Which early Berkeley benefactor funded the first life income gift?

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Answer inside.

As part of UC Berkeley's Golden Bear Orientation in August, thousands of new Cal students gathered at California Memorial Stadium to form a giant “150” in celebration of the campus’s sesquicentennial. Go bears!
Welcome to the fall 2018 edition of Cal Futures! Our 150th birthday celebration continues (it takes a while to blow out that many candles), and we want to thank our generous alumni and friends who, with their charitable gifts, will light the candles for the next generation of Cal faculty and students.

There are many ways you, too, can pay it forward at Berkeley, including establishing a charitable gift annuity. This gift offers annuitant(s) a secure, fixed payment for life from gifts of cash or securities. When your contract ends, the remainder of the annuity supports Berkeley programs you designate. For nearly fifty years, we have offered charitable gift annuities as a way to give back to Cal, and through the ups and downs of the financial market, we’ve never missed an income payment.

Professor Hisashi and Mrs. Masae Kobayashi, whose giving story is highlighted in this issue, have recently done that and more. To honor his late brother — Shoshichi Kobayashi — Hisashi and Masae established an endowed fellowship in Shoshichi’s name through a charitable gift annuity, qualified distributions from his IRA, and a bequest in their estate plan. This generous combined gift will ensure generations of bright minds will flourish at Cal.

You too may want to make a blended gift to Cal to support programs of your choice. This can be a combination of an immediate gift and a commitment to make a future gift through a will or trust, or by designating Berkeley as the beneficiary of your retirement plan.

To learn more about establishing a charitable gift annuity or making blended gifts, please contact us at 800.200.0575 or ogp@berkeley.edu.

Kevin T. Crilly, J.D.
Executive Director
Office of Gift Planning
UC Berkeley

Clockwise, top left to right: The Kobayashi family, with Hisashi as a fifth-grader (front row, far right), and Shoshichi (in glasses) when he was a freshman at the University of Tokyo; Hisashi and his wife, Masae, at Battery Park City; Shoshichi Kobayashi, former chair of the Department of Mathematics at Berkeley.

Doing the Math

Memorial fund honors the legacy of a brilliant and impactful brother

A year ago, Hisashi Kobayashi took up piano lessons as a way to keep his mind nimble. The former dean of Princeton University’s School of Engineering had started with Chopin, but on the cusp of his 80th birthday in June, he decided to tackle something more complex: Beethoven’s inimitable “Moonlight Sonata.”

“I always liked the piano,” says Hisashi, who grew up in Tokyo during WWII, “but in my generation, only well-to-do families could afford lessons.”

Learning to play the piano takes discipline and patience — attributes he says he developed early in life from his older brother, Shoshichi, former chair of the Department of Mathematics at UC Berkeley who is considered a luminary in the field of differential geometry.

“My brother, who was six years my senior, was the most influential person in my career,” says Hisashi, who remembers him fondly as a gawky bespectacled introvert who would bring his math books to the dinner table. “He spent a lot of time trying to make me a good mathematician. He was very demanding, but I respected him, so I did what he suggested.” This included learning English by listening to evening radio programs and solving algebraic equations that Shoshichi assigned to him every week, despite being away at college.
His tutelage paid off. Both he and Hisashi became the first in their family to attend university and travel abroad for graduate study. Though descendants of Samurai, they came from a family of modest means. It was an era when only the wealthy could afford to send their children to college. Well-earned scholarships and fellowships ensured that these bright young men could earn their doctorates from top institutions: Shoshichi from the University of Washington (after a year of graduate study in Paris and Strasbourg on a French scholarship), and Hisashi in electrical engineering from Princeton. **It's this bridge to success that Hisashi wants others to have.**

To honor the memory of his late brother, who died in 2012, Hisashi and his wife, Masae, along with Shoshichi's daughter Sumire and her husband Phil Chou, established the Shoshichi Kobayashi Memorial Fund at Berkeley to support graduate student fellowships in mathematics. Thanks to generous support from Shoshichi's former students and friends, together with a matching gift from Phil's employer, Microsoft, **the fund has grown to support two to three fellowships per year.** Hisashi hopes to increase those awards.

Recently, through a blended gift that includes a charitable gift annuity, distributions from his IRA, and a generous bequest, Hisashi and Masae — who met while ballroom dancing in college — have ensured the fund will be endowed in perpetuity. And the gifts benefit them as well. After selling their vacation home in Vancouver, British Columbia, they used a portion of the proceeds to fund the gift annuity, thereby offsetting capital gains taxes, earning income for life, and bolstering a charity dear to their hearts. Now that's a pretty good equation!

“I never thought of math as beautiful, but my brother did. He had a gift.”

The memory of Shoshichi, and the deep impact he had on Hisashi's life, resonates deeply with him, much like the notes of Beethoven he conjures on his piano.

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**How Does a Charitable Gift Annuity Work?**

1. **Give cash or securities to Berkeley.**
2. **Berkeley pays income for life.**
3. **Remainder passes to Berkeley at annuity termination.**

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**Answer to “Which early Berkeley benefactor funded the first life income gift?”**

**Jane K. Sather (1824–1911)**

At the turn of the century, Jane Krom Sather met newly arrived UC President Benjamin Ide Wheeler and went on to become one of Berkeley's earliest and most significant benefactors. In 1900, she and Wheeler negotiated a series of gifts — including the university's first life income gift — that would ultimately fund two of UC Berkeley's most iconic structures: Sather Gate and the Campanile. To honor her late husband, Peder, she also endowed four academic chairs (two in history and two in classics), now valued at more than $11.9 million.
Wheeler’s Corner

Highlights from the 31st Annual Wheeler Society Luncheon

The annual Wheeler Society Luncheon offers members the opportunity to connect with old friends and new, mingle with campus leaders, and hear from an esteemed faculty member. More than 250 members attended this year’s event, which took place in July. Left photo: Tyler Jeffreys (left) with Chancellor Carol Christ and Barry Horowitz ’63. Right photo: Robert Wong ’68 with guest speaker Amy Herr, associate professor of bioengineering; UC Berkeley Foundation Trustee Sheryl Wong ’67 ’68; and graduate student Elisabet Rosas.

Your Gifts at Work!

As Berkeley continues to celebrate its sesquicentennial, we were honored with a record-breaking year for fundraising. In total, a whopping $569,020,352 was raised in fiscal year 2017–18, and we could not have done that without you. Planned gifts represented a significant piece of this glorious pie at 21 percent of the total. That’s $54.7 million generated through estate, life income, donor advised fund, donor designated fund, and IRA Rollover gifts. New will/living trust gifts comprised $63.9 million of our fundraising count. A hearty thanks to The Benjamin Ide Wheeler Society and Cal community for doing what they do best, making the Berkeley dream possible. Go Bears!

GO BEARS, GO GREEN!

Sign up at calfutures.berkeley.edu to receive Cal Futures electronically. You can also view, download, and share past issues.

This newsletter offers only general gift planning information. We urge you to seek the advice of an attorney in developing your personal estate plan, as the Office of Gift Planning may not render tax or legal advice to friends and alumni of the university. If you would like more information concerning charitable giving as a component of estate planning, we would be happy to provide you with more specific ideas.

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- [ ] IRA Charitable Rollover

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- [ ] Real Estate ($250,000 net minimum)

**Gifts that take effect at your passing**
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- [ ] Life Insurance
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- [ ] I have already included Cal in my estate plan.
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How will you make a difference?

Discover the benefits that await you when you help ensure Cal’s future.

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