



# 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)

## 2017 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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**Obon Workshop:** Jennifer Kubo, Jenny Takahashi

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Debby Staley

**Youth Advisors:** Karen Kurasaki, Andy Noguchi

**Youth Reps:** Michelle Huey, John Kanemoto

## Summer-Fall 2017 Newsletter

## SAVE THE DATES

**October 7<sup>th</sup> - Nikkei Hot Dogs, Cupcakes, and Free Bingo, Scholarship and Youth Fundraiser:** 36<sup>th</sup> annual, Buddhist Church of Florin gym. 5:30 pm. \$12 general. See flyer.

**December 9<sup>th</sup> - Florin JACL 82<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Luncheon Celebration:** 11am-2pm, Valley High Country Club, Elk Grove. Fundraising tickets \$40 each.

**January 7<sup>th</sup> annual Florin Mochi Madness Workshop, Tasting, and New Year's Potluck:** 10:30 am – 2 pm. Sponsored by Florin JACL and Buddhist Church of Florin in the church courtyard. Church and Florin JACL Members free. Non-members \$5 each.

# 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



ALL YOU CAN EAT!

Adults \$12

Ages 4-12 \$6

3 & Under FREE

October 7th, 2017, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Buddhist Church of Florin

7235 Pritchard Road, Sacramento 95828

CUPCAKE DONATIONS Contact:  
twilatomita@gmail.com

Event Sponsorship & Donations  
Welcomed & Graciously Accepted



**Nikkei Dogs - Ticket Order Form, Donations & Volunteer Sign Up**  
**Florin JACL Annual Scholarship & Youth Programs Fundraiser**  
**October 7, 2017, Buddhist Church of Florin**

Please mail by Monday, October 2, 2017 to Florin JACL, Nikkei Dogs, PO Box 292634, Sacramento, CA 95829

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 accent my Donation of \$

**Gold Sponsor (\$100 donation or more)**

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

**Silver Sponsor (\$50 donation or more)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Bronze Sponsor (\$25 donation (OR) purchase \$50 in tickets)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**BINGO & RAFFLE DONATIONS  
GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTED**

Raffle Donations

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Bingo Donations

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I WILL VOLUNTEER TO HELP: Contact me at Phone #

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Email:

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Set up Tables and Chairs Saturday October 7, 2017, 9:00 am at the Buddhist Church of Florin YBA Hall

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

\_\_\_\_ I will help (wash dishes, sell raffle tickets, serve drinks, clean up after event etc.)

*Questions?? Contact Cindy Kakutani 916 768-3644*

# What's in a Name? Florin JACL Name Updated

By Andy Noguchi, Florin JACL Co-President

What name best describes the always-active Florin JACL Chapter? Our Florin JACL Board has discussed this question over more than a year and has now updated our name from “**Florin JACL**” to a more accurate and easier to find “**Florin JACL – Sacramento Valley**”.

Many people even in the local area still don't know the story of the vibrant pre-WWII Florin community in South Sacramento and its huge 2,500 Japanese American farming population of strawberry and Tokay grape growers. Though many have heard of the activist Florin JACL, they often ask, “Where's Florin?”

When the U.S. government rounded up those 2,500 innocent Americans in the spring of 1942 it came at the worst time – before strawberry and grape harvests. What was the result? Most families couldn't pay their mortgages, lost their farms, and had little to return to after the War. Many Florin folks moved to other areas, especially L.A. The name Florin has even been removed from the maps.

Despite that, the Nisei who did return, plus the Sansei and Yonsei generations over the past 35 years, made the Florin JACL one of the most active JACL Chapters in the U.S.

The Florin JACL now focuses on the Sacramento Valley, drawing its members from and sponsoring events for the area. Unfortunately, people still don't know which city to look for the Florin JACL, searching internet websites or Facebook. That's why we've adopted “**Florin JACL – Sacramento Valley**.” This name retains our Florin roots plus places us on the map.



The Daruma doll symbolizes the Japanese American community and the Florin JACL perseverance for social justice through the saying, “7 times down, 8 times up”.

## Florin JACL Hospitality Report

Our Florin JACL is concerned about the health and welfare of our members. Hospitality representatives Sallie and Tom Hoshisaki and Tatsuno Kusabna report the following updates:

March: Sallie and Tom Hoshisaki visited ill member Illa Collin and brought her flowers.

May: Sent a donation to Centennial United Methodist Church in memory of our late member Carol Hironaka.

May: Sent flowers to member Roy Vogel on the passing of his sister Alexia Vogel.

July: Tatsuno Kusaba sent a condolence card to member Brandon Miyasaki on the passing of his grandfather Daniel Miyasaki.

# Florin Next Generation Leaders on the Go!

## *National JACL Convention Experience in Washington, D.C.*



**Florin JACL leaders at the convention: Marielle Tsukamoto, Mika Ishisaka, Neil Nakatani, John Kanemoto, Andy Noguchi, and Michelle Huey (l to rt)**

250 diverse JACL members from 78 Chapters across the U.S. (and Japan) gathered in Washington D.C. July 6-8 to celebrate the accomplishments of Japanese Americans, address today's new challenges, share experiences, and make new friendships.

A strong Florin JACL-Sacramento Valley delegation included young teacher John Kanemoto, DMV staff member Neil Nakatani, recent CSU- San Diego grad Mika Ishisaka, all supported through Florin JACL fundraising, plus Andy Noguchi. Northern California Youth Rep Michelle Huey also involved many next generation members throughout the convention. The Florin group was rounded out by boosters Marielle Tsukamoto, Eileen Namba, and young Kian Otsuji.

A big feat by the Florin-Sacramento Valley Chapter was unanimously passing a resolution recognizing the first Japanese Americans in the U.S. from the nearby Wakamatsu Silk and Tea Colony, for its upcoming 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Neil, Mika, and John did a great job of presenting the resolution on the convention floor. Josh Kaizuka and Marielle Tsukamoto did the advance work researching and drafting the resolution.

The next couple of pages are the reflections of Mika Ishisaka, John Kanemoto, and Neil Nakatani about their convention experiences.

## Mika Ishisaka's Reflections on the 2017 National JACL Convention

Thanks to the Florin JACL-Sacramento Valley chapter and National Youth Student Council (NY/SC), I was fortunate to be one of five selected individuals to participate in the Youth Delegate Campaign and attend the 2017 JACL convention held in Washington D.C. from July 6-9, 2017. After being a participant of the Japan Kakehashi Project in March 2017, I was further motivated to increase my awareness and knowledge of the Japanese American community, culture, and how to get more involved as youth. I thought attending convention would allow me to gain a better understanding of issues involving the Japanese American community as well as serve as an opportunity to network with individuals in the JACL. I also thought convention would be special this year, as it is the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066.

On my flight back home to California, I had the chance to reflect on my experience at the JACL convention. It was inspiring to see so many youth, like myself, involved in the convention-actively participating in the resolutions process and meetings either as a delegate or representative from all over the United States. With John Kanemoto and Neil Nakatani, our chapter presented and helped pass a resolution, which focused on requesting support from JACL to recognize the Wakamatsu Colony as the first Japanese American colony in the U.S. The board meetings were lengthy, but enlightened me with so much knowledge as I had the chance to learn some brilliant ideas from bright minds of the JACL.

Besides the National Council Meetings, I had the chance to attend workshops and panels. The panels were interesting and so relevant to today. The workshop I attended was titled, "Building Coalitions Across Intersecting Identities and Communities" ran by NY/SC. Both the young and old attended this workshop. A main take-away from the workshop was how to use your voice in a positive way, taking a stand to make a change. The workshop was captivating and it was neat to see it was organized by the youth of JACL.

In the evenings, the JACL Convention committee, coordinated some amazing events I was grateful to attend. The events included the Sayonara Banquet, a reception at the Japanese Ambassador's Residence and a reception at the Smithsonian. The reception held at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History stood out in my mind and was very touching. Convention attendees had the opportunity to visit the Japanese American internment exhibit, which features the infamous Executive Order 9066. In the exhibit, there were artifacts on display. One of which stood out to me – a yearbook from the Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS). As the docent flipped through the pages, I was excited to find the name of my late grandfather, Giichi Ishisaka, in the book. As I grow older, I've become more interested in unlocking my family's history. Seeing my late grandfather's name in that artifact in the museum was definitely a moment I'll never forget and has contributed to me receiving a clearer understanding of my roots.

All in all, the JACL convention inspired me. It was amazing to meet and interact with so many Japanese-Americans from all over the United States dedicated to fighting for not only the Japanese-American community, but other ethnic minority groups, especially in this political society today. In a span of three days, I was able to absorb myself in understanding the goals of the JACL, both past and present. The convention gave me the opportunity to learn more about social justice and the Japanese American community's viewpoints on today's political issues. I am so appreciative for the Florin- Sacramento Valley Chapter, NY/SC and JACL as a whole for

giving me the wonderful opportunity to attend the 75th Annual JACL convention and gain a clearer understanding of the mission of JACL and how youth, like myself, can become more involved. Just from convention alone, it was evident how much of an impact youth have on the community and how vital they are to carry on the vision of the JACL.

## **John Kanemoto's Reflections on the 2017 National JACL Convention**

Good Day Florin JACL-Sacramento Valley Chapter,

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the JACL National convention in Washington DC. Every event and activity was bursting with historical relevance and inspiration.

We stayed at the Omni Shoreham hotel. Which hosted the likes of the Beatles and Frank Sinatra in its famous Blue Room Nightclub. Our closing Sayonara banquet was hosted in the Blue Room. Additionally, during the entire 20th century every President would host one of their many Inaugural balls at this hotel.

We participated in the National Council voting on Resolutions. All resolutions were passed, however many had amendments. We even had an infamous case, where an extension to debate an amendment/resolution had us continue pro/con arguments the following day. Finally, Neil, Mika, and I solely presented Resolution #5. Our Pro-arguments were met with unanimous acceptance and a round of applause. It was inspiring to hear that the majority of those introducing, motioning to propose a resolution, and/or presenting the pro-arguments for resolutions were: Youth and Young Professionals.

This was an unprecedeted year for youth participation, location, and evening activities. My most cherished emotional bombshell occurred at the opening reception within the Smithsonian's Museum of American History. I took a picture next to the original EO 9066, which forced my grandparents to move to Wyoming, persist behind barbed wire, and work as migrant farm workers for years to get back to California - undergoing constant financial and social adversity.

How far we have come, yet how far we must go. I learned that the Japanese American community is one of the few who has sought and achieved redress. It was sobering to have a conversation with a DC cab driver, who said he would rather go back to Canada (he is a dual citizen). He no longer feels comfortable in this country's political and social climate. As an educator, I look forward to joining in the fight to achieve more redress, prevent mass incarceration, and contribute more to the JACL's education outreach programming at a local level, and possibly a national level (down the road).

Thank you again for this unprecedeted opportunity. John Kanemoto

## Neil Nakatani's Reflections on the 2017 National JACL Convention

I am not even sure where to start with on how to describe the 2017 Washington DC Nation JACL Convention! OK, here is a shot at it....

Well for John and me, it began after a long day already for the both of us, and ended with a 6-hour flight to Washington DC from Sacramento with a 2-hour layover in Phoenix. Needless to say that John and I were hungry when we arrived in Phoenix but much to our surprise we found ourselves wandering around the airport looking for food rather than sitting back relaxing with a cold beverage in our hands! Finally, we arrive in DC at 7am local time (4am CA time).

Time to start our day.....wait did we even get to end our last day? We took the morning to indulge in some local cuisine and brave the humidity to take a quick tour of the Smithsonian Zoo near the hotel. As we would soon to come to find all of our treks through DC would prove to provide "nice" walks! Staying somewhat sheltered from the drizzle that occurred (Andy was not so lucky to not get wet) we made it back to the hotel for the orientation where all the youth introduced themselves and we were able to see familiar faces as well as some new ones. Without a blink of the eye, it was time to load the buses to head to the National American Smithsonian Museum. The reception there was amazing! Such good food and drinks! We were able to view the exhibit that displaced Executive Order 9066 as well as other artifacts and information. What a great night to a long day!

The second day of the Convention proved to come a bit too early for the three of us, but bright eyed and bushy tailed we made our way down to breakfast provided by JACL. By the agenda, it proved to be a busy, busy day. We heard reports from each section of the board and JACL. .... The (Current State of AAPI Civil Rights) panel that was organized was both fascinating and educational. The panelists were great and shared personal experiences and triumphs. With a little reluctance we found out that John, Mika, and myself went from the 5<sup>th</sup> resolution to be presented to the council to the 1<sup>st</sup>! Thanks to Andy after a great lunch, we were ready to present! Hooray, it passed unanimously! Not all resolutions proved to be as quick and responsive as ours was. Each resolution brought great insight and debate.

It was finally time for the reception at the Japanese Ambassador's Residence. After the extensive security into the compound, we walked into a great entryway where the amazing smell of food wafted the air. Sushi, Curry, Salmon, Soba, Poke, and many more dishes proved to be a very daunting task, but also a bit of a personal challenge to try them all!

The final day of the conference was filled with more resolutions and another great panel (Building Bridges between U.S. and Japan)! Each panelist had great insight and experiences. Finally, the trip wrapped up with the Sayonara Banquet. With everyone dressed to the nines, we dined on great food while listening to some amazing speakers. A night to remember! Some people even got to win some pretty cool prizes that the NYC put on.

Overall, I would say the convention was a success; I personally got to meet with many new faces as well as some familiar ones from the past conventions. I was able to take new perspective away from each event we had as well as learn from others on what their chapter is doing, especially with getting youth involved. I look forward to the next convention.

# **Donations Supporting the Florin JACL:**

**Fumie and Sam Shimada, in memory of Dr. Daniel Miyasaki**

**Judy Fukuman, in memory of Dr. Daniel Miyasaki**

**Mariko Yamada, in appreciation for the Chapter's support of the Dorothy Enomoto memorial.**

**Cheryl Miles, in appreciation for the Chapter's Obon Workshop.**

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!

## ***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. Our chapter has seen a stable number of active members over the last 6 years, which is something we should all applaud ourselves for. Thanks to your renewing membership, we can continue to defend civil liberties both locally and nationwide. We hope to see you at our events!

National Trends: While our active membership counts have remained relatively stable since 2011, the national JACL active membership count has decreased by about 25%. Unfortunate? Yes. Impossible to overcome? Definitely not -- our organization has been through ups and downs since 1929.

I propose a new challenge for our chapter: let's aim to start an upward trend in active membership. You can help by renewing your membership annually! If you forgot when your dues are due, shoot me an email ([jessicaokutsu@gmail.com](mailto:jessicaokutsu@gmail.com)).

Pacific Citizen is Online: Over the past year, we have seen a shift from hard copies of the Pacific Citizen (PC) to an online version. Those renewing members who desire to keep a printed copy of the Pacific Citizen newsletter (24 copies in a year) do need to pay an additional \$17 for a printed hardcopy. The online version is available at no additional cost.

### Welcome to our Newest Members!

**Toshiko Akiyama**

**Jerry Ikeda and Family**

**Ed Imai**

**Joyce Ng**

**Alvin Seno and Family**

**Julie Thomas**

**Naomi Medina and Family (Paris and Joann)**

**Ryu Kanemoto**

**Maurine F. Huang**

**Sandra Christenson and Beth Minato**

## *Obon Workshop Recap*

By Jenny Takahashi

On July 11, 2017, the Florin JACL and the Buddhist Church of Florin co-hosted the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Florin Obon Workshop. About 50 individuals enjoyed a BBQ hotdog meal with a variety of tasty side dishes. Assistant Minister Tadao Koyama provided the Buddhist context about the religious and cultural background of the Obon dance. Then Hanayagi-trained Natori Cheryl Miles led us through an informative demonstration of kimono/yukata dressing. Lastly, she introduced some of the basics of the Obon dance movements. With a warm invitation for audience participation, they danced their way right out to the 7:00pm Obon practice. This was a fun and enriching introduction to the Obon Festival. Thank you to all for again making this event so very special.



## **SAVE THE DATE:**

### **Florin JACL's 82nd Anniversary and Installation Luncheon**

***“Strength through Unity”***

Sat. December 9, 2017 11 am to 3 pm

Valley Hi Country Club, 9595 Franklin Blvd., Elk Grove

Cost is \$40 per person

This year we are honoring:

**Marion Kanemoto** for her leadership and long commitment in preserving important family histories in our Oral History Project donated to the CSUS Japanese American Archival Collection and recently available on line.

**Breanna Inoshita** for her outstanding leadership in promoting youth involvement on the U.C. Davis campus and in many community social justice efforts with the Florin JACL – Sacramento Valley.

**The SALAM Islamic Center** for exemplary community leadership in fostering fairer understanding of the Islamic religion, active engagement of Muslim Americans in civic affairs, and valuable interfaith unity.

For further information, please contact chairperson Marielle Tsukamoto at (916) 685-6747 or [mariellet@frontiernet.net](mailto:mariellet@frontiernet.net)

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

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