



# *Florin J.A.C.L. Newsletter*

*Florin Japanese American Citizens League*

*- Sacramento Valley*

Andy Noguchi and Josh Kaizuka, Co-Presidents

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**Obon Workshop: Jennifer Kubo, Jenny Takahashi**

**Scholarship: Ruth Seo**

**Social Media: Breana Inoshita, Brandon Miyasaki**

**Time of Remembrance: Christine Umeda**

**TOR Education Program: Marielle Tsukamoto,**

**Donna Komure-Toyama, Deanna Tsukamoto**

**Webmaster: Kevin Nobuo Nakano**

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

**Debby Staley**

## **2018 Summer Newsletter**

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# President's Message

Written by Josh Kaizuka

What a summer we've had so far this year. It seems each week, if not day or hour, parallels between what happened seventy-six years ago and now seem to grow.

In June, the United States Supreme Court held that the travel ban targeting mostly Muslim countries was fine while seemingly overturning *Korematsu v. United States* stating that "Korematsu was gravely wrong the day it was decided, has been overruled in the court of history, and – to be clear-has no place in law under the Constitution." In essence, while repudiating the 1944 case which upheld Executive Order 9066 as constitutional as "gravely wrong," in a 5 to 4 split, the majority only looked at the four corners of the revised presidential order disregarding all of the statements made during the campaign, as President, and the previous versions of the ban found unconstitutional by a number of district courts. This sad ban certainly parallels the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and the Immigration Act of 1924 which basically excluded all Asians from immigrating to this country a result of racism and fear mongering. Parallels become really clear based on the months of statements by a political leader espousing hatred, racism, and fear-mongering resulting in various versions of a discriminatory Executive Order even though the final Proclamation itself appears to be neutral – remember that the language in Executive Order 9066 itself did not identify any race of individuals but only affected those of Japanese descent, but who were the ones affected?

Of course, we all know about the family separations that came to a focal point in June and remains unresolved. Parents, most of whom were trying to gain asylum with their children, were caught as political pawns because of a "Zero Tolerance" policy or a non-policy (depending on which person in the current administration is talking) and forcibly separated from their children. Nearly 3000 children were separated from their parents, many youngsters who could not talk and even babies. It is unclear if all of the children will ever be reunited with their parents. Now, there is talk about putting families into detention centers – sound familiar? There is talk about building a detention facility at a former Japanese American incarceration camp at or near Rowher! Does euphemistic labeling of detention facilities as "shelters," "tender age shelters," and "family residential centers" bring back labels used 76 years ago?



Florin JACL-SV members attended and spoke after the decision came down on the Muslim Ban at the press conference held at CAIR-Sacramento Valley office. Christine Umeda and Marielle Tsukamoto did an excellent job representing our community by speaking at the rally to "Stop Terrorizing Children", and a few days later our members joined thousands at the "Families Belong Together" rally. **(CONTINUED TO PAGE 3)**

**(FROM PAGE 2)** In May, we had a great reunion with many of the pilgrims from this year's Pilgrimage to Manzanar and also awarded scholarships to some very well deserving awardees at the Ice Cream Social. We had a great turnout at the Obon Dance Workshop in June, and we participated with ABAS Law Foundation and the Sacramento Asian Film Festival presenting films relating to "Resistance" and among the films screened was Brandon Miyasaki's short film documenting this year's Florin-SV/CAIR-SV pilgrimage.



It is highly doubtful that things will lighten up on the civil and social rights end anytime soon, but wouldn't it be great if it did? Everyone getting along, no more division, no more bullying tweets – unfortunately we are not there yet and we all have more to do!

Anyways, there are some great events coming up including the Women's Forum, Nikkei Dog, our Annual Installation Awards Luncheon, and of course the Next Gen group has things going on so stay tuned!

## *Ice Cream Social a Success*

The 2018 Scholarship Ice Cream Social at the Fletcher Farm Community Center was attended by over 50 people. Attendees indulged on root beer floats and sundaes topped with fresh strawberries, bananas, and pineapple topped with chocolate and caramel. Brandon Miyasaki presented a video of this year's Manzanar Pilgrimage. This year's recipients included Koji Lo (John F. Kennedy High School), Blythe Nishi (UC Davis), Lindsey Maseba (Cosumnes Oaks High School), Allison Tanaka (John F. Kennedy High School), and Sydney Takeda (John F. Kennedy High School).

Please keep an eye out for upcoming events on our chapter's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/florinjacl>).

## Follow Us on Facebook

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**.



# 24<sup>TH</sup> Florin JACL Women's Forum

## “Women's Safety”

**Friends and community members**, come out on **Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.** to learn information you may need to know about women's safety. We will start with a continental breakfast at **the Buddhist Church of Florin (7235 Pritchard Road, Florin; 2.4 miles east of Highway 99, Sacramento)**. Lunch will be served at 12:00. Men are welcome, especially since these issues concern our entire families.

**1. Cost:** Free to current Florin JACL members, and \$10 to cover expenses for those not yet members. Also free for those who join Florin JACL at this event; applications will be available at the event.

**2. List of Workshop Topics:** (subject to change)

- Mental Health
- Personal Safety
- Self-defense
- College Campus Safety
- Fraud Safety
- Identity Theft

**3. Would you like to help at the Women's Forum?** We always appreciate volunteers for this and/or future events.

Volunteers are needed for:

*Registration*

*Food preparation*

*Set-up*

*Clean-up*

**FOR QUESTIONS AND TO RSVP, PLEASE EMAIL [florinjaci5@outlook.com](mailto:florinjaci5@outlook.com).**

**Thank you.**

Debby Staley

Deanna Tsukamoto

# 2018 JACL National Convention - Philadelphia Reflections

Written by Brandon Miyasaki

Dear Youth & Elders,

Stay connected. Be inspired.

It was late Saturday evening, July 21, 2018. Several members attending the 2018 JACL National Convention were huddled around a microphone in Madame Saito's Headhouse Restaurant, a place known as the birth place of the Philadelphia sushi roll. I stood there in a corner of the room, camera in hand, watching Kurt Ikeda grasp a mic and deliver a moving spoken word. A message of metaphors between the game of baseball and the incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II. A spoken word that resonated with my family's history and identity as a Yonsei Japanese American.

A flood of reflections and recollections from the past four days of convention began to set in. The sincere voice of Harriet Beleal, a recipient of the Japanese American of the Biennium award, explaining, "Everyone has a ripple effect... freedom is not free because someone paid for your freedom." The hopeful voice of past National President, Gary Mayeda, regarding civic engagement saying, "Stop yelling at your tv... we don't ask for perfection, we just ask for participation." And as I witnessed the JACL National Board of Directors transition to proven leaders predominately in their 20s and 30s, I could not help but recall an inspired Tom Ikeda, Executive Director of Densho, preaching, "Don't give up on the older generation... Older generation, be open to new ideas." I was leaving this convention with a notepad full of encouraging quotes and connections to grow and learn from. **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)**





**(FROM PAGE 5)** So, what was my favorite part about my overall experience in Philly? While the cheese steaks met expectations, and I was able to cross the “Rocky Steps” off my bucket list, the best part of it was simply witnessing the different generations of leadership honor and respect one another. You had leaders like Kanji Sahara, recipient of the JACLER of the Biennium, preach to the next generation and his peers. Our very own Michelle Huey, NCWNP District Council Youth Rep. and Co-President of our Next Generation group,

led a panel discussion with Beckie Masaki, NY/SC Vision Award recipient, and continued to chime in during our district caucuses. And when it came down to emergency resolutions and amendments to bylaws, I got to witness the organization come together and discuss opposing views and support one another. Democracy at work.

In closing, I will leave you with a question asked by newly elected JACL National President, Jeffrey Moy, “Why are you a member?” And if you’re not a member, what is holding you back? After attending this convention, I am more motivated than ever to spread the mission of the JACL. I challenge the youth to continue taking on leadership positions. I challenge the elders to continue providing opportunities and examples for the youth to follow. I am proud to say that the Florin JACL-SV chapter is one of the most active chapters in the nation, but we can always do better. Thank you for allowing me to represent the Florin-SV chapter as a delegate and be sure to visit our Facebook ([www.facebook.com/florinjacl](http://www.facebook.com/florinjacl)) and website ([www.florinjacl.com](http://www.florinjacl.com)) for upcoming events and news.



*We the People*  
**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**

## Enough with the euphemisms.

### They're not 'family residential centers.' They're jails.

Written by Yoshinori H.T. Himel – reprinted from Washington Post Opinion published July 11, 2018

I spent the Independence Day weekend on a pilgrimage to the Tule Lake Segregation Center, one of 10 World War II American concentration camps. I saw the breadth of an enormous prison camp that confined as many as 18,000 innocent human souls, and I tasted the grit of Tule Lake's pervasive yellow summer dust. Those held there 75 years ago against their will, solely because of their ethnicity, looked out of their tarpapered barracks every day, encircled by barbed wire and armed guard towers. They knew they lived in a concentration camp.

The War Relocation Authority (WRA) was the agency responsible for running these camps. It characterized the removal, at gunpoint, of 120,000 U.S. citizens and noncitizens of Japanese descent from their homes, shops and farms as an "evacuation," as if rescuing them, and as a "relocation," as if it was a job transfer. But even the WRA separately admitted its "Relocation Centers" were concentration camps because "the 'residents' were, for the most part, nationals of the country operating the camp." Last month, the Supreme Court also described the WRA facilities as "concentration camps."

Contrary to what many assume, the WRA's sweeping incarceration wasn't internment. Internment is a selective imprisonment of alien civilians, defined by Geneva Conventions and a 1798 statute, with rudimentary due process and some free-speech rights. In contrast, the WRA incarcerated Japanese Americans en masse, without regard to an individual's actions. It flouted the Constitution's guarantees of due process and punished dissent. "Internment" is a deceptive whitewash for the WRA's mass incarceration.

Amy Iwasaki Mass, a social-work scholar and concentration camp survivor, has explained that Japanese American victims "lulled ourselves into believing the propaganda of the 1940s so that we could maintain our idealized image of a benevolent, protective Uncle Sam." Such euphemisms hide the government's worst actions from its victims, its potentially conscience-stricken employees, the public, Congress, the courts and its historical legacy.

World War II was hardly the first time our government has used euphemisms to deceive. The practice began at the nation's founding. The Constitution's fugitive slave clause, which forced escaped slaves back into bondage, did not use the word "slave." Instead, it obliquely said people "held to service or labor" should be "delivered" to "the party to whom such service or labor may be due."

Our government tore indigenous families apart in the 19th and 20th centuries by removing their children for years of forced separation. Many institutions would beat children for speaking their native language and for singing songs their parents had taught them. They sought to eliminate the cultures of Native Americans by indoctrinating their children. But our government called those places of cultural genocide "boarding schools." **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)**

**(FROM PAGE 8)** In the 1930s, our government raided homes to deport more than 1 million Mexican Americans, an estimated 60 percent of whom were U.S. citizens. It called this forced exile the “Mexican Repatriation,” though most of those “repatriated” were actually being expelled from their homeland.

And our government continues to use euphemisms. In response to the outcry against its enforcement of the Trump administration’s family separation policy, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is seeking permission to build more “family residential centers” to detain immigrant families while their immigration cases make their way through the courts. By the benign label “family residential center,” ICE means what most of us would call a jail. ICE jails parents and children, many of whom are escaping violence and are using lawful procedures to apply for asylum.

“Tender age” shelters is another euphemism — “a chilling phrase we will not soon forget,” says Sen. Orrin G. Hatch (R-Utah). Those are warehouses for children — including toddlers and infants — whom our government has torn from their families.

We must seek the truth behind the Orwellian labels. We must be wary of officials using language to evade responsibility. We must not, as we have done in the past, permit official euphemisms to lull us into silent complicity. Let’s call this what it is: violating human rights.

## Do You Need Bystander Intervention Training?

Have you ever been in a situation when you see someone being verbally harassed? It might be inappropriate sexual, racist, hurtful, or even just plain bullying verbal assaults targeted at an individual. Did you know what to do to help and diffuse the situation?

Our friends at CAIR-SV along with ABAS Law Foundation is working to put together Bystander Intervention Training soon. CAIR-SV helped organize a course for those interested in leading training session in San Francisco last month. Now the trainers are getting ready to train in Sacramento.

So, what will you learn? In a nutshell, you learn to recognize potentially harmful situations and learn various non-violent techniques to diffuse the situation in a way that can have positive influences. Gain the knowledge and tools so if you happen upon a situation, you can stand up, speak out and act!



Everyone can probably use the training especially now with the increase in hate speech and increasing bullying incidents. **The Bystander Intervention Training will take place on August 26<sup>th</sup> from 2-5pm at 1122 Del Paso Blvd.**

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