



Florin J.A.C.L. Newsletter

Florin Japanese American Citizens League

Marielle Tsukamoto and Andy Noguchi, Co-Presidents

P.O. Box 292634, Sacramento, CA 95829

Website: florinjacl.com

Facebook: [Facebook.com/florinjacl](https://www.facebook.com/florinjacl)

Winter – Dec. 2015 Newsletter

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President's Message & Recap of the Florin JACL's 80th Anniversary and Installation Luncheon

Thanks to the commitment, and hard work of the planning committee and many volunteers, our 80th Anniversary and officer installation celebration held on Saturday, November 14th at the Buddhist Church of Florin gymnasium was a great success. It was the perfect place to celebrate the 80-year history of the Florin JACL because so many memorable Florin Japanese Community and JACL events took place in that location. Located next to each other, the history of the Florin JACL and the Japanese community was centered around the buildings of the Buddhist and Methodist churches. In honoring this close connection, the Florin JACL honored both churches for their service and contributions to their members as well as the community. The chapter also honored the Crocker Art Museum for preserving and storing artwork of Japanese and Japanese American artists during WWII. Finally, the chapter honored Dr. Isao Fujimoto for his role in helping to establish Asian Studies at the University of California, Davis.



Marielle and Andy with the 2015 honorees

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**Congressman Ami Bera addressing the audience at the
80th Anniversary Luncheon**

As mentioned previously, we owe our gratitude and thanks to the planning committee and the volunteers helped put this event together. Tom Nakashima, from the popular 96.9 The Eagle was outstanding and the perfect choice to MC the event. Thanks to Tom the program ran smoothly and finished on time. During the program, a few people noticed that our lunch was delivered late, but Tom had the background, history and knowledge of event kept the program moving. Once again, thank you Tom for lending your skills, expertise, and knowledge.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

Florin's "Mochi Madness Workshop!" Sun. Jan 3rd

Mochi Hand-Pounding, Tasting & New Year's Potluck

A fun, taste-tempting Japanese American New Year's tradition awaits friends and families at Florin's "Mochi Madness VIII" Hand-Pounding Workshop, Treat Tasting, and New Year's Potluck. Come rain or shine on Sunday, January 3rd from 10am to 2pm (mochi making 10-11:30am) at the Buddhist Church of Florin on 7235 Pritchard Rd (off Florin Rd near railroad tracks).

Check out John Onate's neat YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2KUIZzvX8M0>

Sponsored by the Buddhist Church of Florin, Buddhist Women's Association (BWA), and Florin JACL, it's free to members and for those ages 5 and under. There is a \$5 fee for non-members to help cover supplies. **Please RSVP by December 30th by email to: florinjac15@outlook.com or call (916) 393-5007.**

Mochi (sweet rice cake) Treats:

Popular in Asian countries, mochi symbolizes **strength** and a **prosperous New Year**. Check out other New Year's treats - **hot ozoni** and **zenzai sweet red bean soup!** (Plenty of tasting samples, but no mochi sales.)

We'll be making it "old school" like families on the farm - pounding with **huge wooden mallets** (kine) in a **stone mortar** (usu) after cooking in **wooden steamers** (seiro). Learn how to make mochi, traditional dishes, and pick up some scrumptious Asian mochi recipes sent to your email.

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Potluck Social: People should bring a dish to share based on last name:

- **Letters A – U:** Salads, veggies, cold side dishes, nigiri rice, etc.
- **Letters V - Z:** Desserts (besides mochi), snacks, etc...
- **Main Dishes:** Committee members and Volunteers are invited to bring main dishes. Ovens are available to heat items. Please let us know what you're bringing.

Volunteer Helpers Needed: This is hands-on so please let us know if you can volunteer:

1. **9:00am:** Setup of tables, chairs, condiments, drinks, mochi tasting areas, and registration table.
2. **10:00am – 11:30am (approx.):** Dozens of mochi pounders, cutters, makers, and treat tasting helpers.
3. **12:00 – 2pm:** Potluck Social - Catch up with friends and enjoy the food.
4. **2:00 – 3pm:** Clean up mochi equipment and facility (All helpers). Bring warm clothes & apron.



Florin JACL Denounces Scapegoating of Syrian Refugees and Concentration Camp Justification

Fueled by outrage over the scapegoating of innocent Syrian refugees and those justifying it with the WWII concentration camps for Japanese Americans, the Sacramento area community quickly mobilized a news conference covered by Channels 3 (KCRA-NBC), 10 (KXTV-ABC), 13 (KQVR-CBS), 40 (KTXL-FOX) and the *Sacramento Bee* on November 19th. Over 30 people, representing many communities throughout Sacramento, including a dozen former WWII detainees, gathered at the Buddhist Church of Florin to denounce recent rhetoric surrounding Syrian refugees.

On November 18th, Roanoke Virginia Mayor David Bowers proposed that refugees be excluded like imprisoned Japanese Americans in WWII. Tennessee State House Republican Caucus Chair Glen Casada proposed rounding up Syrian



refugees and sending them to a federal immigration center. Rhode Island State Senator Elaine Morgan (R) said “we should set up refugee camps to keep them segregated from our populous.”

The news conference was organized by the Florin JACL and Council on American Islamic Relations-Sacramento Valley (CAIR-SV). Representatives from the Parkview Presbyterian Church (Rev. Aart van Beek), Buddhist Church of Florin (Rev. Yuki Sugahara), Sacramento JACL (Janice Luszczak), and Rev. Saburo Masada (ret) of the Calvary Presbyterian Church (Stockton) spoke out. Co-presidents Marielle Tsukamoto and Andy Noguchi also provided comments at the news conference.

Basim El-Karra, Executive Director of CAIR-SV, shared crucial information to help understand the refugee issue. Mr. El-Karra explained that of the 800,000 refugees admitted to the United States since 9/11, no one has been found guilty of terrorism. The US also thoroughly investigates war zone refugees being admitted to the United States.

A dozen elders imprisoned or excluded from the West Coast during WWII attended including Stan and Christine Umeda, Utako Kimura, Toshiko Akiyama, Judie Miyao, Myrna Hitomi, Fumie Shimada, Rev. Saburo and Marion Masada, Marilyn Isenberg, and Professor Isao Fujimoto.

People also rallied from the Sacramento Area League of American Muslims (SALAM), Asian Bar Association of Sacramento, API Rise, APIQSC, former Assemblymember Mariko Yamada, George Waegell (a WWII era supporter of local Japanese Americans), David Unruhe and Michelle Huey (Northern California JACL District), and many other friends.

2016 Florin JACL Scholarships Available!

The Scholarship Committee of the Florin JACL Chapter is seeking qualified local high school seniors and college students for scholarships usually totaling \$2,000 to \$5,000. Applications are available in January 2016 with a **March 1, 2016 deadline.**

Scholarship Criteria:

The Florin JACL Scholarships recognize students based on: 1. Community & student activity, including with the Florin JACL. 2. Leadership experience. 3. Academic achievement. Scholarships are possible due to our successful Florin JACL Nikkei Hot Dogs and Cupcakes Dinner/Bingo Night, Nikkei Singles Club, plus donations to the Mark Merin (in memory of Ronin Shimizu), Bob Uyeyama, Mike Staley, and Phil / Marilyn Isenberg Scholarship Funds. Donations are always welcome and should be sent to "Florin JACL" P.O. Box 292634, Sacramento 95829.

The Florin JACL winners are also eligible for National JACL Scholarships.

Students who have not been awarded a Florin scholarship receive a preference. In addition, to provide opportunities for more students, candidates may not apply to other Chapters.



2015 Scholarship Honoree Justin Matsumoto (center) and Stan Umeda, Aileen Nishio, Ruth Seo (Chairperson), and Andy Noguchi

Scholarship Guidelines:

1. Student membership in the Florin JACL. Florin JACL Student membership is \$25 a year. Please contact Judith Ryan via email at judithryan@sbcglobal.net or visit www.florinjacl.com
2. A grade point average of at least 3.0 for high school and 2.5 for college students.
3. Residency requirements:
 - a. Local Sacramento, Davis, & Elk Grove area high school students.
 - b. College students whose parents live in Sacramento, Davis, & Elk Grove areas **or**
 - c. Students who have provided strong service to the Florin JACL.
4. A personal interview held in Sacramento on **Sunday, March 13, 2016** – In hardship cases, an interview may be scheduled at a different date.

Recent Past Florin JACL Scholarship Winners:

2010 – Jennifer Chan, Katie Sanui, and Devin Yoshikawa.

2011 – Garrett Abe, Teryn Hara, Cameron Iwasa, Alison Lewis, Corey Nakata, and Kim Staley

2012 – Lauren Chan, Leesa Kakutani, and Colette Masunaga.

2013 – Mika Ishisaka and Esumi Fujimoto

2014 – Leesa Kakutani (CSU-Long Beach) and Beth Uno (UC Davis Graduate School of Education).

2015 – Justin "J.T." Matsumoto (Pleasant Grove High School – Biography on Next Page)

Applications are available in January from Florin JACL Scholarship Chairperson **Ruth Seo** at (916) 443-7746 or via email at rseo@att.net.

Florin JACL 2015 Scholarship Recipient

Justin T. Matsumoto was the recipient of its 2015 Florin JACL scholarship award. He was judged on achievements in academics, school involvement, and community service as shown in the written application and personal interview.

Justin, son of Blaine and Chele Matsumoto, and grandson of active Florin JACL member, Esther Matsumoto, graduated from Pleasant Grove High School in the Elk Grove Unified School District in May with plans to attend Cosumnes River College.

Justin, or J.T., as he is more widely known, enjoys golf and played on the Pleasant Grove High School varsity golf team. He also works at Wild Hawk Golf Course doing a variety of jobs including cleaning golf carts, taking out trash, or anything else that needs to be done.

He was an active four-year member of the Pleasant Grove High School Future Farmers of America (FFA) where he has earned the Chapter and Greenhand Degree awards. He has been an exhibitor at the Sacramento County Fair with his FFA chapter and participated on the Farm Record Judging Team. This year he raised a market goat which he showed at the fair.

Since 2009, J.T. also volunteered at the Jan Ken Po Gakko summer cultural program for young Japanese American children. He served as a teacher's assistant and taught origami to children between grades 1-6.

While participating in all these activities, Justin ran his own yard maintenance business. Since 2012, he is responsible for the upkeep of a five acre property in Wilton which takes up much of each weekend. Through his hard work and sacrifices, he has honed many useful skills such as welding and auto mechanics.

Florin JACL is pleased to recognize J.T. for his achievements and wish him well in his future endeavors. His award also included a donation from the Sacramento Nikkei Singles group.

Welcome New Members!

What's the best part about being a member of Florin JACL? It's all the wonderful people you have an opportunity to interact with at our many events and activities. We welcome the following new members and thank them for their participation and commitment to Florin JACL.

- Vanessa Flores (joined with renewing member Brandon Miyasaki)
- Carl Mune (recently relocated to Lincoln, CA from San Jose)

Welcome Vanessa and Carl! Also, thanks those of you who have renewed your membership recently.

11th Florin Manzanar Pilgrimage April 29–May 1, 2016

Florin JACL Members Invited!!!

A rare opportunity to see, hear, and experience the Japanese American community's World War II incarceration at Manzanar National Historic Park. The best preserved of the 10 major concentration camps awaits you Friday, April 29 to Sunday, May 1, 2016 and is sponsored by the **Florin Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) and Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR-SV)**, plus our invited friends.



2015 Florin Manzanar pilgrims gather at the camp monument. A dozen former incarcerated journey and generously share their experiences with a diverse group.

Pilgrimage Costs: Last year's cost was \$260 per person (double occupancy) for 3 days and 2 nights with discounts for first time Florin JACL member travelers, former WWII detainees, and youth 25 years and younger. **Final 2016 plans and cost will be set in January.** This year is again expected to book up early.

The 3-day Florin Manzanar Pilgrimage: We recruit a diverse group of 60 individuals from among former camp detainees, Japanese American family members, Muslim Americans, youth, educators, and those interested in civil and human rights. Our interactive tour includes interesting bus activities, discussion groups, BBQ, visit to the camp museum, a short walking tour to the barracks/mess hall, program/interfaith ceremony with 1,000 others from L.A., and an evening program run by college students.

If you are up for a truly meaningful 3-day adventure plus meeting and sharing experiences with others, this pilgrimage is for you. **Don't miss this unique opportunity!**

For additional information, please contact Andy Noguchi or Twila Tomita at (916) 393-5007 or via email at FlorinJACL@hotmail.com.



Looking for That Perfect Gift for Someone Special?

The holidays are upon us and if you are wondering what gifts you might purchase for your family and friends, how about the *Gift of a Florin JACL membership*? We need younger members to keep our chapter strong and growing. Grandparents and parents can give that student in your life the gift of membership—which is a bargain at \$25 per year. If you have friends and family members who are not Florin JACL members, consider giving them membership -- \$63 for individuals or \$108 for couples/family.

Is Your Membership Current?

Please contact Judith Ryan at (916) 442-0573 or judithryan@sbcglobal.net to find out if your Florin JACL membership is current.

If you want to renew your membership, please visit the Florin JACL website at: www.florinjacl.com and choose “Join” from the menu bar.

Or, please complete the enclosed membership application (PAGE 9) and mail to:

Florin JACL
P.O. Box 292634
Sacramento, CA 95829-2634

Join the Florin JACL Today!

“Promoting civil rights, social justice, and cultural heritage for all Americans through community education, alliances and leadership”

I. Member Information: () New member () Renewing Member

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Age: _____ Occupation: _____

Home Phone Number: () _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Would you like to join Florin JACL's e-mail list for community events and issues? Y / N

What are your interests? _____

What attracted you to the Florin JACL? _____

II. Payment Method:

Make checks payable to: Japanese American Citizens League.

III. Complete Application Process:

To complete the application process, please mail the completed application with payment to:

**Florin JACL
PO Box 292634
Sacramento, CA 95829-2634**

IV. Questions: Contact Judith Ryan (Membership) at (916) 442-0573 or via email at judithryan@sbcglobal.net.

V. Membership Type: (please circle the annual membership you are interested in)

Individual - \$63 (Regular individual members and includes *Pacific Citizen* newspaper)

Couple/Family - \$108 (Membership for couple, spouse/partner and any children 25 or under)

Youth/Student - \$25 (25 years or younger OR full-time college, trade, or university student)

FROM PAGE 2: President's Message & Recap of the Florin JACL's 80th Anniversary and Installation Luncheon

130 members and guests enjoyed the beautiful flower arrangements created by Masako Tomono, Sharon Yamamoto, Cindy Kakutani, Lois Kashiwase, and Ai Tanaka. This year the chapter also featured a large screen throughout the program. This was made possible with AV equipment from Parkview Presbyterian and handled by Titus Toyama and Andy Noguchi. A video slideshow created by Brandon Miyasaki showed the history of the Florin JACL's activities, events, and previous scholarship recipients. This outstanding presentation provided a glimpse of the vibrant history and a glimpse of the future vision of Florin JACL.



Sacramento County Supervisor Don Notolli presenting Andy and Marielle with a resolution commemorating the Florin JACL's 80 years.

In addition, a heart-felt thank you to Jennifer Nishzaki for creating the beautiful program booklet. Thanks also to all the volunteers who donated raffle and silent auction items and to Ruth Seo and Aileen Nishio for helping. Thank you all of the committee volunteers and students who helped to serve the lunches. Thank you to all of the board members who volunteer at every event: Twila, Andy, Fumie, Cindy, Debby, Judy, Georgette, Breanna, Titus, Christine, Eileen, Judith, Tatsuno, Scott, and Brandon. All of the volunteers helped set up tables, chairs, and decorations at the event and their assistance created an intimate environment in the Florin gym.



Assemblymember Jim Cooper (Assembly District 9) presenting a resolution commemorating the Florin JACL's 80 years.

We were honored to have Congressman Ami Bera attend and he presented awards for each of the three honorees and Florin Chapter. Assemblymember Jim Cooper and Sacramento County Supervisor and longtime friend of the Florin HACL, Don Nottoli, presented Florin JACL with awards. It was also special to have Illa and Don Collin, Shig Yokote, Elizabeth and Tom Pinkerton, Genevieve Shiroma, Kais and Cheryl Menoufy attend.

Overall, the Florin JACL's 80th Anniversary and Installation luncheon was a huge success and we look forward to having an active 2016.

Recent Donations

The Florin JACL Chapter truly appreciates all the donations that are generously made to the Chapter's general and scholarship funds. Below are donations received in October and November:

Elizabeth Pinkerton
Former Assemblymember Mariko Yamada
Betty H. Tabata (in memory of her sisters Helen Kato and Grace Hoshino)

Donations to the Florin JACL general fund directly support the Chapter's programs that serve our mission to promote civil rights, social justice, and cultural heritage for all Americans through community education, alliances, and leadership. Donations to our Scholarship Fund help our Chapter provide scholarships to graduating high school seniors and college students to continue their education at institution of higher learning.

Thank you also to the many members and friends for their donations and raffle prize contributions to the Florin JACL's 80th Anniversary and Installation luncheon in November.

Florin Japanese American Citizens League
P. O. Box 292634
Sacramento, CA 95829-2634

Return Service Requested



December 18, 2015

Support the San Bernardino Shooting Victims; Donate to the Victims Fund



Dear Florin JACL Members and Community Friends,

The victims and families of the December 2nd San Bernardino terrorist attack suffered horrendous losses with 14 innocent people killed (photo) and 21 wounded. They need our support. Would you like to help by donating to the victims' relief fund? If so, please send checks made out to the "Florin JACL" to 15 Mark River Court, Sacramento, CA 95831 now. The Florin JACL will tally, acknowledge, and send all donations to the fund.

Thousands of people are reaching out to the victims and we'd like to do our part with the devastating medical, funeral, counseling, and financial challenges. We know that many of you might like to help, too.

We are following the lead of others, including the successful Southern California "Muslims United for San Bernardino Fund" raising \$215,000 in just 10 days, "Support San Bernardino Victims" by the Mayor and Council, and the "Santa Barbara United Relief Fund" by the County Supervisors and United Way.

As part of raising awareness, uniting people, and acting against the growing scapegoating of the innocent, the Florin JACL supports the victims of these tragedies. In the past, the Chapter has solicited funds for the family of 12 year old Ronin Shimizu, the target of anti-gay bullying; the Wisconsin Sikh Temple shooting victims (2012); Japan Tsunami and Earthquake Relief; and local Jewish Temples firebombed.

Let's support the victims of hate. Let's unite our community, not divide it. Won't you join with us?

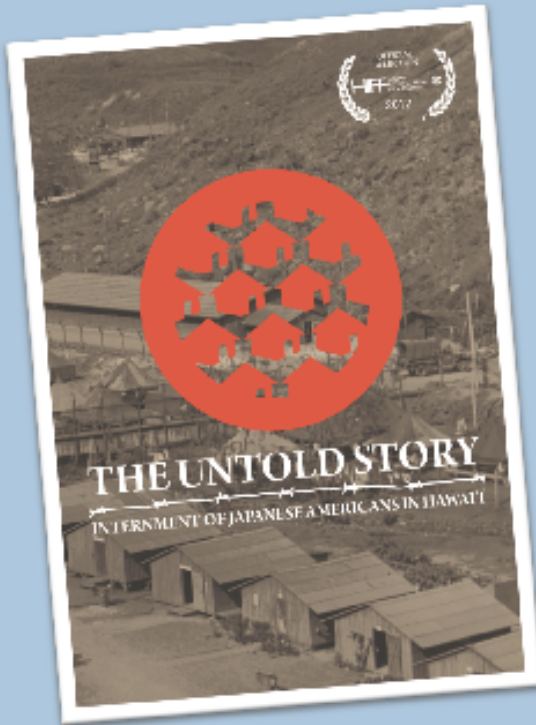
Thank you.

Andy Noguchi and Marielle Tsukamoto
Florin JACL Co-Presidents

Josh Kaizuka and Fumie Shimada
Florin JACL Civil Rights Co-Chairs

Other Florin JACL Supporters: Howard Shimada, Neil Nakatani, Titus Toyama, Judy Fukuman, Twila Tomita, Karen Kurasaki, Judith Ryan, Ruth Seo, Ernie and Jenny Takahashi, Christine Umeda, Deanna Tsukamoto, Debby Staley, Jesse Okutsu, Michelle Huey, Tatsuno Kusaba, Utako Kimura, and Heidi Sakazaki (partial list)

“Untold Story: Internment of Japanese Americans in Hawaii”



Saturday, February 13, 2016

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

California Museum

1020 O Street

Free parking in surface street lot

Corner of 10th and O Streets

**Carole Hayashino, President and
Executive Director, Japanese Cultural
Center of Hawaii (JCCH)**

Arrest * Imprisonment

“The Untold Story” chronicles the World War II incarceration experience of Japanese Americans in Hawaii. Within hours of Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, over 2,000 men and women of Japanese ancestry were arrested, detained and incarcerated in 17 confinement sites throughout Hawaii.

Donation: \$20.00 general, \$15.00 College Students 18 – 25, Free for students under 18.
Includes admission, reception and “Uprooted” exhibit in the California Museum
Additional information: www.nctor.org or call 916-508-6587 or nwhiteside@hotmail.com
or 916-427-2841. All tickets will be at WILL CALL.

**Northern California Time of Remembrance
Florin, Lodi, Placer County & Sacramento JACLs**

Name: _____ Adult Tickets: _____ @ \$20.00 ea. _____
Address: _____ Student Tickets: _____ @ \$15.00 ea. _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Tax deductible donation: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____ Total enclosed: _____
(Add additional guests on the reverse side of form)

**Enclose check payable to NCTOR and remit by February 8, 2016 to:
Nancy Whiteside, 5333 Primrose Drive, #45A, Fair Oaks, CA 95628**