

Florin JACL 75 Year Draft Chronology

The Florin JACL has taken to heart the lessons of their World War II internment saying “Never again” and striving to be a guardian of the Constitution and the rights of all Americans to be free from bigotry, racism, and backlash. Here are some of the historical highlights of the Florin JACL over the past 75 years:

- 1935: Children of the Japanese American immigrants, the Nisei 2nd generation, form the Florin JACL Chapter to serve the community interests. Yoshio Kiino, the first Nisei born in Florin, was the first president of the chapter.
- 1939: Successfully desegregated the all Japanese American Florin East Grammar School.
- 1942 and 1947: Assisted Japanese Americans forcibly evacuated in WWII and then later resettled back in the Sacramento area
- 1952: Supported the overturn of the ban on immigrant Japanese Americans (Issei generation) becoming naturalized citizens
- 1962: Florin JACL began annual scholarships to encourage worthy students to continue their higher education.
- 1983: Organized the first local Time of Remembrance programs that contributed to eventual redress passage in 1988. (The Time of Remembrance programs continue annually).
- 1986: Co-founded the local August Women’s Peace Event to commemorate the lessons of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II and support current peace efforts.
- 1986: National JACL recognizes nationally-noted Nisei redress leader, author, and Florin JACL board member Mary Tsukamoto with the JACLer of the Biennium Award.
- 1987: Initiated the Florin JACL Oral History Project that published over a 15 year period more than 85 books on stories sharing the experiences of members, families, and friends of the Japanese American community.
- 1989: Organized the first hate crime forum in the local Asian American community.
- 1989: Headed up successful public campaign to secure apology from local TV station for using racial slur “Chinaman” in a news cast.
- 1990: Mobilized community awareness and support along with the Marysville JACL for Tom Ly, Hmong college student in Marysville, who was attacked due to his race and for associating with his Caucasian friends.

- 1991: Organized Japanese American community coalition to speak out in support of Arab and Muslim Americans threatened by backlash, intimidation, and vandalism during the 1st Gulf War.
- 1992: Headed up the multi-ethnic coalition in the Japanese, Chinese, and Italian communities for bi-lingual cable TV programming.
- 1992: Coordinated public awareness efforts about the 50th Anniversary of the December 7, 1942 bombing of Pearl Harbor to promote understanding, deter racial backlash, and defuse the growing domestic danger of anti-Japan trade backlash.
 - 1993: Sponsored the annual Florin JACL Women's Forum addressing diverse health, cultural, and empowerment issues for women and families.
 - 1993: Organized public support and awareness when the Florin JACL, Time of Remembrance program, and Mary Tsukamoto were targeted by a mailed hate threat.
- 1993 – 1994: Led the community coalition around the trial of the Sacramento Firebomber who attacked the Sacramento NAACP office, Sacramento JACL, Temple B'nai Israel , and City Councilman Jimmie Yee's home.
- 1994: Supported the National JACL marriage equality resolution.to oppose gay couples being banned from marriage, as Japanese Americans had once been banned from marrying people of other races. The only other national group in support was the ACLU.
- 1994: Initiated the Japanese American Archival Collection with the CSU-Sacramento Library.
- 1995- 1997: Co-chaired local Asian Pacific American coalition supporting affirmative action equality efforts around Proposition 209.
- 1996: Florin JACL recognized as the Chapter of the Biennium by the National JACL.
- 1998-1999: Supported humanitarian efforts to fully disclose and seek redress for any war crimes committed by the Imperial Army of Japan during World War II against Asian countries or American soldier P.O.W.s. Worked with coalition of Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Jewish American, and POW groups on then Assemblyman Mike Honda's and later U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein's bills. Sponsored successful resolution in the N. California JACL District.
- 1999: Organized support, donations, and public awareness for 3 firebombed Jewish temples (Temple B'nai Israel, Beth Shalom, and Knesset Israel Torah Center) and a murdered Redding gay couple (Gary Matson and Winfield Scott Mowder) attacked by hate-mongers.
- 1999: Initiated 1st annual local Multi-Racial Forum to explore issues and support the growing multi-racial community

- 2000: Co-sponsored with the Florin Young Buddhist Association (YBA) the first Interactive Camp Experience Workshop for the Northern California YBA Conference to provide to high school students insight and lessons from the World War II internment.
- 2000 and 2002: Led the efforts for a National JACL apology recognizing the legitimate protests by World War II internee draft resisters against the unjust imprisonment of Japanese Americans.
- 2001: Mobilized the Japanese American community against backlash towards Muslim, Arab, and Sikh Americans unfairly targeted after 9/11.
- 2001: Co-chaired successful community efforts to secure an apology from local radio station for using the racial slur “Chinaman” in its broadcasts.
- 2002: National JACL recognizes Florin JACL member Andy Noguchi with its JACLer of the Biennium Award for organizing support of the Arab, Muslim, and Sikh American communities and advocating for recognizing the World War II Nisei Resisters of Conscience..
- 2002: Revived the Florin JACL Youth Project starting with the N. California JACL Youth Conference in Oakland , California .
- 2003: Helped to organize the annual Time of Remembrance exhibit with the California State Museum of History, Women, and the Arts in partnership with the CSU-Sacramento Japanese American Archival Collection, and five other valley JACL Chapters to educate thousands of Northern California students each year.
- Florin JACL recognized as the Chapter of the Biennium by the National JACL.
- 2006: Sponsored an Interactive Camp Experience Workshop with the Council on American Islamic Relations – Sacramento Valley for Muslim American high school students at the Sacramento Area League of Associated Muslims (SALAM).
- 2006: Organized the 1st Sacramento area pilgrimage to the former World War II Manzanar Internment Camp with the Council on American Islamic Relations-Sacramento Valley (CAIR-SV) on an annual basis.
- 2006 – 2008: Organized backing with the Berkeley , Watsonville-Santa Cruz, Honolulu , and Sonoma County JACL Chapters for Lt. Ehren Watada’s right to a fair trial and due process over his protest of the Iraq war. Initiated a successful resolution accepted by the National JACL.
- 2007 – 2008: Built grass roots support efforts during the hate crime trial against the murderers of Satendar Singh, a gay Indian Fijian American.

- 2008: Sponsored the first set of annual Japanese American cultural events including the Florin Obon Dance Workshop and Florin Mochi Madness (mochi pounding) Workshop / Potluck Social.
- 2009: Co-sponsored with the Council on American Islamic Relations-Sacramento Valley (CAIR-SV) a panel at the Annur Mosque of Japanese and Muslim Americans sharing the parallels between the two experiences after December 7th Pearl Harbor and the 9/11 attack.