



Florin J.A.C.L. Newsletter

Florin Japanese American Citizens League

- Sacramento Valley

Andy Noguchi and Josh Kaizuka, Co-Presidents

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

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2019 Winter Newsletter

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President's Message

By Josh Kaizuka

Florin JACL-SV ended 2018 with an incredible gathering of members and friends with the 83rd Anniversary Luncheon. It also marked the 30th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 in what many Japanese Americans refer to as Redress.

This year marks the 77th anniversary of lies and racist propaganda which resulted in the incarceration of 120,000 human beings. Our members have participated and continue to participate in various educational endeavors to help ensure that the mistakes which led to Executive Order 9066 will never be forgotten.

After the attacks of September 11th, our members were called to action when something peculiar and reminiscent started happening to people who looked like they were from the Middle East and/or Muslim. Many in our own area were being interrogated by the FBI, some were arrested, and racist attacks sharply increased.

Seventy-seven years ago, there was an immigration ban against entire races as well as denial of naturalization and family reunification. After Pearl Harbor, there was widespread fake news about individuals of Japanese descent on the west coast. Accusations of individuals communicating with submarines off the California coast, Japanese bombers flying over California, and other allegations by government officials were reported by the media that ultimately fueled racist hysteria. Government reports that indicated that there was no evidence of any person of Japanese descent spying or evidence that there was any need to imprison individuals of Japanese ancestry were ignored, covered up, or destroyed.

In essence, the national security risk posed by the 120,000 men, women, and children was a lie or, as we might say today, alternative facts. Back then, the US Supreme Court didn't question the power of the President due to a claim of national security.

Today, the parallels are at alarming levels. We have a Muslim ban, an attempt to build a wall along the southern border, family incarcerations, and family separations all in the name of a so-called "national emergency." Lots of statements about all kinds of crazy things going on along the border, but where's the beef? People who live along the border look around and wonder where is this crazy talk coming from? The government's own reports indicate there is no crisis.



As for the security issues relating to the Muslim ban, where's the beef? In the Muslim ban case, the Supreme Court again deferred to the power of the president due to a claim of national security.

The bottom line is that our community has the credibility to talk about these issues because each and every one of us knows "someone" or is "someone" whose liberty was stripped away because of crazy lies, policies, and alternative facts. If we were using a doomsday clock analogy, it would be getting very close to midnight. **(CONTINUES ON PAGE 3)**

President's Message

(FROM PAGE 2) So, it's always great to see that our members are so involved with events like the Northern California Time of Remembrance. Our youth members at UC Davis are spearheading the Nikkei Student Union and putting on annual Time of Remembrance events. Many of our members are engaged in various speaking engagements and the chapter's Next Generation group is getting more engaged. Believe it or not, three of our youth members currently living in the Bay Area who were involved with our Manzanar pilgrimage committee are putting on an inaugural pilgrimage with the San Jose JACL.

Sometimes the worst of times brings out the best in us and helps unite us. Make this period in history one that unites us with others against alternative facts and lies to stop family incarcerations, child separations, bans on Muslims, bans on refugees, and an unnecessary wall!

11th Annual Mochi Madness

By Judy Fukuman, Mochi Madness Chairperson

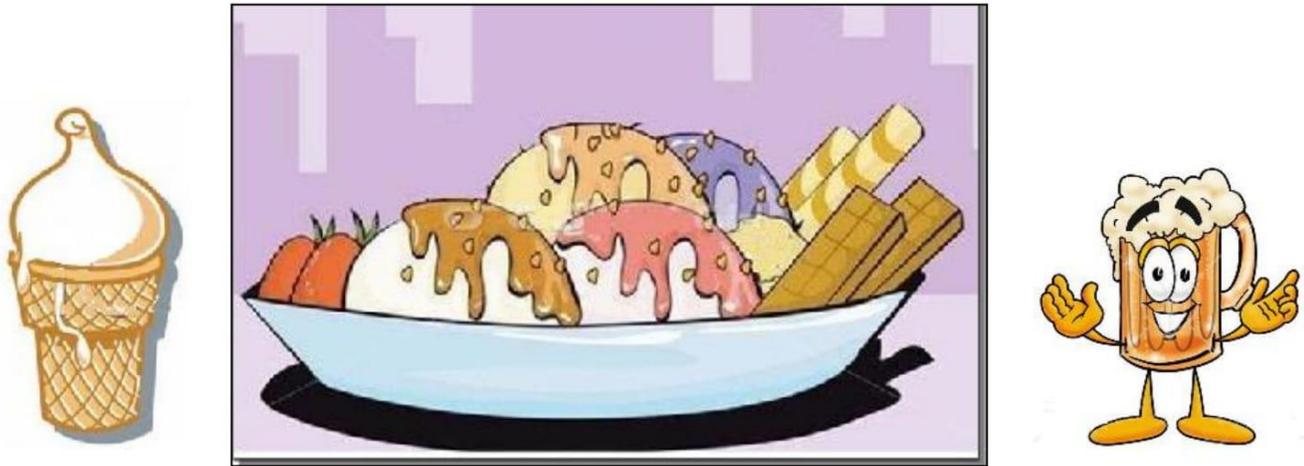
A BIG THANK YOU goes to the members and friends of the Florin JACL-SV and the Buddhist Church of Florin for coming to volunteer for the 11th Annual Mochi Madness. Held at the Buddhist Church of Florin, there were approximately 160-175 people in attendance. The Monterey Trail High School Key Club (over 25) also volunteered to help set up, make signs, make mochi, and clean up afterwards. It was a great day for everybody of all ages to help pound rice, form the mochi cakes, and sample the tasty treats! After the pounding was complete, the mochi was placed into two mochi cutting machines so that it could be cut into uniform bite sized pieces. Then, children and adults at the tables smoothed and formed the mochi pieces and placed them onto trays to be passed out for tasting. To top it off, a huge potluck lunch was enjoyed by everyone.



At the "sample" stations, the mochi treats was served in ozone soup (a clear broth soup with mochi, fishcake, spinach, shiitake mushrooms, egg and green onions), with "an" (sweet bean paste), in oshiruko (Azuki or red bean soup), with kinako (soy powder) and sugar, and with daikon oroshi (grated Japanese radish) wrapped in nori/seaweed, etc.

A special thank you goes to everyone who helped deliver and set up the mochi making equipment, the emcees, the church members who opened up the church and set up the stainless steel tables and furniture, the Buddhist Women's Association who helped set up the potluck, the ladies and gentlemen who helped setup the "sample" stations, children and adults at the mochi making table, members of the Florin JACL at the registration and membership table, and those who stayed to clean up and put away the equipment and furniture. It was satisfying to know that everyone had a wonderful cultural experience learning the art of making tasty mochi! Thank you and Arigato-go-zaimasu to everyone!

2019 Florin JACL Ice Cream Social
Join Us in Recognizing Our Scholarship Recipient



Welcome our New Florin JACL Members
Enjoy Dozens of Free Door Prizes

Saturday, May 19, 2019 1pm – 3pm

Fletcher Farm Center

7245 Fletcher Farm Drive

Sacramento, CA 95828

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

\$4 donation; Free to Scholarship recipients and their guests
and new members.

Come Join Us for a Fun, Tasty Social

2019 Northern California Time of Remembrance

By Christine Umeda

The 2019 Northern California Time of Remembrance event was held on Saturday, February 9, 2019 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the California Museum in Sacramento. Josh Kaizuka presided as the Master of Ceremonies for the event. The ACC Showstopper Senior Choir under the direction of Debbie Eto Tooms performed two opening songs including “Hana Wa Saku.”

This year’s theme, **“REVISITING VITAL CIVIL RIGHTS LESSONS OF THE 1988 REDRESS VICTORY FOR TODAY’S DIVIDED COUNTRY”** celebrated how the remarkable effort of the Japanese American community undertook to help to shepherd this dream.

Dr. Mitchell Maki, the keynote speaker, is President and CEO of Go For Broke National Education Center and lead author of the award-winning book *Achieving the Impossible Dream: How Japanese Americans Obtained Redress*, a detailed case study of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, and is recognized as one of the leading scholars on the Japanese American redress movement.

Floyd Shimomura received the Mary Tsukamoto Daruma Award and was honored for his efforts as National President of the JACL (1982-1984) in formulating strategies to seek redress from Congress, the decision to create the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians and many other activities which led to the signing of the Civil Liberties Act in 1988.



(From Left to Right) Dr. Mitchell Maki, Gabriella Herrera, Fumie Shimada, Jim Okutsu, Yannina Casillas, Josh Kaizuka



Dr. Mitchell Maki, and Christine Umeda

The Unity Candle Lighting ceremony theme “Achieving the Dream, Moving on With Hope,” was a moving ceremony created by Donna Komure-Toyama, Jessica Okutsu, Katie Uemura, Miyako Noguchi, and Kaitlin Toyama. It featured individuals and organizations that provided leadership and support for the successful redress campaign. This included a representative from Sacramento City Councilmember Steven Hansen, Yannina Casillas, Council on American Islamic Relations-Sacramento Valley, Jim Okutsu, Fumie Shimada, a representative from Congresswoman Doris Matsui’s office, Gabriela Herrera, and Dr. Mitchell Maki. **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)**

2019 Northern California Time of Remembrance

(FROM PAGE 5) The audience enjoyed the California Museum exhibits including, “Uprooted! Japanese Americans During WWII” and “Before They Were Heroes: Sus Ito’s World War II Images” from Japanese American National Museum exhibit, and the “Unity Center.”

Proceeds benefited NCTOR activities, including the California Museum’s education program that provides more than 5,000 students annually with presentations led by formerly-incarcerated docents and volunteers.

The planning members represented the JACL chapters of Florin, Lodi, Placer County and Sacramento. The members were Christine Umeda (Chairperson), Nancy Whiteside (Treasurer), Donna Komure-Toyama, Arleen Mataga, Andy Noguchi, Dan Okada, Sharon Takeda, Marielle Tsukamoto, and Stan Umeda. For more information visit: www.nctor.org

Day of Remembrance Events

(RIGHT) California State Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) introduced Assembly Concurrent Resolution 12 (ACR 12) declaring February 19, 2019 as the Day of Remembrance. ACR 12 aimed to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. Following the adoption of the resolution in the State Assembly, guests were introduced to help commemorate the Day of Remembrance and included Stan Umeda, Christine Umeda, Priscilla Morita Ouchida, Karen Korematsu, Janice Luszczak, Katie Uemura, Craig Uchida, Assembly Chaplain Rev. Patti Oshita, and Assembly Assistant Chaplain Rev. Bob Oshita.



(LEFT) On February 20, 2019 at UC Davis a panel of four speakers covered a broad range of topics, such as the parallels between the political climate in 1942 and today, and current events such as rapper 21 Savage's ICE case. Moderated by Kristi Thielen, a UC Davis law student, the panel included Holly Cooper (Co-director of the UCD Immigration Law Clinic), Marco Antonio Rosales (PhD History student, UC Davis), Hach Yasumura (former incarcerated & activist), and Dr. Ayanna Yonemura (Professor of Ethnic Studies at CSUS).

Florin JACL – Sacramento Valley presents...

WOMEN'S FORUM 2019

“Japanese American Traditions”

Saturday, June 15, 2019

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

At the Buddhist Church of Florin

7235 Pritchard Rd, Sacramento, CA 95828

How do we preserve Japanese cultural practices adapted from Japan to America? How do we allow current generations to learn about their roots? Join us for a day of workshops about the traditions of Japanese American culture as they exist today.

- *Come for breakfast at 8:00 a.m.*
- *Workshops will begin at 9:00 a.m.*
- *Choose from a variety of workshops*
 - *Suitable for children 12-18*
- *Free for Florin JACL members and children 12-18*
 - *\$10 for non-members*
 - *Door prize, raffle*

*\$5 obento lunch available for purchase.

Florin JACL-SV Women's Forum

We had a great time at our Women's Forum last year at the Buddhist Church of Florin and we have some ideas for the fast approaching Women's Form for 2019.

We are looking for additional ideas for speakers and activities. Volunteers are needed for planning and to help at the event.

If you are interested in helping or for more information, please contact florinjacl@outlook.com.

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!

The Uno Family: Robert, Robbie, and Elke

Benjamin Cook

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

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!

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](#).



WakamatsuFest150! Update

By Josh Kaizuka

As you may already know, the celebration commemorating the 150th anniversary of the first Japanese immigrant colony is this year. Did you know that the colony is in El Dorado County?

From June 6th to June 9, 2019, WakamatsuFest150 will commemorate 150 years of Japanese American heritage, arts, and cuisine. This historically significant event will never be repeated in world history. The 4-day festival will feature food, art, music, performances, demonstrations, discussions, and merchandise unique to Japanese American culture. Tour guides (this could be you!) will tell stories about the first Japanese colonists who established their tea and silk farm on the Placerville property 150 years ago. Locals, farmers, historians, and naturalists will share their knowledge and experience in order to honor the past, present, and future of Wakamatsu Farm and surrounding El Dorado County. WakamatsuFest150 will also showcase music and theatrical artists, special guests and dignitaries, and the history of Japanese American contributions over the past one-and-one-half centuries.



Florin JACL-SV will have a booth at the event, and we could always use volunteers to talk about what we do and answer questions. Plus, it is sure to be fun! If you are interested, contact Josh Kaizuka at jkaizuka@sbcglobal.net. It would be great to have three or four people at our booth each day during the four-day event. Join for all four days or two days, or one day, or half a day!

In addition, the American River Conservancy which is running the event and is looking for docents since they are expecting up to 4000 guests during the four-day event. No prior experience is necessary, just be over 16 years old and be able to attend a training on Saturday, March 16 from 10:00am to 2:00pm or Monday, March 25 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Email wakamatsu@ARConservancy.org to join.



Wakamatsu Farm is located at 941 Cold Springs Road in Placerville. If you have never been there, the festival will be a great time to visit. There will be an unbelievable number of businesses and groups performing, exhibiting, and sponsoring the event. For the latest information about the festival and to get involved, buy tickets, or sponsor, go to <https://www.arconservancy.org/wakafest150/>.

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Return Service Requested

