



Florin J.A.C.L. Newsletter

***Florin Japanese American Citizens League
- Sacramento Valley***

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July 2022 Newsletter

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SAVE THE DATE

***Florin JACL – Sacramento Valley
87th Anniversary Luncheon***

“Strength Through Unity”

December 11, 2022

11:00 am

Valley Hi Country Club

Details coming soon!

Co-President's Message

By Josh Kaizuka

Summer is here and as usual, it is sunny, warm, and a great time to get out. Gas prices are starting to come down a bit so maybe getting out on the road might be fun! At the same time, there are new Coronavirus variants that seem to be spreading, so stay safe. Make sure to get your booster shots and when going to indoor events, maybe think about masking. It seems like I've heard from more people that they have tested positive in the last couple of months than during entire shut down.

The good news is that they have not come down with severe symptoms and are fine within a few days because they have kept up with the vaccines.

With that being said, we continue to do work addressing civil rights and social justice. The NCTOR committee members are meeting regularly to plan for next February. Our Annual Awards and Installation committee members are planning our first in-person event since 2019!

We are working in collaboration with various local and national organizational partners on various projects including protecting our elders, addressing anti-Asian hate, and supporting a commission to study and make recommendations for African American reparations.

With the recent decision by the US Supreme Court taking away a constitutional right which existed for fifty years, other constitutional rights might be on the chopping block soon.

National JACL along with many chapters are doing a great job addressing some of these issues to try and make a difference.

Many of our members are not only working on things for our chapter, but they are also doing some awesome things with other groups and in the community.

It is with the support of our members like you who help us keep doing what we do to try and make a difference!

Please enjoy this edition of the newsletter and hope you all have a great summer!

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!

Julie Fong
Madison Lee
Nadine Nakata
Amreet Sandhu

Inspiring Generations of AAPI Community Activists

Remembering U.C. Davis Professor Isao Fujimoto

September 28, 1933 - February 25, 2022

By Andy Noguchi

Isao Fujimoto opened eyes, stirred hearts, armed, and inspired generations of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community activists to change society for the better. His family aptly described him as both “a professor and community organizer.” Dr. Isao Fujimoto, Ph.D., passed away peacefully in his Davis home on February 25, 2022 at the age of 88.



Photo courtesy of Fujimoto

Shaped by His Family's Concentration Camp Experience, his life experiences forever shaped Isao's outlook, passion, and career. Isao was born and raised on a strawberry farm by his immigrant Japanese American parents on the Yakima Indian Reservation in Washington, farming there so they wouldn't be restricted by the racist Alien Land Laws of the day. He was the oldest of 13 children.



**the failure of democracy
in a time of crisis**
the war-time internment of the
japanese americans and
its relevance today

Isao's Fujimoto's ground-breaking 1969
article in *Roots: An Asian American
Reader* (1971)

Backlash from Japan's December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor forced Isao's family into a series of American concentration camps for 120,000 Japanese Americans from 1941-1945. First was the Portland “Assembly Center” in Oregon then Heart Mountain, Wyoming. Isao was then 8 years old.

One week after December 7th, FBI agents arrested Isao's father, a carpenter and community leader, and imprisoned him in a Missoula, Montana detention camp for a year and a half away from his family. After being reunited with his father, they were sent to the Tule Lake Segregation Center in California. This was a concentration camp for those who had dissented on a so-called “loyalty oath” to the government that had imprisoned them.

Over his adult years, Isao led an adventurous and many-storied life. He attended college at UC Berkeley, Stanford, Howard University, and Cornell (Isao later earned his Ph.D. there at the age of 76 in 2010!). After college, the U.S. Army drafted him for the Korean War where he became a war correspondent. Isao also worked internationally in Indonesia, Honduras, Philippines, Micronesia, and Japan where he supported social justice efforts. **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)**



Inspiring Generations of AAPI Community Activists

Remembering U.C. Davis Professor Isao Fujimoto

September 28, 1933 - February 25, 2022

Teaching and Community Organizing

(FROM PAGE 3) Isao's teaching/community organizing took off in 1967 when he took a Community Development teaching position at UC Davis. There, he honed his unique teaching style of challenging assumptions, experiencing, engaging with people, organizing, and building community. This inspired generations of students and community members spanning almost 55 years.

Physically, Isao was diminutive in stature yet a powerhouse of community organizing. He was gregarious in engaging people, inquisitive, and an ever-running "energizer bunny for social change."

Over the years, Isao's tremendous impact was wide-ranging from organizing rural communities with the Central Valley Project, supporting the start of the Davis Food Coop and Farmer's Market, sustainable agriculture efforts, National Center for Appropriate Technology, Asian Rural Institute, and many others. (For a fuller picture of Isao, please see the resource materials at the end of this article)

A Pioneer of the Asian American Movement

Isao was a central figure in the emerging Asian American Movement for equality and self-determination in the 1960s and 1970s. He and other Asian American faculty worked closely with student leaders to establish one of the first Asian American Studies programs in the US. In 1969, Isao helped teach the first Asian American Studies class with student coordinator Brian Tom. In 1970 he helped found the Asian American Studies Division, to be directed by new faculty member George Kagiwada, that has now grown through more than 50 years.



Isao and students celebrating UCD Asian American Studies 50th Anniversary. Photo from Asian American Studies at UCD.

As part of these efforts, Isao wrote a groundbreaking article in September, 1969: "The Failure of Democracy in a Time of Crisis – The Wartime Internment of Japanese Americans and its Relevance Today." This exposed the racism and myths about the WWII concentration camps. Importantly, Isao sharply laid out the continuing importance of the Japanese American experience to democracy and the rights of individuals today.

Marielle Tsukamoto, an 85-year-old community leader, educator, and fellow WWII camp incarcerated, credited Isao with bringing this history and story of camp injustice to people of her generation, inspiring them to speak up. **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)**

Inspiring Generations of AAPI Community Activists

Remembering U.C. Davis Professor Isao Fujimoto

September 28, 1933 - February 25, 2022

(FROM PAGE 4) Isao also supported research and uncovering the true history of peoples long ignored. During the summer of 1969 he helped sponsor the Asian American Research Project. 17 students produced bibliographies, course materials, and a study of the Stockton Filipino community. Filipino farm labor organizers Larry Itliong and Philip Vera Cruz spoke at the first Asian American Studies class in 1969 as part of this effort.



Isao Fujimoto and early student and Filipino community researcher Albert Balingit (2020). Photo courtesy of Albert Balingit.

Decades later, Isao still continued his devotion to his students. Breana Inoshita, UCD Asian American Studies/Community Development Major, class of 2017, said, “Isao, or Professor Fujimoto as I knew him, was a pillar in the UC Davis community. I first met him after his retirement, and even then he gave his time generously to students and to the community.”

Isao also taught “Community and Everyday Life in Japan” (a UC study abroad course) for 22 years from 1991-2013. Like his other classes, the focus was experiencing, understanding, and supporting people. Students were paired up with a local Japanese college student “tutor” and met with Japanese activists working on issues of homelessness, women’s rights, discrimination against outcasts in Japan, sustainable agriculture, and suicide among youth. Over 500 California students, mostly Asian Americans, built international solidarity and cultural understanding.

A Voice of Conscience for the Community



Isao Fujimoto and daughter Esumi folding origami paper cranes on the Florin Manzanar Pilgrimage bus (2010).

Throughout his over 50-year involvement, Isao contributed greatly to the Japanese American community. This ranged from supporting redress for those wrongly imprisoned during WWII, honoring sacrifices made during those times, and promoting the lessons of history. Isao clearly lived by his original 1969 essay “Failure of Democracy in Time of Crisis”.

Isao also remained true to his community organizing: highlighting the importance of standing up for others, creating alliances, and building community. Isao was a thought-provoking and much-sought-after speaker for community and campus events ranging from the Florin

Manzanar Pilgrimage (2006, 2010), Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony for WWII Japanese American Veterans (2012), and the Walerga Assembly Center Rededication (2015) to name just a few. **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)**

Inspiring Generations of AAPI Community Activists

Remembering U.C. Davis Professor Isao Fujimoto

September 28, 1933 - February 25, 2022

(FROM PAGE 5) At the Gold Medal Ceremony, Isao spoke of a friend's compassion for WWII Japanese Americans, working tirelessly to find jobs and colleges for thousands as they left the camps. During the 3-day Florin Manzanar Pilgrimage he commented on the value of "building community" through the shared experience to boost community strength. During the Walerga Rededication, Isao spoke of how the threats against Japanese Americans of the past continue to be a present-day danger to Muslim Americans and the need to stand up for them.

Remembering Isao

After Isao's passing, many friends looked back on his life. "When you first met Isao Fujimoto, he was a kind and humble person, always supportive of students, encouraging, kind, and inspirational," said Marielle Tsukamoto. "Yes, we will miss him. However, Isao has already affected the future for all of us. We continue to benefit from his quest, efforts, and successes."

Young community leader Breana Inoshita said, Isao "showed many the value of community building, the strength in diversity, and the importance of social justice. There is no doubt that his work and wisdom will live on through his students and all who had the pleasure of knowing him."

Well said.

Note: Andy Noguchi is the Co-President of the Florin Japanese American Citizens League – Sacramento Valley (Florin JACL-SV). After transferring from a community college to UC Davis, he met Isao in 1971. Andy worked on a number of campus and community efforts and events with Isao during the past 50 years.



**Isao's Ph.D. party in 2010 with former students
Andy Noguchi, Calvin Hara, and Asian
American Studies Major Annie Kim Noguchi**

Additional Isao Fujimoto Resources

Isao Fujimoto Obituary provided by his family to Davis Enterprise Newspaper:
<https://www.davisenterprise.com/obits/isao-fujimoto/?fbclid=IwAR1GqF7QbEFoz6CJ-PpmzXqFd2DFbgav4C277TU5HPhQ0Sb4iUQkrX4Cg3c>

Isao Fujimoto Bouncing Back Multi-Media Presentation by Scott Tsuchitani (2017):
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=1df7d56eaa02432ea8cd6b62bf26ae43>

Bouncing Back: Community, Resilience, and Curiosity book by Isao Fujimoto. (2017)

Isao Fujimoto Student Fund to Support Community Activism:
<https://give.ucdavis.edu/CLAS/ASIFGFT>

Honoring the Delta's Complex Asian Histories

Written by Delta Dawn

If you drive to the California Delta towns of Courtland, Locke, Walnut Grove, and Isleton—all in Sacramento County, you may notice sections of town with historic Chinese and Japanese buildings, street signs, lettering and more. It can feel otherworldly and magical—and it is. People have fought to preserve that history. Still, so much of that history can feel hidden. What would it mean to bring it into our collective memory of the region?



A sign listing Walnut Grove's Historic, and segregated, Chinese and Japanese Districts.

Recently, the Sacramento Public Library created exhibits in Courtland, Walnut Grove, and Isleton—three of the Library's California Delta Branches. The exhibits included copies of the *Delta Voice*, La Pearita yearbooks, book titles such as *Bitter Melon*; *Rice Bowls in the Delta*; *Remembering 100 years, 1915-2015: The Legacy Lives on*, *Locke Centennial Book*; and more. These resources reveal a strong presence of Asian Americans in the region—for more than a century.



...
saxibb Weekend warriors Murray Dale B. Margie C. Ng cycled many miles to Norwalk Courtland Library and are pictured here with a photo of their father, Ng So Yung, whose story appears in "Bitter Melon" and "One Day One Dollar".
Railroads, levees, and canneries brought people from across the globe to the California Delta, where #DeltaLib has three library locations. Today, the Delta continues to be a culturally rich community. In honor of #AmericanArchivesMonth, we invite you to visit our archives and learn more about this region. #CACDelta #Sacramento
storyteaching My new book *Amor y Muerte en Tiempos de Zombis* begins at Sacramento's famous water tower with a wall
Liked by jessica.d.gray and 133 others
October 26, 2021

What brought them to the area? Some would say farming. It is what the California Delta is known for and is certainly part of the story. But, the story goes much deeper. During our June 2022 Japanese American Citizens League meeting, we discussed two of the most important farmers in the California Delta—George Shima and Chin Lung. Information about them is included in *The Delta Voice*'s Winter 2020 edition, on pages 6-7.

Both were incredibly successful in their work as Delta Farmers, but effectively erased from California Delta history—both lost their holdings in Asian Exclusion Acts. Their success was met with envy and hatred from others. In *This Was Our Place: Asian Immigrants and Delta Agriculture*, the success of Asian Americans in the California Delta is noted as cause for President Woodrow Wilson to send staff on an assignment in 1913 to observe “the Japanese situation through the eyes of California.” Ultimately, a trip from Florin to Walnut Grove built the case for Japanese Internment. World War II aside, anti-Asian hate was already ripe in the California Delta for decades.

How did it begin? Ric Burns and Li-Shin Yu's documentary *The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882* explains the origins of Asian hate on the West Coast as stemming from concerns over labor competition and wealth accumulation. During the California Gold Rush, Chinese miners were unfairly labeled as “foreign” in a landscape of new arrivals to California, rarely did they earn enough to pay back their trans-Pacific Voyage expense. Through the 1852 Foreign Miners' Tax, Chinese Miners were required to pay a \$4 monthly fee to mine at all. In 1855, a \$50 fee was imposed on any ship carrying Chinese laborers. In the 1854 case *People v. Hall*, like Indigenous and Black Americans, Chinese Americans were prohibited from testifying in court and had few, if any, legal remedies. **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)**

Honoring the Delta's Complex Asian Histories

(FROM PAGE 7) Yet, Chinese laborers were specifically recruited from abroad to save U.S. railroads from bankruptcy. It was Charles Crocker who insisted on using Chinese labor to complete rail lines across the Sierra Nevada, specifically through North Lake Tahoe. They earned only 60 to 90% of what their white counterparts earned and comprised two-thirds of Central Pacific's labor force. Once the lines were built, they were unable to respectably settle in the region, with hostile laws—and both violent vigilantes and police enforcing those laws. Jean Pfaelzer's book, *The Driven Out*, explores the topic of forced displacement of Chinese Americans across the West Coast in great, and graphic, detail. The 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act was strengthened in 1888 and 1892, ultimately resulting in the California Alien Land Laws of 1913, 1920 and 1923. The California Legislature adopted, and legalized, hatred each time. Like in the case of railroads, the exploitation of Chinese and larger Asian labor was viewed as necessary to cultivate agricultural profits in the California Delta. It was a Delta farmer, John Irish, who stated “a museum of races” was necessary to perform Delta agricultural labor. He noted that they were particularly skilled at farming crops requiring “a constant stooping or squat position ... in a temperature of 100 to 110 degrees.” These labors endured farming directly in peat sod, which turned to a fine black dust causing pneumonia and related illnesses.

With laws continuing to discriminate against Chinese laborers restricting citizenship, landownership, and even the ability to bring unmarried Chinese women into the US through the 1875 Page Act, Japanese farmers began filling the Delta's labor gap. It was in these conditions that Chin Lung and George Shima succeeded anyway. George Shima's 1914 farm included many Punjabi Sikh men and produced 85% of California's potato crop. He was called “the richest Japanese in California,” with “a small army of Japanese, Chinese, and Hindus.” The term Hindus was used to incorrectly describe Punjabi Sikhs. Amidst the erasure of Asian-Americans in the California Delta, Chinese and Japanese streets, structures, building signs, and communities continue to exist, but still in a way that suggests de-facto segregation. Sadly, anti-Asian sentiments also continue to exist, in the California Delta, and beyond.



A feature article of farmers George Shima and Chin Lung in The Delta Voice.

March 16, 2022 marked the one-year anniversary of six Asian women being brutally murdered in Atlanta, Georgia. Members of Sacramento's Asian American community and supporters gathered with allies on California State Capitol's west steps. Today, those steps look out on Capitol Mall, a grassy median between rows of tall state agency buildings and private offices. However, what was there before was a thriving Japantown. In his PBS documentary *Replacing the Past: Sacramento's Redevelopment History*, Journalist Chris Lango shows that displacement. When thinking about today's movement to “Stop Asian Hate,” and juxtaposing it with the history of past “Make the Delta White” movements, it is important to ask: how much healing is necessary, and how far back do these wounds go?

At the Stop Asian Hate capitol event, Asian American elders discussed their fears of taking daily walks. Some noted being harassed and followed in their cars. Looking to the history of our region provides context for today's work to create harmony in our region and in our hearts.

Florin JACL Scholarship Recipients

Written by Karen Yamamoto

The Florin JACL chapter is pleased to announce their 2022 scholarship awards. These recipients are outstanding seniors attending Sacramento area high schools. Each applicant was judged on achievements in academic and scholastic honors, extra-curricular activities including leadership positions, community service, work history, Japanese cultural activities, and JACL involvement. Congratulations!



JARED DEGUZMAN, son of Cindy and Victor DeGuzman, from C.K. McClatchy High School in Sacramento. Jared has been on the honor roll throughout his high school years, including the President's Award in elementary school. He has been a leader in the Asian and Pacific Islander Student Alliance as co-president and treasurer. His love for sports extends to varsity volleyball, basketball, and track as well as vice president of his School's Mental Health Club. He is also volunteered

as a coach for the Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation and a member of the Teens Create Dreams talent show committee to raise funds for WEAVE, to help victims of sexual assault. Among his many interests, he enjoys obon festival celebrations, ikebana, calligraphy, tea ceremony traditions, mochi tsuki, and playing taiko drums. He was a teaching assistant for Jan Ken Po Gakko, a Japanese American cultural summer school, where he learned more about the Japanese incarceration experience. He traveled to Japan with his family and became more aware and appreciative of his Japanese roots and has a better understanding of being a Japanese American. Jared plans to major in kinesiology and become a trainer, coach or physical therapist, and is undecided on which college that he has been accepted to attend.



ELLIE MIZUSHIMA, daughter of Janet and Brian Mizushima, from C.K. McClatchy High School. In all four years at McClatchy, Ellie was enrolled in the Humanities and International Studies Program, a rigorous program that emphasizes social science and literature in an effort to better understand world events. Along with her accomplishments in the classroom, Ellie found time to be an active member of the Asian and Pacific Islander Student Alliance Club. She also exhibited leadership skills by being the vice-president of the Students in Harmony Club

which produces virtual concerts for patients at Kaiser Permanente Health. Singing is a passion of hers and she has performed in school showcases, musicals, community theater, and sings the national anthem at sporting events. As an active member of the Sacramento Buddhist Church, for the past 4 years she has volunteered as a teacher's assistant for the kindergarten Dharma School class. She has been an active member of the Jr. YBA, participating in events and conferences. Her accomplishments in understanding Japanese culture and language have not gone unnoticed as she placed first in the Sakura Gakuen Japanese Language School speech contest for reciting a speech entirely in Japanese. She is also active in the Girl Scouts and will receive the highest award, bronze and silver, for her community service projects. She has participated in fundraising concerts for the Asian Community Center Senior Services. Her Japanese instructor during her 4 years at McClatchy describes her as "wonderful and amazing" who always strives to "learn and think critically." Ellie traveled to Japan in 2019 and from viewing the memorial and exhibit at the atomic bomb site in Hiroshima, she states, "Every life is precious and education should emphasize that in order to lower conflict." Ellie intends to major in communications. **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)**

Florin JACL Scholarship Recipients



(FROM PAGE 9) KYLE SEO, son of Audrey and Derek Seo, from Inderkum High School in the Natomas School District where he has served as vice president of the Southeast Asian Student Association and played on the varsity golf and baseball teams. He has also trained and played with teams at the Sacramento Sports Center and the Lodi JACL Templars. His experience with the Lodi Templars, a team which began when Japanese-Americans were excluded from other baseball leagues, helped him interact and learn from players of all ages and occupations while embracing and carrying on the long standing traditions of the club. Kyle has been an active member of the Sacramento Buddhist Church where he participated in the sports program, Boy Scouts, Jr. YBA , and Dharma School where he volunteered as a teacher's assistant for the second grade class. A Dharma School instructor states that Kyle was attentive and took the initiative to complete tasks that served as a role model to the students and adults, as well as share his technology skills during the on-site shutdown, to help plan and execute lessons. Also, during the pandemic he learned the importance of speaking out against API racism. Kyle states, "It is crucial that we not only teach how to identify things that are wrong but how we can prevent them from repeating." He intends to pursue a career as a financial advisor.



BRYCE TAKAHA, son of Shelley and Blake Takaha, will graduate from John F. Kennedy High School in Sacramento. In addition to scholastic achievement awards, he was instrumental in forming Teens Create Dreams, a talent show, as part of the Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation. The proceeds from this show were donated to WEAVE and other community organizations such as the Sacramento Children's Home. He was a youth basketball coach for SASF where he organized and managed communication to families. As a member of the Sacramento Buddhist Church's Young Buddhist Association, he was active in fundraising efforts for the church while also being a Dharma School teaching assistant. During COVID and the pandemic, Bryce's computer skills brought his family and friends together for weekly Bingo night activities with prizes and socialization. His extracurricular activities involved sports -- basketball camps both at SASF and the Buddhist Church, soccer with the Greenhaven Soccer Program, as well as golf, track and cross country at high school. Computer Science is his major interest and while attending high school, Bryce attended classes at American River College studying Artificial Intelligence and computer programming. He values educating our youth to help change society because they can speak up. Bryce plans to major in computer science and is undecided on the several colleges that he has been accepted.

Recent Donations – Correction

In the previous newsletter, under recent donations for the 86th Anniversary Virtual Awards and Gala, Jenny Takahashi also sponsored the event. Thank you Jenny!

What's the Big Deal with *Roe v. Wade* Being Overturned?

By Josh Kaizuka

In a nutshell, it is a huge deal because for the first time, a constitutional right has been taken away by the court. The constitutional right that women have had for nearly fifty years is gone. Fears that supporters of the *right to choose* envisioned after the leak of the *Dobbs* opinion, are being realized as many states are reinstating laws criminalizing women and girls choosing to have an abortion and medical providers who advise or provide services. A 10 year old rape victim was denied services and had to travel to another state. A woman having medical issues after taking medication was arrested and jailed. No exceptions for victims of rape, incest, regardless of age. Uncertainty as to whether a non-viable pregnancy or exceptions for the life of women exists. If a doctor treats someone having what might be having a miscarriage, what is going to happen? Are travel industry companies going to face criminal charges if they transport someone from one state to another?

In California, women continue to have the right to choose and there is an effort to amend the California Constitution to clearly state that the right to have an abortion is enshrined as a state constitutional right.

If you haven't read the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case, you really should so you understand how other constitutional rights might be affected in the near future.

The majority opinion harkens back to say that for the first 185 years of this country's history, there was no constitutional right to an abortion and that the Constitution doesn't mention "abortion" so the justices who found that there was a Constitutional right when they decided *Roe v. Wade* were wrong. Of course there is a bit more to it like the right to abortion was not "deeply rooted in the Nation's history and tradition" or that it is was an "entrenched right."

The counterargument to that is, why was the majority looking back in history to when women couldn't vote or have a say? Was there one woman who signed the Declaration of Independence, signed off on the Constitution, or the original Bill of Rights? Why isn't a right that has been recognized for the last 50 years not deeply rooted in our Nation's history and tradition? Isn't it a right that most of us have now known about for most of our lifetime a part of our history? If so, sure sounds like it is an "entrenched right" doesn't it?

The gist of the majority opinion is that under the 14th Amendment's "life, liberty or property", there is no "liberty" for a woman to choose because "abortion" is nowhere to be found in the Constitution or Bill of Rights. While the majority opinion goes out of its way to say that other constitutional rights found under the 14th Amendment are not implicated (i.e. contraceptives, same sex marriage, same sex intimate sexual conduct), one justice who wrote a concurring opinion expressly inviting reconsideration of all constitutional rights under the 14th Amendment by stating "we should reconsider all of this Court's substantive due process precedents."

We are already hearing that there is national legislation in the works to federally ban a woman's choice should the House and Senate flip after the mid-term election. **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)**

What's the Big Deal with *Roe v. Wade* Being Overturned?

(FROM PAGE 11) Also this term, the US Supreme Court took a hatchet to separation of church and state by requiring Maine to use taxpayer money for students to attend religious schools, requiring Boston to allow a Christian group to fly a flag at city hall, and forcing a school district to allow a football coach to lead a Christian prayer with students on the field.

Already on the docket for the next term again, is whether a university can continue to use race as one of many factors to have diversity in the student body. JACL National is expected to sign on to an amicus brief in support of allowing diversity in higher education but with the current makeup of the court, I'm not too hopeful.

Another case on the docket for next term is whether a state court can even review state legislative rules and laws relating to regulation of federal elections. That means a state court can't rule on congressional district lines even if it is clearly gerrymandering and violates state constitution.

I wonder where the idea from the preamble the Constitution "to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves" went.

It really comes down to everyone keeping up the work of educating one another so we can get to a more perfect union because we can see how fragile democracy can be in the hands of people who don't truly care for others.

Join Florin JACL-SV for Ohana Walk to Celebrate ACC

ACC Senior Services is inviting the entire Sacramento community to join in its inaugural "Ohana Walk" set for September 17. The Ohana Walk is one of the many big events to celebrate ACC's 50 years of services for seniors in our community.



Ohana is Hawaiian for "Family." The walk will be an all-age community-wide walkathon that will be held along the Greenhaven-Pocket Canal walkway, followed by a picnic at the ACC Campus. The entire walking route is 2.5 miles end-to-end, with six checkpoints spaced 1/2 mile apart. You can choose where to start and end. Cost for Adults (20-79 years old) is \$35, Youth (9-19 years old) is \$15, and Keiki (under 8) and Super Seniors (80+) FREE. You can find out more about the walk and register by going to <https://acc.rallyup.com/ohana/Campaign/Details>

Florin-SV members and friends have actively supported ACC over the years, as volunteers, donors, and leaders, and many have loved ones and family who've benefitted from ACC. Our Chapter already has formed a "Florin JACL SV" team for the walk! Please check out the Florin JACL team page at <https://acc.rallyup.com/ohana/t/florinjacl>. So save the date – Saturday, September 17 – and join us for a morning of fun and fitness. For more information, please contact Titus Toyama at titus.toyama@gmail.com.

Florin Members Participate in Unity Bar Summit

Written by Josh Kaizuka

In May 2022, over 100 attendees from counties across California converged at UC Davis School of Law for the inaugural Unity Bar Summit. Florin member Jessie Morris was instrumental in organizing the event along with other local bar leaders in Sacramento including Jerry Chong, Jesse Rivera, Brian Lopez, Cindy Liu, Judge Renard Shepard (ret.), and Florin member Josh Kaizuka.



Judicial Appointments Secretary Luis Cespedes, Jessie Morris, Josh Kaizuka



Mia Yamamoto, Jessie Morris

The theme of the summit was “Access to Justice” and focused on the need to form alliances between the various minority bar associations in each county to better represent and serve the diverse population that makes up each county in the state. As examples, representatives from counties where a unified association of minority bar associations have existed such as the Sacramento Unity Bar Association, Multicultural Bar

Alliance in Los Angeles, and the Minority Bar Coalition of San Francisco Bay Area were on a panel. Our own Florin member Mia Yamamoto represented the Multicultural Bar Alliance and as usual, spoke her mind!

Also speaking at the event were California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, Associate Justice Martin Jenkins, Judicial Appointments Secretary Luis Cespedes, Sacramento Superior Court Judge Shama Mesiwala, and many other bar leaders from around the state.



Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, Jessie Morris

Just in the last year, a Unity Bar in Fresno County was formed, another in San Joaquin County, and during lunch at the summit, representatives from Orange County started working on forming a Unity Bar. Great to see Florin members working on diversity issues in the legal system and how members of the bar should stay engaged to better serve the community.

Windmills at Minidoka National Historic Site?

By Josh Kaizuka

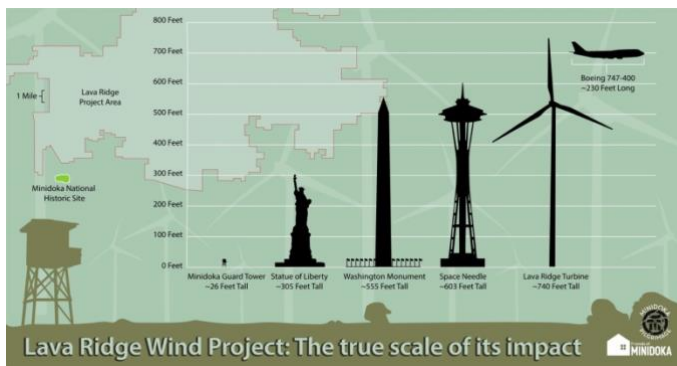
Back in 2019, while on one of my summer motorcycle rides, I stopped by the Minidoka National Historic Site in Idaho. As you know, it was one of ten US concentration camps during WWII where many Americans who happened to be of Japanese Ancestry were imprisoned. I wasn't sure what to expect and luckily, found the correct turnoff off of Highway 20 onto Hunt Road. This part of Idaho is pretty rural and as I got closer to the site, it seemed even more serene, quiet, and peaceful prairie landscape with beautiful clouds as far as I could see. In the distance, I saw something familiar having gone to Manzanar a number of times, a guard tower.
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

Windmills at Minidoka National Historic Site?

(FROM PAGE 13) I stopped and took in the view and read the various memorial plaques while pondering what it would have been like being taken from your home, losing everything, and ending up imprisoned in the middle of nowhere. I definitely want to get back out to visit because my visit was a year before the new visitor's center opened.

Unimaginable is going back and seeing a bunch of windmills in the skyline around Minidoka.

A private company out of New York is trying to get approval to build the Lava Ridge wind project on federal land less than two miles from the park's visitor center. The turbines are 760 feet tall which means it is taller than the Statue of Liberty, the Washington Monument, and the Space Needle in Seattle! The skyline of Minidoka would be littered with wind turbines and it would fundamentally alter a sacred place for commemoration and healing.



When we heard about a call to write letters to oppose the project to place 340 turbines back in October of 2021, we immediately submitted a letter to the Bureau of Land Management along with many other organizations. Just this month, we signed on to a letter drafted by Friends of Minidoka and continue to oppose this project.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will be issuing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in November and you can send in written comments to the Lava Ridge Subcommittee.

To provide comments to the Lava Ridge Subcommittee, please provide them to M.J. Byrne at mbyrne@blm.gov by August 31, so that they can be shared with the Subcommittee at its September meeting.

You can send your comments in with the attached cover email: "Dear M.J. Byrne – I am writing to submit comments to the Lava Ridge Subcommittee as it considers LS Power's proposed wind project. Thank you for sharing my views with the Subcommittee."

Also, please send your comments to info@minidoka.org so that there's a record. We recommend that you send your comments – both organizational and individual – to your members of Congress and Senators.

To keep updated on what is going on, go to <http://www.minidoka.org/lava-ridge>.

Children's Book Review by Twila Tomita

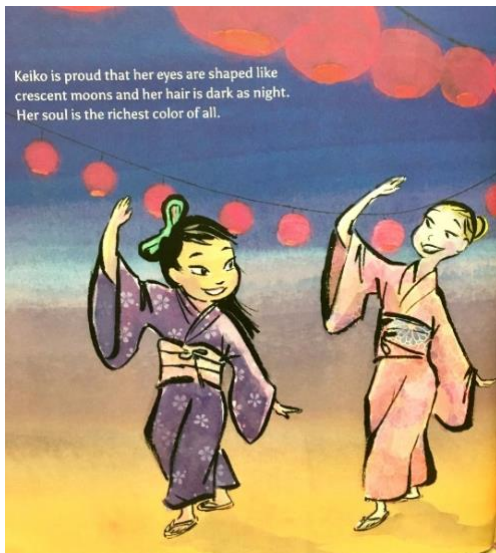
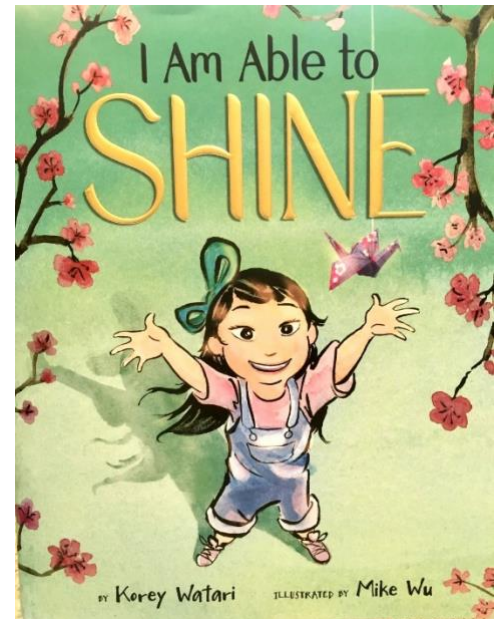
I Am Able to Shine by Korey Watari
Publisher: Two Lions (May 1, 2022)
Illustrated by Mike Wu

This book was written about a Japanese American girl named Keiko who is very self-confident. She is determined to shine. "Her generous heart fills her with strength and purpose." Her mother inspires her and Keiko is surrounded by a loving family.

Keiko is proud of her cultural traditions like Obon dancing and origami crane folding. She introduces her friends to them.

Her goal is to become a very important person, even one who works in the White House.

When Keiko reaches adulthood, she gives birth to a daughter. She names her Teruko, meaning "to shine." She has high hopes. Keiko dreams that Teruko will become an inspiring woman.



This is a very positive, uplifting, and empowering story, especially for young Asian American girls growing up today. As a mother who has raised a daughter to meet life's challenges, we need more stories like this.

I greatly enjoyed this book, the cute characters, the powerful language, and the adorable illustrations.

I hope that you might like to read it, too.

Note: Books can be vital in helping our children to be confident and proud of who they are as Asian Americans. Florin JACL Board Member Twila Tomita originally wrote this children's book review for the Nichibei Newspaper. She's a retired elementary school teacher and volunteer adult ESL teacher .

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*TOUR OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN
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OCTOBER 8th, 2:00-4:30

*Presentation of the
Japanese American Archival Collection
Walking Tour of the Nakatani Tea Room & Garden
Informal Q&A in the Kansha Garden*

Sacramento State University Library,
Gerth Special Collections and University Archives

