to transfer to the University of Illinois, but all the state colleges refused to take the Nisei, saying that we were 'dangerous.'"

As a result of the Exclusion, Kiku Kato was sent to Walerga (Sacramento "Assembly Center") and Tule Lake incarceration camp, and from there, she was accepted to a small midwestern college, where she reluctantly changed her major to home economics. She later obtained a master's degree in social work from the University of Pittsburgh.

Kimi (Kato) Igarashi had junior standing at Berkeley in 1942 when she was incarcerated with her sister, Kiku Kato, and their parents. An accomplished pianist and music major, she taught music in Tule Lake incarceration camp, then relocated to the Colorado State College of Education in Greeley, Colorado, where she earned her BA in music and applied music.⁶⁷

Kiku Kato was among the fifty-two proud honorees sitting on the stage in a convocation ceremony on the Berkeley campus on December 13, 2010, when approximately five hundred eligible Japanese Americans were invited to receive honorary degrees from the University of California, Berkeley. Kimi Igarashi was unable to attend and was represented by her nephew. Their diplomas bear the inscription (translated from the Latin), “To restore justice among the groves of the academy.”⁶⁸

Michiko Fujii Uchida ('66), a Berkeley native, came to the university in 1939 to become a librarian, “So, I just took liberal arts, majored in English and minored in music.” Her social activities revolved around other Nisei, often at the clubhouse: “I went there often. We did a lot of things, mostly with Japanese in those days. I don’t think we did it purposefully, but that’s the way you lived your life at Cal. They had socials. It was a nice place.”⁶⁹ She met Kiyoshi (George) Uchida, who was a year ahead of her in school:

That was in 1940. We went steady, and we decided that after we graduated, we’d get married. Love at first sight. . . .When that [evacuation] notice came out, we thought that he would be sent one way and I’m going to be sent another, and we would lose track of each other. We decided, “We’ll do it now.” . . . so we did get married [on April 27, 1942].

Two days later, they were incarcerated in Tanforan “Assembly Center”, in California.

When Michiko and Kiyoshi Uchida were married, the government had confiscated all cameras owned by Japanese Americans so the family could not photograph the ceremony. However, the War Relocation Authority sent Dorothea Lange to take pictures. Decades later, on the eve of their forty-sixth anniversary, Michiko Uchida located the photo in the War Relocation Authority archives in Washington DC.⁷⁰

Uchida returned to the Berkeley campus twenty years later. “My father wanted me to go to Cal,” she said in her oral history, “and by that time, although he was gone, I wanted to honor my father’s wishes. It was a very busy time. I had the four children.” Because Japanese

American students had been given “indefinite leaves,” she said, “I didn’t have to have a 4.5 average, or anything like that” in competition with the new students to be admitted. She completed work for her bachelor’s degree in 1966.

Rebuilding Lives: 1945-1951

On January 2, 1945, the Supreme Court decision in *Ex parte Endo* allowed the Japanese Americans to return to the Western Defense Area. About sixty percent returned to their pre-World War II locations, but the years spent in incarceration camps caused personal and economic upheaval. Hostels opened for those who had lost their homes.⁷¹ A Nisei counselor with the Student Relocation Council reported, “There are many students who are waiting to resettle their families before relocating themselves to college. Many have given up further education so that they might support the family.”⁷²

When the Nisei students returned to the university, they found that they had more career opportunities than the Nisei had had before the war. For example, public schools were willing, and in some cases eager, to hire qualified Japanese American teachers. The clubhouse reopened, and the women’s co-op dormitories began to provide nondiscriminatory, reasonably priced housing.

The story of the clubhouse will be continued at the conclusion of this article, but first, in the interest of completing the Nisei students’ history, five more alumnae tell their stories. While none of these women lived in the clubhouse, all but one of them have been instrumental in overseeing the scholarship funds which resulted from the eventual sale of the house.

Margaret Ikuko (Koide) Kusaba enrolled as a junior at Berkeley in 1946, following graduation from high school in the Topaz incarceration camp, and relocation to two universities in Utah. She received her degree in social welfare in 1948. She selected her major following the example of her former Sunday school teacher, Berkeley alumna Hedeki (Nakazawa) Seto. Kusaba’s father was a merchant;

the family home and Koidé's Grocery were at 1715 Ward Street in Berkeley.⁷³

In 1945, Kusaba and her brother, Hiroshi, returned first to Berkeley and stayed with friends. When her parents returned, her mother temporarily had to do "day work" at a home "in the hills" because the store was in a state of disrepair: [The shipyard workers had] "rented the place. Each room had a lock. The store must have been a dorm with four or five beds. It was really in bad shape, terrible shape. . . . There were some wonderful people who were willing to lend money, somehow, they were able to open the store, again."

Of the effects of the incarceration, Kusaba said:

When we came back, I felt like a second-class citizen. . . I was made to feel really "down there." You feel intimidated with the war, you feel inferior.

I was able to get the job at UCB when I was a student. I worked at the Life Science Building . . . three to four hours a day. I had no social life. I went to work, studied and went home. . . I studied with some gals, Irene Rachtou, she used to have a small place. . . I had dates . . . but my father was so strict that he didn't want me to go with any guys, at all.

Margaret Kusaba worked in social welfare, married George Kusaba, whom she had met at Berkeley, and after having two children, she returned to school at San Francisco State University in the evenings to get an elementary teaching credential. She taught for nineteen and one-half years.

Grace Nobuko (Haratani) Aikawa ('49) transferred to Berkeley from San Francisco City College in 1947. She graduated from high school in Amache (Granada) incarceration camp in Colorado, in June 1945, and soon thereafter, she returned to California with her sister, Mary (Haratani) Kirihara, a student at the UC San Francisco School of Nursing. They stayed with family friends until the return of their

parents. She was the fifth of the seven children in the family of a Methodist minister who served the Japanese-speaking members of his church.⁷⁴

In addition to her studies, Aikawa worked in the campus library order department and commuted to campus. As for extracurricular activities, she wrote in a letter dated March 22, 2010, "None. [I] was too busy working eighteen hours a week." She observed that the Japanese Women's Student Clubhouse served a vital need because the Japanese American women students had difficulty finding housing on their return to the campus. After graduation, Aikawa worked in welfare programs for the aged, both for the State of California and for Alameda County.

In December 1949, as the lives of the students returned to normal, "Coed at Cal," a *Scene Magazine* photo essay by famed photographer Wayne F. Miller, captured Nisei students in front of campus landmarks, off campus in front of the Japanese Women's Clubhouse, and at a poker session in Euclid Hall. That year, the officers of the 400-member Nisei Students Club were Richard Tanaka, Pat Wehara, and Carol (Nobe) Murakami.⁷⁵

Ellen Shizuko Takahashi (B.S.'52. M.Opt.'53, Ph.D.'67) was featured in the 1949 *Scene Magazine* article. She graduated from Berkeley's School of Optometry, her father Henry's alma mater.⁷⁶ She was Barbara Takahashi's daughter. The family spent the war years in Tanforan "Assembly Center", Topaz incarceration camp, and Chicago, Illinois. In the 1960s, Ellen Takahashi returned to Berkeley for her PhD and for twenty-five years she was a professor of Physiological Optics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine.

Joanne (Ono) Iritani ('51) saw her teaching credential as her insurance policy.⁷⁷ After spending three-and-a-half-years in Poston incarceration camp during World War II, she returned to a welcoming environment in the Bakersfield schools. Iritani attended Bakersfield Junior College, worked in a public library, and then chose to continue her degree work at Berkeley because of its library school. She spent her senior year living in Ritter Hall, which was sponsored by the

Prytaneans, a women's honor society. The residents were all planning to become teachers. So she decided she "might as well be a teacher."

Iritani had heard of the clubhouse but never went there. Instead, she often socialized, ate lunch, and attended special classes at the YWCA. Groups of people from the dorm saw movies together (Iritani especially remembered her friends talking like Judy Holliday after they saw *Born Yesterday*) or went to San Francisco to hear the symphony. Once, she recalls, when they were returning from San Francisco, she said, "I think that after I graduate and I'm working, I want to do something for my community, and for my church, and for my family. . . . And really, that's the way my life has gone." Joanne Iritani taught kindergarten and trainable mentally handicapped children, co-authored the book *Ten Visits Revised*,⁷⁸ and headed the extensive Florin Japanese American Citizens' League Oral History Project.

Dr. Elsie Sata Baukol (M.P.H., 1971) graduated from Hunt High School in Minidoka Incarceration Center and with the support of the Quakers, attended college, graduating from Friends University in Wichita, Kansas ('47).⁷⁹ Quoting from Dr. Baukol, "The Wichita City Council had been elected on a pledge that no-one of Japanese ancestry would be allowed to step foot within the city limits of Wichita. The Quakers were adamant in their belief in equal rights for all and took the relocation of Japanese students from camp as a special challenge. The university received bomb threats for having us on campus. But the Quakers stood firm and each year added another student from camp on full scholarship." That is another example of the Quakers taking a stand. She was also the sole woman in her class at the University of Utah Medical School ('54). A fellowship to the UC Berkeley School of Public Health drew her to California, where she stayed and worked for 11 years, crediting Dr. Yoshiye Togasaki as her mentor and inspiration. She served as Chief of Family Services at the Illinois Department of Public Health before returning to California.

The Clubhouse in the Postwar Years and the Japanese American Women Alumnae Scholarship Fund

During the incarceration of Japanese Americans, the Merritt family rented the clubhouse for \$80 a month.⁸⁰ When the Japanese Americans returned to Berkeley, the building was vacated but in need of repairs. Dr. Yoshiye Togasaki supervised the clean-up and insured that everything met public health standards. In 1946, Lillian and Harry Matsumoto rented the property for a year; their family and eleven students lived there. On April 4, 1947, the alumnae voted to reopen the house as a dormitory, and Kiku Taniguchi returned as housemother. For seventeen more years, it served as a meeting place for Japanese American women.

In 1958, eight upper division and graduate students occupied the clubhouse. In 1964, the City of Berkeley condemned the building. By then, Japanese American students were able to live in racially integrated co-ops and dormitories. A realty firm offered \$25,000 for the property, but the Japanese Women's Student Club delayed replying while they made plans for the proceeds.

After two years of study and negotiations, the club's board and the University of California Regents created a scholarship fund. Only then was the clubhouse sold for \$72,000. On January 10, 1967, proceeds from the sale were given to the regents to endow the Japanese Women Alumnae Scholarship Fund. Founding members of the 1966 Scholarship Committee were Yoshiye Togasaki (chair), Shizu Hikoyeda, Lillian Matsumoto, Fumie Nakamura, Michi (Oka) Onuma, Barbara Takahashi, and Grace Uyeyama.⁸¹

The alumnae delegated the awarding of the scholarships to the university's development office; the partial scholarships are determined by the Financial Aid Office and Development Office of the Graduate Division. Between 1969 and 2017, annual awards were made to seventy-four graduate and one hundred fifty-two undergraduates. On March 17, 2018, the JAWAUCB honored the 2017-8 scholars: Sheena Horiki (Undeclared), Haley Hayashi (History), Sachiko Matsumoto (Computer Science and Physics), Chihiro Tabuchi (Ph. D. candidate, Metabolic Biology)

Japanese American Women / Alumnae of UC Berkeley

Apart from the scholarship awards, there are no records of activity by the alumnae between 1969 and 1978, when Dr. Yoshiye Togasaki revived the Scholarship Committee. On October 3, 1981 they held a wine and cheese party at the Women's Faculty Club honoring scholarship awardees and the club's first president, Kiku Domoto Omata.⁸² By 1992, the committee had affiliated with the California Alumni Association; its directors were Elsie Sata Baukol (chair), Yoshiye Togasaki, Michi Onuma, Kathleen Fujita Date, Chizu Iiyama, Frances Kirihara, Margaret Kusaba, Mary Murai, Elsie Adachi Ogata, Toyoko Toppata, Reiko True, and Michiko Uchida. On May 4, 1991, this group sponsored a luncheon with UC Regent Yori Wada as keynote speaker and honored Yoshiye Togasaki as its first Alumna of the Year.

The Spring luncheon, has become a tradition. The group, now known as the Japanese American Women / Alumnae of the University of California, Berkeley, brings together the community at an annual event featuring the scholarship/fellowship awardees, an outstanding alumna, and an Asian American woman keynote speaker.



JAWAUCB Board at the Eleventh Annual Luncheon, 2001. JAWAUCB Archives. (L to R, front row) Elsie Ogata, Michiko Uchida, Margaret Kusaba, Grace Aikawa, Joyce Takahashi, (L to R, back row) Gloria Imagire, Lisa Hirai Tsuchitani, Sara Ishikawa, Ruth Ichinaga, Miriam Hatamiya, May Hirose, Elsie Baukol, Tae Sano, Mary Tomita.

Remembering its genesis, the JAWAUCB also reaches out to U.C. Berkeley's Asian American & Asian Diaspora Studies (AAADS), Nikkei Student Union (NSU) and [Center for Race and Gender \(CRG\)](#). Reaching from within, a few of the directors represent more than one generation in a family, among them are Elsie Adachi Ogata ('39), her daughter, Betty Nobue Kano ('78) and granddaughter, Nina Fallenbaum Ichikawa ('00) and Michiko Fujii Uchida ('43, '66) and her daughter, Leslie Tsukamoto ('88).

During a series of workshops to define their vision, the board of JAWAUCB developed the following statement:

Our vision is to support and inspire Asian American women as learners, leaders and contributors to local and global communities in the spirit of our founding Japanese American alumnae.

JAWAUCB – September 3, 2015

Conclusion

This article highlights the stories of only a small fraction of the Japanese American coeds at the University of California, Berkeley. Behind each successful alumna were her family, older siblings and parents, who made great sacrifices, especially during the Great Depression and the years of resettlement following the World War II incarceration. These Nisei women blazed trails of achievement both at Berkeley and in their communities. They struggled, and they wanted to ease the way for future generations of Japanese American coeds. They succeeded.

**Outstanding Alumnae Honored by
Japanese American Women/ Alumnae of the
University of California, Berkeley, 1991-2018**

1991	Yoshiye Togasaki, M. D.
1992	Mary Murai, Ph. D.
1993	Frances Yuge Kirihara
1994	Evelyn Nakano Glenn, Ph. D.
1995	Elsie Sata Baukol, M. D.
1996	Michi Onuma
1997	Ann Saito Howden
1998	Lillian Iida Matsumoto
1999	Chizu Kitano Iiyama, M. A.
2000	Michiko Fujii Uchida
2001	Reiki Homma True, Ph. D.
2002	Tomoye Nozawa Takahashi
2003	Elsie Adachi Ogata
2004	Pearl Kurokawa Kimura
2005	Hideko Seto
2006	Joanne Ono Iritani
2007	Grace Imamura Noda
2008	Irene T. Miura, Ph. D. (posthumous)
2009	Dorothy Oda, RN, DNSc.
2010	Doris Okada Matsui
2011	Joyce N. Takahashi, Ph. D.
2012	Sara Ishikawa, B.Arch.
2013	Gloria Saika Imagire
2014	Grace Obata Amemiya, Honoris Causa
2015	Judy Sakaki, Ph. D.
2016	Kiku Funabiki
2017	Amy Iwasaki Mass- Ph. D.
2018	Margaret Koide Kusaba

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- 73 Margaret Ikuko (Koide) Kusaba, an oral history conducted on March 24, 2010, by Joyce N. Takahashi for the JAWAUCB Oral History Project. Regional Oral History Office, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, 2012.
- 74 Grace Nobuko (Haratani) Aikawa, correspondence with Joyce N. Takahashi, January 29-March 30, 2010. .
- 75 Wayne F. Miller, "Coed At Cal," *Scene the Pictorial magazine*, Chicago Publishing Corporation. Chicago, December 1949, 27-37. *Scene Magazine* was a publication edited by Nisei Togo Tanaka with a mission of bridging the gap between Japan and the US.
- 76 Information comes from Ellen Takahashi's sister, Joyce N. Takahashi (author).
- 77 Joanne Taeko (Ono) Iritani, an oral history conducted on February 8, 2010, by Joyce N. Takahashi for the JAWAUCB Oral History Project. Regional Oral History Office, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, 2012. All quotations in this section are from Iritani's oral history.
- 78 Frank and Joanne Iritani, *Ten Visits Revised* (Los Angeles: Japanese American National Museum, 1999).
- 79 Elsie Sata Baukol, *Outstanding Alumna Award Acceptance*. March 18, 1995, Holiday Inn, Emeryville, California.
- 80 Information on the clubhouse reopening (Lillian (Iida) Matsumoto, an oral history conducted on February 2, 2008) and sale and the creation of the scholarship fund (Endowment Record Sheet from the Regents, November 17, 1966 and Resolution of Members to Establish Priorities for Scholarships, June 12, 1979) is from the JAWAUCB archives.
- 81 Initially the group was called The Scholarship Committee of the Japanese Women Alumnae of UCB; it later became the Japanese American Women Alumnae of UCB.
- 82 Kusaba oral history.

Joyce Nao Takahashi was born in Berkeley, California, the second daughter of Henry and Barbara Takahashi. She grew up in Berkeley, with the exception of the “war years”, when she was one of the 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry who were excluded from the West Coast of the United States. She graduated from Berkeley High School, and the University of California, Berkeley and received a Ph. D. in Chemistry from the University of California, Los Angeles. As a teacher, author/co-author of 39 scientific or educational publications, she was also known as Joyce Takahashi Doi; she resides in Davis, California.

