



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)

Summer 2015 Newsletter

2015 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Youth Representatives: Jesse Okutsu

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President's Message:

Save the Date - Florin JACL's Annual Installation and 80th Anniversary

On Saturday, November 14, 2015, the Florin JACL will be hosting its annual Installation and 80th Anniversary celebration at the historic Florin Buddhist auditorium. The luncheon begins at 11:30am. Individual luncheon tickets are \$40 per person.

There are no real records of the Issei and Nisei who once lived, toiled, and established successful lives here in Florin. This is your chance to preserve that legacy.

Please help us celebrate by inviting your family, children, and grandchildren of those who contributed so much to those early Florin JACL activities.

Tell your family story and the numerous contributions of the many Issei and Nisei who came to Florin, worked hard, suffered through the hardship and indignity of being imprisoned in order to provide an opportunity for the next generation. Buy a space in our program booklet as a record of your family. A full page advertisement for \$250 includes two tickets for the luncheon. A half-page advertisement for \$170 includes one ticket for the luncheon. A quarter page advertisement costs \$50. You can include photos and information about your grandparents, parents, and family. This is a great opportunity to include your family history as part of the 80th anniversary celebration.

We have the opportunity to celebrate our achievements and honor those who worked so hard to educate the public of the pre-WWII Florin community, the journey to concentration camps, and the challenges of re-establishing a community after WWII. The residents of Florin belonged to the Florin Buddhist Church or the Florin Methodist Church. These two churches provided many social, religious, and cultural activities while serving as pillars of the Japanese community.

Many of our Florin JACL and community leaders have passed on but we can commemorate their contributions by celebrating their legacy. Florin JACL made important contributions to the redress movement by holding annual Day of Remembrance events at the Florin Buddhist gym. Mary Tsukamoto, Joanne Iritani, Christine and Stan Umeda, Tommy and Frances Kushi, Twila Tomita and Andy Noguchi, and many others put up photos and exhibits. Florin JACL attracted speakers such as Dr. Crouch, curator of the Smithsonian's "A More Perfect Union" exhibit, as well as Representatives Norman Mineta and Robert Matsui. We were able to gain the support of local elected officials and community leaders whose support was vital in attaining redress. Sacramento City Mayor Anne Rudin, County Supervisors Illa Collin and Toby Johnson, Sacramento City Councilmember Jimmy Yee, the entire Elk Grove Unified School District Board of Trustees, and Superintendent Robert Trigg attended many of these events.

Once again, please join the Florin JACL on Saturday, November 14, 2015 as we celebrate and commemorate 80th years of history and community. The sponsorship and ticket form is on Page 5.

Bigotry or Bad Service?

News Spreads of Manzanar Pilgrims Excluded from Bowling

Written by Andy Noguchi

Bigotry raised its ugly head in Bishop, California during the local Manzanar Pilgrimage on April 25th when Back Alley Bowl and Grill excluded a group of 15 Asian and Muslim Americans, mostly young adults, from the Florin Manzanar Pilgrimage as white customers continued to bowl.



News of this is spreading far and wide. Media including *Pacific Citizen*, *Nichi Bei Weekly*, *Nikkei West*, and *Rafu Shimpo* have covered the story. Social media including the Manzanar Committee blog, Tule Lake Pilgrimage Facebook, and JACL Digest posted stories. The Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) has also spread this among Muslims across the country and electronic newsletters.

Word of this mistreatment and sullyng of Bishop's and Inyo County's reputation has started to spread there as well. People shared stories about Back Alley Bowl serving as a haven for some redneck elements, providing hostile service to people of color, and being rude to outsiders.

There are also reports that Latinos haven't been welcomed at Back Alley Bowl. So, it isn't surprising that Asian and Muslim American pilgrims were excluded.

By 2013 figures, the 3,800 people of Bishop are about 65% White, 28% Latino, 3% Asian, 2% American Indian, and less than 1% Black. A disturbing story is that racist elements recently drove a Black family out of Bishop with racist harassment. California's demographics in comparison are 39% White, 38% Latino, 14% Asian, 2% Indian, and 7% Black according to 2013 U.S. Census figures.

The Florin Manzanar Pilgrimage is a 3-day annual bus trip jointly organized for 10 years by the Florin Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) of the Sacramento Region and the CAIR – Sacramento Valley Chapter. The committee requested for a month that Back Alley, owned by Thomas Flesia, meet to discuss this issue. They finally agreed, then backed out of the agreement. The pilgrimage committee sent Back Alley Bowl another letter on July 1st asking them to honor their promise to meet.

Faced with this refusal, the committee is expanding its campaign calling for: 1). A public apology for denying service; 2). A public commitment to follow 50 year old anti-discrimination civil rights laws; and 3). A public welcome to culturally-diverse customers, including the Florin Manzanar Pilgrimage.

Is this treatment bigotry or bad service? When it comes to excluding ethnic minorities, it's both.

Recap of the 2015 JACL Convention

Written by Jesse Okutsu

On Monday July 13, 2015 five representatives from Florin met in Las Vegas, Nevada for the 46th National JACL Convention. Florin's delegation included Chapter Co-President Andy Noguchi, 2nd Vice President Neil Nakatani, and four youth members: NCWNP District Youth Representative Michelle Huey, UC Davis Intern Breana Inoshita, and Florin Youth Representative Jesse Okutsu.



Left to Right: Andy Noguchi, Michelle Huey, Neil Nakatani, Breana Inoshita, Jesse Okutsu

This year's convention included several resolutions that were brought to the business sessions, including emergency resolutions to endorse H.R.40 -- a bill authored by Congressman John Conyers Jr. (D-MI) to establish a commission to study reparation proposals for African-Americans, posthumously honoring Mike Masaru Masaoka, and officially supporting the Transgender community. All these resolutions were adopted. "I'm so excited that we were able to pass the resolution supporting H.R.40," said Michelle Huey. "These decisions really dictate the direction that JACL is headed towards and it was exciting and exhilarating to be a part of these conversations," said Breana Inoshita.

Some of the highlights of the trip overall included various learning opportunities for the delegation. These include, but are not limited to, workshops held by AARP on community development, voting registration workshops held by APIA Vote, and a panel discussion consisting of 3 LGBTQIA-identified individuals from the APIA community. "I think the most memorable moment for me was the discussion panel on LGBTQ issues and how it affects our society and people individually. The speakers they brought in were very insightful and willing to share their experiences with everyone" said Neil Nakatani. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 8...**

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.



FLORIN Japanese American Citizens League

www.florinjacl.com

Event Sponsorship

Platinum Sponsor – \$1,000

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

Gold Sponsor – \$500

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

Silver Sponsor – \$250

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

Bronze Sponsor - \$100

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

Friend Sponsor –Any donation

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

Full Page Ad in Printed Program \$250

Quarter Page Ad in Printed Program \$50

Half Page Ad in Printed Program \$175

Program Advertisements

Raffle Prize Donation

Description of Items Donated and Estimated Fair Market Value:

_____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____

\$40 Per Person

\$300 for table of 8

\$20 for Students, Youth 25 and under

Individual Tickets

Donor Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

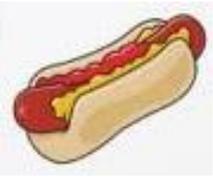
- Kindly list your and your guests' names here.

DEADLINE OCT. 23, 2015

Please Mail to: Florin JACL, P.O. Box 292634, Sacramento, CA 95829

Please email Brandon Miyasaki at bmiyasaki@gmail.com for an electronic copy.

P.O. Box 292634 * Sacramento * CA * 95829-2634



Fun Nikkei Dog & Cupcakes Scholarship & Youth Fundraiser!
Buddhist Church of Florin



Sat. Aug. 29th 5:30pm (Call Cindy for more info at (916) 768-3644)

Forms for Tickets, Sponsors, Donations, and Volunteers

Mail Ticket/Sponsor Checks **before Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2015** to:
 "Florin JACL," PO Box 292634, Sacramento, CA 95829
Ticket Orders, Sponsors, Donors, Volunteers may email info
ctkakutani@frontiernet.net

1. I WILL ORDER DISCOUNT TICKETS (\$12 adults; Ages 4-12 \$6)

Full Name: _____ Phone: _____

General (13 +) X \$12.00 # _____ \$ _____

Children 4-12 X \$6.00 # _____ \$ _____

Children 3 and under # _____ \$ FREE

TOTAL # ATTENDING # _____ TOTAL CHECK ENCLOSED \$ _____

2. I WILL SPONSOR THE SCHOLARSHIP/YOUTH DINNER (appreciated):

Gold Sponsor (\$100 donation or more) Name: _____

Silver Sponsor (\$50 donation or more) Name _____

Bronze Sponsor (\$25 donation (OR) purchase \$50 in tickets) _____

3. I WILL DONATE BINGO & RAFFLE PRIZES (appreciated):

I will bring the following donations to the dinner:

Raffle and/or Bingo Prizes _____

Donor Name _____

4. I WILL VOLUNTEER TO HELP (appreciated):

Contact me at: Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

_____ Set up tables and chairs Sat, Aug 29th 9:00 am at the YBA Hall 7235 Prichard Rd.

_____ I will help at the event between: _____ and _____

Ronin Shimizu Update



It has been six months since Ronin disappeared from the lives of those who loved him. In January, friends, family, and children from the community gathered at Russell Ranch School to mark the one-month anniversary of Ronin's passing by releasing 100 green balloons and sharing memories of Ronin.

Later in January, there was a Celebration of Life for Ronin where the community came together and shared together as a community, the "loving, sensitive, smart, compassionate, and empathetic person who followed his heart" as Chaplain Drummond appropriately commented during the event.

From the very beginning of this tragedy, bullying was and is believed to have been a primary cause of the tragedy befalling Ronin by many. Bullying awareness was on the front pages of the news, the school district started ramping up meetings and discussions. In March, there was a premiere of a movie, "A Girl Like Her," based on a million true stories of bullying at Century 14 Folsom in honor of Ronin with a portion of proceeds going towards Ronin's Voice, an effort by the parents to raise awareness and help prevent another tragedy from occurring.

Civil Rights attorney Mark Merin has been retained by the Shimizu family in their effort to make sure a tragedy like theirs does not befall anyone else. Discussions have been on going with the school district to address issues relating to anti-bullying policies that may or may not have been in effect, if there was a policy, why bullying continued to the point where Ronin had to be home schooled, as well as policies and procedures to make sure that bullying is taken seriously and prevented.

The Florin-JACL Civil Rights committee has been involved supporting the Shimizu family every step of the way. There may be developments in the next month and we hope to be able to report positive news in the next edition.

Ice Cream Social Recap

Florin's 2015 Scholarship Ice Cream Social was held on Saturday, May 16 at the Fletcher Farm Community Center. Approximately 40 people ate ice cream sundaes and floats (root beer, coke and orange). Ice cream was provided by Fumie Shimada and Vic's Ice Cream. We then watched a video, put together by Brandon Miyasaki, highlighting our recent pilgrimage to Manzanar. We wrapped up the event by awarding Justin Matsumoto with this year's scholarship.

Recent Donations

Beginning with this newsletter, the Florin JACL Chapter will be acknowledging the donations that are generously made to the Chapter's general and scholarship funds. Below are donations received in June and July.

Gene Wong and **Sallie Hoshizaki** (general) and **Ken Ito** (scholarship).

Thank you very much!

Recap of the 2015 JACL Convention

(Continued from Page 4...)

Several exciting announcements were made during the convention. The Smithsonian Museum plans to have an Exhibition Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of Executive Order 9066. This exhibition is planned to run from February-November 2017. Among its collection, it will feature the original Executive Order 9066 and will display images and objects to help visitors understand the impact E.O. 9066 on Japanese Americans during World War II. A second announcement was made by the U.S.-Japan Committee that would extend the Kakehashi youth program to further develop enduring relationships between the United States and Japan.

All delegates felt grateful and proud to represent Florin at the National Convention and found the experience positive overall: "Convention was great. It was such an empowering feeling to know that my voice mattered," said Ms. Huey. "The whole experience gave me a broader picture of what JACL really is and how it works," said Ms. Inoshita. "Overall I really enjoyed the conference and enjoyed meeting all the new friends I had made," said Mr. Nakatani.

Join the Florin JACL Today!

“Promoting civil rights, social justice, and cultural heritage for all Americans through community education, alliances and leadership”

I. Member Information: () New member () Renewing Member

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Age: _____ Occupation: _____

Home Phone Number: () _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Would you like to join Florin JACL's e-mail list for community events and issues? Y / N

What are your interests? _____

What attracted you to the Florin JACL? _____

II. Payment Method:

Make checks payable to: Japanese American Citizens League.

III. Complete Application Process:

To complete the application process, please mail the completed application, along with payment to:
Florin JACL PO Box 292634, Sacramento, CA 95829-2634

IV. Questions: Contact Judith Ryan (Membership) at (916) 442-0573 or judithryan@sbcglobal.net

V. Membership Type: (please circle the annual membership you are interested in)

Individual - \$63 Regular individual members of the organization. Includes Pacific Citizen newspaper.

Couple/Family - \$108 Membership for couple, spouse/partner and any children 25 or under.

Youth/Student - \$25 Members 25 years or younger OR full-time college, trade, or university student.

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