



Florin J.A.C.L. Newsletter

Florin Japanese American Citizens League

- Sacramento Valley

Andy Noguchi and Josh Kaizuka, Co-Presidents

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

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2019 Spring Newsletter

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Meet Our 2019 Manzanar Ambassadors

Three UC Davis students joined the three-day Florin Manzanar Pilgrimage as Ambassadors. It's part of a leadership program to help plan, coordinate, and promote the vital lessons of the Manzanar WWII Japanese American concentration camp. Here's their introduction and expectations.

Krista Keplinger:

My name is Krista Yukimi Keplinger! I am a yonsei Japanese American, a descendant of No-No Boys incarcerated at Tule Lake, and a third-year History and Communication double major at UC Davis.

I believe that traveling to Manzanar will not only give me more perspectives as to what it was like in the concentration camps, but additionally solidify and inform the connections between the civil rights violations that Japanese Americans were forced to suffer through and modern-day issues such as family separation and the Muslim ban. I look forward to learning from a diverse group of people from all walks of life on how to protect those who do not have the same privileges or freedom to speak out that I possess.



Hanako Taira:

My name is Hanako, and I'm a 4th year UCD student majoring in Psychology and Spanish.

I'm from Alameda, CA and I was involved in the Bay District Jr. YBA in high school. I did Japanese classical dance when I was younger, but decided to train in classical ballet throughout high school. In college, I still enjoy dancing, but I prefer more urban styles. As a Yonsei, I am looking forward to learning more about this part of Japanese American history. I hope to gain a greater understanding of what life was like at camp and hear personal experiences from others.



Abbygayle Principe:

My name is Abbygayle Principe and I am a fourth year History major, Asian American Studies and Education double minor.

Learning about Japanese internment is what initially sparked interest to go into the field of Asian American history, and it continues to inspire me to remember those who've come before. As a Filipina, this Manzanar trip is important for me to learn more about Japanese American history and how to join in solidarity together in today's day and age. I am excited to be a part of this special event, to join in on the songs, the food, the cultures, but most importantly the stories that have carried our communities through resiliency and strength. I look forward to making memories with others, learning our history, and growing together!



14th Annual Florin JACL Manzanar Pilgrimage

Some of the highlights from the pilgrimage sponsored by Florin JACL-Sacramento Valley and CAIR Sacramento Valley/Central California.

On a clear crisp Friday morning, a diverse group of 50 individuals gathered to form a circle at the Florin Buddhist Church to introduce themselves at the very place where Japanese Americans gathered 77 years ago not knowing where they were going. Our Fab50 pilgrims were a diverse group. We had members of four religions, 8 former incarcerated, 15 youths with the youngest being 6 years old, 9 of the travelers were with CAIR-SV/CC, musicians included the Tsubaki Ensemble, Japanese Folk Dance group composed of the UC Davis Nikkei Student Union members plus one, people from other areas including the Bay Area, Fresno, Davis, Vallejo, and of course our trusty bus driver Mike, who knows the routine and got us there and back on schedule without any hiccups.



We had our 4th Manzanar Cultural Exchange with AkaMaya Cultural Dance Group led by Sage Andrew Romero for a time of healing and learning. We are privileged to learn something new each year through the exchange. This year the Tubaki Ensemble treated us with not only taiko drums but also Japanese flute and shamisen. The members of the UC Davis Nikkei Student Union plus one (Koji Lo)...taught everyone traditional obon dances. A special treat was an Islamic prayer by Oussama Mokeddem who also translated, explained the

prayer and why things are done in a certain way. We had many local dignitaries including the Mayor of Bishop who explained that just a few weeks earlier the Bishop City Council rescinded resolutions which were still on the books relating to Japanese American during WWII. From what we know, our good friend Bernadette Johnson, Superintendent of Manzanar National Park, put the bug in their ear that the resolutions were still on the books.



Afterwards, there was a get together for Halal S'Mores and to catch up with friends we haven't seen in a while. We also got to get to know each other better and of course worked



on origami cranes! Thanks to the leadership and energy of the youth, we folded and strung up a lot of cranes so that they could be taken to Manzanar. **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)**

14th Annual Florin JACL Manzanar Pilgrimage



(FROM PAGE 3) On Saturday morning, after some tasty fried rice we were off to Manzanar to get a special tour where former incarcerated talked about life while incarcerated during WWII. The stories were especially powerful and educational while at a former concentration camp like Manzanar. Dale Minami, one of the keynote speakers even stopped by to say hi and congratulated Florin for all of its work over the years! While on the tour, were surprise when Melanie Shojinaga, Madisson Tamichi, and Jenna Yonenaga , three of our former Florin Manzanar Ambassadors and pilgrimage

planning committee members showed up. They were just on our pilgrimage last year but had finished with school moving to the Bay Area and organized the Inaugural San Jose JACL Pilgrimage JACL leading nearly 40 travelers – we were so happy and proud to see them take the lead to organize a pilgrimage we had to get a super group picture with them!

After returning from Manzanar the two groups had have fun bowling and hanging out chatting and making some more Halal S'mores back the hotel.



While there was a lot of fun on the pilgrimage, on the return trip on Sunday, it was a moving and inspiring experience listening to everyone talking about what they are taking away from this year's pilgrimage and how it changed them. Congrats to the Fabulous 50 who made this year's 14th Annual Florin Manzanar Pilgrimage a great experience for all!



FLORIN JACL Women's Forum 2019

"Japanese American Culture"

Saturday, June 15, 2019, at The Buddhist Church of Florin

8:30 a.m. Breakfast, Registration and Sign-up

9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. 5 workshop sessions

Workshop Sessions to choose from

- How to play Hanafuda card game
- How to wrap Furoshiki
- How to make Origami geometric box
- How to recognize Japanese good luck charms
- Panel discussion on "Growing up 'Hapa'"
- Tea Ceremony and teas

*Members of Florin JACL are free

*Children 10-18 yrs are free

*Non-members are \$10

Lunch

Obento lunch will be offered for \$5 each

Menu: char siu or vegetarian gyoza

Detach and mail this form and a check made out to Florin JACL

to Deanna Tsukamoto, 8750 Sharmead Way, Fair Oaks, CA 95628

BY JUNE 1, 2019

(Detach Here)

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

_____ # attending members

_____ # of lunches char siu obento, \$5/box

_____ # non-members \$10 each

_____ # of lunches gyoza obento (vegetarian), \$5/box

_____ # children

_____ Yes, I want to volunteer to help

_____ Yes, I want to donate a raffle prize

_____ Yes, I want to help sponsor this event

___\$50 ___\$100 ___\$150 ___\$200 ___other amount

Questions, please call Jennifer Kubo (916) 682-2723, Debbie Staley (916) 689-4262, Deanna Tsukamoto (916) 9670129

FORUM: "...a meeting where ideas and views on a particular issue can be exchanged."

Deep in the Heart of Texas: Florin Members Join a Pilgrimage to Dilley

Florin JACL's Christine and Stan Umeda joined a pilgrimage to Dilley, Texas, the site of the largest family detention center in the United States. Why? They went to join with other former incarcerated during WWII and advocates to protest the incarceration of families seeking refuge because they and their families were unjustly incarcerated due to racism, fear mongering, and failure of political leadership.

The Umedas joined with over 60 pilgrims from around the country in the last week of March. They first went to Crystal City, the former family internment camp for non-citizens during WWII which held as many as 4,000 people of Japanese, German, and Italian decent. An interesting fact from their tour of Crystal City – instead of barracks, non-citizens families were placed in cottages with cooking facilities. The reason? Since they were considered enemy prisoners, the US Government had to follow the rules of the Geneva Convention. The government didn't have to follow any international rules like the Geneva Convention in the 10 incarceration camps because the 120,000 men, women, and children were citizens.

They then made their way to the detention facility euphemistically called "South Texas Family Residential Center" in Dilley for a peaceful protest rally. There were over 100 people attending along with a taiko group from Denver.

Organizers of the protest had a goal of having 10,000 paper cranes for the protest, but unexpectedly received more than 25,000! The cranes arrived from all over the US, Japan, and even San Quentin State Prison in California.

So very proud of Christine and Stan Umeda for representing and protesting against the same type of rhetoric that happened 77 years ago resulting in family incarceration.

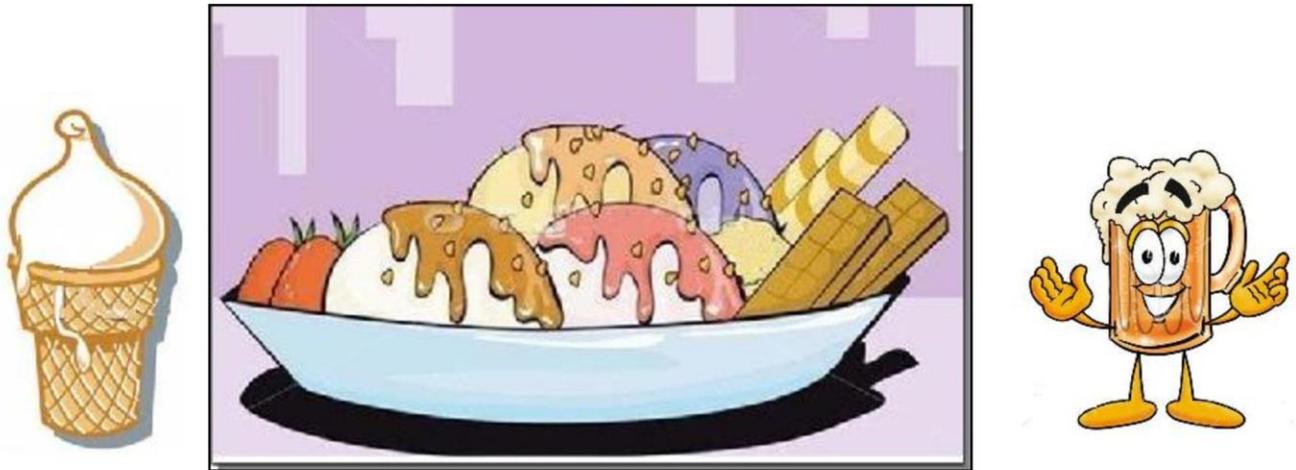
There is a great in-depth article in the April 11 edition of the Nichi Bei Weekly. Another pilgrimage is scheduled for November.



2019 Florin JACL Ice Cream Social

Join Us in Recognizing Our Scholarship Recipient:

Lauryn DeGuzman



Share the 14th Annual Florin Manzanar Pilgrimage

- Slides of this year's Manzanar adventure
- Manzanar Mini-Reunion for past travelers

Welcome our New Florin JACL Members

Enjoy Dozens of Free Door Prizes

Sunday, May 19, 2019 1pm – 3pm

Fletcher Farm Center 7245 Fletcher Farm Dr, Sacramento

(South off of Florin Rd, between Florin – Perkins Road and Elk Grove - Florin Road)

\$4 donation; Free to Scholarship Recipients and their Guests,
and Florin JACL Members

Come Join Us for a Fun, Tasty Social



13th Annual

Florin Obon Festival Dance Workshop!



Tuesday, July 16, 2019 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm Workshop
Buddhist Church of Florin (Multi-Purpose Room)
7235 Pritchard Rd (off Florin Rd), Sacramento
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm Dance Practice

(Donations welcome to cover light hot dog meal)

Sponsored by Buddhist Church of Florin and
Florin Japanese American Citizens League (Florin JAACL - Sacramento Valley)

****Everyone please RSVP back so we have enough food: jmtakahashi@me.com****

Come to the Buddhist Church of Florin Obon Festival
Sunday, July 20 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Enjoy Obon festivities with food, music, and 150 colorfully dressed dancers.

More info: <https://www.facebook.com/florinbuddhist>

Save the Date - 25th Anniversary of the Japanese American Archival Collection

Last April, Sacramento State Library's Japanese American Archival Collection put on the "Celebration of Japanese Tradition & Culture" which turned out to be a great event. The event featured discussions relating to traditional Japanese swords, a live demonstration by the Sacramento Japanese Sword Club, a tour of the Kansha Garden/Sokiku Nakatani Tea Garden which included discussion of the history of the tea ceremony room, and a presentation of the history how the collection came to be.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the collection and Sac State is celebrating the collection created in 1994 with photos, artifacts, and documents. These items were provided by Mary Tsukamoto, Florin JACL, records from the Sacramento VFW Nisei Post 8985, and donations from more than 240 individuals as well as community members.

The event is scheduled for Thursday, October 3rd and is open to the public. Speakers will include Mia Yamamoto, a transgender woman born in the Poston incarceration camp, a veteran, a lawyer and civil rights activist; Mitchel Maki, President and CEO of Go For Broke and the author of the award winning book *Achieving the Impossible Dream: How Japanese American Obtained Redress*; and Lawson Inada, a poet, jazz musician, professor, anthologist, essayist and critic who was incarcerated in Jerome and Amache with his family during WWII.

The details for the event are still being finalized but keep the date open!

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
Utako Kimura
Seno family in memory of Toyoko Seno

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. Thank you!

Follow Us on Facebook

The Florin JACL-SV is 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**](#).



Daruma Award Awarded to Two Unsung Heroes!

We were honored to attend the 2019 Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific (NCWNP) District Awards Banquet in April to witness two of our dedicated members being recognized for their years of service to Florin JACL-SV. It was way overdue!

Heidi Sakazaki and Utako Kimra have been active members of Florin for over 40 years and “active” doesn’t even start to describe them. Together, they are the Dynamic Duo serving on so many of our committees and events there isn’t enough space to list them all. There isn’t anything they haven’t made better by just being there, especially with their infectious smiles and happy personalities. We should all have so much energy when we get as young as they are!



At the banquet we got an extra treat – Paul Kitagaki, Jr. brought advance copies of his new book *Behind Barbed Wire – Searching for Japanese Americans Incarcerated During World War II*.

Everyone had a great time, especially when Utako took over the mic even though she wasn’t supposed to and told everyone at the banquet why she is proud to be a Florin JACL member-it was jaw dropping and awesome! True unsung heroes and why we are what we are – we do stuff because our members like Heidi and Utako help us do stuff!

Volunteer at WakaMatsuFest150 Event!

In the last issue of the newsletter, we had an article about the upcoming 150th Anniversary of the first Japanese immigrant colony in the country. Based on the list of sponsors and organizations attending, the event is looking to be a lot of fun!

Florin JACL will have a booth and we are still looking for volunteers for the booth. We can have up to three people at the booth during the festival which runs from 10am to 4pm. We are planning to have a poster board with pictures and information from past events to show what we do, flyers for upcoming events, and have fun talking to people about our chapter.



I heard there will be some great booths with tasty treats and lots of things going on so come join in the fun! Don’t worry, we will have a canopy so we can stay in the shade. You can register on line at <https://www.volunteersignup.org/CP777> or email Josh Kaizuka at jkaizuka@sbcglobal.net.

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