



Florin J.A.C.L. Newsletter

Florin Japanese American Citizens League

- Sacramento Valley

Andy Noguchi and Josh Kaizuka, Co-Presidents

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March 2022 Newsletter

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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!

Alison Ball
Abigail Egawa
Rita Maningo
Molly Maseba
Ellie Mizuhima
Arthur Morris
Derek Seo
Kyle Seo
Jaelin Umeda
Jaselle Umeda
Wendsor Yamashita

Co-President's Message

What did Florin JACL-SV do in 2021?

By Josh Kaizuka

Believe it or not, we did a lot even with the pandemic. We couldn't do all the usual yearly events and had to think outside the box with some things, modify some, or go virtual. We also worked on special events, worked with other community organizations on various projects relating to addressing racist attacks on the Asian community, and supported our partner organizations. Most of all, thank you to our members without whom we couldn't keep doing what we do!

Below are just some highlights from 2021!



- Annual Florin JACL-SV Events
- New Year's Day Ozoni, Zenzai, and Mochi Drive-By and Pickup
- Virtual NCTOR – Uncomfortable Conversations: Racism, Equity, and Belonging
- Virtual Ice Cream and Scholarship Awards Social
- Virtual 86th Annual Awards and Installation Gala & Fundraiser

Special Events

- Hybrid Event – Sacramento Regional Dedication of the Go For Broke Stamp
- Flag signing for the Japanese American WWII Internment Memorial and Legacy Project

Participated in over five rallies and vigils relating to Asian hate incidents; worked with other local organizations and the City of Sacramento on the Stop AAPI Hate Community Convening series; joined in the Attorney General's Hate Crime Roundtable; worked as part of the AAPI Health Collective; volunteered to help with Humanitarian Parole applications to reunite Afghan families; attended the grand openings of the new AkaMaya Cultural Dance Studio; and attended grand opening of the new CAIR-SV/CC office. We also started working on Sacramento Senior Safety Collective (SacSSC) to help seniors who were scared or concerned about going outside on their own. Organizations helping to launch SacSSC include ACC Senior Services, Sacramento JACL, Sacramento Buddhist Church, OCA and others.

Some of the support letters we submitted included stopping eBay from allowing the sale of "internment camp" art and artifacts, to stop the pending sale of the Sakura Intermediate Care Facility, funding for the Japanese American Confinement Education Act, and preservation of the Stockton Assembly Center Hospital.

We also joined to help draft two resolutions for the 2021 National Convention. Berkeley and Twin Cities JACL youths did a tremendous job finalizing and moving the "Supporting Black Lives Matter Movement and Addressing Anti-Asian Hate Incident" resolution to successful passage. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

Fun, Festivity, and Friendship

Fun New Year's Ozoni, Zenzai, Mochi, and An Mochi Event

By Andy Noguchi

Photos by Josh Kaizuka

Refusing to be stymied by the COVID lockdown, the Florin JACL-Sacramento Valley Chapter for the second year organized a fun, socially distanced New Year's Ozoni, Mochi, and An Mochi Drive By and Pickup January 2nd from a member's sidewalk. Thirty families enjoyed about 125 New Year's treats.

Tasty Ozoni (New Year's soup with mochi, kamaboko, shitake, napa, and spinach), Zenzai (sweet azuki red bean soup with mochi), Mochi (sweet rice cakes), and An Mochi are traditionally enjoyed in the Japanese American community that day. The dishes symbolize prosperity, strength, community, and hope for the coming year.

Without the traditional large gatherings for Oshogatsu New Year's, several participants said they got a real lift from being able to see friends at the Drive By, even if for a short visit. Other's picking up mochi treats, said they were dropping it off at friends who couldn't get their New Year's "fix."



Ozoni Royalty - Sam and Fumie Shimada



Some of the New Year's Crew

Just a couple of weeks before New Year's, an ad hoc committee of Fumie Shimada (Chapter Chef), Sam Shimada, Judy Fukuman, Christine and Stan Umeda, Donna and Titus Toyama, Eileen Otsuji, Chiaya Rawlings, Marielle Tsukamoto, Josh Kaizuka, high schooler Robbie Uno and mother Elke Uno, Annie Kim Noguchi, Jiyeon Park. Andy Noguchi, and Twila Tomita hurriedly organized the event. Twila and Andy hosted the drive by/pick up on their sidewalk.

Pre-pandemic, the Florin JACL Chapter customarily organizes a New Year's "Mochi Madness" Hand-Pounding Workshop, Treat-Tasting, and Community Potluck with about 150 people. Since that wasn't

possible this year, it came up with this creative Drive By work-around. Thank you for your support and generous donations! (Photos by Josh Kaizuka)

20th Annual Northern California Time of Remembrance

By Sharon Takeda and Katie Uemura, members of NCTOR

On Saturday, February 12, 2022, the 20th Annual Northern California Time of Remembrance (NCTOR) took place. For the second consecutive year, the NCTOR event was presented virtually in accordance with social distancing protocols mandated by coronavirus-related restrictions. The online format provided access to a wider geographic audience than in previous years, with participants joining the event from 24 states ranging from Hawai'i to as far east as New York, as far south as Florida, and crossing borders into two Canadian provinces.



The annual commemoration of Executive Order 9066 has taken a shift from the usual program to include other communities affected by oppression. This year's program theme was "Beyond Confinement: Stories of Japanese American and Native American Resistance." It was a continuation of last year's "Uncomfortable Conversations: Racism, Equity, and Belonging" to address issues around the Japanese American community's relationship with racism, the Black American experience, and the intersection of awareness and stepping into activism. This year's program brought the Native American experience side by side with the Japanese American experience. The program highlighted personal experiences through storytelling, as it focused on the unique and different Native and Japanese American histories, the shared stories, and the responses to captivity, culture, perseverance, and resilience.

The program was opened by a land acknowledgment done by Dr. Crystal Martinez-Alire, a member of the Miwok tribe and Elk Grove Unified School District Board President, and a singing and drumming piece by Professor Steven Crum, a member of the Shoshone-Paiute tribes and professor emeritus of Native American Studies at University of California (UC), Davis.

The panel discussion was moderated by Wendi Yamashita, assistant professor of Ethnic Studies at California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) and also on the Manzanar Committee. The panelists included the esteemed elder Kiyo Sato (nearly 99 years young), survivor, military veteran, nurse, and author; Annette Reed, member of Tolowa Dee-ni' tribe, Department Chair of Ethnic Studies at CSUS; Sage Andrew Romero, member of Tovowahamatu Numu (Big Pine Paiute) and Tuah-Tahi (Taos Pueblo) tribes, founder AkaMya Culture Group; and Lisa Nakamura, clinical psychologist, member of Tsuru for Solidarity Leadership Council.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

20th Annual Northern California Time of Remembrance

(FROM PAGE 4) Dr. Yamashita led a rich discussion illuminating some of the contrasts in how as non-Natives, Japanese Americans haven't been affected the same as how white supremacy has impacted Native people. In addition, there were shared stories in common. As Dr. Yamashita stated, "Storytelling itself is an act of resistance, to remember what the nation wants you to forget and has tried to erase." Panelists shared their acts of resistance from not putting up Christmas lights in a block of lighted homes as non-Christians to resisting removal of their tribe from their original lands by the Smith River. The panelists offered stories of Native and Japanese Americans coming together to be better allies for each other. As each panelist wove a strand of a basket with the guidance of the moderator, telling stories of differences and similarities that slowly began to connect and take shape as strength and compassion were woven into a whole to pass on to the younger generations.

The program concluded with the Bakuatsu Taiko Dan led by Gregory Wada, a graduate student and others from UC Davis. Creative musical expression can be a way of reclaiming and celebrating our culture while also healing. The group did a powerful piece called Shio No Michihi, The Ebb and Flow of the Tide, envisioning powerful waves breaking along the shoreline that was reminiscent of the theme of resistance.

The NCTOR planning committee is composed of Florin, Lodi, Placer County, and Sacramento chapters of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL). Members included Christine Umeda as chair, Andy Noguchi, Dan Okada, Sharon Takeda, Donna Komure-Toyama, Kikuko Omori, Marielle Tsukamoto, and Katie Uemura, all from the Florin chapter JACL-Sacramento Valley, Nancy Mune Whiteside from Placer County chapter, Arleen Mataga from Lodi chapter, and community consultants Annette Reed and Wendi Yamashita.

As viewers are motivated to read a book written by one of the panelists or get in touch with and process deeper emotions that lead to better understanding, compassion, and action, the NCTOR Event reaches people in a myriad of ways. This kind of curiosity and willingness to be impacted is encouraged as people in the audience are stimulated by the event, gather more information, and engage in discussions with others.

The NCTOR Planning Committee is excited to be building bridges with multiracial and other marginalized communities to be able to unite in solidarity and strength for our civil rights and democracy. By doing this we are breaking the model minority stereotype which elevated Asian Americans and pitted our communities against other Black, Indigenous, People of Color. We were without community support including our own nation's when we were incarcerated, and we will collectively stand up and fight systemic racism and structures that stand in the way for the rights and equity for all of us.

Please continue to join us as we grow and evolve together with the support of community. If you'd like to view the NCTOR program, you may see it on our website, www.nctor.org. We thank Ted Fong, producer, ACC Technical Services, for the live and online production as well as this video on our website.



JACL Joins ACC to Launch Senior Safety Program

Adapted from ACC News article, Winter 2021, by Danyle Lee and Emily Severeid
Submitted by Titus Toyama

JACL chapters around the nation are rising up to combat the disturbing rise in hate crimes against API communities. Chapters are also working hard with elected officials on ways to make our communities safer, especially for our seniors. However, it's really up to us to combat anti-Asian hate, every day and on the ground, in our neighborhoods, on our streets, and in the places where we go to meet friends and take care of everyday business.



It's for this reason that API community organizations joined with ACC Senior Service to form the Sacramento Senior Safety Collaborative (SacSSC). This program is made possible by ACC's partnership with many local organizations: OCA Sacramento, the Sacramento and Florin JACL chapters, Adult Buddhist Association, UC Davis' Japanese American Student Society, City of Sacramento Police Department, Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, Congresswoman Doris Matsui's Office, Mayor Darrell Steinberg's office, and Paratransit, Inc. The Florin-SV chapter is represented by Josh Kaizuka and Titus Toyama, who's also an ACC Board member.

The SacSSC has developed a Senior Escort Program for seniors who feel unsafe or uncomfortable in public without accompaniment. Volunteers take walks with seniors in their neighborhoods or to the park, meet them at the grocery store, or wait with them at their doctor's office. Our first participant, Mollie, is 94 years old and incredibly bright, quirky, and sociable! Mollie let us know that she appreciates having someone to go on a walk with her in her neighborhood, both for physical exercise and to increase her social interaction. Mollie wanted to continue her walks around her neighborhood, and now feels more comfortable going with a volunteer.

We're encouraging our chapter members to look into the Senior Escort Program. Florin JACLER Titus Toyama volunteers for the program and says "I've really enjoyed my walks with seniors and want to do my part to help them stay active and safe. It's a great way to connect with an important segment of our community and learn from their life experiences, too!"

How can you get involved? Request an escort the next time you or someone you know wants to go for a walk or shopping. And if you have spare time and want to help, please consider becoming a volunteer! It can be once a week, or even just once a month. SacSSC volunteers accompany seniors and provide another set of eyes and ears, with the ability to report emergencies and non-emergency incidents. Participants meet volunteers at a public site or their home, to be escorted on foot. Volunteers are provided training, which includes bystander intervention and how to handle and de-escalate potentially harmful incidents.

The program will officially launch in May 2022, but it's not too early to request an escort, or better yet, become a volunteer! More volunteers are needed to make this program a success. To learn more, please contact ACC by emailing info@sacssc.org or by calling (916) 476-3172. West Sacramento Day of Remembrance Feb 19th

Mayor Recognizes 300 WWII Japanese Americans

By Andy Noguchi

Forced by the United States government from their homes and farms to America's WWII concentration camps, the 300 Japanese Americans of West Sacramento, Bryte, and Broderick were fittingly honored with a Day of Remembrance by West Sacramento's Mayor Martha Guerrero on February 19th, the 80th anniversary of the expulsion order. Kenji Taguma, son of West Sacramento farmer Noboru Taguma and publisher of the Nichibei Weekly, worked with Mayor Guerrero to organize this effort.

In front of West Sacramento's City Hall, the Mayor Guerrero, the Taguma family, and Florin JACL members joined in a news conference. TV stations ABC 10, KCRA NBC 3, CBS 13, and the local newspaper widely covered the event.



West Sacramento Mayor Martha Guerrero presents Day of Remembrance proclamation to Kenji Taguma. Rick Tateishi, Mari Taguma, and Twila Tomita also pictured. (KCRA TV 3 screenshot).

"Eighty years ago, our country failed an entire group from our [West Sacramento] community," stated Mayor Guerrero. "Instead of upholding the principles of our Constitution, we created a travesty of our civil liberties that resonates to this day."



Former incarcerated Christine Umeda relates WWII backlash to that against Muslim Americans and others today. (CBS 13 screenshot).

Kenji Taguma wrote, "It's so moving to know that their struggle will be remembered. For years they suffered in silence, so it's a fitting tribute to amplify their stories so that future generations can learn about the dangers of racial scapegoating and to safeguard the civil liberties of others."

On two days notice, five members of the Taguma family and seven Florin JACL members came out in support, including Christine and Stan Umeda, Fumie and Sam Shimada, Twila Tomita, Andy Noguchi, and Rick Uno, a West Sacramento native.



Co-President's Message

(FROM PAGE 2) Finally, big congratulations to some of our members who were recognized for their excellence last year by other organizations. Devon Akiyama and Connor Gill who were awarded National JACL scholarships; Marielle Tsukamoto awarded the CSUS President's Medal; Josh Kaizuka awarded the a Vanguard Justice Award; and Jessie Morris, Jr. awarded the Attorney of the Year by the Sacramento County Bar Association.

Bring on 2022!

California State Assembly Declares a Day of Remembrance

By Josh Kaizuka
(PC Jeff Walters)

The California State Assembly passed House Resolution 85 by Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi. The resolution declared February 19, 2022, as a Day of Remembrance and aimed to increase awareness of the "more than 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry" incarcerated in "10 concentration camps scattered throughout western states" during WWII.

In attendance were Fumie and Sam Shimada from Florin JACL, Janice Luszczak and Miko Sawamura from Sacramento JACL, and Tara Umemoto from Berkeley JACL. They were recognized when the measure was being considered and discussed.

A super thanks to Janice Luszczak for getting the word out about the resolution!



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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.



86th Anniversary Awards, Installation, Fundraiser

By Marielle Tsukamoto

Thank you to everyone who supported our 87th anniversary, installation, and fund raiser held on December 11, 2022. We raised \$20,000 for our chapter programs and scholarship fund. Thanks to Chiaya Rawlins we were able to obtain the services of Pacific Auction to manage the on-line event. Pacific Auction provides services to organizations to raise funds through on-line auctions and activities. We are also grateful for major sponsors, Delegata, Sharif Jewelers, Law Office of Mark Marin, Ayad Al-Qazzaz Endowment, SMUD, and everyone who made generous donations and purchases.



Ruth Seo and the scholarship committee had former recipients – Annie Noguchi, Koji Lo and Beth Uno – provide a video telling of their current activities and plans for the future.

The Northern California Time of Remembrance Committee was honored for outstanding service to the community through the annual Time of Remembrance programs and support of the education program held at the California Museum of History. This education program, started in 2003, now averages 5,000 students annually. Thank you for education the future generations.

Sam and Fumie Shimada were honored with the Florin-SV JACL Leadership Award for 30 years of service to chapter activities. Sam and Fumie organized and cooked at most of our activities. They drove in a car loaded with equipment and food for the Friday barbecue for our annual Pilgrimage to Manzanar. They organized and supervised the food for the Nikkei Dog Scholarship Fundraiser; the Mochi Madness and every event that had food. Thank you Sam and Fumie for your service.

Myrna Hitomi received the Okagesama de Award meaning “in great gratitude” for re-starting the Japanese Language program in the 1950s after families returned to Florin and preserving Japanese cultural. Myrna and her sisters supported and encouraged preservation of traditional art forms. Myrna Hitomi is 101 years old. We are honored to recognized Myrna and say “Okagesama de”

Jesse Okutsu received the Next Generation Award. Jesse served as our chapter membership chair, attended and worked at “every” activity our chapter held for many years. Thank you for your service. We are proud of your accomplishments.



Recent Donations

The Florin JACL-SV Chapter truly appreciates all the donations that are generously made to the Chapter's general and scholarship funds. Below are donations recently received:

86th Anniversary and Awards Gala

Platinum

Ayad Al-Qazzaz Endowment – CSU Sacramento
Delegata
Law Office of Mark Merin
Law Office of Josh Kaizuka
Sharif Jewelers
Toso Himel and Barbara Takei
Anonymous

Gold

SMUD
Sonney Chong
Andy and Twila Noguchi
Eileen Namba Ostuji
Fumi and Sam Shimada
Titus and Donna Komure Toyama
Marielle Tsukamoto
Stan and Christine Umeda
Karen Yamamoto

Silver

CAIR-SVCC
George and Meri Akiyama
Daniel Iritani
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Walter and Kathy Menda
Kenji Taguma - Nichi-Bei Foundation
Chiaya Rawlins
Peggy Okabayashi
Donna Ouchida
Ruth Seo
Jean Shiimoto
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Silver Continued

Jan Takeuchi
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Scholarship Program

Phil and Marilyn Isenberg
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