



Florin J.A.C.L. Newsletter

Florin Japanese American Citizens League

- *Sacramento Valley*

Andy Noguchi and Josh Kaizuka, Co-Presidents

P.O. Box 292634, Sacramento, CA 95829

Website: www.florinjacl.com

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

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Scholarship: Ruth Seo

Social Media: Breana Inoshita, Brandon Miyasaki

Time of Remembrance: Christine Umeda

TOR Education Program: Marielle Tsukamoto,

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Debby Staley

2018 Spring Newsletter

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Membership Update

Welcome to the Florin-SV JACL!!!

Over the past several months, we have had some new members join our community:

Blythe Nishi
Dawn Bodea
Sylvia Del Angel
Georgette Imura
Shelly Mydans
Kerry Marini
Lindsey Maseba
Diana Croon White
Nancy, Rich, and Francisco Ciraulo
Hayden Moses
Allison Tanaka
Connor Jang

There have been some membership changes in 2018. First, membership dues for our chapter, and all other chapters throughout the U.S., have increased. Youth memberships are now \$30. Individual memberships are now \$68. Couple/Family memberships are now \$113. Please be aware of this change when renewing your membership this year. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at jessicaokutsu@gmail.com.

In addition, if you are a youth and/or young professional, you may be interested in joining Next Generation! Next Generation is a new and exciting group with civic-minded folks just you! Please keep an eye out for upcoming events on our chapter's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/florinjacl>).

Recent Donations

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

Heidi Sakazaki

Sacramento Nikkei Singles - Donation to Scholarship Program

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!

Manzanar Pilgrimage Recap – An Educational Journey



The 13th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage organized by Florin JACL-SV and CAIR-SV had 57 travelers. Pilgrims included eight former incarcerated, many first-timers, families, and a great group of youths. The organizing committee led by Andy Noguchi invited an exceptional group of travelers.

On Day #1, before departing, we introduced ourselves and discussed our expectations for the pilgrimage. Later, we stopped for lunch in South Lake Tahoe where our youth leaders organized a discussion forum. From there, a leg stretch took place at Mono Lake, Yanina Casillas with CAIR-SV had an “Ask a Muslim” Q&A, then more food in Bishop. In Bishop, we had Halal hot dogs, the famous Fumie halal chili, and for some, the best treat – chili over rice! The main event for the first night was our Third Annual Cultural Exchange with the AkaMya Cultural Dance Group. For those who did not know, Sage Romero with AkaMya reached out following a sad event three years ago in Bishop to help heal and show that we were welcome. **(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)**



(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE) Sage Romero and crew welcomed us explaining the significance and parallels of the Native American experience as well as the meaning of the traditions and dances. AkaMaya conducted a potato dance competition with the winner being awarded a bag of potatoes. The Nishi sisters, Blythe and Audry performed traditional Japanese dance routines, Blythe did triple duty performing with UC Davis Bakuatsu Taiko Dan, then Japanese folk dance lesson and participation. The cultural exchange was absolutely awesome and fun! Then, Andy made sure to get his fill of smores, and a late-night folding paper cranes for Saturday – rumor is that our youths were folding until around 1am! We also heard that Koji Lo and Omar Hashemyan worked on a secret project late into the night or was it morning?



On Saturday, we traveled to Manzanar to participate in the 49th Annual Manzanar event and privileged to have a special tour led by NSP Park Ranger Patricia Briggs who had new information and new developments to show us. Former incarcerated including Calvin Asoo, Judy Fukuman, Rugh Maruoka, Reiko Nagumo, Marielle Tsukamoto, Stan and Christine Umeda, and Masako Yniguez, educated us about their memories and experiences during the incarceration. The evening ended with dinner and bowling. For Koji and Omar, a continuation of their secret project went well into the late-night hours even though everyone else including the youths had gone to sleep.

On Sunday, we watched and learned about Reiko's story – Until We Meet Again – a friendship which endured the spanned 75 years when a friend stood up for Reiko when everyone else would not. Even though they lost touch during Executive Order 9066, never forgot her friend, and Reiko found, and reunited with, her

friend. This was an inspiring story of how a child stood up against racism to protect and support a friend. A very inspiring and teaching moment of how, even then, the youth can make a difference.

Brandon Miyasaki, co-president of the Next Generation Florin JACL-SV and master of publicity captured our journey and will be premiering a documentary of the pilgrimage at the travelers' reunion at our Ice Cream Social on May 20, 2018. (2pm at the Fletcher Farm Community Center). The documentary will also be screened during the Sacramento Asian Pacific Film Festival on May 26, 2018 at the California Museum.



2018 Florin JACL Ice Cream Social

Join Us in Recognizing Our Scholarship Recipients:

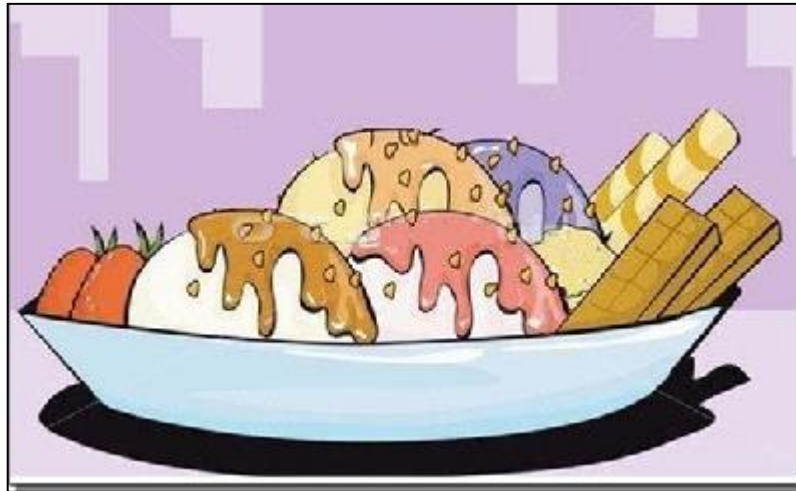
Koji Lo

Blythe Nishi

Lindsey Maseba

Allison Tanaka

Sydney Takeda



Share the 13th Annual Florin Manzanar Pilgrimage:

Video of this year's Manzanar adventure
Manzanar Mini-Reunion for past travelers

Welcome our New Florin JACL Members

Enjoy Dozens of Free Door Prizes

Sunday, May 20, 2018 2pm – 4 pm

Fletcher Farm Center 7245 Fletcher Farm Dr, Sacramento

(South off of Florin Rd, between Florin – Perkins Road and Elk Grove - Florin Road)

\$4 donation; Free to Florin JACL Members and Guests

Come Join Us for a Fun, Tasty Social

Miyasaki's Documentary at Asian Pacific Film Festival

By Josh Kaizuka

Florin-SV JACL's own Brandon Miyasaki – photographer and filmmaker - puts together a short documentary of the annual pilgrimages. Last year, one of his films was screened during the Nichi Bei's, "Films of Remembrance," event on February 24, 2018. It followed the screening of "And Then They Came For Us." Afterwards, Brandon participated in a panel discussion moderated by Satsuki Ina which featured filmmaker Abby Ginzberg, Marielle Tsukamoto, and Zahra Billo with CAIR.

This year will be no different. We are not quite sure what the final product from this year's pilgrimage will be, other than awesome, but it will be screened during the Sacramento Asian Pacific Film Festival which runs May 26-27 at the California Museum. Brandon's film will be part of the ABAS Law Foundation's portion of the festival where a new version of "Resistance at Tule Lake" and "The Cats of Mirikitani" will be show during the evening of Saturday May 26. Brandon does an incredible job that encapsulates the three days of the pilgrimage into a short film.

The festival schedule and ticket information are available at www.sapff.org.

I also hear that Brandon's pilgrimage documentary will be shown at this year's Florin JACL-SV Ice Cream Social on May 20th at 2pm!

Supporting the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program

By Josh Kaizuka

Nearly 115 organizations have signed onto JACL's letter in a campaign to organize and support funding for next year. Florin-SV JACL as well as our Next Gen group signed the letter. The chapter also contacted local representatives to encourage them to sign Representative Doris Matsui's letter.

Thus far in 2018, over \$1.4 million has been awarded through the Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) Grant Program for nine projects. Since the program's establishment in 2006, \$25 million in grants have been awarded for research, interpretation, and preservation of incarceration sites.

The JACS grant was saved for this fiscal year but the current administration has left out funding for fiscal year 2019. While the House of Representatives has appropriated funds for 2019, the Senate has yet to act. The chapter has also signed the letter to support funding in the Senate.

It is imperative that this grant program continues to receive funding to protect and preserve historic and cultural resources. These grants are awarded in order to "help engage new audiences and build new partnerships to work collaboratively towards the long-term preservation of these historic sites and the memories and lessons they hold." Mistakes of the past can only be avoided through learning. Even today, too many people have no idea what happened and do not realize the many parallels from the events of 76 years ago.



12th Annual

Florin Obon Festival Dance Workshop!



Wednesday, June 27, 2018

5:30pm – 7:00pm Workshop

7:00pm – 8:00pm Dance Practice

Sunday, July 8, 2018

6:00 – 9:00pm Florin Obon Festival

Buddhist Church of Florin (Multi-Purpose Room)

7235 Pritchard Rd (off Florin Rd), Sacramento

(Donations welcome to cover light hot dog meal)

Enjoy Obon festivities with food, music, and 150 colorfully dressed dancers.

More info: <https://www.facebook.com/florinbuddhist>

Sponsored by Buddhist Church of Florin and

Florin Japanese American Citizens League (Florin JAACL - Sacramento Valley)

Everyone please RSVP back so we have enough food: jmtakahashi@me.com

10TH ANNUAL MOCHI MADNESS

By Judy Fukuman, Mochi Madness Chairperson

On a chilly but beautiful day with 140-150 people of all ages, the Florin JACL-SV and the Buddhist Church of Florin celebrated its 10th Annual Mochi Madness. On January 7, 2018, members and guests of all ages helped pound and make tasty mochi rice cakes that were sampled by everyone. The mochi was served with “an” (sweet beans), oshiruko (Azuki or red bean soup), ozoni soup (a clear broth soup with mochi, fishcake, spinach, shiitake mushroom, green onions), kinako (soy powder) and sugar, and daikon oroshi (grated Japanese radish) wrapped in nori/seaweed. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a delicious potluck prepared by all of the members and guests.



A big “thank you” goes to the many people who helped organize, setup, and pitched in to help to make for a successful event: Josh Kaizuka and Stan Umeda who emceed and explained the mochi making process, Reverend Candace Shibata and Minister’s Assistant Tadao Koyama for the welcome message, Stan Umeda and his crew

who loaded and transported the heavy mochi making equipment, Stan and his grandsons Kenji and Koji Lo for setting up the equipment and preparing the mochi rice for pounding and kneading, Andy Noguchi for renting and bringing the portable microphone and speaker unit, Katsuko Hirota for coordinating and preparing the garnishes and condiments for the mochi tasting, Helen Sakaishi for helping to prepare and serve the ozone soup, Marielle Tsukamoto, Katusko and Helen who donated items for the tasting, Next Gen’s, members and friends who helped serve, those who pounded and formed the mochi, Judie Miyao and the Buddhist Women’s Association who helped set up for the potluck lunch, Ron Okimura for opening up the church together with Howard Shimada to set up the tables and furniture in the courtyard, Jennifer Kubo for bringing the supply bins from storage, Christine Umeda and Karen Kurasaki cutting and demonstrating forming the mochi, Judith Ryan and Tatsuno Kusaba for printing and donating the program, members overseeing the Registration and Membership Table—Lori Hart, Nick Matsumoto, Kaitlin Toyma and Jesse Okutsu, Kevin Nakano and Brandon Miyasaki for the publicity and photography and posting on social media, the Next Gen’s who came out to help, the cleanup crew, and many more volunteers who helped to make for a very successful event! We hope next years will be just as successful! Thank you all!

Northern California Time of Remembrance Recap



By Christine Umeda

Our own, Josh Kaizuka, handled the master of ceremonies task for the Northern California Time of Remembrance event composed of the Florin, Lodi, Placer County, and Sacramento JACL chapters. The encore showing was held on Saturday, February 10, 2018 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the California Museum to a sold-out audience of 225 community individuals.

“AND THEN THEY CAME FOR US,” a film by Abby Ginzberg and Ken Schneider, demonstrated that the registration and incarceration of Japanese Americans was one of the worst violations of constitutional rights in American history. The U.S. government lied about the threat of espionage to justify the incarceration. Officials in the Trump administration have cited the unconstitutional incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II as the precedent for a Muslim registry and an immigration ban against people from Muslim majority counties.

This riveting film brought history into the present by retelling this difficult story and following Japanese American activists as they speak out against a Muslim registry and travel ban. Knowing our history is the first step to speaking up and ensuring we do not repeat it. Satsuki Ina, noted psychologist and filmmaker, of “Children of the Camps” and “From a Silk Cocoon,” led a Q&A period following the screening.

The Oki Nursery family, George and Joan Oki, were honored for their efforts to assist Issei men and women returning from incarceration in starting over and qualifying for social security and medical insurance.

The Unity Candle Lighting ceremony featured individuals and organizations providing leadership and support to the diverse immigrant communities: Jim Tanimoto, Jon Fish - Board President of the Interfaith Council of Great Sacramento, Gina Manciatì - Immigration Legal Services at Opening Doors, Inc., Basim ElKarra - CAIR-SV, Juanita P. Ontiveros - Special Projectis and Human Services at California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, Richard Carillo - Asian Pacific Islander Queer Sacramento Coalition, Genevieve Shiroma – SMUD and the Agricultural Labor Relations Board.

In addition, the audience enjoyed light appetizers and the exhibits within the California Museum, including, “Uprooted! Japanese Americans During WWII,” “Kokoro – Sacramento’s Japantown,” and the “Unity Center.”

Proceeds benefit all of the NCTOR Committee’s activities, including the California Museum’s field Trip Tour program, providing students with tours of “Uprooted! Japanese Americans During WWII” and presentations led by formerly-incarcerated docents and volunteers. For more information visit: www.nctor.org.

Why Care About the 2020 Census Citizenship Question?

Written by Josh Kaizuka

The last time the census included a citizenship question was 1950. News that it would be included at the Justice Department's (DOJ) request has brought a flurry of lawsuits by 17 states and numerous localities.

The fact that this question is being included at the request of the DOJ is troubling and justifies fear among immigrants. States as well as local governments worry that the census will fail to count "everyone" who lives in this country and will negatively affect the number of representatives in Congress, the number of votes for the Electoral College, and federal funding for programs such as Medicaid, Head Start, and the National School Lunch Program.

In essence, non-responses can significantly result in losses in House seats and federal funding.

Why should you care? In addition to an inaccurate count, personal identifying information is not supposed to be disclosed to any other government department for 72 years after data is collected pursuant to the "72-year rule." However, the rule, as far as we know, has been violated twice before. The disclosure of names and addresses from the 1940 census data was used to identify, round up, and imprison American citizens of Japanese descent as well as Japanese immigrants along the west coast. In 1943, census data was also disclosed to identify individuals of Japanese ancestry residing in the Washington D.C. area. These disclosures were finally revealed only 10 years ago.

It is no wonder that legal challenges are being filed, especially when the negative rhetoric against groups of people are rampant. States with a larger and more diverse population will undoubtedly be affected the most and, ultimately, lose representation as well as federal funding. Most troubling, this request comes from the DOJ. 76 years ago, identifying information from the census was released to the Secret Service – Never Again!

Follow Us on Facebook

The Florin JACL-SV is proud to be recognized as a leading JACL chapter on Facebook! We are dedicated to providing the most current chapter news, list of upcoming events, and resources to help you stay informed on local and international news. Follow us on Facebook **@florinjacl** and our Next Generation youth group **@nextgenerationjacl**.



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- FREE Wall Calendar
- Discounts to events
- Special invitations to events (including Films of Remembrance, Northern California Soy and Tofu Festival, and Nikkei Angel Island Pilgrimage)
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