

## San Fernando Valley Japanese American Citizens League Chapter Newsletter

April - May 2022

## Reflections on Freshman Year at UCLA

About a year ago today, I was a nervous wreck - there were rumors that **UCLA** was going to release acceptances that day, and my eyes were glued to my



screen, desperate for the latest updates. After refreshing my portal for what seemed like a million times, I got my letter - I was accepted into my dream school; I was going to be a **Bruin!** 

Since then, everything has been a whirlwind. From choosing housing to shifting to the quarter system, my experience at UCLA has been fast paced. At club rush, I joined the Japanese Student Association (JSA) and Nikkei Student Union (NSU) to begin making friends and connections in the JA community. I took on an intern position in NSU and participated in the traditional Cultural Night performance. I took my first Asian American Studies class and fell in love with our ancestor's history that I never knew existed - I even decided to pursue a minor in Asian American Studies.

Before coming to UCLA, I was still unsure of my identity. I had many experiences where I was rejected for being "too Japanese" in America, and "too American" in Japan. But being at UCLA allowed me to meet many Japanese Americans like me, who grew up having the same experiences and same identity crisis as me. Being at UCLA made me realize that I was not alone, and that there was a whole community out there that accepted me for being just the right amount of Japanese and just the right amount of American - the Japanese American community.

Submitted by Lana Kobayashi

2021 NATIONAL JACL Scholarship & SFV JACL Scholarship Recipient

## The Terasaki Budokan Grand Opening

On Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, the Terasaki Budokan opened its doors to invite the people in the community to celebrate and to rejoice its completion. The idea for a non-profit multipurpose sports and activities center in Little Tokyo was born in 2017 by Bill Watanabe, Little Tokyo Service Center, and others who wanted to build a facility as a focal gathering place for our current and future generations.

After many years of fundraising and the generous gift of \$3.5 millions from philanthropist Paul I. Terasaki, the Budokan was completed. Dr. Paul I. Terasaki, while working at U.C.L.A.,

developed a tissue test for organ transplant donors



and recipients, which became the international standard for such testing.

The Los Angeles Laker, Mr. Jerry West, was a special guest speaker. His inspirational talk helped us understand how a poor farmer's son used basketball to achieve his goals. He shared stories of dedication, commitment, hard work,



and how family members and friends helped him succeed. He commended those dedicated individuals who sacrificed to achieve the goals of a home for the Japanese American community.

Submitted by Kiyo Watanabe

# DAY FOR REMEMBRANCE "80 years of reckoning"



February 19<sup>th</sup> marks the day 80 years ago when **President Franklin D. Roosevelt** signed Executive Order 9066 and put into law one of the most **shameful federal anti-Japanese efforts** of our time. The order called for the unconstitutional removal of Japanese Americans, most U.S. Citizens, from their homes and into incarceration sites. Being held without trials or hearings, over 120,000 Japanese Americans were imprisoned in ten Camps throughout the United States during WW II.

Executive Order 9066 authorized the **Secretary of War to prescribe military areas**. The rationale for this action was, "Whereas the successful prosecution of the war requires every national-defense against espionage and against sabotage to national-defense materials,

national-defense premises, and national-defense utilities as defined in Section 4, Act. Of April 20,

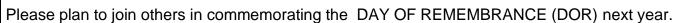
for being a saboteur

**Judge Johnny Gogo**, Superior Court Judge, from San Jose, on a personal mission, had Japanese Americans who were incarcerated **sign their names** on a 48-star **U.S. flag at a ceremony at JANM**. The folded flag was formally presented to **Ann Burroughs, Executive Director**. I proudly signed my name and those of my parents on the flag.

1918." There were no Japanese American tried for espionage or convicted

DOR is a day of reckoning as we remember the mistake and misdeed of this country and the harms created by War and incarceration.

The organizers of the 2022 Los Angeles Day of Remembrance are: Go For Broke, JACL Southwest District, Japanese American National Museum, LTSC, Manzanar Committee, NCRR, Visual Communication, Progressive Asian Network for Action.



Click link to view event online: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWIJxZM1T\_o&t=651s

Submitted by Kiyo Fukumoto



## 2022 Manzanar Pilgrimage

is the theme for the 53rd Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, which will be held online on **Saturday, April 30, 2022, at 12:00 PM.** 

The 2022 Manzanar At Dusk program will also be held online in the hours following the 53rd Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage.

Like the past 2 years, the COVID-19 pandemic will prevent the Committee from sponsoring the traditional live program at the Manzanar National Historic Site. As such, this year's program will be a "Virtual Manzanar Pilgrimage," to be released on the

Committee's web site, YouTube channel, and on the Committee's Facebook page.

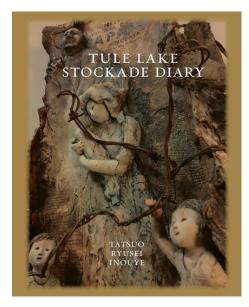
Further details about the 53rd Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage and the 2022 Manzanar At Dusk program will be announced at a later date. For more information, call (323) 662-5102, or send e-mail to info@manzanarcommittee.org.

## **Tule Lake Stockade Diaries – Loyalty**

By: Patricia Takayama

Saturday, March 26, 2022 the SFV JACL hosted a virtual panel discussion on the "Tule Lake Stockade Diaries" of Tatsuo Ryusei Inouye. The panelist included the daughter of Tatsuo Inouye, Kyoko Nancy Oda, Jean Paul deGuzman, Ph.D., UCLA, and Soji Kashiwagi, the son of poet Hiroshi Kashiwagi and writer of "Betrayed" a play about life as a No-No boy.

This was the third of four panel discussions centered on the subject matter of the book. Ms. Oda explained that she was an infant during the family's confinement at Tule Lake but worked with her father, a Kibei, whose diary was written in Japanese, to share his diary experiences and have them translated, decades later. She also provided the narrative for many of the photos and her sister Masako's artwork in the book. She spoke about the hunger strike her father endured at the stockade.





JP deGuzman explained that the Loyalty Oath questionnaire was used by the WRA to determine the eligibility and loyalty of the incarcerees who sought to be released from camp to: seek higher education, employment in the wartime economy, and recruitment to the segregated Nisei Army.

Soji Kashiwagi like most Sansei had heard his Nisei parents share experiences with others they knew from camp, but when Soji learned of the camps, he thought it was summer camp. So, he said, "I didn't ask. He didn't tell because that's the way it was."

In 1975, Hiroshi Kashiwagi attended a Tule Lake Pilgrimage. On the bus he wrote a poem about his experience, which Soji shared. Decades later, even after Soji had been approached to write a play about the No-No boy experiences, he thought the subject was too hot to address in 2001. It wasn't until after he attended a Tule Lake Pilgrimage in 2006 and learned more about his father's experience and the impact of the incarceration on the Japanese American community, Soji came to understand his father's courage when he participated in the rebellion, much like our nation's founders: Thomas Jefferson and Thomas Paine. It was in 2010, he penned his play, "Betrayed" about the "No-No" boy experience.



Click here to view the March 26th event online:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JAgdVYNp8EA

For more information and to order the **Tule Lake Stockade Diary** book visit:

https://tulelakestockadediary.com

#### THE LOYALTY OATH CONTROVERSY

In 1943 every Japanese American incarceree 18 years and older was required to complete a Loyalty Oath questionnaire. The WRA deemed the questionnaire necessary to determine the loyalty of inmates for eligibility for release to pursue higher education, to seek employment outside the camps and for active military service in the segregated Japanese American army units.

The question of loyalty to the WRA was viewed as loyalty to the US government, more specifically the military during WWII. The incarcerated Japanese American population viewed loyalty differently, as more complex: loyalty to the family (keeping the family together, united with parents and children) loyalty to the U.S. democracy under the Constitution, including 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment rights of equal protection and to support those principles, even though their rights were being violated. The majority of the Japanese Americans were U.S. citizens by birth. There was no need to question their loyalty without cause, despite being indefinitely incarcerated under Executive Order 9066.

**Question #27** asked incarcerees to volunteer for the military, on combat duty and go wherever ordered without reservation. Most Nisei thought if they answered "Yes" they were agreeing to be drafted. Some felt it was their duty to join the war effort and fight for their country and family, while others felt that they would gladly volunteer if the government agreed to release their family members, including their Issei parents to move out of camp and the restricted zones. There were other reasons such as the eldest or only son needed to take care of the parents (filial piety) which meant the family needed to be reunited, etc.

**Question #28** asked incarcerees to forswear allegiance to the Emperor of Japan. For the Nisei this was not a complicated issue. They were born and raised in the U.S. and had no allegiance to the Emperor. However, for the Issei, if they renounced the Emperor of Japan, it would leave them stateless, which would not be a problem if the U.S. allowed them to become U.S. citizens. However, no persons of Asian birth were eligible for naturalization. For Asians, U.S. birth was the only avenue to citizenship. As for Kibei Nisei, born in the U.S. (citizens by birth) but sent to Japan to be educated, they had greater attachments to the Japanese culture, traditions and therefore the Emperor. But declining to forswear did not mean they were disloyal to the U.S. It meant they were conflicted about how to answer the question.

By: Patricia Takayama



## Help us spread the word

Apply for the **Minidoka National Historic Site summer internship!** This paid opportunity through Northwest Youth Corps is geared towards motivated future park rangers historians, teachers, and community leaders!

Application Deadline: April 15th, 2022.

**Application link:** https://nwyouthcorps.workbrightats.com/jobs/752790.html

Minidoka National Historic Site is recruiting two Resource, Interpretation, and Public Use Management Interns beginning May 2022 through September 2022. The interns will conduct a variety of tasks associated with the use and management of park resources. The purpose of the position is to supplement the permanent park ranger workforce by performing duties designed to: (1) facilitate visitor understanding of park resources; (2) facilitate visitor enjoyment of the park and its resources; (3) facilitate visitor behavior consistent with resource protection and to gain friendly compliance with the laws and rules for safe use of the park; (4) encourage visitors to develop a sense of stewardship for park resources; (5) support park staff in managing park resources.

# **Supporting Historic Wintersburg**

## **Letter to the Huntington Beach's City Council**

March 12, 2022

Dear Mayor Barbara Degleize and Members of the Huntington Beach City Council,

The SFV Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) joins in partnership with Historic Wintersburg, Preserve Orange County and Heritage Museum of Orange County, Poston Community Alliance, Heart Mountain Foundation, Little Tokyo Historical Society, Historical Museum, North Orange County (SELANOCO) Chapter of JACL, Minidoka Pilgrimage among other organizations who are concerned and alarmed.

The SFV JACL Executive Board was appalled when we read of the fiery destruction of two buildings at the site of Historic Wintersburg. "This loss is devastating." according to Mary Urashima, Chair of the Historic Wintersburg Task Force.

The fire occurred after years of anti-Asian hate crimes and harassment on social media and on the anniversary of EO 9066 which forced the imprisonment of Americans of Japanese descent.

City Council Member, Dan Kalmick witnessed the morning fire and noted that it was a loss of an important part of local history.

JACL is an organization committed to safeguarding civil and human rights of all communities who are affected by injustice and bigotry.

As Americans of Asian and Asian Pacific Islander Heritage, we are unified with all Americans to keep working for a more perfect union. Let us work together with the owners to preserve our heritage.

Given the quickly changing situation, taking swift action now will prevent further historic property loss and possible negligence by the owners.

As we continue to monitor developments in Orange County, we urge the City of Huntington Beach to:

- 1. Call for a thorough arson investigation and possible negligence by the owners of the property.
- 2. Ask permission to enter the property by the Historic Wintersburg Task Force and Japanese Americans such as the Furuta Family and Kowata Family who lived on the property to

respectfully recover artifacts and other items of historical significance.

 Call for the City of Huntington Beach to facilitate discussions and negotiations for the purchase of the property by historical organizations.

This letter was composed by May Wood, signed by the SFV JACL President and sent to the Huntington Beach City Council.



# "Chanpon"

The name for this column will be "Chanpon". According to the Kenkyusha Japanese English dictionary means "together". Please submit your thoughts, articles, photos with narrative and receipes to Patty Takayama at: <a href="mailto:pe.high.mtn@gmail.com">pe.high.mtn@gmail.com</a>

## **Okinawa Dango**

3 cups Flour 2 tbs Baking Powder ½ tsp Salt 1 ½ cup Sugar 2 Eggs 1 cup Milk

1 tsp Vanilla Oil for deep frying

Sift dry ingredients together, add eggs and milk. Stir in vanilla and mix together. Scoop a heaping teaspoon full of batter and drop in hot oil to fry, turning to brown evenly. Test for doneness with a bamboo stick. Serve immediately.

Contributor: Kerry Cababa From: Manzanar Mess Hall "A Collection of Recipes"

The Manzanar Committee and Friends

## "Abunai!!"

Yes, we have all heard this growing up. If you didn't then you must have been one of those unusually good kids. Even if you were a good kid, you probably still stopped whatever you were doing when you heard "ABUNAI!". Present day, you still probably think and unconsciously say it to your kids or pets. I do, cause it's stuck in my head forever!

Translation:

Stop! It's dangerous.



# First Monthly Lunch Gathering with our JACL Friends at Boccaccio's



Front Row L>R: Marcia Mahoney, May Wood, Linda Tanaka, Mitzi Kushida Back Row L>R: nancy takayama, Geri Shiraki, Kiyo Watanabe, Marian Shigekuni, Phil Shigekuni, Nancy Gohata

## Join us for our April Lunch Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> 11:30 AM



The Stonehaus 32039 Agoura Road / Westlake Village

Menu:

https://the-stonehaus.com/lunch-and-dinner/

For questions or more information contact Linda Tanaka at:

<u>lindaktanaka@gmail.com</u>

## **Memories of Camp**

by Phil Shigekuni / (an excerpt from the Rafu Shimpo Newspaper)

When EO 9066 was signed 80 years ago, I was 2 months short of turning 8. We lived, in what I found out years later, the Seinan area. My older sister, Evelyn (or as she prefers to be called, "Evie"), and my divorced mother, Lillian, were put on a bus and, with shades drawn, taken to Santa Anita.

The six months we spent there were not memorable, except for the time on Sundays when Christian services were held in the grandstands. Sitting there I was able to look out at the distant mountains and fantasize about being free from the dismal barracks where we were housed. The lively Christian choruses we sang provided a measure of comfort.

In 2003, I was able to receive money from a state fund that was set aside from redress money to produce a DVD featuring four Christian ministers who played important roles during these troubling times:

Bishop Roy Sano was about 12, and was sent with his family to Gila River in Arizona. At the time of the interview, Bishop Sano had recently retired as bishop of the California Pacific Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Rev. Paul Nagano and Rev. John Miyabe were about 20/21. They ministered in one of the three camps in Poston, Arizona.

Rev. Sam Tonomura lived in Canada and was sent to a farming area with his mother. In Canada, the men were separated from their families and sent to labor camps.

At the start of our discussion, the four ministers and I talked about our meeting in the grandstands in Santa Anita. When I mentioned the encouragement, I got from singing Christian choruses, I was surprised that the men remembered them. At the suggestion of one of the men, we joined in together to sing one of the songs, "Are We Downhearted?"

This DVD is entitled "Comforting the Afflicted," and thanks to a friend, David Osako, it was put on YouTube. To see it, type in <a href="www.youtube.com">www.youtube.com</a>, then enter "Comforting the Afflicted-Phil Shigekuni". If you were in a camp, I think you will enjoy seeing this part of our history





## **Ventura County JACL Chapter Event**



You are invited to the launch of a new program of the Ventura County Japanese American Citizens League ベンチュラ郡日系アメリカ人会は新プログラム、ハッピーで健康な

アットホームな家の説明、及び昼食会にあなたをご招待致します。

Happiness, Health, Heritage

@ Home/HHHH

April 23, 2022 12:00pm to 2:00pm Grant R. Brimhall Library Community Room 1401 Janss Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

FREE Bento to the first 50 Seniors\* who to sign up! 先着登録50名分 \*シニアのお弁当を用意しております。 Door Prizes, Trivia Games and More! Visit vcjacl.org to sign up. For more information email: VCJACLHHHH@gmail.com



## Click link below to sign up:

http://www.vcjacl.org/



## In Memoriam to Wallace Arakawa

SFV JACL sends our deepest condolences to the family of **Wallace Arakawa**, a long-time supporter of JACL. He leaves behind his wife, **May**; his daughters, **Joyce**, **Janet**, and **Kathie**; six grandkids: **Kayla** (26), **Elizabeth** (26), **Brianna** (22), **Reece** (20), **Benjamin** (19), and **Becca** (17; and one grandchild, **Roman** (2).

Wally had a large extended family of nephews and nieces as well.

From Wally's daughter, **Kathie Yonemura**, a heartfelt remembrance.

On Monday, **February 28, 2022**, my dad, **Wallace Arakawa**, passed from this life into more life. He was **91 years old**. **My sisters** were both able to say goodbye, as well as **my mom**, **Kayla and Becca**.

He lived such a full life, from the childhood antics he used to tell us about while growing up in **Maui**, including being too skinny to be on the football team so he used to eat bowlfuls of poi to try and gain

weight! He befriended the soldiers during World War II and convinced them to let him and his friends go fishing outside the fenced in areas of the island. He would tell us about my grandfather bemoaning the fact that my dad's name was not on the honor roll (that my grandfather calligraphied by hand for the school!) then being told by a camp counselor/pastor that he better start becoming a serious student in high school! That changed his life. He had so many stories of moving to the mainland as a local boy with his pidgin accent, going to **Purdue University** on scholarship, eventually earning not only his **bachelor's degree** in electrical engineering but multiple **master's degrees.** He loved learning and always said he would be a student forever, if he could.

His motto was "Work hard, play hard." He ingrained in us that it was our responsibility to serve and take care of others. He had a love for the Lord, and it showed in all that he did. Family was the most important thing to him; he was truly **the patriarch of the whole Arakawa** clan. When my sisters and I would fight while growing up, he would always tell us (while we rolled our eyes) that we better appreciate each other because family/sisters will always be there, but friends may change. He doted on not only his three daughters, but his nieces, nephews, and grandchildren. When able, he and my mom were at every event, game, performance, award ceremony.

His favorite restaurant used to be **Hometown Buffet** and he had such a sweet tooth that the grandkids would delight in counting how many desserts he would eat (the record was 7!) There is so much more to say, and I know over the coming days, months, and years we will be telling stories about my dad. We miss him, but I am comforted and happy, knowing that he is now whole and healthy again and with Jesus, whom he loved so much.

SFV JACL extends our thanks to his daughter, **Kathie** for sharing her thoughts and memories.

Submitted by Mitzi Kushida

## SFV JACL 2022 Calendar

# Join us for Vigilant Love's 7th annual Iftar "Cultivating Liberation!"

Vigilant Love invites you to break the fast with us online at our 7th Annual Bridging Communities Iftar and fundraiser on Thursday, April 14, 2022! Vigilant Love's annual Iftar is a powerful, inter-spiritual, and multi-generational community experience, and this year we invite you to join us virtually to (re)connect, deepen our sense of solidarity, and cultivate joy during this isolating time for so many.



Our theme this year is "cultivating liberation," inspired by all the ways our communities have seeded and nurtured collective power, care, and resilience over the last two years and beyond.

Register at: <a href="https://bit.ly/BCIftar2022">https://bit.ly/BCIftar2022</a>



Greater Los Angeles JACL Chapter Event Sunday, April 10, 2022 at 1 PM

# Look to the Sky: America's Concentration Camps – Part 2 Guest speaker: John Tonai

"Look to the Sky" America's concentration Camps" is a documentary photography project by John Tonai depicting the contemporary physical conditions of the 10 WWII War

Relocations Authority camps. The initial project took place from 1990-1992. Since that time, Tonai has revisited most of the sites and recorded the changes that have taken place.



On February 13 in Part 1, John showed photos from his documentary photographic exhibit "Look to the Sky" of camps Amache, Gila, Heart Mountain, Jerome and Manzanar.

In Part 2, Tonai will show photos of camps Minidoka, Poston, Rohwer, Topaz and Tule Lake.

For a **Zoom link to the program, email Layne Sakamoto at:** greaterlajacl@gmail.com

From Greater Los Angeles Chapter's April 2022 newsletter



Mark your calendars for our

## JACL NYSC x CSULB NSU 2022 Culture Fair: Hajimari [始まり] Saturday, April 23rd from 2:00pm-5:00pm

at the Japanese American National Museum!
Come discover different organizations within the
Japanese American community and join us for
an afternoon of raffle prizes, crafts, special
live performances--including CSULB NSU's
very own Soran Bushi group, and much more!
Admission is free for all attendees. Stay tuned
for the ticket link and we hope to see you there!

## Downtown Los Angeles JACL

## 2022 Women of the Year Luncheon

Sunday, May 1, 2022 12:30-2:30 PM

Quiet Cannon – Crystal 1 & 3 Room 901 N. Via San Clemente / Montebello, CA

## Honoring Yoko Awaya & Miyoko Nishimoto

Cost: \$45/per person
Prime Rib or Vegetarian Pasta Primavera
Child's Plate (10 yrs & under) – Chicken Strips

Seating arrangements are for tables of 8

Checks payable to: **Downtown LA JACL** 

Mail to: Amy Tambara 526 ½ W. Riggin St. / Monterey Park, 91754

For more information: Amy Tamabara: (323) 722-3897 or amy t-jacl@sbcglobal.net

Joyce Chinn: (818) 317-4541 or joycechinn@yahoo.com



"The Far East Feast" is our nostaligic, delicious and fun look back at one of our time honored traditions: Japanese Americans going out to eat Chinese food. But not just any Chinese food. It's the old-school Cantonese-style food we call "Chinameshi" made famous at the Far East Café in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

Featuring Favorite Dishes from the Far East Café
Homyu / Press Almond Duck / Pakkai
Shrimp in Lobster Sauce / Sea Weed Soup
Ginger Beef & more



Also Featuring:
Favorite Songs from the Grateful Crane Singers





For dates and questions, call the Grateful Crane ticket line at: 310/995-5841

## **TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOP IN LOS ANGELES**

June 19-24 & July 10-15, 2022

## Civil Liberties in Times of Crisis: The Japanese American Experience

JACL and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) are inviting seventy-two educators to explore the historical significance and enduring legacy of the World War II Japanese American incarceration experience and the reparations movement. While past participants are primarily social studies and humanities teachers at the K-12 levels, all are invited to apply.

This NEH Landmarks of American History and Culture workshop will be offered twice: **June 19-24** and **July 10-15**, **2022**. Participants will be staying in the historic Little Tokyo neighborhood in Los Angeles with the majority of programming being at our host institution, the Japanese American National Museum (JANM), with day trips to Santa Anita Park (a WWII temporary "assembly center") and Manzanar National Historic Site (one of the ten permanent WWII "internment" camps). This will be one of the last times we are able to host a workshop with living camp survivors as the WWII generation passes the torch to future ones.

Click below to apply

https://jacl.org/2022-neh-landmarks?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=758f40cd-2e04-4110-9588-25693cef8dbf

# San Fernando Valley Japanese American Citizens League Membership Application



## **Membership Categories**

#### Regular/Individual - \$67

Regular sustaining members of the organization

## Couple/Family - \$110

Membership for an individual, their spouse/partner and any children under 25 years of age.

#### Youth/Student - \$30

Members 25 years of age or younger or students currently enrolled in a college, trade school, or university.

#### Thousand Club - \$200

A membership category where members make a larger annual contribution to their chapter and national programs of the organization

## Century Club - \$350

An exclusive membership category where members make a larger annual contribution to their chapter and national programs of the organization

#### Thousand Club Spouse or Century Club Spouse – Add \$32

Spouse or partner of a JACL Thousand Club or Century Club member

#### Millennium Club - \$1000

An exclusive membership category where members make a larger annual contribution to their chapter and National programs of the organization

## **Life Membership Categories**

#### Thousand Club Life - \$3000

Members who pay a lump sum to establish a lifetime membership

#### Century Club Life - \$5000

An exclusive membership category where members pay a lump sum to establish a lifetime membership

#### Pacific Citizen Newspaper

|   |                        | Digital subscriptions do not incur additional fees.                                       |
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| Please mail this form to:  JACL Membership P.O. Box 45397 San Francisco, CA 94145-0397              | Additional donati      | Membership Dues \$en Newspaper (\$17) \$eion to JACL (optional) \$esty JACL (optional) \$ |

Or JOIN or RENEW Online: <a href="http://www.jacl.org/member">http://www.jacl.org/member</a> Questions: mbr@jacl.org

**TOTAL** enclosed



10441 Kewen Avenue Pacoima, CA. 91331-3019