



# *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](http://www.florinjacl.com)

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

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**Women's Forum: Makiko Yamashita, Dr. John Onate,**

**Debby Staley, Deanna Tsukamoto**

## **2019 Summer Newsletter**

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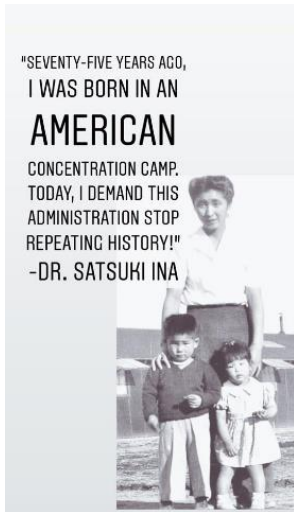
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## Florin Members in the News!



In March, some of our long-time members including Dr. Satsuki Ina, Christine Umeda, and Stan Umeda, made the pilgrimage to Dilley, Texas along with nearly 60 others. The event was organized by Tsuru for Solidarity, an ad hoc group which was co-organized by Satsuki Ina. This pilgrimage made the national news and it seems to have kept Florin members in the news ever since.

In June, Satsuki Ina was part of another protest. This time it was at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Fort Sill was the site of a concentration camp where 700 Japanese immigrants were imprisoned during WWII. The site was also a prison for 400 Native American men, women and children including Geronimo in the late 1800s and early 1900s. It was also a place where Native American children who were taken away from their families were placed as cultural genocide to “educate” them in the modern ways. Why was Satsuki and the others there? They were there to protest the government’s plan to imprison 1,400 migrant children at Fort Sill. This protest made really big news when a guard came out yelling at everyone to leave. Satsuki calmly but sternly asked “otherwise what will happen?” Mike Ishii challenged the guard by saying “if you aren’t going arrest us, we aren’t leaving.” Satsuki continued stating “they want to remove us, we have been removed too many times...we want to make a stand.” If you take a close look at the shirt that Mike Ishii is wearing in various articles and videos, he is wearing this year’s Florin Manzanar Pilgrimage shirt designed by Nancy Ukai from Berkeley JACL. As you might have already read, the guard who yelled at Satsuki and others “you need to move now!” “what don’t you people understand? It’s English. Get out!” was later suspended.



PC Amanda Roush

A month later, on July 20, Satsuki and others with Tsuru for Solidarity were invited back to be a part of a much larger event. Hundreds marched the streets in 100-degree weather to Fort Sill to demand “Close the Camps” and to “Stop Repeating History!” Groups including Nikkei Progressives, over 500 indigenous people from various tribes, About Face - Veterans Against War, Oklahoma ACLU, United We Dream, Black Lives Matter, Dream Action of Oklahoma, and many

other groups took to the streets. Just four days later, the governor of Oklahoma announced that the plans to imprison 1,600 children was now on hold and they would not be coming to Oklahoma anytime soon. Again, the protest and the outcome made national news!

Back home in our area, in late June, Fumie and Sam Shimada, Christine Umeda, and Josh Kaizuka were at a rally organized by Campaign for Immigrant Detention Reform in Marysville to speak out against the deplorable confinement conditions at the Yuba County Jail for immigrants. Christine and Josh spoke out against unjust incarcerations and how the racism, fear mongering, and failure of political leadership 77 years ago towards those of Japanese ancestry parallels what is going on now against other groups leading to unjust incarceration of children and families. **(CONTINUES ON PAGE 3)**



## Florin Members in the News!



**(FROM PAGE 2)** On July 2, Marielle Tsukamoto, Christine Umeda, Jaselle Umeda (her first rally), and Josh Kaizuka were out at the rally organized by MoveOn to Close the Camps. Somehow Josh led the rally off as the first speaker energizing the ralliers. Marielle and Christine followed doing an excellent job talking about their personal experiences and how putting kids and family in cages and prisons is wrong. There were over 250 energized ralliers at the Robert T. Matsui Federal Building with other great speakers including Basim Elkarra our friend with CAIR-SV.

A few weeks later, Josh Kaizuka spoke at the Lights for Liberty rally in Davis which was covered by the People's Vanguard of Davis. He talked about how we used to talk about remembering the past so it doesn't happen again and the slogan "never again." But in the last few years it has changed to "never again is now." To a group of about 250 Davis residents, the message was to repeat the "mantra" that the administration is using to label refugees as "illegal" because it is "legal" to seek asylum as a refugee. The Japanese American community sees far too many parallels to what happened 77 years ago to remain quiet because history is repeating again.

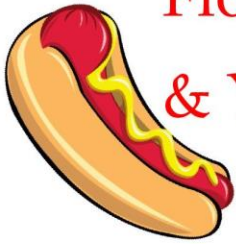


Towards the end of July, there was a great article by the *Sacramento Bee's* Kung Mi Lee titled, "Japanese Americans survived internment in WWII. Now they protest migrant detentions at border." This article featured a number of Florin JACL-SV members. Christine Umeda recounts a recurring nightmare she has been plagued with from her experience during WWII. Satsuki Ina who co-organized the ad hoc group Tsuru for Solidarity protesting at Dilley Texas and twice at Fort Sill

Oklahoma, talks about her and her family's experience, the trauma it caused, the suffering and trauma of the mothers and children she met in Dilley Texas. Josh Kaizuka talks about joining, standing with and speaking out in opposition to immigrant detention today as "a responsibility based on the history and injustice of what's happened to" the Japanese American community."

# Nikkei Dogs!

## Florin JACL Annual Scholarship & Youth Programs Fundraiser



Senbei Stacking  
Pumpkin Decorating  
Face Painting  
Raffle &

BINGO Prizes, Prizes, PRIZES!

- \* Grilled Hot Dogs
- \* Teriyaki Hot Dogs
- \* Chili
- \* Salads
- \* \* Rice
- \* Cupcakes
- \* Coffee, Tea, or
- \* Soft Drinks

FREE



ALL YOU CAN EAT!

Adults \$12

Ages 4-12 \$6

3 & Under FREE

October 12th, 2019, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Buddhist Church of Florin

7235 Pritchard Road, Sacramento 95828

For Tickets Contact:

Cindy Kakutani [cindykakutani@gmail.com](mailto:cindykakutani@gmail.com)

CUPCAKE DONATIONS Contact:

Twila Tomita [Twilatomita@gmail.com](mailto:Twilatomita@gmail.com)

Event Sponsorship & Donations  
Welcomed & Graciously Accepted



**Nikkei Dogs**  
**Florin JACL Sacramento Valley**  
**Annual Scholarship & Youth Programs Fundraiser**  
**October 12, 2019 @ Buddhist Church of Florin**  
**Ticket Order Form, Donations & Volunteer Sign Up**

Please mail by Monday, October 7, 2019

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# General Tickets \$12 X # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Children Age 4-12 \$6 X # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Children 3 & Under Free # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 0.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Total # Attending \_\_\_\_\_ Total Check enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☹ Unable to Attend – Please accept my Donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

<p>Event Sponsorship</p> <p>Gold \$100 or more \$ _____ Name _____</p> <p>Silver \$50 or more \$ _____ Name _____</p> <p>Bronze \$25 or purchase \$50 in tickets \$ _____ Name _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BINGO &amp; RAFFLE DONATIONS GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTED</b></p> <p>Raffle Donations _____ _____</p> <p>Bingo Donations _____ _____</p>
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I WILL VOLUNTEER TO HELP: Contact me at Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Set up Tables and Chairs Saturday October 12, 2017, 9:00 a.m. at the Buddhist Church of Florin YBA Hall

\_\_\_\_\_ I will bring Cupcakes \_\_\_\_\_ Dozen to Nikkei Dogs

\_\_\_\_\_ I will help \_\_\_\_\_ (setup, wash dishes, sell raffle tickets, serve drinks, clean up)

Mail to: **Florin JACL Sacramento Valley, Nikkei Dogs, PO Box 292634, Sacramento, CA 95829**

# WakamatsuFest150!

By Josh Kaizuka



As you might recall, the celebration of the 150 year anniversary of the first Japanese immigrant colony was in the works for over two years. We submitted a resolution for the 2017 national convention to have JACL recognize the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm as the first Japanese Colony in North America and acknowledge the contributions of the colonists and their descendants who remained in California.

In June, the long-awaited festival finally happened and we had a booth there every day to talk to visitors about the Florin Chapter of the JACL, what we do, promote future events and just have a good time. Brandon Miyasaki designed a banner for great visibility, Jesse Okutsu had our poster board highlighting our events, and we had a great group of volunteers tending to the booth.



According to American River Conservancy:

Over 4,000 visitors, performers, artists, demonstrators, vendors, and volunteers joined WakamatsuFest150, including the after-hours VIP event. Many were new visitors who had no prior knowledge of the Farm nor its history. The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places at the national level of significance. The Farm was declared California Registered Historic Landmark #815 during the June 1965 centennial celebrations hosted 50 years ago at Wakamatsu Farm.

Festival-goers this year included over 60 people from Japan and many more from across America. Japanese and Japanese Americans showcased their culture and history during 41 live performances spanning 72 hours on three simultaneous stages. The festival offered 2.5 hours of Japanese language programming. On the first festival day, about 300 local school children participated in activities to learn about Japanese art, culture, and history. Every festival day, kids enjoyed playing in the outdoor nature play space. Over 50 vendors and booths offered Japanese-inspired merchandise, Japanese American history, information, and business services along with Japanese food and other festival fare.

## Missing Item, Contact if Found

Someone is looking for a misplaced furoshiki cloth from the Women's Forum. It is blue and white, and looks like it's embroidered but it's printed. This has sentimental value and was a wedding gift. If anyone remembers seeing it or if it turns up in a bag (please look for it). It may be sitting in a car just waiting to be returned to its rightful owner. Please let us know by contacting Deanna at (916) 967-0129.

# Obon Workshop Recap

By Jenny Takahashi

What a turnout for the Florin JACL and Florin Buddhist Church Obon Workshop which was held Tuesday, July 16 at the Buddhist Church! There were about sixty-five attendees enjoying a light dinner of hot dogs and other goodies before the program started. The food and drinks were largely provided by Florin JACL-SV and the Florin Buddhist Church. Some attendees also donated great side dishes.



Rev. Candace Shibata gave a wonderful presentation of the history and religious background of Obon. Then, Cheryl Miles focused on kimono dressing for Obon and Obon dancing. After the introduction of some basic dance movements, the audience was invited to participate in the classic "Tanko Bushi" or coal miners dance. Cheryl Miles also introduced a new dance to commemorate the 100th Anniversary

of the Florin Buddhist Church.

The workshop transitioned straight to the Obon practice outside so everyone could put the lesson into practice and prepare for the Florin Buddhist Church Obon Festival.



## 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:

Cheryl Miles  
Utako Kimura  
Aileen Nishio (Scholarship Fund)  
Heidi Sakazaki  
Ruth Seo (Scholarship Fund)  
George Waegell  
Ayanna Yonemure

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. Thank you!

*Florin JACL – Sacramento Valley 84<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon*  
*“Strength Through Unity”*

December 7, 2019

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Valley Hi Country Club

9595 Franklin Blvd.

Elk Grove, CA 95758

\$45 per person

\$400 table of 10



*Honoring Outstanding Community Leaders*

Community Leadership Award: Jewish Voice for Peace

Carol Hisatomi Women’s Leadership Award: Kiyoko Sato

Next Generation Leadership Award:

Madison Tamichi, Jenna Yonenaga, & Melanie Shojinaga

For further information, please contact Fumie Shimada at (916) 427-0169,  
or Judy Fukuman at (916) 421-5253.



# Florin JACL – Sacramento Valley 84th Anniversary Luncheon

## 1. Event Sponsorship:

### Platinum Sponsor – \$1,000

Platinum Sponsors receive verbal acknowledgement at the event, recognition in printed program, full-page ad, screen ad displayed at the event, listing on our website and Facebook, and 8 complimentary tickets.

### Gold Sponsor – \$500

Gold Sponsors receive verbal acknowledgement at the event, recognition in printed program, half-page ad, screen ad displayed at event, listing on our website and Facebook, and 4 complimentary tickets.

### Silver Sponsor – \$250

Silver Sponsors receive verbal acknowledgement at the event, recognition in the printed program, quarter-page ad, listing on our website and Facebook, and 2 complimentary tickets.

### Bronze Sponsor – \$100

Bronze Sponsors receive acknowledgement at the event, recognition in the printed program, and listing on our website and Facebook.

### Friend Sponsor – A donation of \$25 or more

Friend Sponsors receive recognition in the printed program.

### Table Sponsor – \$400 for table of 10

Table Sponsors receive acknowledgement at the event and recognition in the printed program.

## 2. Printed Program Advertisement:

Full Page Ad – \$500

Half Page Ad – \$250

Quarter Page Ad – \$150

Business Card Ad – \$75

Deadline for ads is **November 12th**. If you confirm by **October 31st**, sponsorship can be included in early advanced publicity materials. Please e-mail Jesse Okutsu at [jessicaokutsu@gmail.com](mailto:jessicaokutsu@gmail.com).

## 3. Raffle Prize Donation:

Description of Items Donated and Estimated Fair Market Value:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. Ticket and Table Orders:

\$45 Per Person or \$400 for table of 10

**Deadline for luncheon reservations is December 1st**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Kindly list any guests' names here:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

## 5. Mail completed forms and check to:

Florin JACL-SV c/o Fumie Shimada 333 Bello Rio Way, Sacramento, CA 95831

# Florin Members Attend the National Convention

By Josh Kaizuka

Eight Florin members attended this year's National Convention in Salt Lake City at the end of July. Six of us, Marielle Tsukamoto, Blythe Nishi, Kenji Lo, Koji Lo, and I, thanks to Christine and Stan Umeda lending us their minivan, piled in early Wednesday morning and took off to Salt Lake City. We ran into gusty winds along the Bonneville Salt Flats but made it in one piece. Norb Kumagai got there a day ahead of us so he could visit friends and family in Salt Lake City. Satsuki Ina arrived on Thursday and Michelle Huey arrived on Friday.



Satsuki had her hands full with Legacy Luncheon which included former Secretary Norman Mineta and Sean Miura and a plenary session, discussing the history of the Tule Lake Segregation Center on Saturday, before the debate and vote on the resolutions. Satsuki really educated the delegates about the history of Tule Lake, the "Loyalty Questionnaire," and the division as well as trauma not only to those who were imprisoned at the Segregation Center, but their children. Floyd Shimomura also discussed JACL's

role during WWII and how JACL's decisions at the time were wrong. Floyd also demonstrated how based on his research and understanding, an apology was owed. During the debate on the Resolution, Satsuki discussed why the Resolution should pass. Although we thought the Resolution might be a close vote going into the debate, after the debate and some amendments, it passed with 80% of the delegates voting in favor of the Resolution.

Our chapter members were on the ad hoc committee helping draft the resolution and Andy Noguchi prepared and distributed a Fact Sheet to clear up misconceptions about the resisters at Tule Lake.



Have to say that our youth did a great job! Kenji really got into the debate process because he knew Robert Rules of Order and even had his first motion passed!

This year, there were sessions and workshops about investing in youth leadership, multigenerational trauma, social media, fighting white supremacy, NPS Parks and Partners (look who we ran into...Bernadette Johnson!), and anti-discrimination response training, just to name a few. There were great film screenings including "Never Give Up, Minoru Yasui and the Fight for Justice," "Norman Mineta and His Legacy, An American Story," and "Our Lost Years." **(CONTINUES ON PAGE 11)**

## Florin Members Attend the National Convention



**(FROM PAGE 10)** There was something for everyone and tough to choose which event to attend especially because there was more than one interesting workshop at the same time. On our way back to California, the weather was much better so we stopped at the Bonneville Salt Flats to stretch our legs and take a look.

We hear that next year's National Convention will be in Las Vegas in late June so maybe another road trip may be coming up. If the workshops next year are as good as this year, it will really be worth attending. I hear Fumie and Sam Shimada are already packed and ready to go to Vegas!



## My Experience at the 2019 JACL National Convention

By Koji Lo

During the summer of 2019, I was given the opportunity to participate in the 2019 JACL (Japanese American Citizens League) National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah as a Youth Representative for the Florin-Sacramento Valley. Knowing that participating in this convention is something that I have never experienced before, and one of the highest honors to be a part of, I immediately jumped to the chance. I honestly did not know what to expect from this convention, I imagined in my dream, that I would expect to see other JACL chapters from around the country attending and debating on the issues put forth at hand. But like most dreams, the reality is a lot more different from what I imagined once I arrived in Salt Lake City. During the sessions, I got to know how a convention of this magnitude operates, with steps such as calling into motion certain Constitutional Bylaws, seconding motions, asking for points of clarification, etc. It was very intriguing to see how other chapters of the JACL views in support or against the bylaws and resolutions discussed, and how some of us may share the same opinions on the bylaws, but some may not.

Looking back at the Convention now, it is so diverse because it brings together people from all different backgrounds, walks of life, and generations, and to be able to meet all these people was definitely my highlight of the convention. I got to meet so many talented and prestigious youths from all across the US, from Hawaii to Colorado to Boston to London. Some were youth representatives, delegates, scholarship chairs, and even presidents of their own chapter, and it felt amazing to be able to work with so many of the youth leaders. Outside of the sessions and workshops, the youths grew closer through fun activities like the open mic bazaar and the youth receptions where we would meet up together and do things such as talk about foods from our hometown, our personal lives and sing along to Sukiyaki and Thinking Out Loud, and just have a fun time.

The 2019 JACL National Convention was nothing short of amazing, and I can't wait to go back!

# Reflections of the 50th JACL National Convention

By Kenji Lo

I recently had the pleasure of representing the Florin-Sacramento Valley Chapter at this year's National Convention held in Salt Lake City, Utah, from July 31st until August 4th. Of the many opportunities and responsibilities I encountered as both a chapter delegate and youth attendee, none could exceed my experience of participating in the discussion of various proposed amendments to the National JACL Bylaws and National Resolutions including the eventual passing of the resolution for the JACL to recognize and apologize for its actions towards Tule Lake Resisters during the incarceration of Japanese-American citizens during World War II (Resolution 3). Although I have had previous experience in parliamentary debate, never have I seen so much effort and consideration by representatives of both the "for" and "against" sides to make considerable strides towards reaching a common goal. In our modern era of polarized national politics, it was very heartening to see the tremendous efforts from both sides made to accommodate each other through compromise. It is through this compromise that the National Council was able to pass Resolution 3 by an overwhelming majority, far better than the expected rejection or slim approval of the Resolution thereof. Speaking with youth attendees from chapters across the country, we had all felt that we had gained a greater appreciation of the value of compromise that day. Although everyone was not able to receive exactly what they wanted through the resolution, it is through the spirit of compromise that we were able to garner the support of a vast majority of the National Council to pass the Resolution. As Former United States Secretary Norman Mineta stated at the preface of the discussion on Resolution 3, compromise is not impossible and is not to be interpreted as a loss. I think we could all, as members of the JACL, learn from the actions of the National Council at this year's National Convention and have hope that our Congress intends to do the same in the near future.

In addition to my participation on the floor of the business session of the National Council, the National Convention provided a tremendous opportunity to network with members of other chapters and to learn and/or improve certain aspects of our personal and professional lives through various workshops offered throughout. One of the unique opportunities that I was able to participate in was congregating with youth members from JACL chapters from around the nation. Despite the Florin-SV Chapter being one of the most active chapters of the JACL nationwide, it is still difficult to amass connections with members from other chapters. The National Convention served as a unique event in which youth from all parts of the U.S., ranging from Pennsylvania all the way to Honolulu, gathered in such a large setting to discuss various issues that we all cared about as members of the JACL. Meeting with youths from all over the U.S. was so enthralling as we all shared similar interests and experiences, yet differed in ways because of the areas in which we grew up in. Much like my first year of attending U.C. Davis, being exposed to many different people outside of my local community greatly increased not only my appreciation for the culture of the community I grew up in, but the community of others well.

I encourage all members interested in gaining a greater appreciation for all of the work the JACL does and to get a hands-on experience on the inner workings of national operations to attend next year's National Convention slated to be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, in late-June 2020.  
**(CONTINUES ON PAGE 13)**

# My Experience at the 2019 JACL National Convention

**(FROM PAGE 12)** Furthermore, I encourage all youth members (<25 years old) to partake in the National Convention participating as a youth attendee which allows you to experience many unique opportunities within the convention exclusively created and optimized for youth attendees. I am extremely grateful for the Florin-SV Chapter giving me the opportunity to attend the National Convention and am continually motivated by and look forward to continuing to contribute in the work the chapter does not only in advancing the knowledge of Japanese and Japanese-American culture to our local community, but also advocating for civil rights of Japanese-Americans and furthermore the rights of all people.

## Membership Update

Thank you for being a member of our community! As you may know, active membership is an essential element in a strong JACL chapter. Thanks to your renewing membership, we can continue to defend civil liberties both locally and nationwide. We hope to see you at our events!

### Welcome to our Newest Members!

Lauryn DeGuzman

Cara Ishisaka

Toshiko Morris

Katherine Morris

Steve Miura

David Morikawa

Elaine Yoshikawa

Virginia Uchida

Jessie and Rae Morris

Nora Oldwin and Dean Johansson

Larry Ota and Tina McKee

## Follow Us on Facebook

The Florin JACL-SV is dedicated to providing the most current chapter news, list of upcoming events, and resources to help you stay informed on local and national news. Follow us on Facebook **@florinjacl** and our Next Generation youth group **@nextgenerationjacl**.

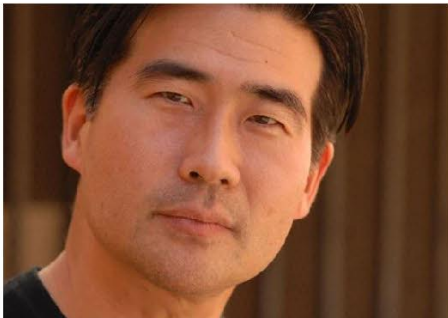


With a grant from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program, the ABAS Law Foundation proudly presents:

# HOLD THESE TRUTHS

BY JEANNE SAKATA

Concert Readings of a Solo Play Inspired by the Life of Gordon Hirabayashi



**ACTOR RYUN YU**

At the CALIFORNIA MUSEUM  
1020 O St., Sacramento, CA 95814

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2019**

MATINEE @ 2:00 – 3:30 PM  
FREE TO THE PUBLIC  
(Q&A and Community Tabling to follow)

EVENING @ 7:00 – 8:30 PM  
Admission: \$25  
(Panel Discussion, along with Ryun Yu  
@ 8:30 PM – 9:30 PM)

**For tickets, please visit:**

<https://www.abaslawfoundation.org/speaker-series-truths-2/>

To sign up for free tickets, please go to the link above, click on the "ADD TO CART" button, and follow the directions to register for free tickets. To ensure adequate seating, you must RSVP in advance.

During WWII in Seattle, University of Washington student Gordon Hirabayashi fights the US government's orders to forcibly remove and mass incarcerate all people of Japanese ancestry on the West Coast. As he struggles to reconcile his country's betrayal with his passionate belief in the US Constitution, Gordon begins a 50-year journey toward a greater understanding of America's triumphs – and a confrontation with its failures.

*LOS ANGELES TIMES: At a moment in our history when American justice and perhaps even our sense of national purpose have eroded from the government's response to an outside threat ... this thoughtful new one-actor play by Jeanne Sakata tells the true story of a Japanese American college student in Seattle who refused to become the Other, the Enemy Alien, in his own eyes or anyone else's .... Ryun Yu plays Hirabayashi at various ages – as well as every other person Hirabayashi remembers – a fine-grained tour de force.*

*HUFFINGTON POST: A simple yet stunning one-man show inspired by the life and heroism of Gordon Hirabayashi ... Hirabayashi's heroic stand against the United States government and the prevailing sentiment of fear and prejudice is brilliantly portrayed by Ryun Yu ... a performance that at times moves the audience to tears while including several truly laughable moments.*

For sponsorship information, please contact the ABAS Law Foundation at (916) 568-1222.

Other questions, please contact Yoshinori Himel at [YHimel@LawRonin.com](mailto:YHimel@LawRonin.com).

# Florin JACL Women's Forum 2019

On June 25, 65 people gathered at the Buddhist Church of Florin for the 2019 Women's Forum. This annual event offers a day of information and a chance to come together on topics of interest. This year's topic was Japanese American culture and how it has developed from the immigrant culture of our ancestors.

Each session included an instructor or moderator to lead the activity. The most popular session was the panel discussion on what it means to be *hapa*, moderated by Kristina Vassil (professor of Asian Studies at CSUS). The panel included Paul Masuhara, Kenn Bican, Nick Butler, Krista Keplinger, and Abbygale Principe.



Another popular session was on *furoshiki folding*. The activity was taught by Kris Sazaki, artist and author of *Furoshiki Fabric Wraps*. Every participant was able to get hands-on instruction from a professional.

The most anticipated session was on the Hanafuda Card Game, taught by Jessica Okutsu. This session was fun as well as informational. Many people know what the cards are but don't know what to do with them. The second instructor was Gale Nagato.

Mary Ann Goodman, instructor in the art of tea, presented the tea ceremony with an explanation of what the significance and the ritual that was a part of the ceremony. Her assistants were Machi Soto, Yoshiko Kitamura, and Eri Fukura.

The origami box session ran out of time and only a few finished their boxes, but the information that there is more to origami than the crane may encourage people to look into other designs. This session was led by Deanna Tsukamoto.



All the participants appreciated the delicious food, from the bountiful breakfast to the delightful lunch, made by Jennifer Kubo and her helpers including Jan Takeuchi.

This year's forum was planned and organized by Jennifer Kubo, Deanna Tsukamoto, and Debby Staley. We are grateful for all the sponsors and all the businesses that donated items for the doorbags. We also thank the many volunteers who helped with the jobs that needed to be done, especially Howard Shimada who worked tirelessly from start to finish. Thanks to all!

# 442nd Pilgrimage to Vosges, France

By Deanna Tsukamoto

On July 11, 2019, a group of Florin JACL members—Cathy Nishizaki, Deanna Tsukamoto, Marielle Tsukamoto, and Christine and Stan Umeda and their family joined a group of 100 people -- including Lawson Sakai, one of the few remaining veterans from 442, E Company -- from all over the US on a pilgrimage to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the French liberation from Nazi Germany by the 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> regiments.



The tour took us to the Vosges region of north eastern France and stopped at monuments honoring the Nisei soldiers of the 100<sup>th</sup> and the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team. It also included the cemetery at Epinal where some of the Nisei soldiers are buried.



Epinal is a quiet and intimate cemetery with tree lined walkways and manicured green grass contrasting with rows of chalk white crosses. We were led to marked crosses of Nisei soldiers and read aloud from texts about who each man was, his personal background, and how he died. The ambivalence is real; young men buried so far away from home, interred in a lovely place that is respectfully tended.

We stopped at a memorial marker in the midst of farmland to pay our respect to Yohei Sagami, the first Nisei soldier to die in the Vosges. His memorial is located on the spot where he died. Looking around at the surrounding farm it is difficult to imagine soldiers fighting, but they were there.

Another stop was the memorial at Trappin des Saules, where the infamous Battle for the Texas Lost Battalion was fought. Several days earlier, Christine reminded us to bring our rocks (rocks with writing on them to be left at the site as a remembrance that we were there). So we worked out what to write—names of Nisei soldiers, Japanese words, quotes—and wrote on each rock in indelible markers: Pedro Ouchida (relative of Marielle Tsukamoto), Robert Kashiwagi (father of Cathy and Kerry Kashiwagi, grandfather of Jennifer and Leah Nishigaki), Shuki Hayashi and Tada Hayashi (Christine and Stan Umeda's relatives) and John Tsukamoto (father of Deanna Tsukamoto). At the memorial, one of the men took our rocks and placed them under a log in the trenches that are still there. It was as if we were leaving a bit of our soldiers' souls because they had all been there during the battle; some had been wounded and some died. The terrain was impressive—how did they charge up a steep almost vertical mountainside carrying a gun while bullets whizzed by around them? They must have been terrified, those 19-20-21 year olds; yet they went forward. **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)**





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**(FROM PAGE 14)** We were treated to the participation of a four-man honor guard which opened the ceremony at each memorial with an impressive presentation of the colors, including the 100<sup>th</sup> flag and the 442<sup>nd</sup> flag. Their precision and proud demeanor expressed the honor and the strength of the American military. These young soldiers were from the Army base in Stuttgart, Germany. We were also accompanied by French WWII re-enactors who wore American uniforms and rode in refurbished vintage American jeeps and trucks.

They gave several people rides in these vehicles. When asked why they had chosen to dress as Americans and not French soldiers, one said, “The Americans are more interesting.”

We were treated to lunch at two of the area towns, Biffontaine and Bruyeres. While these were large gatherings, the townspeople welcomed us and made every effort to engage us in conversation. On Bastille Day we were in the town parade and marched down the main street of Bruyeres. Some of the more thoughtful of us brought candy to throw out to the crowd as we passed by. People came up to thank us for the service of the Nisei soldiers.



While waiting for our bus on the steps of the Catholic Church in Bruyeres, someone called out, “Look, look!” From that vantage point one could look down the street. A well-known photo shows Nisei soldiers walking up a street which is strewn with debris from the destroyed buildings that line the street. On the right in the photo is a fountain. Now, that same street reclaimed from the rubble with the same fountain in its spot is another fitting memorial to the Nisei soldiers: they made a difference, they helped to save the free world, and they left behind a lasting legacy of their courage and their faith in America.

The people in Vosges, France, including the town of Bruyeres, have not forgotten the Nisei soldiers after 75 years, and with all the memorials there, they will not forget them. One day, maybe 75 years from now, someone will find a rock with a name on it.

## Food by Fumie - Mandarin Peach Cake

- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 1 cup oil
- 4 eggs
- 1 (11-ounce) can mandarin oranges, undrained

Mix all ingredients, except mandarin oranges, and beat at medium speed until well blended. Add mandarin oranges with liquid and beat until oranges are slightly “mashed.” Pour into greased 9 x 13-inch pan and bake at 350°F for 35-40 minutes, or until done. Cool.

- Frosting:
- 1 (3-ounce) box instant vanilla pudding mix
  - 1 (15-ounce) can sliced peaches, drained
  - 1 (8-ounce) container of Cool Whip

Chop sliced peaches and place in bowl. Use electric mixer to “mash” peaches. Add vanilla pudding and beat together. Fold in Cool Whip and blend. Frost cake. Yield: 24 servings.

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