



Florin J.A.C.L. Newsletter

Florin Japanese American Citizens League

- Sacramento Valley

Andy Noguchi and Josh Kaizuka, Co-Presidents

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2019 Winter/December Newsletter

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Save the Dates:

- February 8 - Northern California Time of Remembrance
- June 13 - Women's Forum
- July 14 - Obon Workshop
- July 18 - Obon Festival
- October 10 - Nikkei Dogs
- December 5 - 85th Annual Awards and Installation Luncheon

President's Message

What a year we've had! Members and friends of Florin JACL-SV continue the legacy of a progressive, action oriented, civil and human rights focused grassroots organization. By my count, we have successfully put on our regular ten Florin events, attended/supported six partner organization celebration events, helped organize or co-support nine community events, and participated in at least eight rallies. The amazing part of all of this is that we are a volunteer organization, a group of caring individuals who devote so many hours a year!

So I have to start out by giving a SHOUT OUT to all of you who are on the board, chairs, co-chairs and members of an unbelievable number of committees, all of the volunteers who help at our events, our membership, and of course our friends and sponsors who have supported Florin JACL-SV over the years.

The last few years have been difficult and troubling for many. Our chapter has worked so hard over the years to educate about the mistakes of the past so it is remembered, so that mistakes are not repeated, we united and stood with others when tragedy struck due to racism, hate and bullying. Yet, it isn't just the racism, fear hysteria and lack of political leadership. It is politics with no bounds with personal attacks, name calling, thin skinned politicians who storm off if their feelings are hurt....kind of like being in kindergarten with the school bully in the sandbox – except it is an old man – the phrase “you can't teach old dogs new tricks right” sometimes is true right?

The good news is that Florin members and friends are different and know what it means to be a decent human being, a good member of society and to care for others. Look at our leaders like Marielle Tsukamoto, Andy and Twila Noguchi and this year's Carol Hisatomi Women's Leadership Awardee, Kiyoko Sato. In her 90s, she is still at it making sure that the stories of the past are not forgotten and advocating for others. There are our allies like Jewish Voice for Peace Sacramento that was our Community Leadership Awardee standing up, speaking out and fighting for the rights of all because it is the right thing to do.

The best yet are the youth like Madison Tamichi, Melanie Shojinaga and Jenna Yonenaga, our NextGen Youth Leadership Awardees who spearheaded a challenging educational pilgrimage for the Next Generation – not sure what that means since they are the Next Gen and only in their 20s but it is remarkable!

Although these are troubling times and Never Again is Now, whatever happens in the next year, we can get through it. Many in the Japanese American community have been activated to work harder at education, speaking out for others who are disenfranchised, and even working on a historic national rally in Washington DC. Together with others who care, we will unite and remain steadfast to the ideals that all people have unalienable rights which are fundamental.

As stated in the Declaration of Independence, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” Governments are created to protect these rights not for one group or another, but “all.”

Together, we shall overcome for a better tomorrow in the New Year!

The 84th Annual Awards and Installation Luncheon

By Josh Kaizuka
PC Brandon Miyasaki

The rainy weather stopped just in time for the Florin JACL-SV event. Believe it or not, it was the 84th anniversary of our chapter and as usual, Valley Hi Country Club was the perfect venue for a perfect afternoon.

Turnout for the event was great and the room was full of members, friends and sponsors. Sharon Ito emceed the event flawlessly, moving things along while incorporating the history of Florin JACL, WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans in concentration camps, and keeping the program on track before the rain returned.



This year's Community Leadership Award went to Jewish Voice for Peace Sacramento. David Mandel, co-founder of JVP Sacramento accepted the award. The local organization was founded in 2006 and has consistently stood up for peace, social justice, equality and human rights of the disenfranchised. In 2016, JPV Sacramento organized an interfaith Hanukkah Solidarity Vigil against Islamophobia when it became apparent after the presidential elections, Muslims would be targeted, and a Muslim Ban was about to become a reality. Over 500

people attended the vigil at the Capitol including members of Florin JACL.

Kiyo Sato was awarded the Carol Hisatomi Women's Leadership Award. Kiyo's lifelong commitment to her community is extraordinary. Even after being imprisoned in Poston at the age of 19 during WWII, she wanted to be a nurse after release but no school back then would take her. So, she joined the Air Force, earned a nursing degree, served in the Korean War becoming a Captain, and after the war, became the first woman to join the Nisei VFW. If that wasn't enough, she is an author, an advocate for children and even though she is in her 90s, full of energy and working on her next book!



Finally, we had an unbelievable group of Next Generation Youths who in their 20s, are already impressive leaders. Madison Tamichi, Melanie Shojinaga, and Jenna Yonenaga (not pictured) received this year's Next Generation Youth Leadership Award. All of them helped with the Florin Manzanar Pilgrimage over the years. **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)**

The 84th Annual Awards and Installation Luncheon

(FROM PAGE 3) In 2018 all three of them helped with the planning of the pilgrimage and helped with many aspects including discussion groups and the cultural exchange. Unfortunate for us, they all moved back to the Bay Area that year since they were done with studies and internships at UC Davis. Returning back to the Bay Area, they realized that there wasn't any type of organized pilgrimage to Manzanar there and they joined together to spearhead the inaugural Bay Area Manzanar Pilgrimage. It took Florin JACL years of trial and error to get it to what it is today, but they did it their first year and already planning for 2020! They are all an asset to the community where they are taking the spirit of Florin JACL with them!

This year's annual dinner was another full house with great friends and colleagues. Thank you to the volunteers who planned and worked the event! Thank you to our generous sponsors, members and friends!

8 Nights of EIGHT NIGHTS Panel

By Jennifer Takahashi



Long time Florin JACL member, Joyce N. Takahashi, participated on a talkback panel following the staged reading of Jennifer Maisel's new play, "8 Nights of EIGHT NIGHTS," at Bet Haverim in Davis on October 13. The play tells the story of Holocaust survivor, Rebecca, spanning eight decades of her life. Maisel skillfully and sensitively weaves together the painful memories with dark, life affirming humor. The plot also acknowledges the traumas of the concentration camp liberators, the African Americans, the Japanese Americans incarcerated in

WW II, LGBTQ and Muslims. Maisel clearly did her homework. For example, the Sansei character, who becomes Rebecca's son-in-law, defines the term "sansei" to her and tells how his great-grandfather was shot and killed by a guard at one of the incarceration centers.

There is a Menorah on the stage and eight nights also refers to the eight nights of Chanukah. The reading in Davis was meant to be one of eight readings in eight different cities across the county. The proceeds of donations benefit HIAS, a non-profit organization which protects refugees and welcomes the stranger.

Rachel Leventhal, the producer, commented, "Also, thank you to the extraordinary Talkback panel— The audience and I hung on every word uttered by the amazing Joyce Takahashi, who's account of her Japanese internment experience is so important to for us all to hear, repeat and remember. She is a voice that we have not had on any of the other panels, and one that we were thrilled to include. Thank you Joyce!"



Sacramento Hub Tsuru for Solidarity Takes Flight!

By Josh Kaizuka
(PC Haruko Sakakibara and Mary Westfall)

Florin JACL-SV and Parkview Presbyterian Church organized a Sac Hub Tsuru for Solidarity event which included a Tsuru fold-in on November 23, 2019. Over 120 people attended to learn about Tsuru for Solidarity, the plans for a National Rally in Washington DC on June 5-7, 2020.



Sac Hub's Tsuru gathering just outstanding with a diverse group of people from the community – must be the Sacramento thing! Co-sponsors of the event also included CAIR-Sacramento Valley/Central California, Alianza Sacramento, Campaign for Immigrant Detention Reform (CIDR), Jewish Action NorCal, National Lawyers Guild Sacramento, NorCal RESIST, Placer JACL, Sacramento Buddhist Church, Sacramento Immigration Coalition, Sacramento JACL, Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church, and Step Up.

We were so honored to have some Bay Area Tsuru members speak including Nancy Ukai from Berkeley and Kim Miyoshi from Oakland. They both brought a wealth of knowledge and excitement for regional actions that are being planned to lead up to the rally next year as well as exploring ideas on outreach and programs for the three-day event next June. It was also a great opportunity for friends from different organizations to meet and get to know one another.



The plan is to have 125,000 tsuru representing the 120,000 US incarcerated and the 5,000 Japanese Latin Americans who were forced into the US to be imprisoned and were planned to be used for prisoner exchanges. The tsuru will be taken to DC as part of the protest demonstration to shut down the camps imprisoning separated children and those imprisoning migrants and families.

We ended with a whopping 1,579 cranes at the event to string and send to Washington DC! For more information about Tsuru for Solidarity and to make donations go to tsuruforsolidarity.org.

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](https://www.facebook.com/florinjacl) and our Next Generation youth group @[nextgenerationjacl](https://www.facebook.com/nextgenerationjacl).

Girl Scouts Tsuru Fold-In

By Karen Kurasaki



Florin JACL helped support the Sacramento Buddhist Church Girl Scout Troop 569 Tsuru Fold-In by providing origami paper and other supplies to string the origami cranes. Florin JACL member, Karen Kurasaki, along with her daughters Heather and Maya, and several of their scout sisters and leaders organized the event and taught participants how to fold the paper cranes. The Tsuru Fold-In was held on October 20, 2019, to benefit Tsuru



for Solidarity's effort to deliver 125,000 strung tsuru to Washington D.C. in June 2020. More than 60 scouts, troop leaders, family and church members folded and strung a total of 1,680 origami cranes.

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!

John Marshall
Al and Nancy Chin
Arleen Mataga
Stephen and Cindy Sasaki
May Morishima
Joy Nishida
Sandra Navarro

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:

Toso Himel and Barbara Takei
Heidi Sakazaki
Marilyn & Phil Isenberg

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!



Join Japanese American
WWII Camp Survivors and Allies

OSHOGATSU

JAN 11 NEW YEAR PROTEST

TIME TO CLEAN HOUSE & CLOSE THE CAMPS

For Japanese Americans, Oshogatsu, the New Year, is a time for reflection, renewal and for taking care of home and those we love. It is a time of making things right with our neighbors and community members.

In this spirit, we want to 'Clean House' and protest the 'filth, poor conditions, and lack of medical care' that has resulted in multiple hunger strikes and suicide attempts in the Yuba County ICE Detention Center and Jail. Join us and demand the Yuba County Board of Supervisors:



END THE 'INDEFINITE' CONTRACT WITH ICE



**STOP INHUMANE TREATMENT OF
DETAINEES**



TSURU FOR SOLIDARITY - BAY AREA & SACRAMENTO

JAN 11 | 12:00 - 2:30PM

Yuba County Jail

215 5TH STREET,
MARYSVILLE, CA 95901

ENDORSERS: Abuelas Resonden, Alianza Sacramento, Amnesty International/Sac, Buena Vista United Methodist Church, Campaign for Immigrant Detention Reform, Davis Phoenix Coalition, Florin JACL-SV, Freedom for Immigrants, Indivisible Sacramento, Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, Japanese Americans for Justice, Jewish Action NorCal, LCLAA Sacramento, NorCal Resist, Sacramento Immigration Coalition, Uniting for Racial Justice, and Yuba Youth Leaders.

For more info: SacTsuruForSolidarity@gmail.com

www.tsuruforsolidarity.org

Japanese American Archival Collection: A Gift for the 21st Century

By Josh Kaizuka
PC Josh Kaizuka

Has it already been 25 years since the collection was started with the initial gifts of photos and other incarceration related artifacts by Mary Tsukamoto? The collection which started out with gifts from Mary and a call to others to donate artifacts and memorabilia from the Japanese American concentration camps has turned into one of the best research collections known not just in the US, but internationally.

The Sacramento State Library went all out putting together a great afternoon of speakers to celebrate. Lawson Inada, a poet laureate and former incarcerated at a number of concentration camps during WWII, started things off with an intriguing and mesmerizing poetic tour through what was Sacramento Japantown before the incarceration. Who knew that there were so many businesses owned by Japanese immigrants and citizens in Sacramento? Lawson also made sure to volunteer Eileen Otsuji for a yearlong project as a gift to come up with some new tech ideas for the collection!



Mia Yamamoto who was born in the Poston concentration camp during WWII, an activist, civil rights attorney, and one of the first openly transgender attorney in Los Angeles spoke about the “Intersection of Race & Gender Identity.” She talked about the civil rights movement and how minorities including Japanese Americans, Muslims, women and LGBTQ individuals all benefited from the civil rights movement even though during the movement, it was not directly aimed at them. She also talked about the current political crisis as well as the need to support the Black Lives Matter movement.

Mitch Maki, president and CEO of Go for Broke National Education Center who spoke earlier this year at the Northern California Time of Remembrance, made a return to Sacramento. His speech, “Restoring America’s Promise” gave the audience an in-depth history of things you would never have thought about which led up to the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1988. What was the significance of Hawaii becoming a state? What connections were made at Heart Mountain that later made a difference? How did Kazuo Masuda’s sacrifice make a difference forty-four years later?



Congresswoman Doris Matsui, who herself was born in the Poston concentration camp during WWII, presented the Sac State Library’s Japanese Archival Collection a Congressional Record proclamation noting the 25th Anniversary. **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)**

Japanese American Archival Collection (Continued)

(FROM PAGE 9) In her remarks, Matsui talked about how her parents did not talk about the incarceration until she was in college. She talked about the importance of remembering and educating about the Japanese American experience, especially in light of the parallels of what happened then and today.

Honored at the event, Mary Tsukamoto who spearheaded the development of the collection in 1994 and of course Eileen Otsuji who has been intricately involved as Florin JACL-SV's JAAC liaison and chair.

Mochi Madness 2019

By Judy Fukuman, Chairperson

We could not have asked for a better day than Saturday to host the 12th Annual Mochi Madness at the Florin Buddhist Church! It was a chilly and brisk day, but it was sunny and perfect to make mochi the old-fashioned way and sample mochi for a prosperous New Year. On December 14, 2019, we were blessed with approximately 85-90 members and friends of the community, 12 of whom were members of Monterey High School's Key Club, to make and taste delicious mochi. For those unfamiliar, mochi symbolizes strength.



The day started with Stan Umeda and his crew -- John Kanemoto, Howard Shimada, Josh Kaizuka and Koji Lo -- transporting and setting up the burners, steaming the rice in the wooden trays, and preparing the "usu" (stone mortar) and wooden mallets for hand pounding the mochi sweet rice. Students from the Monterey Trail High School Key Club created and posted signs as well as helped shape "an" (sweet bean) balls. Additionally, Florin JACL members Fumie and Sam Shimada and Helen Sakaishi made their delicious traditional ozoni soups and garnishes for the soup, Andy Noguchi made his delicious zenzai (sweet bean), and Aileen Nishio, Ruth Seo, and Janice Kamikawa helped set up the "sample tasting station" so that guests could taste and eat mochi in many ways. Christine Umeda demonstrated cutting and shaping the mochi so everyone joined in the fun of making mochi. President Josh Kaizuka and Rev. Candace Shibata welcomed everyone to kick off the mochi pounding and Josh emceed and described the pounding process and instructed and encouraged people to help pound. Registration and Membership were led by Kaitlin Toyama and Jesse Okutsu respectively.

A big thank you goes to Rev. Candace Shibata and the Florin Buddhist Church for their support and co-sponsorship with the Florin - Sacramento Valley Chapter. We appreciated the help from members of the church to help set up for the potluck afterwards. Also, a big thank you goes to the Hironaka and Umeda families for providing the mochi making equipment, to the Umeda family for donating 20 pounds of sweet rice and rice flour and to the generous donors. Amazing were the Monterey Trail High School Key Club led by Sammi Le who stayed to the very end to help clean up -- thank you to a great team! Overall, it was a very successful Mochi Madness! Thank you everyone who attended and participated!

Rallying with Florin JACL!

By Josh Kaizuka

Since the last newsletter went out, we have been out uniting and standing together with numerous local grass roots organizations that care and stand up for the civil and human rights of all.

On August 15, we were at the Sacramento United Against Hate Rally at the State Capitol supporting a rally organized by the Poor People's Campaign. Florin members attended and Josh Kaizuka spoke at the rally.



September 10 in Davis at Congressman Garamendi's office for a Close the Camp/Defund Ice rally organized by Jewish Action NorCal. Josh Kaizuka and Christine Umeda spoke at the event. Josh was so loud that a Garamendi staffer came out to tell him to not be loud...that got everyone even more loud!



September 16 in Sacramento for CalPERS: Divest from Family Separation & Detention organized by Educators for Migrant Justice.

Did you know that CalPERS investments included companies dealing with private prison industry? A month after the rally, CalPERS divested its investments with CoreCivic and GeoGroup.



October 15 was the start of the Sukkot for Shelter and Safety organized by Jewish Action NorCal. The Sukkot was set up in front of the GeoGroup office in Downtown Sacramento.

After the first day of the Sukkot protest, the GeoGroup shut down or at least had a sign up on the window indicating it was closed for a month!!! On

October 18, we were back out there this time for a No GEO Rally Against Mass Incarceration organized by Jewish Voice for Peace.



Northern California Time of Remembrance (NCTOR)

Presented by Florin, Lodi, Placer County and Sacramento JACL Chapters

Standing Up for the Voiceless

Presented and hosted by NCTOR

Saturday, February 8, 2020

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

California Museum

1020 O Street, Sacramento

The current administration and its supporters have increasingly scapegoated immigrants, Muslims, and others for our country's problems. U.S. detention centers split up refugee families in places like Dilley, Texas and have been proposed in Fort Sill, Oklahoma, a former WWII camp for Japanese Americans. These new U.S. concentration camps have shocked Japanese Americans and others who remember 120,000 people being unjustly imprisoned during WWII, and their families split up across the country.

**Screening of "Protest at Dilley Detention Center"
and "Fort Sill Protests"**
assembled by *Emiko Omori*

Q&A with filmmaker *Emiko Omori* and *Satsuki Ina*

To purchase tickets, use form below or visit NCTOR.org.
For questions, contact Nancy Whiteside at 916-508-6587 or
nwhitesi@hotmail.com or 916-427-2841.



Tickets on sale through NCTOR only:

**\$20.00 general / \$15.00 college students
Free for ages 18 and under**

Includes admission to event, reception with light refreshments, and all current Museum exhibits including "Uprooted! Japanese Americans During WWII" and "Toyo Miyatake: Behind the Glass Eye" and others.

All tickets will be at WILL CALL.

*Public parking: \$3 flat rate (cash only) in
Bonderson Garage (Lot 24) at 1500 10th Street,
between O and P Streets.*



Name: _____ Adult Tickets: _____ @ \$20.00 ea: _____

Address: _____ Students: _____ @ \$15.00 ea: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Tax deductible donation: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Total Enclosed: _____

Guest Name(s): _____

Enclose check payable to Placer Co. JACL and remit by **FEBRUARY 1, 2020** to:

Nancy Whiteside, 5333 Primrose Drive, #45A, Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Florin Japanese American Citizens League
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