



Florin J.A.C.L. Newsletter

Florin Japanese American Citizens League

Marielle Tsukamoto and Andy Noguchi, Co-Presidents

P.O. Box 292634, Sacramento, CA 95829

Website: florinjacl.com

Facebook: [Facebook.com/florinjacl](https://www.facebook.com/florinjacl)

Fall 2015 Newsletter

2015 EXECUTIVE BOARD

**Co-Presidents: Marielle Tsukamoto,
Andy Noguchi**

1st Vice President: Howard Shimada

2nd Vice President: Neil Nakatani

**3rd Vice President for Marketing:
Brandon Miyasaki**

Treasurer: Titus Toyama

Recording Secretary: Judy Fukuman

Corresponding Secretary: Cindy Kakutani

Historian: Twila Tomita

District Delegate: Howard Shimada

Past President: Karen Kurasaki

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

August Peace Event: Jane Okubo

**Civil & Human Rights: Fumie Shimada, Josh
Kaizuka, Andy Noguchi**

Facebook Editor: Beth Uno

Family Programs: Terry Nishizaki

**Florin Manzanar Pilgrimage: Andy Noguchi, Twila
Tomita**

**Hospitality: Sallie Hoshisaki, Tom Hoshisaki,
Tatsuno Drake**

Ice Cream Social: Howard Shimada

JAAC: Eileen Otsuji

Member Services: Judith Ryan

**Mochi Madness: Neil Nakatani, Judy Fukuman
Newsletter: Scott Matsumoto**

**Nikkei Dogs Scholarship Event: Cindy Kakutani
Scholarship: Ruth Seo**

Time of Remembrance: Christine Umeda

**TOR Education Program: Marielle Tsukamoto
Webmaster: Kevin Nakano**

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

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

Youth Representatives: Jesse Okutsu

President's Message:

Please save the date for the Florin JACL's 80th Anniversary on November 14, 2015 at the Buddhist Church of Florin. We are all proud of Florin JACL's legacy as one of the most active and influential chapters serving the Japanese community in the greater Sacramento area. We are known for standing for equal rights and social justice for many cultural groups. This year, Florin JACL will be honoring the courage and endurance of the Issei and Nisei generations who were forced become strong as well as resilient in order to survive.

As we celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the Florin JACL and the community of Japanese families who lived in this area, I invite you to honor and remember your families by purchasing an ad in the event's program. Share their story by telling where they came from, where they lived, what they did, and about your family.

You may select a full page, half page or quarter page ad to tell about your family and to pay tribute to your parents and grandparents. Photos may also be included.

Your sponsorship or donations for any amount will help Florin JACL continue its mission to seek justice and civil rights, promote cultural activities, and develop youth leadership.

Please contact Marielle Tsukamoto at (916) 685-6747 if interested in purchasing an ad in the program.

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Walerga WWII Detention Camp Memorial Re-Dedication



After 73 long years since their detainment in 1942, a dozen returned to Walerga for the rededication ceremony. Pictured at the memorial marker in alphabetical order are April Adachi, Ai Hida, Janet Kuroda, Sachiko Louie, Jane Matsuoka, Judie Miyao Tom Okubo, Ai Tanaka, Gloria Ueyama Taniguchi, Jayne Yamamoto, and Sally Yamasaki. Photo by Cathy Fujimori.

Written by Donna Komure-Toyama

The Walerga Assembly Center Memorial, located at Walerga Park in the Old Foothill Farms community, north of downtown Sacramento, was re-dedicated with a crowd of 200 people on August 25, 2015 after improvements and repairs were completed. It was originally dedicated on February 28, 1987. Walerga was the temporary detention center for 4,739 Sacramento, Florin, Marysville, Stockton and Delta island incarcerated. Florin JACL representative Donna Komure-Toyama, plus Marielle Tsukamoto and Andy Noguchi, worked on the re-dedication program with representatives from the Sacramento JACL and the Sunrise Recreation & Park District.

During the re-dedication, reflections and comments were made by Congresswoman Doris Matsui, Assemblymember Ken Cooley, Dr. Isao Fujimoto, Rev. Bob Oshita of the Buddhist Church of Sacramento, JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida, CAIR-Sacramento-Valley Executive Director Basim Elkarra and Rev. Grace Suwabe of the Celtic Cross Presbyterian Church.

The plaque on the memorial begins with the words, "Lest We Forget." As Basim Elkarra commented during the program, memorials like Walerga continue to remind us that we must be vigilant and stand up to protect those who may be singled out for unfair punishment. Several former incarcerated were present for the re-dedication. The event was both meaningful for its past and present significance and a celebration of the Issei and Nisei spirit, strength, and sacrifice.

Time to Renew Your Membership?

Please visit www.florinjacl.com to obtain a membership form (click on the "Join" link at the top of the page). If you would like to have a membership form mailed to you or to check your membership status, please contact Judith Ryan at judithryan@sbcglobal.net or call (916) 442-0573. Please be sure to designate the "**Florin JACL Chapter**" on your membership form and personal check.

What's in a Name: Florin JACL Name Update Proposed

Written by Andy Noguchi

What name best describes the always-active Florin JACL Chapter? Our Florin JACL Board of Directors recently discussed this question and is now proposing updating our name from “**Florin JACL**” to “**Florin JACL - Sacramento Region.**” What do you think?

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

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



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

Despite that, the Nisei who did return, plus the Sansei and Yonsei generations who joined, made the Florin JACL one of the most active Chapters in the U.S. over the past 35 years. The Florin JACL now focuses on the entire Sacramento region, drawing members from across the area, and sponsors events for the entire community. Unfortunately, people don't know which city to look for the Florin JACL, searching on internet websites, or on Facebook. That's why we're proposing a more accurate and easier to find name of “**Florin JACL – Sacramento region.**” This name retains our Florin roots while placing the chapter on the map. Let us know what you think. Email us at FlorinJACL@hotmail.com or call Andy Noguchi, Chapter Co-President, at (916) 393-5007. Thanks for your input!

Welcome New Members!

What's the best part about being a member of Florin JACL? It's all the wonderful people you have an opportunity to interact with at our many events and activities. We welcome the following new members and thank them for their participation and commitment to Florin JACL.

- Brian Fong (joining his wife Brenda Fong by upgrading to family membership)
- Krista Yukimi Keplinger (student member)
- Deanna Tsukamoto
- Gary & Karen Yamamoto
- Bryan Semino

Welcome! Also, thanks those of you who have renewed your membership recently.

Speaking Against Anti-Muslim Election Rhetoric

On September 22, 2015 at the West Steps of the State Capitol, Florin JACL Civil Rights committeemembers Michelle Huey, Andy Noguchi, and Joshua Kaizuka joined together with local interfaith, minority organization leaders, and concerned citizens at a press conference organized by CAIR Sacramento Valley denouncing Islamophobic rhetoric and bigotry being espoused by



political candidates Ben Carson and Donald Trump. Freedom of religion is in the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights and to imply that running for congress is okay, but not the presidency, is an affront to all who believe, protect, and fight for freedoms under the law that makes this country great and the land of opportunity for all.

Celebrating CAIR-SV's 13th Anniversary



The Florin JACL celebrated the 13th anniversary of the Council on American Islamic Relations – Sacramento Valley (CAIR-SV) with 700 diverse community, religious, law enforcement, and public official leaders on September 19th at Sacramento State. CAIR and the Florin JACL have long partnered as friends and allies supporting understanding and fairness, countering post 9/11 fears, suspicions, and backlash.

Florin JACL group share a fun moment at the banquet wearing complimentary sunglasses. Seated L to R: Sue Teranishi, Toso Himel, Brian & Brenda Fong. Standing: Sue Hida, Josh Kaizuka, Marielle Tsukamoto, and Debby Staley. “Blues Brothers” photo by Roy Vogel.



2016 Ballot for Florin JACL Board Please vote by checking the box at each nominee or write in a suggested candidate. Mail in by **November 1st** to: **Florin JACL P.O. Box 292634, Sacramento, CA 95829-2634**. Thank you. [If there is a **2nd** Florin JACL member is in the household, you may vote twice on this ballot.]

Officers:

1. **Co-Presidents (2):** Marielle Tsukamoto
Andy Noguchi
2. **1st Vice President:** Howard Shimada
3. **2nd Vice President:** Neil Nakatani
4. **3rd Vice President of Marketing:**
Brandon Miyasaki
5. **Treasurer:** Titus Toyama
6. **Recording Secretary:** Judy Fukuman
7. **Corresponding Secretary:** Cindy Kakutani
8. **Historian:** Twila Tomita
9. **Chapter Delegate:** Howard Shimada
Co-Delegate: Andy Noguchi
10. **Immediate Past President:** Karen Kurasaki

Committee Chairs:

1. **Chapter Chef:** Fumie Shimada
2. **Civil & Human Rights (3):**
Fumie Shimada (Co-Chair)
Josh Kaizuka (Co-Chair)
Andy Noguchi (Co-Chair)
3. **Facebook Co-Administrators (2):**
Breana Inoshita
Brandon Miyasaki
4. **Florin Manzanar Pilgrimage:**
Andy Noguchi, Chair
Twila Tomita, Co-Chair
5. **Hospitality (3):** Sallie Hoshisaki, Co-Chair
Tom Hoshisaki, Co-Chair
Tatsuno Kusaba, Co-Chair

6. **Ice Cream Social:** Howard Shimada

7. **Japanese American Archival Collection**
Eileen Otsuji Namba

8. **Member Services:** Judith Ryan

9. **Mochi Madness (2):**
Neil Nakatani, Co-Chair
Judy Fukuman, Co-Chair

10. **Newsletter Editor:** Scott Matsumoto

11. **Nikkei Dogs Scholarship / Youth Event:** -
Cindy Kakutani, Chair
Ernie Takahashi, Co-Chair

12. **Obon Dance Workshop (2):**
Jennifer Kubo, Co-Chair
Jenny Takahashi, Co-Chair

13. **Scholarship:** Ruth Seo

14. **Time Of Remembrance (TOR)**
Christine Umeda

15. **TOR Education and Redress Project:**
Marielle Tsukamoto, Chair
Donna Komure-Toyama, Co-Chair
Deanna Tsukamoto, Co-Chair

16. **Webmaster:** Kevin Nobuo Nakano

17. **Women's Forum (3):**
Makiko Yamashita, Co-Chair
John Onate, Co-Chair
Debby Staley, Co-Chair

18. **Youth / Next Generation Project (4):**
Jesse Okutsu, Representative
Michelle Huey, Representative
Karen Kuraski (Co-Adviser)
Andy Noguchi (Co-Adviser)

Florin JACL 80th Anniversary

Strength Through Unity



Sat., November 14, 2015

11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Buddhist Church of Florin

7235 Pritchard Rd.,

Sacramento, CA 95828

Honoring
Crocker Art Museum
Buddhist Church of Florin
Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church
Dr. Isao Fujimoto
Reservation Form
Catered Japanese Luncheon
Vegetarian plate available - must order by November 5, 2015

Name/phone: _____

Email: _____

Cost: \$40 per person Youth (25 & under) \$25. Adults @ \$40 Youth @ \$25
Vegetarian _____ TOTAL \$ _____

Please send checks payable to Florin JACL: By Nov. 5, 2015 to: Florin JACL P.O. Box 292634

Sacramento, CA 95829-2634 For Info. call Marielle Tsukamoto 916-685-6747



FLORIN Japanese American Citizens League

www.florinjacl.com

Event Sponsorship

Platinum Sponsor – \$1,000

As a Platinum Sponsor, you will receive acknowledgement at the event, listing in the printed program, full-page ad in the program, ad displayed on screen during the event, listing on our website and 8 complimentary tickets.

Gold Sponsor – \$500

As a Gold Sponsor, you will receive acknowledgement at the event, listing in the printed program, half-page ad in the program, ad displayed on screen during the event, listing on our website and mailed newsletter, and 4 complimentary tickets.

Silver Sponsor – \$250

As a Silver Sponsor, you will receive acknowledgement at the event, listing in the printed program, quarter-page ad in the program, listing on our website and mailed newsletter, and 2 complimentary tickets.

Bronze Sponsor - \$100

As a Bronze Sponsor, you will receive acknowledgement at the event and listing in the printed program.

Friend Sponsor –Any donation

As a Friend Sponsor, you will receive listing in the printed program.

Program Advertisement

Full Page Ad in Printed Program - \$250

Half Page Ad - \$175

Quarter Page Ad - \$50

Raffle Prize Donation

Description of Items Donated and Estimated Fair Market Value:

_____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____

Individual Tickets

\$40 per person.

\$300 for Table of 8

\$25 for Youth (age 25 and under)

Donor Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

▪ Kindly list your and your guests' names here.

Ticket and Sponsor Deadline is Nov. 5th:

- Please send to "Florin JAACL" at P.O. Box 292634, Sacramento, CA 95829-2634

Ad Deadline is Oct. 26th:

- Please E-mail copy-ready ads to Jennifer Nishizaki at jennifernish@gmail.com

For Information call Marielle Tsukamoto (916) 685-6747, (916) 802-2177 (cell)

Help WWII Tule Lake Teacher Find Her 4th Grade Students

Written by Breana Inoshita

When young Katherine Liebert finished university in San Francisco in 1942, she was preparing to enter the workforce of a society stuck by war fervor and the constant bombardment of anti-Japanese rhetoric following the attack on Pearl Harbor. With the face and skin tone of the “good guys,” Katherine probably had several options as to where she would start her career as a grade school teacher, however; Ms. Liebert chose to teach children with faces of the “enemy” when she made the gallant decision to leave her life in San Francisco and teach at the newly opened incarceration camp at Tule Lake. Ms. Liebert taught a class of 40 fourth graders at Tule Lake for one year before marrying her husband, a guard at Tule Lake, and taking on the name of Mrs. Katherine Kirkland.



Mrs. Katherine Kirkland smiles for a photo with Michelle Huey and Joshua Kaizuka.

At 94 years of age, Mrs. Kirkland now resides in a Sacramento-area senior care home and is seeking to reconnect with her former students. Earlier this month, a person close to Mrs. Kirkland reached out to the Florin Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) for assistance in the search for Mrs. Kirkland’s former students. The Florin JACL Civil Rights Committee had the opportunity to meet Mrs. Kirkland and hear her, albeit fragmented, recollection of her year teaching at Tule Lake.

Time is definitely of the essence in this search for her former students. We have a list of all 4th grade students at Tule Lake during the year that Ms. Liebert taught there, but cannot identify which students were in Ms. Liebert’s class without your help!

For additional information, please visit the Florin JACL website at www.florinjacl.com and the chapter’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/florinjacl.

Here are a couple of ways you can help us reconnect Ms. Liebert with her former students:

- 1.) Look over the list of 4th grade students and see if you recognize any names. A digital version of the list can be accessed at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7Tjl-OSF4pweEdXSDNZRG5seXM/view?usp=sharing>.
- 2.) If you recognize a name and have a way of contacting the person, ask the person if the name “Ms. Liebert” sounds familiar or if they remember having Ms. Liebert as a teacher.
- 3.) If you cannot access the digital list and/or have additional information about a potential student, please contact Breana Inoshita at bminoshita@ucdavis.edu.

Recent Donations

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

**George Waegell
Mark Merin, Esq.**

Donations to the Florin JACL general fund directly support the Chapter's programs that serve our mission to promote civil rights, social justice, and cultural heritage for all Americans through community education, alliances, and leadership. Donations to our Scholarship Fund help our Chapter provide scholarships to graduating high school seniors and community college students to continue their education at institution of higher learning.

Thank you also to the many members and friends for their donations and raffle prize contributions to the 2015 Nikkei Dogs and Scholarship Fundraising Event.

2015 Hospitality Report

Written by Sallie & Tom Hoshisaki and Tatsuno Kusaba Drake

We appreciate members letting us of illness and passing of family of members, especially when notices are not published in the newspaper. Our committee makes every effort to read funeral notices in the papers, we make every effort to acknowledge the passing of family members and visit or send cards to members with illness. For any inquires or additional information, please contact either Sallie or Tom Hoshisaki at (916) 685-1331.

January: Visited Chewy Ito now at Greenhaven Terrace

March: Flowers sent to service for Georgette Imura's mother, Dorothy Yamamoto
Koden sent in memory of Twila Tomita's mother
Koden sent to Centennial Methodist Church scholarship in memory of Joanne Iritani

April: Flowers sent to service for Robert Shimada, brother of Sam Shimada (Fumie)

May: Flowers sent to service for Kenneth Akio Ouchida, brother of Lester Ouchida.

June: Flowers sent to Alex Eng recovering from illness

July: Flowers sent to Sallie Hoshisaki after surgery
Card and gift certificate to Roy Imura, recovering from pneumonia

August: Flowers sent to Georgette Imura surgery

September: Koden sent to family of Shizuko Nakamura, Utako Kimura's sister
Flowers sent to Fumie Shmada recovering from surgery.
Card sent to Jane Okubo recovering from illness.

Nikkei Hot Dog Event a Fun, Tasty Success!



Kids loved the face painting; people won hundreds of bingo and raffle prizes; and people enjoyed over 600 cupcakes – all for a good cause of supporting Florin JACL scholarships and youth programs.

Written by Cindy Kakutani

The annual Florin JACL Nikkei Dogs Scholarship and Youth Programs Fundraiser was held August 29, 2015, at the Buddhist Church of Florin. Over 200 people attended the Florin JACL Annual Nikkei Dogs Scholarship and Youth Programs Fundraiser and generated over \$3,000 for scholarship and youth programs. The Florin JACL Nikkei Dogs Scholarship and Youth Programs Fundraiser featured a variety of Nikkei dogs and condiments and cupcakes of every flavor, toppings, and sizes. Hopefully, everyone had plenty to eat and won a raffle or bingo prize. Fortunately, the weather was cooler than a normal hot August evening in Sacramento and everyone enjoyed the artistic face painting, senbei stacking contest, and decorating corn dogs (or eating them!).

Above all, it's great to connect with longtime friends while meeting new friends as well as the next generations of Florin JACL members. We look forward to seeing you at next year's Nikkei Dogs Scholarship and Youth Programs Fundraiser.

Finally, a HUGE thank you to all of you for your support, bingo and raffle prize donations, the event sponsors (listed below), the event volunteers, and our exciting BINGO caller Tom Nakashima.

GOLD

Lynn Franklin
Amos Freeman
Isao Fujimoto
Joy Nishida
Eileen Otsuji
Ernie & Jenny Takahashi
Chris Tomine
Marielle Tsukamoto
Guy & Akemi Turner
Rick & Irene Uno
Joy Yuki

SILVER

Utako Kimura
Aileen Nishio

SILVER Cont...

Ken & Peggy Okabayashi
Kathryn Otagiri
Heidi Sakazaki
Ruth Seo

BRONZE

Judy & Tak Fukuman
Georgette Imura
Ester Matsumoto
Helen Sakaishi
Joyce Takahashi
Bill & Doris Taketa
Andy Noguchi & Twila Tomita
Dick & Ruby Uno
Roy Vogel

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