



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)

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Cindy Kakutani and Ernie Takahashi

Obon Workshop: Jennifer Kubo, Jenny Takahashi

Scholarship: Ruth Seo

Social Media: 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,

Deanna Tsukamoto

2021 Fall Newsletter

In this newsletter:

- Co-President's Message
- Go for Broke Stamp Unveiling
- Info on the Anniversary and Installation Gala
- 2022 Ballot for the Florin JACL Board
- Mask Order Form
- Book Review
- Recent Chapter Activities
- And Much More...

Co-President's Message

By Josh Kaizuka

What a year it has been, right? With the pandemic and the ongoing political discourse, it seems like the last two years have blended together and it seems like a really long time since we could all get together for fun event. 2019, when we held our 84th Anniversary Awards and Installation Luncheon, seems so long ago. Helping put on the Northern California Time of Remembrance in February of 2020, just before the shutdown happened, seems so long ago.

Although it seemed challenging to put on events, support causes, and just do what we do, surprisingly, we ended up doing a lot this year and we have more to do before the year is up. By my count, we have organized, participated in, or worked on nearly 35 projects. The year included a New Year's Ozoni pick-up, anti-Asian Hate rallies and vigils, participation on various panels and news stories, work with various coalition partners to stop the spread of COVID-19, support for legislation to protect elders and ethnic studies in colleges, help in drafting and eventual passage of resolutions at the national JACL convention addressing Anti-Asian Hate and in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, and work with a collation of partners to develop to escort seniors who are afraid to be out in public alone. We anticipate ending with a very different but exciting Virtual Annual Awards and Installation Gala on December 11, 2021.

Without each and every one of YOU, we would not have been able to do as much as we did with our social justice work and student scholarships awards. I especially want to give a shout out to our many volunteers who have helped out for many years and especially this year!

Have a great holiday season and hope to see you all soon!

A Memorable Go For Broke Stamp Live Streaming Unveiling Ceremony

By Josh Kaizuka

To say that the stars aligned to pull off the event on June 6, 2021 is an understatement. Florin JACL-SV member Eileen Otsuji started things by talking to Amanda Meeker at the California Museum and Julie Thomas at Sacramento State JAAC before she even told us about the stamp coming out on June 5, 2021. Once we got going on things in April, it was amazing that we were able to have this event with less than two months of planning!

Congresswoman Doris Matsui delivered meaningful and powerful opening remarks. Other speakers included Judge Chuck Kobayashi, Lester Ouchida, and Kiyo Sato with the VFW Nisei Post 8985. Special presentations from Sacramento City Councilmember Katie Valenzuela, Senator Pan's legislative assistant Marlon Lara, and Fusa Takahashi - co-founder of the Stamp Our Story Committee - added to the event. **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)**



Florin JACL – Sacramento Valley
86th Anniversary Virtual Award and Fundraising Gala

“Strength Through Unity”

SAVE the DATE
Saturday
December 11, 2021
at 6pm!

**Our Annual Installation and Awards
Event goes Virtual!**

We couldn't have our event in 2020, but we are going to make it happen this year!

Save the Date Now and more info will be coming soon!
Sponsorship info coming soon

Registration link at <https://bit.ly/FlorinJACLSV86th>
or Scan the QR Code Below



Outstanding Community Leaders will be Recognized!
Community Leadership Award
Northern California Time of Remembrance Committee
Florin JACL-SV Leadership Award
Fumie and Sam Shimada
Next Generation Leadership Award
Jesse Okutsu
Kansha Award
Myrna Hitomi



Proceeds from our virtual event will support our important social justice work and awarding student scholarships!



Devon Akiyama

CWO4 Mitsugi Murakami Kasai
(ret) Memorial Scholarship

Congratulations to our
**2021 JACL National
Scholarship Awardees!**



Connor Gill
Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara
Memorial Scholarship



A Memorable Go For Broke Stamp Unveiling Ceremony



(FROM PAGE 2) We even had a video presentation from our friend Mitch Maki, CEO for Go For Broke National Education Center, and a video from the Stamp Our Story Committee which told the story of the stamp campaign and why it was so important to honor the Japanese Americans who served during WWII.

To cap things off, we had the new Sacramento Postmaster, Douglas Smith unveil the stamp. Fusako Takahashi, one of the three women who co-founded the successful campaign also attended the event. It was so wonderful to have Fusako and her family be a part of such a memorable and important event, especially after first unveiling the day before in Los Angeles!

The event would not have been complete without Tom Nakashima as Master of Ceremonies and a powerful opening and closing performance by Sacramento Taiko Dan!

A special thanks goes to the ad hoc committee members from Florin and Sacramento JACLs, California Museum, Pacific Auction Company, and Sacramento State Japanese American Archival Collection. A super special thanks goes out to the California Museum for giving us the venue and putting up with us and our non-stop changes, Customer Relations Coordinator Gina Segura with the United States Post Office working with us to make sure there was something to unveil, and of course Pacific Auction Company.



Florin Member Chiaya Rawlins not only donated the virtual platform so the event could be livestreamed, but convinced her company, Pacific Auction to donate equipment and staff for the event.

We had close to 200 people watching the live virtual event and if you missed it, you can go to <https://youtu.be/kZ40SzefD2A> to watch it!





2022 Ballot for Florin JACL Board – Vote Today Please vote by checking the box at each nominee or write in a candidate. Mail in by **November 21st** to: Florin JACL, 2530 J Street, Suite 320, Sacramento, CA 95816 **or** fax to 916-706-0542 **or** email to FlorinJACLSV@gmail.com. Thank you. [If there is a **2nd** or more Florin JACL member in your household, they may vote multiple times by also checking on this same ballot.]

Chose Entire Slate by checking here

Officers:

1. **Co-Presidents (2):** Josh Kaizuka
Andy Noguchi
2. **1st Vice President:** Howard Shimada
4. **2nd Vice President:** Brandon Miyasaki
5. **Treasurer:** Titus Toyama
6. **Recording Secretary:** Judy Fukuman
7. **Corresponding Secretary:** Cindy Kakutani
8. **Historian:** Twila Tomita
9. **Chapter Delegate:**
Howard Shimada
Co-Delegate: Rick Uno
10. **Past President:** Marielle Tsukamoto

Committee Chairs:

1. **Civil & Human Rights (5):**
Fumie Shimada, Co-Chair
Josh Kaizuka, Co-Chair
Andy Noguchi, Co-Chair
Paul Masuhara, Co-Chair
Anthony Marquez, Co-Chair
2. **Florin Manzanar Pilgrimage:**
Andy Noguchi, Chair
Twila Tomita, Co-Chair
3. **Hospitality:**
Marielle Tsukamoto
4. **Ice Cream Social:**
Howard Shimada
5. **Legal Counsel: (2)**
Paul Masuhara
Anthony Marquez

6. **Japanese American History**
Eileen Namba Otsuji, Chair
7. **Membership (2):**
Katherine Morris, Co-Chair
Donna Komure-Toyama, Co-Chair
8. **Mochi Madness:** Judy Fukuman, Chair
9. **Next Generation/ Youth (3):**
Brandon Miyasaki, Representative
Karen Kurasaki, Co-Adviser
Andy Noguchi, Co-Adviser
10. **Newsletter Editor:** Scott Matsumoto
11. **Nikkei Dogs Scholarship / Youth Event(2):**
Cindy Kakutani, Chair
Ernie Takahashi, Assistant Chair
12. **Obon Dance Workshop (2):**
Jennifer Kubo, Co-Chair
Jenny Takahashi, Co-Chair
13. **Scholarship:** Ruth Seo, Chair
14. **Social Media / Facebook (2):**
Brandon Miyasaki, Co-Chair
Josh Kaizuka, Co-Chair
15. **Time of Remembrance (TOR)**
Christine Umeda, Chair
16. **TOR Education and Redress Project (3):**
Marielle Tsukamoto, Chair
Donna Komure-Toyama, Co-Chair
Deanna Tsukamoto, Co-Chair
17. **Webmaster:** Kevin Nobuo Nakano, Chair
18. **Women's Forum (2):**
Jennifer Kubo, Co-Chair
Deanna Tsukamoto, Co-Chair

Local Response to Anti-Asian Hate

By Josh Kaizuka

Anti-Asian hate incidents are still being reported at alarming rates. According to Stop AAPI Hate National Report released on August 12, 2021, the number of reported hate incidents this year through June was 4,533. Since March of 2020, the total number of incidents reported to Stop AAPI Hate was 9,081 and there are probably many more incidents that have not been reported.



While verbal harassment still accounts for the majority of incidents (58%), physical assaults have gone up (from 10.8% to 16.6%) as has online incidents (6.1% to 10.6%). (see <https://stopaapihate.org/stop-aapi-hate-national-report-2/>)

In the Sacramento area, there have been a number of rallies with the most recent being the #UnityAgainstHate rally at the Capitol on May 15, 2021. The Sacramento rally was spearheaded by Asian Pacific Islander Public Affairs (APAPA) and one of more than 23 rallies held around the US and in a few other countries. Our Florin JACL-SV members were out in force and spoke out at the event!

We have also been working with other local organizations including a steering committee to help identify what resources are available and what is still needed in the City of Sacramento as part of a three-session community convenings spearheaded by City Councilmember Mai Vang's office. We want to thank all of you who were able to attend the sessions and especially the input from everyone. Not only will the ideas be important as the City works on its Racial Equity Initiative, but the hope is to apply what was learned to be a platform to incorporate racial equity and a response to hate for all.



Another project we have been working with many local organizations including ACC Senior Services, Sacramento Buddhist Church, UC Davis Japanese American Student Society, Sacramento JACL and OCA Sacramento, is what is now the Sacramento Senior Safety Collaborative (SacSSC). The project is the community response to the rise in anti-Asian hate crimes and offers an escort service to seniors who feel unsafe or uncomfortable in public without accompaniment. The Collaborative is looking for volunteers so go to <https://sacssc.org/> or email info@sacssc.org!

We will keep you informed on any updates, actions and really appreciate our member's participation attending and working to end Anti-Asian Hate and hate incidents in general.

FLORIN JACL – SACRAMENTO VALLEY FACE MASK ORDER FORM



Introducing the new Florin JACL-SV logo! The logo features a Daruma, the traditional Japanese symbol for luck and perseverance. The Daruma doll always returns to an upright position when pushed, "Seven times down, eight times up," signifying the ability to overcome hardships. It has one eye that is filled in,

meaning that a goal has been set; when that goal is achieved, the other eye is filled in.

The mask has adjustable ear straps for comfort and is made of 2-ply stretch, breathable materials. It is a wonderful reminder of the challenges we have faced and overcome this year.

Face mask: Quantity _____ x \$10.00 each = \$ _____

Donation:

\$25.00 \$50.00 \$100 Other _____

Name _____

Phone # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Using PayPal (link at www.florinjacl.com). Please designate that you are purchasing JACL masks. Mail your order form to the address below.

Writing a check payable to Florin JACL-SV. Send check & order form to the address below.

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

New Membership Chair

Hello! I am Katherine Morris the newly appointed Membership Chair for Florin JACL-SV Chapter. Let me introduce myself.

I first became a member in the early 2000s when Karen Tomine invited me to speak as a panelist regarding growing up as multiracial. My grandmother was born and raised in Tokyo and came to the US after WWII. My father is half Japanese and half African American. All three of us are proud members of JACL-Florin chapter!

I have moved around a lot since then -- San Diego, London, New York, Massachusetts, and San Diego. I studied at La Sorbonne in Paris in my junior year abroad and graduated with a BA in Economics from Smith College. Currently, I am a graduate student of clinical psychology at Pepperdine University through their online program.

I love baking, practicing yoga (I am certified), reading, and doing cross-stitch! I am tremendously excited to fill the position of Membership Chair! Remember to renew your membership!



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!

Christine Meighan

Kianna Nakaoka

Chiaya Rawlins

Virginia Uchida

Kishwer Vikaas

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**.



48 Star Memorial Flag Signing Honoring Survivors of the Camps

By Josh Kaizuka

Over the weekend of June 6, 2021, a project initiated by Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Johnny Gogo earlier this year made a stop in Sacramento. When the flag arrived in Sacramento, there were a lot of signatures of survivors of the Japanese American incarceration camps, but by the end of the weekend, there were close to a hundred more leading Gogo to consider acquiring another 48 star flag!

Judge Gogo was inspired to work on the project after meeting Karen Korematsu and also hearing more about what happened during WWII from people like Justice Liu of the California Supreme Court and Dale Minami. The project would not only honor the survivors but also raise awareness about staying vigilant to protect constitutional rights and not repeat mistakes of the past.

At the California Museum, a number of survivors signed the flag including Congresswoman Doris Matsui, Kiyoko Sato a war veteran, Fusa Takahashi, and many others who were part of the Go For Broke Stamp Unveiling Dedication Ceremony.



On the following Sunday, with the assistance of ACC Senior Services, Judge Gogo was able to obtain dozens of signatures in the morning and later at the Nisei VFW Post 8985 parking lot, there was a huge turnout of survivors of the camps to sign the Memorial Flag.



We were honored to have been able to help Judge Gogo with the project along with ACC Senior Services, Sacramento JACL, Nisei VFW Post 8985, and the California Museum.

Starting with signatures from former Rep. Mike Honda and former Secretary Norman Mineta, Judge Gogo has collected over 500 signatures including George Takei and he did obtain a second 48 star flag. Gogo is considering acquiring a third flag and depending on how things go, maybe even a fourth flag.

The plan is to donate the first memorial flag to the Japanese American Museum of San Jose on Fred Korematsu Day, January 30, 2022. Judge Gogo is working with the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles for the second flag. Where will the other flags end up?



Convention Recap - JACL National Council Approves Two Resolutions

By Richard Uno

The 2021 JACL convention, originally scheduled for Las Vegas, was held virtually via Zoom from July 15 through 18. Howard Shimada and I were the Florin delegates. Speaking for myself, due to the event not being live, I probably saved a lot of money.

While there were numerous webinars and informational meetings, the highlight of the convention was the presentation, debate and ultimate passage of the Resolutions, both drafted by the Berkeley Chapter, in collaboration with the Florin and Twin Cities chapters.

Resolution 1 was in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement, which cited numerous facts regarding incidents of racist acts against Blacks since the founding of the US and even before, as well as the killing of unarmed Blacks by police officers in the last few years. The resolution called for the JACL and its chapters to: Build relationships with Black Civil Rights Organizations to address systemic racism, support the "Breathe Act" which provides police practices reforms and collaborate with other community organizations in working toward these goals. There was spirited debate around an amendment proposed by the Contra Costa Chapter that would have gutted the intent of the resolution, and basically would have eliminated references to problems with police actions. Fortunately, the majority of JACL chapters, recognizing that we are a civil rights organization, rejected the amendment. Ultimately, the resolution passed by a large margin.

During the time leading up to, and during the concentration camps, the Japanese American Community stood alone. Only the Quakers and the San Francisco Chapter of the ACLU spoke against the relocation to concentration camps. We need to insure that Blacks and their communities do not stand alone and can count on our support.

Resolution 2 called for preventing and stopping anti-Asian Hate. Resolution 2 cited the numerous laws and acts against people of Asian-Pacific descent, including the concentration camps, alien land laws, exclusionary immigration laws, the 1984 murder of Vincent Chin by racists who blamed him for Japanese auto sales taking away their jobs, and the recent hate crime killings in Atlanta of Asian spa workers.

Resolution 2 calls for JACL and its chapters to: Advocate for ethnic studies curriculum in schools to help educate children about the contributions and history of APIs on America, Call on elected officials, the media and community leaders to denounce racism and white supremacy, Advocate for legislation to prevent anti-Asian hate in social media, and to Collaborate with other Asian and Pacific Islander organizations in our efforts to combat anti-Asian hate speech and acts. Resolution 2 passed by a wide margin.

Much thanks to fellow JACLers/civil rights advocates Beth Uno, Tara Umemoto and Karen Kiyoo Lowhurst of the Berkeley Chapter, Vinicius Taguchi of the Twin Cities Chapter, and our own Andy Noguchi and Josh Kaizuka for their time and effort in drafting the resolution, getting co-sponsors, organizing "floor arguments" and guiding both resolutions to passage.
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 11)

Convention Recap - JACL National Council Approves Two Resolutions

(FROM PAGE 10) While Josh and I were involved in the process, it really was the Yonsei members who led the successful efforts in gaining passage of both resolutions and should be commended!

The Florin Chapter of the Sacramento Valley continued its proud tradition of supporting civil rights for other minorities as well as APIs and once again took a strong stand in support of these resolutions that are an important step in addressing institutional racism in law enforcement and educating people about the API experience and encouraging to respect the members of our communities.

AkaMya Native American Culture Studio Now Open

By Andy Noguchi and Twila Tomita

An awe-inspiring AkaMya Native American Culture Studio swung open its doors on May 29th on the Big Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribal reservation after a four-year effort of self-reliance, vision, commitment, volunteer labor, and donations. 75 well-wishers, including 10 Florin JACL-SV members who carpooled from Sacramento to join in the festivities in Big Pine.



The crowd enjoyed awesome Native American dance performances, including a children's dance group, and stirring song & drumming from the Coyote Confederacy, plus a tasty lunch. AkaMya Director Sage Romero dedicated the Margaret L. Romero Cultural Dance Studio to his late mother who inspired him throughout his life and who passed away a few months ago from COVID.

Florin JACL and AkaMya's Friendship Began 2016

Florin JACL's Josh Kaizuka presented AkaMya with 1,000 origami paper friendship cranes in solidarity. We also gave Sage Romero a Florin JACL Daruma T-shirt making him an "honorary Japanese American!" The adventurous 10 member Florin JACL delegation included Stan & Christine Umeda, Marielle Tsukamoto, Jennifer & Steve Kubo, Fumie & Sam Shimada, Josh, Twila Tomita, and Andy Noguchi. **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)**

AkaMya Native American Culture Studio Now Open

(FROM PAGE 11) The Florin JACL-SV first met AkaMya in 2016 after the nearby City of Bishop's Back Alley Bowl, run by a former owner, barred our Asian, Muslim, and a diverse Florin Manzanar group the year before. Without even having met the Florin JACL, AkaMya reached out in friendship to start the first 2016 Manzanar Culture Exchange program sharing Native American, Japanese, and Muslim heritage and welcoming us to the community. Many local leaders and public officials also lent their support.

The Florin JACL recently raised local donations to help AkaMya complete the studio. \$3,950 in donations came from many generous individuals, the Florin JACL, and Council on American Islamic Relations-SV/CC (CAIR). More construction of dance floor and outside restroom still needs to be done so please continue to donate online at www.florinjacl.com or mail checks to "Florin JACL" c/o 15 Mark River Court, Sacramento, CA 95831.



Florin JACL presented 1,000 origami friendship cranes to AkaMya. Left to right: Christine and Stan Umeda, Sage Romero, Josh Kaizuka, Marielle Tsukamoto, Twila Tomita, Andy

AkaMya's Rich Accomplishments



May 29th AkaMya's grand opening cultural program with children's group, dancers, and drummers in the newly opened studio. (Photo by Josh Kaizuka)

Founded in 1998 by Sage Romero and other local leaders, AkaMya (Red Hand) Culture and Dance Group has grown into a major force for Native American dance, song, and drumming, drawing support from the entire Owens Valley east of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. They feature outstanding classes, workshops, artist collaborations, and community performances. The new studio enables AkaMya to expand all of that.

AkaMya proudly promotes culture, lifts the spirits, unifies the people, and strengthens the community, providing healthy opportunities for young people.

Based among the small 500-member Big Pine Paiute Tribal community facing many challenges, including the death of 10 members from COVID, this is an especially impressive accomplishment. They truly deserve our full support!

A New Book with Old Stories (Book Review)

By Deanna Tsukamoto

Facing the Mountain, the new book by Daniel James Brown, is subtitled, "A True Story of Japanese American Heroes in World War II." Brown creates a detailed account of the Japanese experiences from the bombing of Pearl Harbor to the return home at the end of the war. If, as I have, you've heard stories from both Isseis and Niseis, you may find yourself nodding your head or giving into tears. You may read stories that validate those that your father told you and new stories that you didn't know 'though you know he must have been there.

Did you know that young Japanese American students joined 500-600 men gathered in the gym on the University of Hawaii (UH) campus immediately after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and that they were given 1903 Springfield bolt-action rifles and five cartridges each, and that without any instruction were told to prepare to repel an enemy assault?

Did you know that a Japanese UH student could say, "If I ever meet a Japanese soldier, I'm going to knock him down and kick him in the balls?"

Did you know that some 442 soldiers captured a chicken and made chicken *hekka* in a lull of a battle?

Did you know that a 442 soldier on a troop ship on his way to Europe said, "My outlook is, wherever you decide to go, if there are other people there or even if there are very few, there must be something pleasant or some positive aspect of the situation...look for the positive side, not the negative?"

If you went to UH, you know where the pink Atherton House was. If you're from Maui, you know where Ah Fook's Market was. And, there are numerous other references to places from where the 442 boys came. And, these references are there to help explain the clash between the island boys and the mainland boys. And, you can read about the moment at which each committed himself to the rest, when they became as close as brothers.

There is a chronological recreation of Gordon Hirabayashi's activities showing when he did what he did, giving his work a developing strength. Gordon Hirabayashi's story illustrates what *gaman* is.

Daniel James Brown, the author, asked himself, what enabled those young men to do what they did? "They knew that they had been called upon to defend a set of simple but profound ideals...and having heard the call, they answered it...But do not forget this. As American as they were...they were also proudly Japanese. As they stood up and ran into the fire, many of them carried with them values that their immigrant parents had taught them...And the lives they put on the line grew from both American and Japanese roots."

Facing the Mountain is well-researched and includes many first-hand accounts, and you may find something of your family in it. It is a true and poignantly affecting and well-written book.

The Power of Language: Influence and Obfuscation

By Julie Thomas, Instruction and Electronic Records Archivist, Sacramento State University

On July 21, 2021, the United States government made a giant leap forward in correcting the historic record relating to the WWII incarceration of Americans of Japanese descent. The Library of Congress officially changed its subject heading from *Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945* (old heading) to *Japanese Americans -- Forced removal and incarceration, 1942-1945* (newly revised heading). Although most non-librarians have never heard of the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH), their impact on education, teaching, and research cannot be overstated.

LCSH is a thesaurus of words and phrases – called *headings* – that are used to indicate the subject(s) of library resources. It is used by public and school libraries, as well as academic and research institutions in the United States and throughout the world. It brings consistency to library material by controlling synonyms, variant spellings, and homographs. For example, one author may use the phrase *soda pop*, another may say *soft drink*; yet another, *soda*; and a fourth, something else, but they all intend to refer to the same type of beverage. One of those words or phrases is selected by the Library of Congress (LC) and used as the official subject heading. It is the expectation that librarians will use that LCSH when describing and cataloging resources to ensure that all items on the same topic will be grouped together, thereby allowing users to find them easily. (<https://www.loc.gov/aba/cataloging/subject/lcsh-process.html>)

LCSH has been continually updated since its first edition was published in 1914. Until the second half of the twentieth century, proposals to add headings and to change existing headings were made only by Library of Congress catalogers. Today, LC accepts proposals from any librarian. Thousands of proposals are reviewed every year to determine whether the headings should be accepted and incorporated into LCSH. (<https://www.loc.gov/aba/cataloging/subject/lcsh-process.html>)

Many consider some subject headings problematic for a variety of reasons. However, opinions vary about what constitutes a “problem heading.” They may include offensive terminology, headings that aren’t clear, headings that inappropriately conflate multiple ideas, or terminology that is not commonly used or understood. The LCSH term *Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945* had long been identified by community members, librarians, and scholars as problematic because of its euphemistic terminology.

Confrontation over the use of euphemistic terms to describe the WWII incarceration of Issei’s and Nisei’s came to the forefront in 1973, when Manzanar was granted state historic site status. The wording for the bronze plaque to commemorate the site came before the State Historical Resources Commission and the majority on that body voted against calling it a “concentration camp.”

After prolonged public acrimony the matter was finally resolved when the State Director of Parks and Recreation overruled the commission’s majority and the words “concentration camps” now appears on the bronze plaque at Manzanar. ¹ **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)**

¹ Herzig-Yoshinaga, Aiko. *Words Can Lie Or Clarify: Terminology of the World War II Incarceration of Japanese Americans*. Self-published. In the Jack and Aiko Herzig papers, UCLA Library Special Collections. <http://pdf.oac.cdlib.org/pdf/ucla/mss/herzi451.pdf>

The Power of Language: Influence and Obfuscation

(FROM PAGE 14) The issue was addressed again by the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund (CLPEF) – a body created in response to one of the recommendations of the Civil Liberties Act of August 10, 1988. A “Resolution Regarding Terminology” was adopted that states: *In the spirit of its mission, CLPEF Board is taking this opportunity to encourage the public, academia and governmental agencies to begin using accurate terminology with reference to the World War II internment [sic] experience.* ([Http://www.momomedia.com/CLPEF/background.html](http://www.momomedia.com/CLPEF/background.html))

As early as 1946, some politicians pointed out the misuse of terminology to obfuscate the US government’s role in violating the constitutional rights of Americans of Japanese descent. In 1946, former Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes wrote, "We gave the fancy name of 'relocation centers' to these dust bowls, but they were concentration camps nonetheless." And in a 1961 interview, Harry S. Truman stated "They were concentration camps. They called it relocation but they put them in concentration camps, and I was against it. We were in a period of emergency, but it was still the wrong thing to do."²

At the July 2012 National Council of the Japanese American Citizens League annual convention, the *Power of Words Handbook* was unanimously ratified. It called for the use of "...truthful and accurate terms, and retiring the misleading euphemisms created by the government to cover up the denial of Constitutional and human rights, the force, oppressive conditions, and racism against 120,000 innocent people of Japanese ancestry locked up in America's World War II concentration camps."³

The effort to revise the subject heading for the WWII incarceration of Issei’s and Nisei’s was sheparded through the Library of Congress by a group of volunteer librarians. This is normally a long and arduous process. But for this particular heading, it was submitted to LC in February 2021 and it was accepted and published July 2021. 5 months! Individuals have tried to make this change before, but only for it to be rejected or put aside.

There is still work to be done for other offensive LCSH. For example, numerous groups have tried to change the term “illegal alien” over the past seven years. In March 2016, LC announced that it would replace the heading with two new headings: "Noncitizens" and "Unauthorized immigrants." However, following the announcement, Republican lawmakers made multiple attempts to block the revision of the subject heading, including the introduction of a bill requiring the Library to retain the heading. In June 2016, the House of Representatives added a provision to the 2017 appropriations bill for the legislative branch requiring LC to retain the heading without revision.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illegal_alien_\(Library_of_Congress_Subject_Heading\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illegal_alien_(Library_of_Congress_Subject_Heading))

For a full list of terms deemed offensive, visit <https://cataloginglab.org/problem-lcsh>.

² Wikipedia. “Terminology Debate.” *Internment of Japanese Americans*.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internment_of_Japanese_Americans

³ "[*JACL Ratifies Power Of Words Handbook: What Are The Next Steps?*](#)" by Andy Noguchi, July 16, 2012.

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