



KEIZAI

SILICON VALLEY

US - JAPAN BUSINESS FORUM

Newsletter – Issue No. 290 – January 2023



33rd Anniversary Shinnenkai

Join us in celebrating Keizai Silicon Valley's 2023 Shinnenkai (New Year's Reception) on Friday, January 27, at the Palo Alto Hills Golf and Country Club.

This year Mr. David Kaval, the President of the Oakland Athletics, will receive the Keizai Silicon Valley Distinguished Achievement Award.



Mr. Kaval has been building bridges and balancing local interest and global reach in pro sports throughout his career. Right after getting his MBA from Stanford, he founded the Global Baseball League, whose goal was to restore the closeness of local baseball for the fans on an international scale. The independent GBL had teams from Japan and Mexico as well as across the western US and Canada. Mr. Kaval then spent six years as president of the San Jose Earthquakes, and in 2016 he became the seventh president in history of the Oakland Athletics Major League Baseball team.

Aside from giving the keynote speech, Mr. Kaval will participate in a fireside chat with Professor Richard Dasher, discussing how U.S.-Japan baseball talent flow will be like, among other topics.

We will also be performing our traditional kagamiwari (sake-barrel "breaking") ceremony. The Consul General of Japan in San Francisco, Mr. Noguchi Yasushi, is expected to lead this tradition.

Friday, January 27, 2023

- Reception: 5:30 – 6:45 pm (PT)
- Program: 6:45 – 9:30 pm
- Venue close: 10 pm

Fees

- Early bird (before Thursday, January 12th 11pm PT): \$70 (Hurry, first 30 seats!)
- Regular registration (before Sunday, January 22nd 11 pm PT): \$90
- Late registration (before Wednesday, January 25th 12 pm PT): \$140
- Walk-in: \$200

Dress code: Business casual. A buffer dinner will be served.

Venue

Palo Alto Hills Golf and Country Club
3000 Alexis Dr | Palo Alto, CA 94304



The Colorful History of the A's

By Joe Quinlan

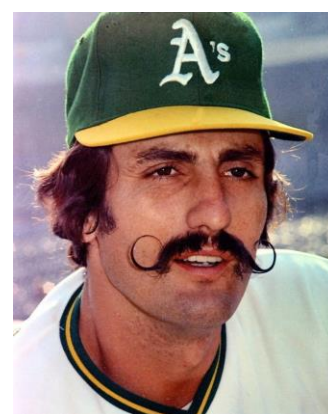
At our January 27th Shinnenkai, Keizai Silicon Valley will welcome David Kaval, President of the Oakland Athletics, to receive the Keizai Silicon Valley Distinguished Achievement Award. As you can see from his bio, Mr. Kaval has has an eventful and varied background, including visiting all 30 major league ballparks shortly after his graduation from Stanford. But the team he heads, the Athletics, also have a long and colorful history. The A's have been in Oakland for 54 years now, but few people remember that they also spent an equally long time in Philadelphia starting out in 1901, where they were owned and managed by Connie Mack, one of the chief



Connie Mack

figures of the first decades of major league baseball. Mack had strong success, rivaling the Yankees, in the period leading up to the Great Depression. But the economic downturn hit the Athletics hard, as they were a team who never really had enough financial backing to have a true farm system. Nonetheless, the A's hacked it out in Philadelphia until 1954, when Chicago real estate owner Arnold Johnson bought the team and moved it to Kansas City. Upon Johnson's death in 1960, insurance magnate Charlie Finley acquired the team and later moved them

to Oakland in 1968. In the early 70's, Finley brought together the famous roster that won the rare feat of three World Series in a row: Reggie Jackson, Sal Bando, Joe Rudi, Bert Campaneris, Catfish Hunter, Rollie Fingers, and Vida Blue. Finley changed the team's colors to green and gold, and got many players to grow mustaches in an era where most other teams required their players to be clean shaven.



Rollie Fingers

In 1980, Finley sold the team to Walter A. Haas, Jr of the well-known Haas family of San Francisco (Levi Strauss & Co, the Haas-Lilienthal House museum, etc). Haas pulled together players Jose Canseco, Mark McGwire, and Rickey Henderson to create a team that won the cross-bay World Series against the Giants in 1989, Game 3 of which was famously interrupted by the Loma Prieta earthquake. In the early 2000's, the A's had many winning teams, partially driven by General Manager Billy Beane's statistical analysis (called sabermetrics) that was made famous in the book and film *Moneyball*, starring Brad Pitt. Now there is talk of the Athletics either building a new stadium in Oakland or perhaps moving to Las Vegas. If the next period of Athletics history is anything like the past, I am sure it will be colorful.



Rickey Henderson steals a base in 1983



2022 Summer Networking in the Park

On a pleasant Saturday in August, Keizai Silicon Valley and JBC joined in holding our annual summer networking in the park. It was a welcome relief from the hot and smoky afternoon of the previous year, and even more of a relief from 2020 when Covid prevented all park events. The remaining Covid effect was that we continued to hold this as a BYOB (bring your own bento) event, with bottled beverages supplied by Keizai. Highlights of the event included a bingo game and bento competition. Prizes included wines for the adults and toys for the children. This is the one annual Keizai event where kids and pets are welcome, so it always has a joyous feel. Enjoy these photos of the event:



Welcome to the Keizai Summer Picnic!



We have drinks for you!



The Bento Competition starts



Many beautiful and delicious bentos



And many great prizes to be won



We have a Bingo winner!



Can't wait to play with this



Dogs are welcome too!



Plenty of time for networking



Your Keizai all-volunteer staff

CORPORATE SPONSORS

Platinum Sponsors:

Pegasus Tech Ventures
SunBridge Corp.

Gold Sponsors:

Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP

Silver Sponsors:

Tazan International
ZL Technologies

Bronze Sponsors:

Ito En
Jetro
Mitsubishi Corporation (Americas)
NEDO
Pro-vider Consulting LLC
TMI Associates
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati



Creating Japan's Startup Ecosystem since 1999

Tokyo Osaka Silicon Valley

336 Portage Avenue, Palo Alto CA 94306

www.sunbridge.com

www.sunbridge-gv.jp



PEGASUS
TECH VENTURES



Procopio[®]

**TAZAN
INTERNATIONAL
INC.**



JETRO



**WILSON
SONSINI**



TMI Associates



**Mitsubishi Corporation
(Americas)**

Your Sponsorship Here!

Contact Mari Takahashi (mari@keizai.org)



**Keizai Silicon Valley
US-Japan
Business Forum**

contact@keizai.org

<http://www.keizai.org>

KEIZAI SILICON VALLEY ALL-VOLUNTEER TEAM

Chimmy Shioya	President	chimmy@keizai.org
May Kao	Vice President	may@keizai.org
Sachiko Bussey	Office/Event Assistant	sachiko@keizai.org
Jiyoung Choi	Program Manager	jiyoung@keizai.org
Ayumi Mukai	Office Manager	ayumi@keizai.org
Yayoi Kaneko	Treasurer	yayoi@keizai.org
Phil Keys	Lead Program Manager	phill@keizai.org
Akemi Koda	Program Manager	akemi@keizai.org
Timothy Koide	Program Manager	tim@keizai.org
Carol Leung	Event Manager	carol@keizai.org
Ben Li	IT / AV Assistant Manager	ben@keizai.org
Marcelo Martins	WebMaster	marcelo@keizai.org
Yuka Nagashima	Program Manager	yuka@keizai.org
Danny Ooi	Program Manager	danny@keizai.org
Joe Quinlan	Content Manager	joe@keizai.org
Gordon Sasamori	Director of IT	gordon@keizai.org
Sachi Sawamura	Marketing/Program Manager	sachi@keizai.org
Hitomi Smith	Program Manager	hitomi@keizai.org
Chieko Stuck	Accountant	chieko@keizai.org
Mari Takahashi	Corporate Relations Manager	mari@keizai.org
Nobuki Takeuchi	Program Manager	nobuki@keizai.org
Yuya Watanabe	Social Media Manager	yuya@keizai.org
Christiana Xu	Program Manager	christiana@keizai.org
Kaori Yoshida	Program Manager	kaori@keizai.org



KEIZAI SILICON VALLEY LINKEDIN GROUP DISCUSSION AND JOB POSTING

Please join the LinkedIn Keizai Silicon Valley Group and participate in group discussions. You can also share and discuss jobs with the members by clicking the Jobs tab after creating a Keizai Silicon Valley Group account. If you have any questions, please contact jobs@keizai.org.

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/1768007>