

## **SAN FRANCISCO JAPANTOWN FOUNDATION BOARD *of* DIRECTORS**

### **Don Tamaki, Board President and Founding Member**

Don Tamaki is a graduate of UC Berkeley and Berkeley Law School, and is a co-founder and Senior Counsel of Minami Tamaki LLP. In 2006, he represented Kintetsu Enterprises of America (KEA) to carry out KEA's desire to create and endow the San Francisco Japantown Foundation. With roots in the non-profit sector, Don co-founded the Asian Law Alliance in San Jose and was the Executive Director of the Asian Law Caucus in San Francisco, and a member of the legal team which reopened the landmark Supreme Court case of *Korematsu v. the United States* overturning Fred Korematsu's criminal conviction for defying the government's incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans. The victory strengthened the community's call for reparations. In 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom appointed Don to the California Reparations Task Force studying reparations proposals for African Americans for the harm of enslavement and its lingering effects.

### **Junichiro Ikeda, Board Member**

Junichiro "Jun" Ikeda was born and raised in Japan. After finishing high school in Funabashi, he attended university in the U.S. and has a B.A. in Economics from San Francisco State University. Jun has worked in various fields relating to the Japanese market from travel, food industry, and currently is the Vice President and Branch Manager for Union Bank, Japan Center Office. Working in and visiting Japantown has always been a bridge to his native Japan with food, cultural festivals and activities. As a board member he inspires to keep the history and culture of Japantown's legacy for future generations.

### **Aya Ino, Board Member**

Aya is Chief of Staff to the Chief Talent, Diversity & Inclusion Officer at Adobe, overseeing strategic planning, communications, and business operations. A native of San Francisco, Aya grew up in Japantown attending Nihonmachi Little Friends, the Japanese Bilingual and Bicultural Program, and has been a performer and instructor with the San Francisco Taiko Dojo since 1990. More recently, she was Director of Development & Communications at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California, where she currently serves as a volunteer and member of the Board. Aya has a BA in Business Economics from UCLA and M.Ed. from Columbia University.

### **Mary Ishisaki, Board Member since 2011**

Mary Ishisaki, a native San Franciscan, was raised in Woodside, CA., and San Francisco. She attended Harlowe School of Real Estate in San Francisco. She worked for Investment Properties before going to work at I. Magnin & Co. Later, she and her husband, Ben Ishisaki, owned and operated Ishi Limousine, Inc. in San Francisco.

Since retiring in 1991, Mary has volunteered at Kimochi, Inc., a nonprofit senior service agency in Japantown and has served on Kimochi's Board since 2001. In 2011, she was invited to be a member of the SFPD Asian & Pacific Islander Forum and in 2017 Mary joined the Japantown Community Benefit District as a founding Board member and Treasurer. Mary loves sports and is an avid Giants, Warriors and 49er fan. When she was young, Mary was involved in judo, but now she swims, horseback rides, and walks to stay active.

**Diane Matsuda, Founding Board Member**

Diane Matsuda currently serves as President of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPIC). Her priority on the HPC is to encourage and involve a more inclusive community of stakeholders so that underrecognized peoples and communities can be highlighted and respected for their historic and cultural contributions to the City. She also serves as a Staff Attorney for the Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach; Board Member of the Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation, and Advisory Committee Member of the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program.

**Lindsay Nakano, Board Member**

Lindsay Nakano produces the 5 o'clock newscast for ABC7 News in San Francisco. She is a fourth generation Japanese American and Bay Area Native. Through both her personal and professional career she has found success and happiness in helping to amplify the voices and stories of those less often highlighted in the mainstream media; including those of the Japanese American Community. She is honored to be a new board member of the Japantown Foundation.

**Kathy Nelsen, Board Member**

Kathy Nelsen opened her first spa, Miracle Baths, in 1977 in a former Baptist church on Fillmore Street in San Francisco near Japantown. Years later she immersed herself in Japanese culture when she was the director of Kabuki Springs & Spa, a Legacy business in San Francisco, from 1998-2022. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Japantown Parking Garage Corporation and the Japantown Community Benefit District. Observing and learning about Japanese bathing culture and Japanese American history has been a driving force in her community work.

**Allen M. Okamoto, Board Member**

Allen M. Okamoto is Owner-Broker of T. Okamoto & Co., the oldest and largest Japanese American real estate agency in San Francisco. Originally founded in 1946 by Allen's father, Takeo Okamoto, T. Okamoto & Co. has grown into the pre-eminent source of information on real estate needs for the Japanese American community.

Allen is active in the community and his current civic responsibilities include Chairman of the Asian Real Estate Association of America 2006 and 2007 and Director Emeritus; Co-Chairman of

the San Francisco-Osaka Sister City Association; Vice President of the Nihonmachi Parking Corporation; President of Sakura Matsuri Inc.; Chairman of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Japantown Committee; Co-Chairman of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Kanrin Maru; Board member of the California Association of Realtors, the National Association of Realtors, the Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Northern California, the Chinese Real Estate Association of America, the US Japan Council, the Japan Society of Northern California and a member of the Board of Trustees of the San Francisco Japantown Foundation.

For eight years Allen served as President of the Board of Directors of the Japanese Cultural & Community Center (1996 to 2004); Chair of the Cherry Blossom Festival of Northern California for 10 years (various); President of the San Francisco Association of Realtors, 1990; Board of Trustees California Historical Society, 1995: and Board member of the Japanese American Citizens League 1988.

### **Shinichi Seino, Board Member since 2015**

Shinichi was born in Nanyo, Yamagata, Japan. He worked for the Kinokuniya Bookstores of America from 1974-2014. He has served as the president of the Japantown Merchants Association, chairperson for the Japantown Cherry Blossom Festival, and president of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce for Northern California. He is an advisor to the Japanese language school, Kinmon Gakuen, and a board member of the Japanese National Library.

### **Sean Tamura-Sato, Board Member since 2021**

Sean Tamura-Sato is the Managing Partner of the San Francisco based law firm Minami Tamaki LLP, where he also leads the firm's Consumer and Employee Rights Group. Sean serves on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee for Legal Aid at Work (formerly the Legal Aid Society of San Francisco) and served on the Boards of Directors of the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area from 2017-2021. Born and raised in Honolulu, Hawai'i, Sean attended Cornell University in Ithaca, New York before moving to San Francisco to attend the University of California, Hastings College of the Law.