



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 2016 Newsletter

2016 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Twila Tomita

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Newsletter Editor: Scott Matsumoto

Nikkei Dogs Scholarship / Youth Event:

Cindy Kakutani and Ernie Takahashi

Obon Workshop: Jennifer Kubo, Jenny Takahashi

Scholarship: Ruth Seo

Time of Remembrance: Christine Umeda

TOR Education Program: Marielle Tsukamoto,

Donna Komure-Toyama, Deanna Tsukamoto

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Onate, Debby Stanley

Youth Advisors: Karen Kurasaki, Andy Noguchi

Youth Reps: Jesse Okutsu, Michelle Huey

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2016 National JACL Convention

Delegates Push Through Temporary Fixes on Deficit and PC

Written By Andy Noguchi

Empowered to represent the best interests of the Nikkei community and JACL members, over 200 delegates from 84 JACL Chapters gathered in Las Vegas from July 11th-14th for the annual National JACL Convention. Scott Matsumoto and Andy Noguchi represented the Florin Chapter, conferring with N. Calif. Youth Rep Michelle Huey.

Besides major sessions on the importance of the 2018 elections, the growing multi-racial and shin-Nikkei community, the Kakehashi Japan youth travel program, and the future of the Pacific Citizen (PC)

newspaper, delegates also shared ideas on making their Chapters more effective.



Scott Matsumoto, Michelle Huey, and Andy Noguchi at the National JACL Convention in Las Vegas

A critical task for delegates was pushing through stop-gap budget and PC deficit fixes, rejecting National Board proposals that would have crippled the JACL and PC. These require increased use of the Legacy Fund, Chapter donations back to National, plus a \$17 fee for members wanting a hard copy for the 24 PCs per year (Please see Members Survey). These steps allow a 1-2 year period to find longer term solutions.

At the end of last year, the old National JACL Board had revealed that a \$100K deficit had unexpectedly ballooned into a huge \$500K projected deficit due to grants / fundraisers not carried out, extra projects taken on, and rising costs. These problems resulted in the June resignation of the JACL Executive Director responsible for the day-to-day operations.

During the new National Board elections, the delegates showed their displeasure. With five Board members running, the delegates rejected one and caused another to drop out while dozens refused to vote for the other three candidates. Hopefully, with lessons in accountability learned and new members elected, a workable new National Board is now in place.

One of the most positive things at the convention was seeing a growing number of capable youth and next generation leaders. They organized an important Multi-Racial / Shin-Nikkei session, recognized young African Americans seeking racial justice through Black Lives Matter (L.A. Chapter), met with civil rights leader Karen Korematsu, daughter of Fred Korematsu, and promoted youth involvement. With able leaders like these, including Michelle Huey and Scott Matsumoto, the JACL has a bright future.

Florin's Obon Workshop

Over 60 Attendees at 2016 Event

On July 12, 2016, over 60 people attended the Florin Obon Workshop. This event was jointly sponsored by the Florin JACL and the Buddhist Church of Florin. Attendees enjoyed hotdogs, salads, chips, musubi (rice balls), watermelon and tsukemono (pickled vegetables). Also available were assorted Jello dishes, snacks, and dessert.



Participants in the Obon Workshop

After the meal, Reverend Yuki Sugahara provided an explanation of the word, "Obon," from its Sanskrit origins to what we now know today as "Obon." Cheryl Miles (Natori level classical dance instructor), familiarized the attendees to the many accessories used during Obon dancing. It was followed by everyone learning the dance, "Tanko Bushi." When the workshop ended, participants joined the regular Obon dance practice outside.

The event would not have been possible without assistance from Reverend Sugahara and Cheryl Miles, the Florin's Buddhist Women's Association, Florin's Dharma School, Florin JACL, and the many generous individuals who made monetary and food contributions. Thank you to all for making this year's Obon workshop a huge success.

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 recently received:

Scholarship Funds:

Linda Lee in memory of Mike Staley

Florin JACL's General Fund:

Dale Minami, Attorney (Minami Tamaki LLP)

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 college students to continue their education at institution of higher learning. Thank you!

11th Annual Florin Manzanar Pilgrimage

Promoting Understanding, Cultural Respect, and Justice

In an important journey for understanding, cultural respect, and justice, fifty individuals from diverse backgrounds traveled together for three days, April 29th-May 1st, to the former WWII concentration camp of Manzanar. The group met up with over 1,000 pilgrims from Southern California. This endeavor was jointly sponsored by the Florin JACL and Council on American Islamic Relations - Sacramento Valley (CAIR-SV). The pilgrims shared valuable experiences from the perspectives of both Japanese Americans during World War II and Muslim Americans following September 11th. A few photos tell the story well:



Above Photo: Former camp detainees, family members, diverse peoples including over 20 youth all traveled together on the 11th Annual Florin Manzanar Pilgrimage. They are pictured at the Manzanar monument on April 30, 2016.



Left Photo: The Native American AkaMya Culture Group generously shared their dances and history with us. We shared a couple of Japanese folk dances.

Right Photo: After facing discrimination last year, Muslim and Asian American pilgrims joined with local Bishop residents to integrate a Bishop bowling alley.



Important Member's Survey

Opinions Wanted on New *Pacific Citizen* Fee - \$17 for Printed Copies



Dear Florin JACL Members,

Many newspapers across the country face rising costs, fewer advertisements, and a declining readership. At the 2016 JACL National Convention, it became apparent that the *Pacific Citizen* (PC) needs to confront these challenges or it faces the possibility of shutting down.

One way to help cover these rising costs adopted at the National JACL Convention is a \$17 fee for those wanting a **printed** copy of the 24 issues per year. An electronic version of the PC via would be available at no extra cost.

We would like your opinion on this new fee and to make sure our Florin JACL members still get the PC. Please fill out the short survey below and mail to **Florin JACL P.O. Box 292634 Sacramento, CA 95829-2634** or, if able, email to florinjacl@outlook.com by October 8th.

1. Do you use E-mail? Yes / No
2. Are you willing to subscribe to an email version of the PC? Yes / No / Not Applicable
3. What is your current email address? (Print clearly): _____
4. Are you willing to pay a \$17 fee for a printed/paper copy of the PC for 24 issues per year?
Yes / No / Not Applicable?
5. Are you willing to donate to cover the \$17 PC paper copy fee for other Florin JACL members?
Yes / No?

Your Name(s): _____

Thank you for completing this survey!

Andy Noguchi, Co-President
Twila Tomita, Chapter Historian
Scott Matsumoto, Newsletter Editor

Marielle Tsukamoto, Co-President
Michelle Huey, N. Calif. Youth Rep
Judith Ryan, Membership Coordinator

Florin JACL's Annual Scholarship & Youth Programs Fundraiser


October 8, 2016 from 5:30-5:00pm at the Buddhist Church of Florin

Ticket Order Form, Donations & Volunteer Sign Up

Please mail by Monday, October 3, 2016

Questions?? Contact Cindy Kakutani 916 768-3644

Mail to: **Florin JACL, PO Box 292634, Sacramento, CA 95829**

Name _____		Phone: _____	
# General Tickets	\$12 X # _____	\$ _____	
Children Age 4-12	\$6 X # _____	\$ _____	
Children 3 & Under	Free # _____	\$ _____	0.00 _____
Total # Attending _____		Total Check enclosed \$ _____	
 Unable to Attend – Please accept my Donation of \$ _____			

Gold Sponsor (\$100 donation or more) Name: _____	BINGO & RAFFLE DONATIONS GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTED Raffle Donations _____ _____ _____ Bingo Donations _____ _____ _____
Silver Sponsor (\$50 donation or more) Name _____	
Bronze Sponsor (\$25 donation (<u>OR</u>) purchase \$50 in tickets) Name: _____	

I WILL VOLUNTEER TO HELP: Contact me at Phone # _____	
Email: _____	
Set up Tables and Chairs Saturday October 8, 2016, 9:00 am at the Buddhist Church of Florin YBA Hall	
_____ I will bring Cupcakes	_____ Dozen to Nikkei Dogs
_____ I will help _____ (wash dishes, sell raffle	

Nikkei Dogs

Florin JACL Annual Scholarship & Youth Programs Fundraiser



Senbei Stacking

Pumpkin Decorating

Face Painting

Raffle &

- Grilled Hot Dogs
- Teriyaki Hot Dogs
- Chili
- Salads
- * Rice
- Cupcakes
- Coffee, Tea, or
- Soft Drinks



ALL YOU CAN EAT!

Adults \$12

Ages 4-12 \$6

3 & Under FREE

BINGO Prizes, Prizes, PRIZES!

For Tickets Contact:

Cindy Kakutani clkakutani@frontiernet.net

Ernie Takahashi ektakahashi@sbcglobal.net

CUPCAKE DONATIONS Contact:

twilatomita@gmail.com

October 8th, 2016, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Buddhist Church of Florin

7235 Pritchard Road, Sacramento 95828

Event Sponsorship & Donations
Welcomed & Graciously Accepted



Upcoming Florin JACL Calendar of Events

October 8, 2016: Nikkei Hot Dogs, Cupcakes, Free Bingo Scholarship / Youth Fundraiser: Lots of fun for the whole family at the Buddhist Church of Florin YBA Hall. Florin JACL members get \$5 in free raffle tickets.

December 3, 2015: 81st Florin JACL Anniversary Luncheon and Community Awards: Celebrate at the Mayflower Restaurant in Sacramento from 11:30am to 3:30pm. Tickets are \$35 each or \$350 for a Table of 10. Florin JACL members get \$5 in free raffle tickets. Florin JACL will be honoring Sacramento City Councilmember Steve Hansen, Florin JACL's Time of Remembrance Chair - Christine Umeda, and Vice President of Marketing - Brandon Miyasaki. Please contact Marielle Tsukamoto at (916) 685-6747 for additional information.

January 8, 2017: Florin Mochi Madness Pounding Workshop and New Year's Potluck: Jointly sponsored by the Buddhist Church of Florin. \$3 fee / free to Florin JACL and church members.

February 11, 2017: Northern California Time of Remembrance – Sacramento region premiere of the new film Resistance at Tule Lake at the California Museum. Sponsored by Florin, Lodi, Placer County, and Sacramento JACL Chapters.

March 1, 2017: Florin JACL High School and College Scholarship Deadline.

April 28 to 30, 2017: 12th Annual Florin Manzanar Pilgrimage: 3-day bus journey jointly sponsored by the Council on American Islamic Relations – Sacramento Valley. Florin JACL members get \$20 discount.

2016 Florin JACL Scholarships Recipients

Florin JACL is proud to announce the selection of five outstanding students as recipients of the 2016 scholarship awards. This year's scholarships were presented in honor of individuals or groups who have contributed significantly to the Florin JACL. Congratulations to all of them!!!

Breana Mayumi Inoshita, daughter of Robert and Laura Inoshita, attends UC Davis double-majoring in Asian American Studies and Community & Regional Development. Breana has been involved in JACL activities since her youth and became active in the Florin JACL chapter as a Leadership Intern. She intends to attend law school specializing in civil rights law or environmental law. Breana has been awarded the Mark Merin Civil Rights Scholarship.

Brian T. Ishisaka, son of Denis and Lesly Ishisaka, graduated from CK McClatchy High School's HISP program and will attend Boston University. Brian attended Jan Ken Po Gakko, coached and refereed SASF and church basketball leagues, was a Dharma School teaching assistant, and earned his Eagle Scout rank from Troop 50. He was awarded the JoAnne Iritani Community Education Scholarship.

Kenji Justin Lo, son of Kien and Robin Lo, graduated from Kennedy High School where he was active in the PACE program and the California Scholarship Federation. He will attend UC Davis. He served as president of the Japanese Culture Club and Japan Trip Club. He has participated in Florin JACL's Mochi Madness, Nikkei Dogs and Spaghetti Bingo Night fundraisers, Time of Remembrance, and the Manzanar Pilgrimage. Kenji was awarded the Bob Uyeyama Community Service Scholarship.

Alexis P. Louie, daughter of Scott and Diane Enomoto Louie, participated in Florin JACL activities for many years and stated that the Manzanar Pilgrimage and Angel Island trip were her most meaningful. She graduated from the Kennedy High School PACE program where she was an AP Scholar who was also active in the many campus organizations. She also earned her Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards in the Girl Scouts program. Lexi will defer a year of college to live in Japan and immerse herself in Japanese culture and language. Lexi was awarded the Mike Staley Community Service Scholarship.

Kevin S. Louie, son of Scott and Diane Enomoto Louie, was an academic honors student in Kennedy High School's PACE program where he graduated with a 3.9 GPA. Kevin has volunteered at the ACC Nursing Home, Florin Buddhist Church food bazaars, and coached 7-9th grade boys. He will attend UCLA. It is fitting that Kevin was recognized to receive the Sacramento Nikkei Singles Academic Excellence Award.

Is Your Membership Current?

Please contact Judith Ryan at (916) 442-0573 or judithryan@sbcglobal.net to find out if your Florin JACL membership is current.

If you want to renew your membership, please visit the Florin JACL website at: www.florinjacl.com and choose "Join" from the menu bar.

Packed Tommy Kono Film Premiere Held on July 26th *Sacramento's World Champion Weightlifter*



A Japanese American, Sacramento's Tommy Kono, was America's greatest weightlifter, overcoming crippling asthma, racial discrimination, and growing up in the WWII Tule Lake concentration camp. Filmmaker Ryan Yamamoto, with Suzanne Phan and Davis Hosely, brought this amazing story, capturing Kono's humility, humor, and character, to a packed 200 member audience at the KVIE TV studios July 26th.

Tommy Kono won two Olympic gold medals, a silver medal, and six World Championships from 1952 to 1960. He also won the Mr. Universe body building title three times. Kono passed away in Honolulu at the age of 85. His wife Florence and daughter JoAnne attended the premiere.

Many group supported the event, including the Florin JACL which publicized, promoted fundraising, and brought a crew of eight to plate over 150 dishes of tasty sushi, tempura, and chicken. The crew included: Howard Shimada, Patty Sanui, Gayle Nagata, Twila Tomita, Annie Kim Noguchi, Deanna Tsukamoto, Fumie Shimada, and Andy Noguchi.

Chapter Receives Award for Interfaith & Community Service

During the month of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, at the Interfaith Iftar on June 22, 2016, Florin JACL received the Distinguished Award for Exceptional Interfaith & Community Service for promoting civil rights, social justice, and cultural heritage for all Americans as well as building bridges of understanding among all peoples of faith and reaching out to Muslim Community in support and friendship. (Photo on Page 7)

What is an Iftar? Well, it is nightly dinner break from the fast during Ramadan. Marielle Tsukamoto and Andy Noguchi did an exceptional job with their speeches by talking about why we do what we do so that discrimination, racism, and mistakes of the past do not happen again. As such, Florin JACL continues its mission to promote civil rights, social justice, and building bridges for all.

Thank you to all of members and friends for your support to keep doing what we do!

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.

We welcome the following new members who have joined us since January 2016 and we look forward to their participation and commitment to Florin JACL.

- **Lori Fukuhara Hart**
- **Brandon Ishikata**
- **Yoshiko Kage**
- **Linda Lee**
- **Kenji Lo**
- **Koji Lo**
- **Randy & Tracy Mano**
- **Jack & Carol Sakai**
- **Brandon Shimuzu**
- **Lois Van Beers & Betsy Eskridge**

Florin JACL 81st Anniversary *Strength Through Unity*



Honoring our Leaders

Sacramento City Councilman, Steve Hansen
NCTOR Chair and Florin JACL leader, Christine Umeda
Florin JACL Board VP of Marketing, Brandon Miyasaki

Saturday, December 3, 2016
11:30 -3:30

Mayflower Restaurant
3022 "L" Street, Sacramento, CA

Table of 10 \$350, Individual \$35,
Reservations by Nov. 28, 2016
For information: M. Tsukamoto 916-685-6747

Florin JACL P.O. Box 292634

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Sacramento, CA 95829-2634

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