

The Buddhist Church of Florin: Community Spirit & Service Award



by Andy Noguchi and Twila Tomita

A Pillar, Center & Community Anchor



Symbolized by Florin Obon with the Ai Tanaka Family 4 generations (photo by Ace Blakkolb)

The Buddhist Church of Florin blossomed from its strawberry fields



**To share the wisdom & compassion of
Buddhist teachings & practices.**



The Unjust WWII Incarceration and Dispersal increased the Church's role.



The Young Buddhist Association Hall housed dozens of homeless families on their return to Florin.



The Church expanded as a Cultural Center for the Community

Year: 1931
 Location: Japanese Language School of Elk Grove
 Address: Bradshaw Road/Elk Grove Sheldon Road (Elk Grove Blvd.)
 northeast corner
 Elk Grove, CA.
 Photo: Annual class photograph (1931)

Note: This was the 1st year at this location. The owner of the property was the Elk Grove Land Company Limited i.e. the Japanese (immigrant and American) community. Prior years, the Japanese school was held on the Tanabe's farm.

As of 2003, the web site:
 Japanese American Archival Collection
<http://library.usc.edu/collections/jaac/overview.html>
 California State Library @ SAC, The Library
<http://library.csls.edu/content2.asp?pageID=137>



Japanese Language School

Broadly Sharing the Buddhist Obon Festival & Culture with the Public



2:40

Sponsoring the Study of Japanese Martial Arts



Currently, including the study of Kyudo Kai Japanese Archery



Sponsoring Youth Basketball programs over many, many decades



Forming Taiko Drumming Groups during the 1990s



Continuing Popular and Tasty Japanese Food Bazaars and Drive-Bys



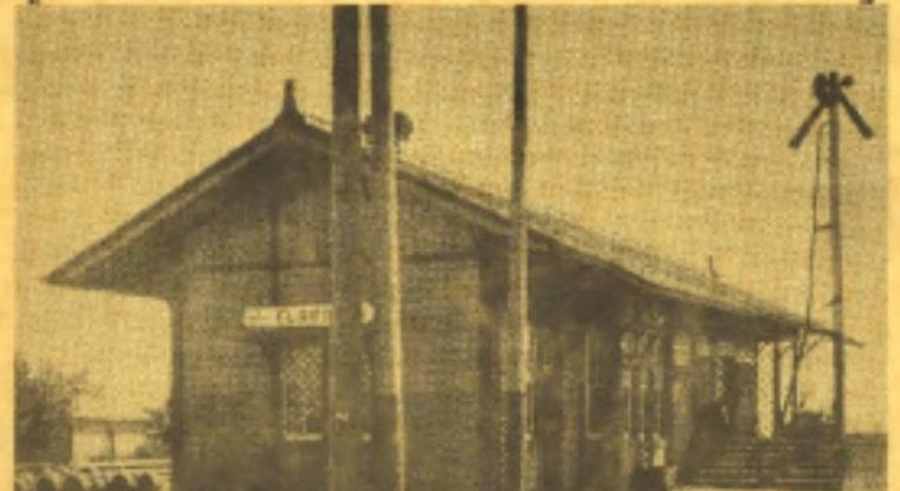
Hosting Reunions of Past & Present Florin Community Residents (1980s)

FLORIN AREA REUNION OCTOBER 10, 1981



Once-In-A-Lifetime-Reunion
Florin, California
Commemorative Booklet

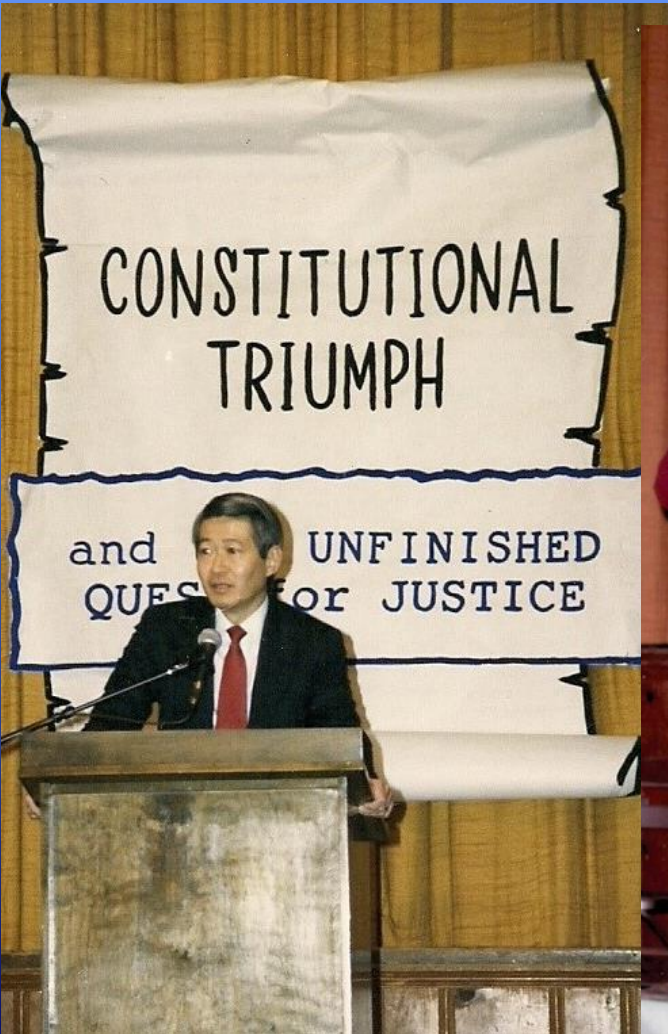
July 20 & 21, 1985
Florin Buddhist Church



Sponsoring a Well-Loved Lunch Program for Seniors – Oishii, neh!



Hosting Redress, Remembrance, Social Justice & Cultural Events with the Florin JACL for many Decades



Co-Hosting a 9/11 Memorial in 2011 for the attack and backlash victims



(photo by Makiko Yamashita)

Co-Sponsoring Events like a News Conference for Syrian War Refugees facing immigration backlash in 2015



The Bus staging site for the annual 3-day Florin Manzanar Pilgrimage



WWII Camp Survivors at the Manzanar Bus

Co-Sponsoring the welcoming Florin Obon Dance Workshop since 2008



Co-Sponsoring the fun Florin "Mochi Madness" Workshop



Congratulations to the Buddhist Church of Florin on the Community Service Award!

It's Well Deserved



Accepting on behalf of the Buddhist Church of Florin, President Eric Fujii

