



Florin J.A.C.L. Newsletter

Florin Japanese American Citizens League

- *Sacramento Valley*

Andy Noguchi and Josh Kaizuka, Co-Presidents

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2020 Winter Newsletter

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Co-President's Message

By Josh Kaizuka

Every year has its challenges, but what a year this has been. At the same time, it has been a rewarding year because of our great members, partners, and friends. Here is a list of events we worked on, presented at, or participated in.



- We started the year off on January 11 with big loud banging taiko drums at the “Tsuru for Solidarity: Oshogatsu Protest to Close the Camps!” in Yuba County where ICE detainees are still being held.
- After a new Sikh temple was vandalized with hateful racist graffiti, we joined with numerous community organizations and members to attend and speak at the “Stand in Solidarity with the Orangevale Sikh Community” gathering on January 25.
- With the ever-expanding attacks by the administration on Muslims, on January 31, we stood with our Muslim brothers and sisters and spoke at the “CAIR-Sacramento Valley’s Expanded Muslim Ban Press Conference.”
- Northern California Time of Remembrance – Standing Up for the Voiceless was held on February 8 focusing on the attacks on immigrants including the separation of families and the Muslim Ban.
- On February 18, we went to California State University, Stanislaus to speak at their Day of Remembrance event about Tsuru for Solidarity.
- With the help of Parkview Presbyterian Church, held a Tsuru Fold-In on February 22. We collected well over 20,000 tsuru from fold-ins and others who donated. A big kudos to Jim and Jean Kawano for folding and stringing 10,000 tsuru!
- After COVID-19 started spreading and the state got locked down, on March 31 went out to the “Honk for Justice Covid Safe Car Rally” around the State Capitol to demand the release of immigrants detained by ICE.
- We followed that up by helping to organize the “Coalition to Free Everyone in Yuba County ICE Detention” car rally and virtual event on April 14.
- Although we could not hold our yearly Ice Cream Social and Scholarship event in person, we held a virtual event on May 24 to honor our excellent scholarship awardees by Zoom.
- With the mounting killings by police of members of our Black community, we went to present 1,000 tsuru as a symbol of Peace, Compassion, Hope and Healing at the ad hoc memorial for George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and many others at Cesar Chavez Memorial Park.
- We helped organize the “Tsuru Rising! Vigil at Tanforan,” a COVID safe protest against ICE detention and to support the Black Lives Matter movement on June 7.
- Although we couldn’t have our very popular Women’s Forum event, our very resourceful committee came up with a drive-by Summer Stars over Sacramento Tanabata fundraiser event on August 21.
- We joined with Asian Resources, Inc. and many other local organizations to reach out in our community with Covid-19 education and helped with a Free Drive Thru Flu Shot event on November 8. We have more educational projects coming up before the end of the year. **(CONTIUNES ON PAGE 3)**

Co-President's Message

(FROM PAGE 2) We couldn't have done as much as we did without our executive board, our dedicated and cherished committee members, and of course each one of our wonderful members and friends. So many of you have contributed time, donated to our scholarship fund, donated to our general fund, attended events, and we really appreciate you all.

As I write this, I am cautiously optimistic that things will start to change for the better on January 20, 2021. Some things may change for the better quickly through executive orders, but the struggle for civil and social justice for all and the end to systemic racism won't just disappear like the flu next April.

I want to think when times are good, we educate so the mistakes of the past are never forgotten so it won't happen again. These last four years, especially this year, has really made me realize how times have never been good for all people and how our mission has a long way to go before this country becomes a united republic where everyone is given an equal opportunity, treated equally, and a country that welcomes immigrants and those fleeing oppression.

Our various committees are busy continuing to work on events and projects during the pandemic to keep moving forward with our mission and there may be one or two more events/projects before the end of the year.

From all of us on the board of Florin JACL-SV, please stay vigilant with safe Covid-19 practices through the holidays. Do not let up just because there might be a vaccine around the corner or because it is someone you know really well because it is going to be a while before an approved vaccine becomes available to the general public.

We wish you a better tomorrow, Happy Holidays, and a Happy New Year!

New Florin JACL-SV Logo



We are excited to introduce the new Florin JACL – SV logo! This project was months in the making starting. It all started in February when Stan Umeda came up with a great suggestion to have a logo that is uniquely Florin. Stan had a hand drawn conceptual sketch already prepared. It took a while but with the help of a very talented graphic designer, Saya Russell who just happens to be our good friend Nancy Ukai's daughter, the logo was finalized. We hear that Peanut pictured with Saya helped out!



Helping to Stop the Community Spread of COVID-19

By Josh Kaizuka

We were contacted by our good friend Sonney Chong with CAPITAL asking if we would be able to assist with a project spearheaded by Asian Resources, Inc. (ARI). So what are we doing? We have been asked to help Japanese speaking residents in Sacramento with education to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Working on the project are Chiaya Rawlins, Norio Iwase, Katsuko Hirota, Eileen Otsuji, Marielle Tsukamoto, Josh Kaizuka, and two very talented youths, Nghia Nguyen and Cecellia Spencer.



The project is part of a grant through the City of Sacramento that ARI was awarded which runs through the end of the year. We have a short timeframe and getting things done like educational brochures in Japanese and English, we are working on some virtual education components and also reaching out to Japanese speaking people in our community.

We also helped with ARI's drive thru flu shot on Saturday November 7. Over 330 people came by for a flu vaccine!

Recent Donations

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

General Donations:

Pablo Baxter
Dan Dorrattie
Judy Fukuman
Tom and Sallie Hoshizaki
Mary Hughes
Ken Iritani
Sachiko Louie
Heidi Sakazaki
Ruth Seo
Sunahara Family

Scholarship Donations:

Aileen Nishio

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!



We're here to help.

We're here for you

We know many of you may be concerned about paying your bills during these challenging times. While much remains uncertain right now, one thing is for sure: we're here to help you through this with flexible billing options and discount rates.

Not shutting off power for non-payment – through January 4, 2021

We will not disconnect power due to non-payment and we won't add late fees to your bill during this time. Customers who are behind on payment will still owe SMUD for service, but electric service will remain on at this time.

My Account

You can access your account online 24/7.

- View and pay your bill
- Set up payment arrangements
- Check your usage
- Sign up for outage and billing alerts

Low-income discount

Our Energy Assistance Program Rate (EAPR) provides a monthly bill discount based on household size and income. We've adjusted our requirements to make it easier to qualify, apply and re-certify online.

Flexible payment plans

If you are able, please continue to make your payment on time. For customers experiencing financial hardship, you can set up payment arrangements online or give us a call at

1-888-742-7683. Assistance is available in additional languages if needed, please just ask.

Learn more about how we're helping at [smud.org/HereToHelp](https://www.smud.org/HereToHelp).

Powering forward. Together.



Kara Ueda Appointed to the Sacramento County Court

By Josh Kaizuka

Let's give a huge shout-out and congratulations to Kara Ueda, a Florin JACL-SV member and now a judge of the Sacramento County Superior Court. Governor Newsom made the announcement in August.

Kara was a partner at Best, Best & Krieger and named as one of Sacramento's best 40 under 40 lawyers in 2011. Kara has also made outstanding contributions in the local community with her involvement with organizations including the Asian/Pacific Bar Association of Sacramento and with UC Davis Law School where she graduated and taught.

Judge Ueda is a Yonsei and is the first in her family to become a lawyer. All of Kara's grandparents, father and many of her relatives were among the 120,000 US citizens and people of Japanese ancestry incarcerated during WWII.

Kara also joined us on the 2015 Annual Florin Manzanar pilgrimage and spoke about her family's connection to the incarceration camps.

Judge Ueda adds to the diversity of the Sacramento judiciary not only as an Asian/Pacific Islander, but also because of her families experiences during one of the darkest times in American history.



Installation Event Postponed

By Marielle Tsukamoto, Installation Committee Chair

The Florin SV JACL Annual Installation event has been postponed to a later date in January 2021.

We will be honoring the Time of Remembrance Committee for the annual Time of Remembrance Program and the Education Program telling students about the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese on the west coast in partnership with the California Museum. Fumie and Sam Shimada will be recognized for the many years of active service and contributions to Florin JACL's numerous programs. Jesse Okutsu will be the recipient of the Next Generation Award for her many years of service in developing the Next Generation program. Finally, Debbie Staley will be honored posthumously.

We are looking forward to holding a memorable zoom online event. This format will allow many persons outside the area to also enjoy. It is the one fundraiser the chapter holds to fund chapter expenses for the year. We will be announcing ways that members and friends will have opportunity to contribute toward the fundraiser.

Letter from Ayanna



To the members and leaders of Florin Sacramento-Valley JACL:

I hope you are all well and staying safe during these times.

My name is Ayanna Boben, and I have been a member of Florin-SV JACL for the past three years now. In May, I was awarded a scholarship by this chapter for my volunteer service, youth leadership, and educational achievements and pursuits. Recently this month, I was notified that I was awarded the Kyutaro and Yasuo Abiko Memorial Scholarship by the JACL National Scholarship Committee. I was stunned and amazed by the unexpected news, and I am extremely grateful to receive these scholarships.

It has been, and continues to be, a great privilege to be a member of the Florin-Sacramento Valley JACL. I started my college journey at Sacramento City College having just moved to Sacramento from Cincinnati, OH. As I studied I also volunteered with Florin-SV JACL and learned so many new stories, lessons, and values. I met so many people at dinners, protests, and community events who care about preserving Japanese American history, who care about protecting and maintaining social equity and justice, and who care about the future of America and everyone in it. On the Manzanar Pilgrimage while visiting the Manzanar National Historic Site Museum, I cried silent tears taking in the names, faces, drawings, belongings, and experiences of Japanese American men, women, and children. This history matters, it is shaping our present reality, and I pray that we will learn from it to solve the issues of today and the future.

I am currently starting my first semester at Chico State University as a new transfer student. I am majoring in Social Sciences and I will be graduating in the fall of 2021. After completing my Bachelor's degree, I plan to attend a Master's Nursing program. After completing my education, it is my intention to further my Buddhist education and practice by studying at Mt. Hiei in Japan.

I cannot thank each of you enough for including me in community events such as the Nikkei Hot Dog Fundraiser, Mochi Madness, Obon, film viewings, protests, luncheons, pilgrimages, etc. I have dozens of memories with Florin-SV JACL that have enriched my perspective on life and humanity, and I look forward to building more. I thank you all for your welcome and generosity, and it is my intention to carry this spirit of compassion into the next generation. Thank you all so much.

I hope to see your familiar faces when it is safer for us all to join in community again. Until then, please stay safe and take care!

Sincerely,

Ayanna Boben,
September 7, 2020

Nikkei Dogs Scholarship Event Update

By Cindy Kakutani, Nikkei Dogs Scholarship Committee

I hope you are adjusting to the daily practice of social distancing to maintain your good health and minimizing the spread of COVID-19. The COVID-19 pandemic creates social, political, and economic challenges.

Each autumn the Florin JAACL - Sacramento Valley Chapter coordinates the Nikkei Dogs Scholarship/BINGO fundraising event. This year's COVID-19 protocols prevents large social gatherings. Hence, the event will not be held.

Although we cannot be together, I hope we may continue fundraising for the 2021 scholarships. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is with great sincerity that I ask for your Nikkei Dogs Scholarship Sponsorship.

Gold	\$100
Silver	\$50
Bronze	\$25

To become a Sponsor, please mail your donation to:

Cindy Kakutani
PO Box 292634
Sacramento, CA 95829-2634

Thank you so much for your support, stay well and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Northern California Time of Remembrance Update

Due to COVID-19, the 2021 Time of Remembrance program will be conducted via Zoom on Saturday, February 13, 2021 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. PST. The focus of the program is a discussion of the common threads relating to racism that connects the Japanese American experience to other communities of color.

Follow Us on Facebook

The Florin JAACL-SV is dedicated to providing the most current chapter news, list of upcoming events, and resources to help you stay informed on local and national news. Follow us on Facebook **@florinjacl** and our Next Generation youth group **@nextgenerationjacl**.



Supports Grows for the Asians for Black Lives Resolution – Sign On!

By Andy Noguchi, Florin JACL Co-President

An impressive list of dozens of fairness-minded, civil rights, and social justice supporters have endorsed the Asians for Black Lives – Black Racial Justice Resolution this past month led by the Florin JACL. As of November 25th, 15 organizations and 55 community leaders have signed on. **Please email FlorinJACL5@outlook.com or telephone (916) 393-5007 to support.**



Supporting this resolution is one way of raising awareness about this issue of the unjust victimization of innocent Black people, supporting, building community, and showing solidarity. Here's the initial list of 15 diverse groups below.

Organizations:

1. Asian American Studies Department (University of California, Davis) – Dr. Richard S. Kim, Acting Director
2. Asian American Studies Program (California State University, Sacramento)
3. Asian/Pacific Bar Association of Sacramento Legal Foundation – Yoshinori Himel, President
4. APIs Rise Fund – Mona Tawatao and Christine Tien, Co-Chairs
5. Bakuhatu Taiko Dan (Davis) - Lisa Shigenaga and Kristen Tang, Co-Presidents
6. Chinese American Council of Sacramento – Alex Eng, President
7. Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) – SV/CC – Basim El Karra, Exec. Director
8. Davis Cherry Blossom Festival- Candace Nguyen (Chairperson), Ashley Shen, and Gregory Wada (Board Members)
9. Florin JACL-Sacramento Valley – Josh Kaizuka (Civil Rights Attorney), Andy Noguchi (Retired labor investigator), Co-Presidents
10. Iu Mien Community Services – Kao Nyuan Saepanh, President; Kao C. Thun, Director
11. Jewish Voice for Peace (Sacramento Chapter) – David Mandel, President
12. Nikkei Student Union (UC Davis) - Kelli Toyooka, President
13. Physicians for Social Responsibility (Sacramento) – Harry Wang, M.D., President
14. Sacramento Area League of Associated Muslims (SALAM) – Rashid Bin Quadir, Chair
15. Sacramento Asian Pacific Film Festival – Jason Jong

Additionally, 55 community leaders, activists, Florin JACL members, friends, and allies have endorsed. The list includes former WWII incarcerated like Christine and Stan Umeda, Dr. Satuski Ina, Utako Kimura, Sachi Louie, Heidi Sakazaki, Ernie Takahashi, and Marielle Tsukamoto - all who understand the need to stand up for those unfairly targeted. Also, 6 past and present Florin JACL Presidents: Marielle Tsukamoto, Dr. Karen Kurasaki, Sue Hida, Titus Toyama, Josh Kaizuka, and myself. Please see the Florin JACL website for the full listing: www.florinjacl.com. **(CONTINUES ON PAGE 10)**

Supports Grows for the Asians for Black Lives

Resolution – Sign On!

(FROM PAGE 9) Many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs/Asians/Asian Americans) support justice for the Black community and others who have been victimized by unjust treatment by law enforcement. We the undersigned, including the Florin JACL-Sacramento Valley which initiated this effort, ask all concerned people and organizations to sign the Asians for Black Lives Resolution – Supporting Black Racial Justice. This is one way of raising awareness, support, unity, and solidarity.

The 8 Point Resolution Supporting Black Racial Justice recognizes:

1. The Historical and Systemic Racism and Implicit Bias Against the Black Community: This occurs in law enforcement, just as in other spheres of American life. The widely disproportionate police shootings, arrests, searches, and traffic stops of Black peoples prove this.
2. The Fallacy of pitting “All Lives Matter” and “Blue Lives Matter” against “Black Lives Matter.” “Black Lives Matter” sprung from the unjust discrimination in law enforcement and the institutional racism created by 300 years of slavery and 100 years of racist Jim Crow laws. “All Lives” and “Blue Lives” do matter, but they shouldn’t be used to ignore this reality. When Black Lives matter equally, all lives will matter.
3. The Need for Major Reform in Law Enforcement: Accountability, transparency, independent community oversight, de-escalation of force, just police policies /practices, training/guidance, fair hiring and promotion, investment in the Black community, and other steps are vital now.
4. The Black Community Leadership: Especially from the 1950s on, African Americans pioneered civil rights advances which have also greatly benefited Asian Americans and all Americans. They’ve stood in solidarity with other peoples throughout the decades.
5. The Historic and Systemic Racism Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders: The government, including law enforcement, has also discriminated against Asians, other people of color, disabled people, LGBTQ communities, women, the poor, and the disenfranchised over the years.
6. The Exploitation of Asians as a “Model Minority” Wedge against Others. Some people have used the myth of Asians as a “model minority” to keep Black peoples and other people of color down, stifle Asian advancement, and divide communities against each other.
7. The Opposition to any Unjust Involvement of Asian Americans. Asians also need to take a clear stand against any unjust involvement of other AAPIs, including that of the Minneapolis Asian officer in the death of George Floyd.
8. The Importance of Speaking Up and Building Unity for Successful Black Racial Justice Reform. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, as well as all Americans, should actively speak up and build unity to advance our entire country. Only with millions of Americans standing up and working together can we make crucial reforms in law enforcement. Successful social justice efforts of the past like the Civil Rights Movement show this and point the way.



*Wishing Everyone a
Healthy and Happy
Holidays!!!*

- The Florin JACL – SV Board

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Return Service Requested

