



Florin J.A.C.L. Newsletter

*Florin Japanese American Citizens League
- Sacramento Valley*

Andy Noguchi and Josh Kaizuka, Co-Presidents
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Donna Komure-Toyama, Deanna Tsukamoto

Webmaster: Kevin Nobuo Nakano

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

2018 Fall Newsletter

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Save the Dates

*Mochi Madness
January 6, 2019*

*NorCal Time of Remembrance
February 9, 2019*

A Visit to Wakamatsu Farm

By Josh Kaizuka

I finally made it to Wakamatsu Farm, the first Japanese immigrant colony in America, near Coloma in El Dorado County. The farm sits on a picturesque property which has a great view towards the west, a very old and majestic oak tree, the original farm residence, and Okei Ito's grave.



The docents were so friendly, knowledgeable and were perfect guides explaining things about how the first Japanese colonists were samurai from Aizu Wakamatsu who had lost in the Boshin Civil War, arriving in 1869 at San Francisco to start a silk and tea farm. Although they had some success at first, due to a drought and other problems, the farm went bankrupt.

Some of the colonists returned back to Japan, others went elsewhere to find work, and a few remained including Okei Ito. However, at the age of 19, Okei died of an illness and was the first Japanese woman to pass away and be buried in America. Her grave site is still maintained at the property and a short walk from a majestic oak tree on a hill where it is told, Okei would make a daily pilgrimage, look west towards Japan and watch the sunset.



The American River Conservancy which has done an outstanding job preserving and telling the story for generations and keeps working to make it better. At the main residence are artifacts including pictures of the colonists, information about the history leading up to the colony, the original Matsudaira banner brought by the colonists and various rooms are set up to look like they were back almost a 150 years ago.

Of course there is always more to the story right?

Who were the Aizu Wakamatsu? Turns out that the Aizu Wakamatsu clan was the protector of the Tokugawa Shogunate for many generations. The Aizu were known for their martial skills, military code of conduct which predated the Geneva Convention by 70 years, and its people made major historical contributions. **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)**





(FROM PAGE 2) What was the Boshin War? It was a civil war between those loyal to the Shogunate in the Imperial Army leading to the final battle in 1869, the Battle at Aizu.

Women of Aizu made some very significant strides in the 19th Century.

Sutematsu Yamakawa was sent to America after the Boshin War and became the first Japanese woman to receive a college degree. She graduated from Vassar in 1882. After graduating, she studied nursing at New Haven



Hospital and became the first Japanese person to become certified in nursing. She then returned to Japan and supported the causes of women's education and volunteered with the Japan Red Cross.



Yae Nijima was not the typical woman of Japan living in the mid-1800s. Being born into a samurai family where her father and older brother were skilled gunners, she took an interest in rifles and became very skilled herself. She fought in the Boshin War during the siege in Aizu defending the castle with her Spencer rifle. After the war, she taught at a women's school, helped found the Doshisha University in Kyoto with her husband Joe Nijima. She also focused on nursing and became a member of the Japanese Red Cross during the Sino-Japanese War and was the first non-royal woman to be awarded the Order of the Precious Crown in 1896. She was awarded a second Order of the Precious Crown for her service with the Red Cross during the Russo-Japanese War. In 1928, she was awarded the Silver Cup for her overall

commitment to Japan.

Takeko Nakano was the daughter of an Aizu official who at an early age studied martial arts and became an expert in the use of the naginata which is pole weapon. During the Battle of Aizu during the Boshin War, because women were not officially allowed to fight in battle, she led an unofficial unit of twenty women later named the Joshitai. After killing five opponents, she was shot in the chest and before she died, asked her sister to cut her head off and take it for burial rather than allow the enemy to take it as a trophy.



After learning a bit about the history of Aizu and its people, it really is not surprising that the first colonist from Japan were from Aizu Wakamatsu.

Last year, Florin JACL-SV drafted and submitted a resolution R-5 at the 2017 FACL National Convention to recognize the significance of the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm Colony, the colonists and their descendants in the development of the agricultural industry in California, the work of the American River Conservancy, and to encourage everyone to attend the 150th Anniversary event, **WakamatsuFest150! June 6-9, 2019.**

The farm is open for tours on the first Saturday of the month through November from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Go to <https://www.arconservancy.org/wakamatsu/> for more information to see how you can visit as well as information regarding **WakamatsuFest150!**

Great Turnout for Bystander Intervention Training!

By Josh Kaizuka

Florin JACL-SV supported the Bystander Intervention Training hosted by our friends at CAIR-SV and ABAS Law Foundation on August 26, 2018. The turnout was a bit more than expected and with the demand, looks like more sessions will need to be set up.



Members of various organizations and interested individuals attended, introduced themselves, and after some opening remarks by the trainers, started right in. Attendees lined up facing each other and went through mock bullying which was interesting and made one feel like a targeted person.

There was some discussion of what can be done like having someone record the incident while another person goes to intervene – of course we would use a real smart phone instead of an air phone like the person pictured. Some people learned that they could access their camera on their phone with a quick swipe of the screen as well as learn about the ACLU App which records and automatically sends video to the ACLU.



Safety, support and solidarity were the values discussed. Steps to intervene were then discussed with a mock intervention. Important steps such as assessing the situation, getting others involved, calmly intervening, ignoring the attacker, and continued support of the targeted person were discussed and demonstrated.

After the demonstration, everyone split into groups to run through a number of scenarios and later discussed how it went, what seemed to work, what could have been better, and learn from what happened in other groups. Each attendee was able to participate in the scenarios as a targeted person, attacker, or intervenors.

We will be working with CAIR-SV for future training sessions so keep an eye out for announcements! Congrats to the trainers for a job well done! Thank you to CAIR-SV, CAIR-SF, and ABAS Law Foundation!



Nikkei Dogs

Florin JACL Sacramento Valley Annual
Scholarship & Youth Programs Fundraiser



Activities:
Senbei Stacking
Pumpkin Decorating
Face Painting
Raffle

- * Hot Dogs
- * Teriyaki Weenies
- * Salad
- * Rice
- * Cupcakes
- * Coffee, Tea or Soft Drinks

5:30-7:00 PM ALL YOU CAN EAT!

Adults \$12

Ages 4-12 \$6

3 & Under FREE



October 13th, 2018, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Buddhist Church of Florin

7235 Pritchard Road, Sacramento 95828

For Tickets Contact:
Cindy Kakutani cindykakutani@gmail.com
Ernie Takahashi ektakahashi@sbcglobal.net

Event Sponsorship & Donations
Welcomed & Graciously Accepted



Recap of the Florin JACL Women's Forum

By Deanna Tsukamoto

On Saturday, August 18, 2018, the Women's Forum presented "Women's Safety" to focus on safety issues that challenge women today. Participants got information and resources on ways to keep safe. The day started with a fresh breakfast of a variety of fruits and muffins, coffee, tea, and juice. At 9:00 a.m. the forum opened with the first speaker and continued until the lunch break. After a delicious lunch from L&L and sushi donated by Ju-hachi Restaurant, we returned to the speakers and finished at 3:00 p.m. On their way out, each participant received a sack of rice and some soy sauce, donated by Oto's and the California Rice Growers Association. Participants appreciated the safety agenda considering that safety is often on women's minds. The speakers were praised for their knowledgeable presentations and useful information.

The five speakers who came to offer their expertise were:

SUSAN SARINAS, Program Manager for ACC Senior Services, spoke about how not to become a victim of fraud. In addition to raising the issue of fraud and how destructive it can be, she spoke about the classes that are available for more in-depth information. She handed out pamphlets with advice on watching out for fraud since often it relies on our ignorance of what is going on.

HAILEY VINCENT, a victim's advocate working with campus safety at California State University, Sacramento, spoke about the violence on campus and the resources students can access if they become victims. She spoke about the confidential services she provides for any student victim of violence.

NINA DELGADILLO, the Director of Safe Schools for Sacramento City Unified School District, spoke about her methods to update the district's response to threats, as well as the safety training going on for school employees. She also told us about her experience in law enforcement and her access to a large network of information and methods that work. In the few months that she has been in charge of safety in the schools, she has streamlined methods dealing with safety and increased employee training.

MICHELLE HUEY, the Sexual Assault Prevention Specialist for My Sister's House, spoke about the need for programs like hers in our community. She spoke about the need for services that provide safety resources for women and children who need help. And she says that although My Sister's House targets Asian and Pacific Islander women, it also reaches out to underserved women and children in our community.

OMAR TAN, an instructor for Moore's Martial Arts of Sacramento, spoke about the importance of self-defense. He told us that a woman's best self-defense is being aware of her surroundings at all times. For example, when we go into a room we should be aware of where the exits are and how to get to them. He also led the audience through some self-defense training to show that self-defense is possible even for senior adults. **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)**

(FROM PAGE 6) Debby Staley and Deanna Tsukamoto, the event coordinators, want to thank Jennifer Kubo who served the beautiful breakfast and also helped with the lunch, all while keeping the coffee going. Nancy Ciraulo helped to serve the delicious lunch from L&L and the wonderful sushi donated by Ju-hachi Restaurant. Jesse Okutsu did the registration so well that she was done before we had time to think about it. We are grateful that Josh Kaizuka and Ron Okimura took the responsibility of getting the AV up and running for the speakers. Judith Ryan did a great job of getting the programs printed on short notice. Both Scott Matsumoto and Kevin Nakano were very understanding and helpful in getting out information about the forum.

Recent Donations

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

Heidi Sakazaki

George Waegell

Cheryl Miles

Dick and Ruby Uno (Scholarship Fund)

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!

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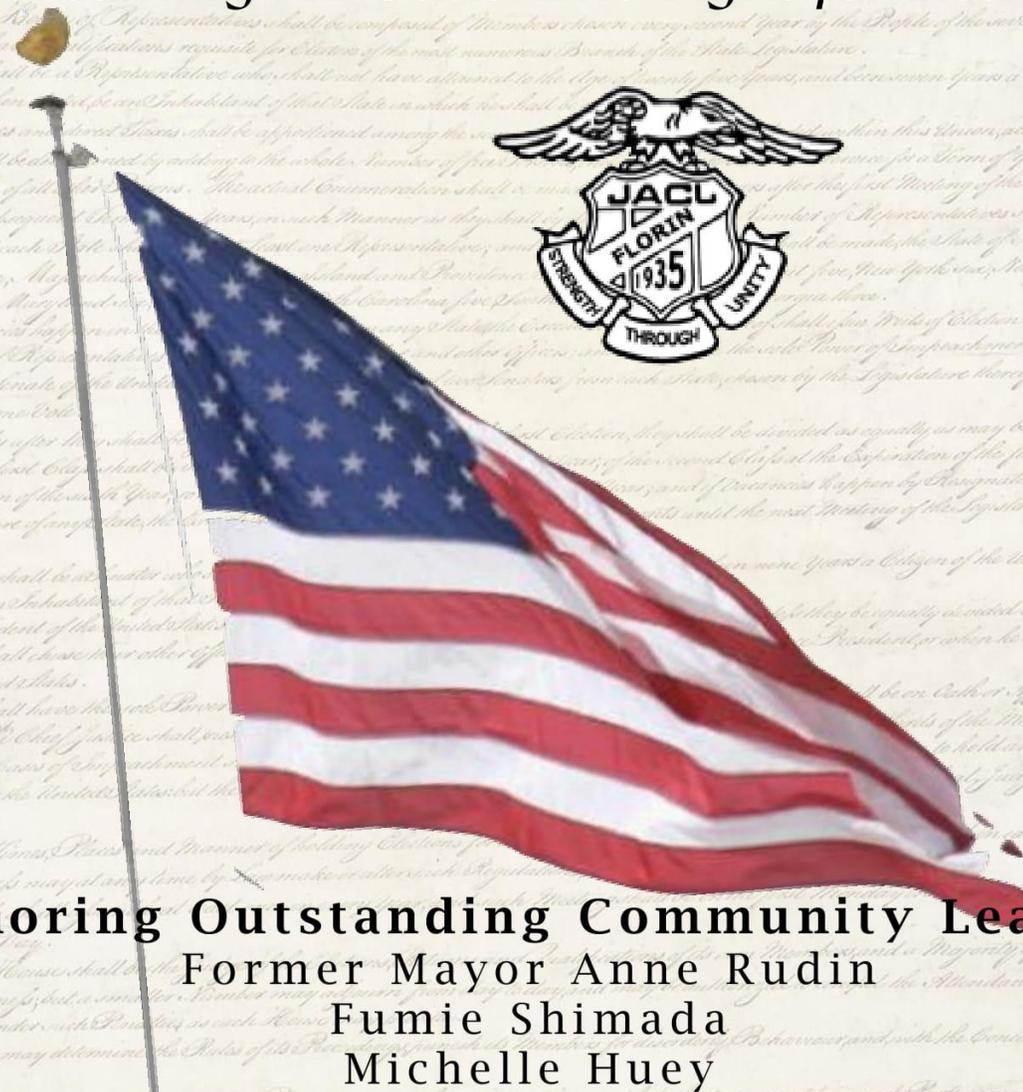
The Florin JACL-SV is proud to be recognized as a leading JACL chapter on Facebook! We are dedicated to providing the most current chapter news, list of upcoming events, and resources to help you stay informed on local and international news. Follow us on Facebook **@florinjacl** and our Next Generation youth group **@nextgenerationjacl**.



Save The Date

Florin JACL 83rd Anniversary

Overcoming All Odds: The Fight for Redress



Honoring Outstanding Community Leaders

Former Mayor Anne Rudin

Fumie Shimada

Michelle Huey

December 8, 2018

11:00am-3:00pm

Valley Hi Country Club

9595 Franklin Blvd.

Elk Grove, CA 95758

“A Celebration of Japanese Tradition and Culture”

Open House at CSUS Library - April 7, 2018

By Eileen Namba Otsuji

To those attended and to ALL the volunteers: “Thank you for coming together and making this one of the most heartwarming events ever.” April 7, 2018, was a day filled with nostalgia, serendipity, good fortune and friendship. The last of the cherry blossoms on the south side of the Library were still blooming. Early in the morning Mother Nature washed the gardens and the buildings. Our volunteers were wearing happi coats and looked bright and beautiful. Miraculously, the clouds cleared and the sun shone just as the event started. We were so lucky!!

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

The Sacramento State University Library and Florin JACL hosted a robust day featuring *Samurai* Swords as well as tours of the Sokiku Nakatani Tea Room and Garden, the Kansha Garden, and the Library’s Department of Special Collections and Archives. The five hour event on the campus of Sacramento State University featured educational partnerships with Florin JACL, Sacramento Japanese Sword Club, Senkakuen Sword Club, and the University Library.



President Robert Nelsen (Dean and Director of the Library), Amy Kautzman (Head of Special Collections and Archives), James Fox (Archivist), Julie Thomas, and Sally Hitchcock (Community Relations Coordinator) warmly welcomed the attendees who ranged in age from 9 to 97 years old and came from everywhere — on- and off-campus.

Florin JACL Niseis Heidi Sakazaki, Utako Kimura, and Patricia Namba, were honored for their dedication, commitment, volunteerism, kindness and generosity in support of the University since the founding of the Japanese American Archival Collection 25 years ago.

The Sacramento Japanese Sword Club President, Doug Louie, and Wayne Shijo expertly presented a session where the attendees viewed and learned about traditional sword cleaning and polishing techniques as well as the history of the sword in feudal Japan. Among the highlights of the JAAC is a 17th Century Samurai sword.

Senkakuen Sword Club presented a very impressive performance on sword art and forms. Watching the powerful performers was mesmerizing. It was as if a group of Japanese samurai jumped out of the pages in a book and landed right in front of us. Powerful and majestic.

The two sword clubs taught us about our heritage and how in America today, everyone enjoys the mystery, tradition, and history.

The Kansha Garden (aka Garden of Gratitude) is centrally located on the south side of the Library where it serves as a crossroads for the thousands of people who walk past every day. The JAAC development concept was to provide a place **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)**

(FROM PAGE 9) of quiet contemplation and gratitude in the midst of the pressures of everyday living. Particularly, appealing in spring, is being surrounded by cherry blossoms, having a place to stop, reflect and be grateful for something or someone every day.

The University, the Library, and the JAAC dedicated the Kansha Garden to President emeritus, Donald Gerth, Sacramento State President from 1984 to 2003, “in appreciation for his distinguished service to the University and for his commitment to human and civil rights with the establishment of the Japanese American Archival Collection and Endowment. “

POST-EVENT HIGHLIGHT

A local Sansei was inspired to take his family’s sword to the Sacramento Japanese Sword Club meeting (President Doug Louie) for evaluation. Like the historic sword in the JAAC collection, he was very surprised to learn his sword dates from 17th century Japan!

Sacramento State Library Japanese American Archival Collection and Florin JACL educational programs are making a difference preserving our tradition and culture. Contact Julie Thomas 1-916-278-5240, James Fox 1-916-278-4030, Marielle Tsukamoto 1-916-685-6747, Eileen Namba Otsuji 1-916-427-6397 for information about JAAC donation information.

JAPANESE AMERICAN ARCHIVAL COLLECTION **COMMITTEE REPORT**

By Eileen Namba Otsuji & Deanna Tsukamoto

The planning committee for the 25th Anniversary celebration of Sacramento State University’s Japanese American Archival Collection (JAAC) met to make preliminary plans for the upcoming event to be held on campus during the 2019 fall semester.

This event will be open to the public and will include a distinguished speaker and exhibits featuring notable projects from the past 25 years. This celebration is a joint effort of the university and Florin JACL-SV, led by James Fox and Julie Thomas of the University Library Special Collections and Archives Department.

The JAAC is an award-winning historical repository of items donated by families and individuals, including documents, clothing, swords, religious artifacts, WWII concentration camp memorabilia, and more than 100 oral histories. The JAAC brings to life events of the Japanese American experience. These evocative contents have been used by scholars like filmmakers Ken Burns and Satsuki Ina, researchers and writers like Delphine Hirasuna and Wayne Maeda. The JAAC is a scholarly resource created by the belief that an informed citizenry is the best defense against tyranny.

We want to thank all our members, families, and friends who generously donated time and money and family treasures to the JAAC. We thank you for your faith, hope, and vision that the legacy of the issei and nisei pioneers will be widely shared around the world.

Keep an eye out for the specific date and times as the 25th Anniversary celebration event draws closer. Mark your calendar. It will be a memorable day!

If you want volunteer for the JAAC event committee, please contact us, Deanna or Eileen, Marielle Tsukamoto, Josh Kaizuka, Judy Fukuman, or Eileen Nishio.

VOTING HAS CHANGED IN SACRAMENTO COUNTY!



Get it

Every voter
will be mailed
a ballot

Mark it

Mark your ballot
and sign your
envelope

Return it

Return your ballot:
- in the mail
- at a Ballot Drop Box
- at a Vote Center



All voters will be mailed a ballot! Ballots will be mailed starting 29 days before Election Day



Still want to vote in person? Vote at any Vote Center in the County! Vote Centers are replacing polling places, and:
- open beginning 10 days before Election Day
- you decide which Vote Center to use



Voters with disabilities can download their ballot at home using the new Remote Accessible Vote by Mail system

Learn more at www.Elections.SacCounty.net

#SacCountyVotes

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