



Florin J.A.C.L. Newsletter

Florin Japanese American Citizens League

- *Sacramento Valley*

Andy Noguchi and Josh Kaizuka, Co-Presidents

P.O. Box 292634, Sacramento, CA 95829

Website: www.florinjacl.com

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

2021 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Co-Presidents: Josh Kaizuka, Andy Noguchi

1st Vice President: Howard Shimada

2nd VP President for Marketing: Brandon Miyasaki

Treasurer: Titus Toyama

Recording Secretary: Judy Fukuman

Corresponding Secretary: Cindy Kakutani

Historian: Twila Tomita

Chapter Delegate: Howard Shimada, Rick Uno

Past President: Marielle Tsukamoto

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Civil & Human Rights: Fumie Shimada, Josh Kaizuka

Andy Noguchi, Paul Masuhara, Kaitlin Toyama

Florin Manzanar Pilgrimage: Andy Noguchi,

Twila Tomita

Graphic Design: Jennifer Nishizaki

Hospitality: Marielle Tsukamoto

Ice Cream Social: Howard Shimada

JAAC: Eileen Namba Otsuji

Legal Counsels: Paul Masuhara, Kaitlin Toyama

Member Services: Jesse Okutsu

Member Outreach: Kaitlin Toyama

Mochi Madness: Judy Fukuman

Newsletter Editor: Scott Matsumoto

Next Generation / Youth:

Michelle Huey, Brandon Miyasaki

Karen Kurasaki (advisor), Andy Noguchi (advisor)

Nikkei Dogs Scholarship / Youth Event:

Cindy Kakutani and Ernie Takahashi

Obon Workshop: Jennifer Kubo, Jenny Takahashi

Scholarship: Ruth Seo

Social Media: Brandon Miyasaki, Scott Matsumoto

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, Deanna Tsukamoto

2021 Spring Newsletter

Table of Contents

Pages 2-3: Co-President's Message

Page 3: Events at the CA Museum

Page 4: Resources to Address Anti-Asian Bias and Racism

Page 5-7: What Does it Mean Today?
Holocaust Remembrance Day

Page 8: Go For Broke Stamp, Kristi Lin's Art Exhibit

Page 9: Marielle Awarded CSUS President's Medal

Pages 9-10: Remembering Georgette Imura

Pages 10-11: Remembering Al Hida

Pages 12-14: Florin JACL-SV Members in Sacramento Addressing Anti-Asian Hate

Page 14: Membership Update

Page 15: Ice Cream Social

Co-President's Message

By Josh Kaizuka

Racism and hate towards people of Asian descent is not new and has been going on for over 150 years. For example, in 1871, 17 men and boys were killed in the Chinese Massacre in Los Angeles. In 1875, the Page Act banned Chinese women from coming to this country and was followed by the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882. The Immigration Act of 1924 expanded bans to include Japanese, Middle Easterners, Hindus and East Indians.

We know how race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership resulted in the imprisonment of approximately 120,000 men, women, and children who were of Japanese ancestry even though most of them were Americans.



In 1982, Vincent Chin was murdered by resentful autoworkers who blamed the Japanese auto industry for succeeding in the US market. Vincent was brutally beaten and killed because they thought he was Japanese.

In February of 2020, President Trump spoke glowingly about China, going so far as complimenting how hard China and its government has worked on the virus and how China had it under control. A few months later when Covid-19 did not magically disappear with the heat in April, race prejudice, virus hysteria, and a failure of political leadership, led to the blame game. The Covid spread, and so did hate incidents towards Asians in the United States.

Over 3,800 incidents of racist hate incidents have been reported and have continued even when a new Administration took over in January. It seems like there are even more now. Perhaps, it is because they are now being reported and covered through social media and news outlets.

Even in the Sacramento area, we started hearing of problems at local Asian owned businesses, such as hate graffiti, broken windows, and a dead mutilated cat being left at an Asian owned butcher shop. We also heard about verbal taunts. As the Sacramento community was finally speaking out about the hate incidents against the Asian community, Georgia happened.

Like a virus, anti-Asian hate seems to be spreading and it seems like every day there is new report of someone, especially our elders and women, being beaten or harassed somewhere in America just because of what they look like. As I write this, I am reading that a 65-year-old Asian woman was beaten and stomped on her head as the perpetrator yelled anti-Asian slurs as several people watch and did nothing. Then, another report came in that an Asian man was severely beaten on a subway. Unfortunately, stories like this are not unique.

The top three locations where Asian hate incidents occur are at businesses, public streets/sidewalks, and public parks.

Ninety percent of incidents involve verbal harassment or shunning. Less than ten percent involve physical assaults, but that is ten percent too many.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

Co-President's Message

(FROM PAGE 2) While speaking out may not be something you are used to, maybe because you do not want to make a big fuss or maybe you have done so in the past but to no avail, we cannot stay silent.

Today, we all need to unite our voices. Today, our voices are being heard and people see that we are standing up for ourselves. Others are joining us to speak out and to do something about it because an attack on one group is an attack on all.

Asian Americans must be able to stop proving how American they are and to stop being a perpetual foreigner.

If you see something, do something. Do not be complicit by watching and doing nothing. If you feel unsafe intervening, call for help. Even if you think it is not a criminal matter and just verbal hate, report it to an organization like StopAAPIHate.org so they can keep track of incidents.

In this newsletter, there are listings of resources for reporting and training in the event you see something or are a victim.

We will continue to work with the community to end hate against the Asian community and let you know of any upcoming events that you can participate in as well as educational sessions.

Please remain vigilant, be aware of your surroundings when you are out, and help protect our elders.

In Solidarity.

California Museum's Live Virtual Events

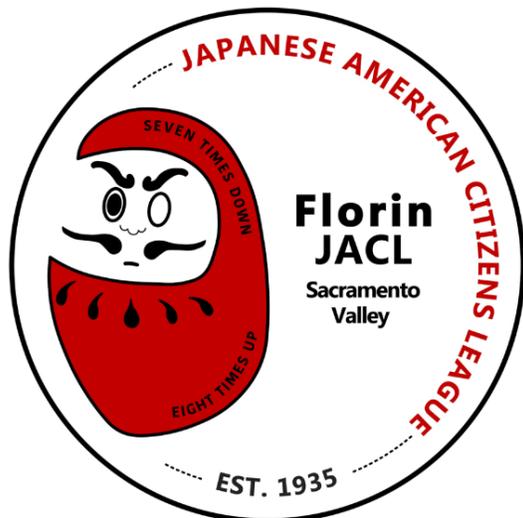


It has been a while since the California Museum has been open due to COVID-19. Just because the museum isn't open to the public, it doesn't mean you can't visit!

On Thursday, May 20, 2021 from 5:30pm to 6:30pm, "California Conversations: Sacramento's Japantown" which includes a panel discussion. Go to <https://www.californiamuseum.org/ca-conversations>.

Other continuing exhibits are available online so take a look at <https://www.californiamuseum.org/online-exhibits>.

Resources to Address Anti-Asian Bias/Racism



**ANTI-ASIAN
RACISM**

**#SACSTANDSTOGETHER
BIT.LY/SACSTANDSTOGETHER**

Bystander Intervention Training to Stop Anti-Asian/American and Xenophobic Harassment: <https://www.ihollaback.org/bystanderintervention/>

Bystander Intervention 2.0: Conflict De-Escalation:

<https://www.ihollaback.org/bystanderintervention/>

(Scroll down the page)

How to Respond to Harassment for People Experiencing Anti-Asian/American Harassment:

<https://www.ihollaback.org/bystanderintervention/>

(Scroll down the page)

Coronavirus/COVID-19 Resources to Stand Against Racism:

<https://advancingjustice-aajc.org/covid19>

Report Incidents Even if You Reported to Police or Think It Is Not Serious:

<https://stopaapihate.org/> or <https://www.standagainsthatred.org/>

Safety Tips in English and other languages: <https://stopaapihate.org/safety-tips/>

YouTube Playlist of Webinars and Conferences at Florin JACL-SV:

<https://bit.ly/3dp05ZQ>

To Call or Leave a Message for Florin JACL-SV:

Phone: (916) 678-1755

Email: FlorinJACLSV@gmail.com

What Does It Mean for Today? Holocaust Remembrance Day

By Andy Noguchi

On February 19th, Japanese Americans reflect on the forced imprisonment of 120,000 members in America's WWII concentration camps. On April 8th, people across the world reflected on the genocide of six million European Jews in the Holocaust (Yom HaShoah in Hebrew) killed in executions, death, and forced labor camps by Nazi Germany and their collaborators.



What does this horrible human rights tragedy mean for us today? To better understand, we interviewed David Mandel, leader of the Sacramento Chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), a progressive social justice group and ally of the Florin JACL-SV.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, describes the Holocaust as the “systematic, state-sponsored, persecution and murder of six million Jewish men, women and children by the Nazi regime and its collaborators.” Eleven million others, including Soviet POWs, Poles, East Europeans, trade unionists, the disabled, LGBTQ individuals, Roma (“gypsies”), Jehovah’s Witnesses, and others were also exterminated. German Nazis under Adolf Hitler perpetrated this racial cleansing from 1933 to 1945.

1. Many Japanese American families have been touched by their WWII American concentration camp experience. With the loss of 6 million Jews during the Holocaust the impact must be widespread.

Mandel: My ancestors all immigrated from Eastern Europe between 1880 and 1905, and they lost touch with relatives left behind. So, while I’m sure there were cousins, etc., killed in the Holocaust, we don’t know specifics. Stories I’ve heard are through friends who are children of survivors.

2. Trauma and loss often plague a community far into the future, though sometimes not talked about by our parents. What has been your experience?

Mandel: The effect on me personally has been more political and ideological – a dedication that such things must not be allowed to happen to anyone, as opposed to a narrower Jewish nationalism / defensiveness that drives some more conservative elements of the community. As I grew up in the 1950s and 1960s, [my parents] clearly found it hard to talk about the subject. They lived through the war era so perhaps experienced the collective traumatization more than I did. Nor do I recall my grandfathers (who immigrated as teenagers) talking much about what it was like in Europe, let alone their vicarious experience of the Holocaust. I wish I had asked more when I could. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

What Does It Mean for Today?

Holocaust Remembrance Day

(FROM PAGE 5) 3. In the U.S. 75 years after the Holocaust, anti-Semitism, hate crimes, and attacks on Jewish synagogues continue, even reaching record highs the last 4-5 years according to the F.B.I. In Sacramento in 1993 and 1999, many people, including the Florin JACL, rallied against the firebombings of Jewish temples, Chinese American Councilman Jimmie Yee's home, Sacramento JACL and NAACP offices, women's clinic, and the murder of an LGBTQ couple. How can we try to meet this challenge?

Mandel: The answer is safety through solidarity. And we must not shy away from the fact that the recent rise in attacks on Jews as well as others – currently, anti-Asian racism is most “popular.” Fed by politicians and other ideologists on the white supremacist right, abetted by larger forces whose real aim is to thwart the progressive agenda of human rights, wealth redistribution and world peace by keeping us divided. Antisemitism can be particularly vexing, as it tends to undergird many other forms, inventing a supposed secret Jewish cabal to manipulate other groups in an effort to “displace” white people and their privileges.

Certain antisemitic beliefs and stereotypes persist among other political forces and ethnic groups as well. They must be called out when manifested and vigorously opposed, but I believe they stem mostly from ignorance.

“[The Holocaust} was likely the biggest quantitative example of humanity's capability for mass murder flowing from racist-fed nationalism.”

4. Today, we face countless international and domestic human rights challenges. What's the meaning of the Holocaust for today?

Mandel: To make sure it is not portrayed as sui generis [unique] though it was likely the biggest quantitative example of humanity's capability for mass murder flowing from racist-fed nationalism. There have been too many, all with unique characteristics, and we must discover how to prevent any more. The fact that it was perpetrated in a country [Germany] known until then as a beacon of European civilization must also be a lesson to dispel any notion that other peoples are somehow less civilized, more murderous, etc.

5. The Jewish Voice for Peace has been a leader in speaking out for human rights including for Palestinians in the Middle East, Muslim American civil rights, social justice, and peace. How has the Holocaust experience inspired you?

Mandel: The lessons lead JVP and other Jewish human rights advocates to defend and speak out on behalf of any group targeted on the basis of race, religion, national origin, gender and more. Especially at a time when racism of many types is being deployed against movements for radical social transformation, we need to re-emphasize that “Never again” means “Never again for anyone,” and that security for everyone can come only through social solidarity.
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

What Does It Mean for Today? Holocaust Remembrance Day

(FROM PAGE 6)

6. Can you tell us more about the JVP? Why was it formed?

Mandel: Founders of the original Bay area group in the late 1990s were driven to oppose the prevailing ethos in the Jewish community that because of the history of Jewish oppression, Israel needed to be defended no matter what damage its occupation was causing to Palestinians and to Israeli society itself. U.S. military aid was enabling the damage. It was a time when political solution based on two states seemed within reach, and while not explicitly endorsing that model, JVP's pronouncements at the time were mostly in line with the view.



JVP members rallying for Palestinian rights in the Middle East. David Mandel pictured left of JVP banner.

“We need to re-emphasize that ‘Never again’ means ‘Never again for anyone.’ and that security for everyone can come only through social solidarity.”

7. Do you have any other comments to share with us?

Mandel: JVP has evolved since its formation into an organization that is much larger, nationwide and connected with similar groups in other countries. Its activities have expanded – with more interest in helping to create a renewed, more radical Jewish culture that is not tied to identification with Israel. It has moved beyond being an address for dissent on Israel/Palestine in the Jewish community to enthusiastic identification with the panoply of identity-based, intersectionality-oriented movements championing the interests of oppressed groups based on racial, ethnic and gender identities. Finally, it has oriented more toward solidarity with the Palestinian movement for freedom, endorsing the call for boycott, divestment and sanctions, demanding an end to occupation, equality for all in Israel, and the right of return for refugees.

For more information on Jewish Voice for Peace, please see:

Sacramento JVP on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JVPSacramento/>

National JVP website: <https://jewishvoiceforpeace.org>

Go For Broke Stamp to be Issued June 3, 2021

By Josh Kaizuka

In 2005, a grassroots campaign by three former WW II Japanese American incarcerated, Fusa Takahashi, Aiko O. King, and the late Chiz Ohira has come to fruition with the issuance of the Go For Broke Stamp in June.

The first of many nationwide dedications will kick off in Los Angeles on June 4th where the campaign started 16 years ago.

According to Wayne Osako, Co-Chair of the *Stamp Our Story Campaign*, "The USPS named the stamp after the "Go For Broke" motto of the U.S. Army's 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT), but which now commonly refers to all of the American men and women of Japanese heritage who served in the war. Most served in the 100th/442nd RCT, Military Intelligence Service (MIS), 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion, Women's Army Corps (WAC), Cadet Nurse Corps, and Army Nurse Corps."

For more information about the stamp and the story behind the campaign, go to <http://niseistamp.org/>

We are looking into a local dedication event so stay tuned!



Kristi Lin's Civil Liberties Art Exhibit



(www.kristimlin.com)

By Josh Kaizuka

Kind of nice to catch up with some of our past Manzanar Ambassadors who graduated and doing some great things.

While attending UC Davis, Kristi helped us with various projects including the Florin Manzanar pilgrimages from 2015 until she graduated in 2017 with a degree in Landscape Architecture. After graduating, Kristi moved to San Diego, and it was great to hear from her earlier this year.

On February 20, 2021, Kristi had a virtual walkthrough and discussion of her exhibit, Borrowed Scenery which is at the Japanese Friendship Garden in San Diego. The project was made possible through the Civil Liberties Fellowship program which is funded by the California State Library. The virtual tour of the exhibit was amazing and showcased her study and talent in art, landscape design, and cultural heritage.

The exhibit incorporated both her Japanese and Chinese ancestry while including elements of the WWII Japanese American incarceration. Congrats to Kristi Lin and keep up the great work!

To learn more about the exhibit, go to <https://www.kristimlin.com/>

Our Own Marielle Awarded President's Medal!

By Josh Kaizuka

On April 2, 2021, Marielle Tsukamoto was awarded the Sacramento State University President's Medal for Distinguished Service. The event was hosted at the Julia Morgan House where some friends and family were able to congratulate her.

President Nelsen acknowledge Marielle's many years in education as well as continuing her mother's many years working to educating people about not only her own incarceration, but of the 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry who were also removed and imprisoned during World War II. More recently, Marielle has been speaking at protest rallies.



Marielle Tsukamoto exemplifies the spirit and mission of Florin JACL-SV and is very deserving of this award. She is an exceptional individual and friend to many. Marielle is a natural storyteller, and she is a generous caring individual who lives to help others. A true trailblazer in her own right. Congratulations Marielle!

Remembering Georgette Imura

By Christine Umeda



Georgette Imura did just what she said, "I ain't goin' down without a fight!" So after three courageous years battling lung cancer, Georgette passed away on December 17, 2020. Georgette was a Sansei born "behind barbed wires" at the Manzanar Concentration Camp in October 1943.

Much has already been written about her illustrious career working in the State Capitol with her best collaborator Maeley Tom. Together, they were trailblazers for affirmative action and mentored and paved the way for Asian Pacific Islanders (APIs) to have a voice

at the table of policymaking and with policymakers. If Georgette endorsed a candidate, there was no doubt that was the one that deserved our vote.

She used her passion and political sense to advocate for redress and helped to pass legislation that saved the last remaining Japantowns in California. As a member of the Sacramento and Florin JACLs, she supported many activities, traveled on the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, and was recognized and awarded the Carol Hisatomi API's Leadership Award in January 2009.
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

Remembering Georgette Imura

(FROM PAGE 9) I remember meeting Georgette at the first organizing meeting of the Jan Ken Po Gakko in February 1996. Parental involvement in the creation of this summer program was vital so that children could learn about their Japanese heritage. She articulated in voice and words the feelings, hopes, and aspirations of the many parents.

“It’s a great idea but it’s never gonna work,” said Georgette Imura. As I looked around the room, I saw a few familiar faces – faces I hadn’t seen since high school, faces I hadn’t expected to see there. In the years between then and now, we had grown up, married, and had children. We had never been close friends, these familiar faces and I, but we now shared something very much in common. We were all a generation or two removed from Japan, and although we still practiced many Japanese customs, ate Japanese food, and celebrated Japanese holidays, we did so without really understanding why. Our cultural heritage was rich and the language of our grandparents was as lovely as a song, but how much of this beauty and richness could we pass on to our children?

This was the first gathering of Jan Ken Po Gakko. A small group of Sansei parents who were concerned just like us had given birth to an idea for a parent-run summer school to help our children learn about their culture, and we had all received notice by mail or via the “grapevine” that a meeting was being held for interested parents. So here we all were, talking about this great idea. Some important decisions were made that evening – the number of children that could be accommodated, the dates, days and hours of the operation, and the amount of tuition. Forty-seven children were signed up that night, and Jan Ken Po Gakko suddenly was becoming more than a “thought.”

She and Roy were committed and participating parents for their sons, Todd and Aaron. In addition, she served as a President and member of the Gakko Board of Directors. Jan Ken Po Gakko is the first Japanese cultural school in California will mark its 46th year in 2021.

In gratitude to Georgette, she left an incredible legacy, not only for her family, but for the entire state-wide API community. Kodomo no tame ne.

Remembering Al Hida

By Marielle Tsukamoto

I am grateful that Al and his wife, Vivian returned to Sacramento in 2005. Al was born in Sacramento and was incarcerated at age 13 in a concentration camp with his family in 1942.

The family relocated in Milwaukee, WI as many who lost homes, businesses and found other areas of the United States offered better opportunities. Al graduated with a degree in science from the University of Wisconsin. He was an athlete who lettered gymnastics. He was drafted into the U.S. Marine Corps where he earned the United Nations, National Defense, and Korean War service metals. **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 11)**



Remembering Al Hida

(FROM PAGE 10) He returned to Milwaukee, joined the church choir and met the love of his life, Vivian. They were married in 1958. Al worked as a teacher in the Milwaukee Public Schools for 30 years. He devoted himself to topics that were important for the future of the planet. He taught biology and pioneered some of the early ecology classes. He led the Environmental Magnet School Program. He continued to use his skills as a gymnast, serving as a judge at competitions between high school boy's teams in the greater Milwaukee area.

Outside of school, Al was active with the JACL Chapter and supported the activities of his children, Gary and Sue. Al also began speaking to high school classes about the incarceration of Americans of Japanese ancestry, stressing the importance of learning about past mistakes and taking measures not to allow history to repeat these errors. When Al and Vivian moved to Sacramento he continued that message.



Al volunteered at the California Museum of History's Time of Remembrance Programs. Al did more than speak to students. He continued to encourage the "sanseis" to step up and continue to speak to students. Al would come even after he was diagnosed with Parkinson's and found it challenging to come to the Museum. He always encouraged us to continue speaking and even helped recruit some that were a bit shy about participating. Al continued to come to support the program, speaking eloquently to students, even as his Parkinson's condition became more advanced. His presence served both as an inspiration and a reminder of what the "next generation" is obligated to do - to honor the sacrifice and hardship the Nisei generation endured; so our lives could be better.

Al, thank you for your message, your example, and your legacy. You advocated a message we now need to remember. As a Sansei, now in my 80s. I am aware that I need to do what you did for us. Now I must reach out, recruit, encourage the "yonsei" (4th) generation to step up and continue the message.



Florin JACL-SV Members in Sacramento Addressing Anti-Asian Hate

March 19, 2021 in Davis – Vigil for Atlanta Shooting Victims
(PC Josh Kaizuka)



Davis Mayor Gloria Partida and
Mariko Yamada



Christine Umeda, Twila Tomita,
Andy Noguchi, Sam Shimada,
Fumie Shimada

March 20, 2021 at Cesar Chavez Memorial Park, Sacramento – Stop Asian Hate Awareness Rally
(PC Judy Fukuman)



Judy Fukuman, Hach Yasumura, Kaitlin
Yasumura

March 26, 2021 – Interfaith Prayer Vigil at Parkview Presbyterian Church
(PC Josh Kaizuka)



Rev. Janice Kamikawa

March 27, 2021 – Drive out the Hate Rally, South Sacramento
(PC Josh Kaizuka)



Kaitlin Toyama, Titus Toyama, Josh Kaizuka, Chiaya Rawlins



Elk Grove Councilmember Stephanie Nguyen with ARI and members of organizing groups

March 27, 2021 – Stop Asian Hate Rally – Southside Park
(PC Jason Jong, Josh Kaizuka)



Organizer Crystal Hyunh-Kim



Josh Kaizuka

May 10, 2021 – Drive Out the Hate Rally, Elk Grove
(PC Josh Kaizuka, Honey Lum)



Hach Yasumura, Judy Fukuman,
Josh Kaizuka, John Yoshikawa



Representatives of the organizing
groups

Membership Update

Thank you for being a member of our community! As you may know, active membership is an essential element in a strong JACL chapter. Thanks to your renewing membership, we can continue to defend civil liberties both locally and nationwide. We hope to see you at our events!

Welcome to our Newest Members!

Devon Akiyama

Jordan Burkart

Paula Fujiwara

Amy & Kimberly Kautzman

Ryan Seo

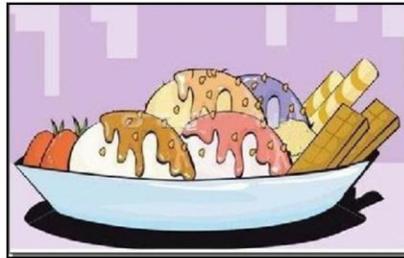
Follow Us on Facebook

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 national news. Follow us on Facebook **@florinjacl**.



Join Us for a Fun Florin JACL *Virtual Ice Cream Scholarship Social (via **Zoom online)

Sunday, May 16, 2021
1:00pm



Meet Our Four Amazing Scholarship Recipients:

Devon Akiyama
(West Campus High)

Ryan Seo
(Inderkum High)

Cara Ishisaka
(McClatchy High)

Anna Kubokawa Vogtmann
(Vista Del Lago High)

*The Corona Virus forced us to go virtual so we'll owe you extra gobs of ice cream treats next year.

** Zoom is a free video conference where you can see dozens of people on your tablet, computer, or smart phone. (RSVP to FlorinJACLSV@gmail.com to get a link).



Florin Japanese American Citizens League
P. O. Box 292634
Sacramento, CA 95829-2634

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
Sacramento, CA
Permit No. 161