

San Fernando Valley Japanese American Citizens League Newsletter August/September 2019



PACIFIC CITIZEN HOLIDAY GREETINGS FUNDRAISER

Attention All Members!

The 2019 Holiday Issue of the Pacific Citizen will include the JACL 90th Anniversary Commemoration. Please help the SFV JACL promote our annual Pacific Citizen Fundraiser by purchasing a personal ad in the Holiday Issue.

With the help of the JACL membership, affiliated businesses, family and friends, we were able to sponsor many programs in 2018. A few of the events were:

- Day of Remembrance
- Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage
- Rising Stars
- Bridging Communities Iftar Vigilant Love
- "Support Fukushima-Remember Hiroshima/Nagasaki"
- "Only the Oaks Remain" by The Grateful Crane Ensemble
- Special screening of "Yonsei Eyes" by Jon Osaki
- PSWD JACL Annual Luncheon

Your ad can be in the form of a personal Holiday greeting, a congratulatory message, a business ad, or an in memoriam. You can also help solicit ads from businesses you frequent. The Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue has a circulation of approximately 30,000.

THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT YOUR GREETING IS: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2019

Please contact the following Committee Members for a PC Holiday Issue ad form:

Mitzi Kushida (818) 360-6718 or bighisa@aol.com Nancy Gohata (818) 371-8013 or nancygohata@gmail.com Barbara Okita (818) 784-5128 or barbot@aol.com Marion Shigekuni (818) 893-1581 or pshig2000@verizon.net Marcia Mahony (818) 669-0409 or msmahony2@gmail.com

For monetary donations, please write a check to SFV JACL and send to: SFV JACL 12953 Branford St. Pacoima, CA 91331

UPCOMING EVENTS



COME JOIN US IN THE FUN AND ACTIVITIES

August 8

Unite for Peace and Nuclear Justice

August 11

End of Summer Board Party

August 14

Board Meeting

August/September

PC Holiday Issue Fundraiser Begins

September 7

Searching for Our Roots

September 11

Board Meeting

September 28

Big Band Concert

Questions or Comments?

Please email
kyoshino@verizon.net
or send comments to:
Nancy Gohata
14229 Carl Street
Arleta, CA 91331

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It's JACL Convention time. This year's annual convention is being held in Salt Lake City, Utah from July 31 – August 4, 2019.

At convention we will be voting on three proposed Resolutions (R) and three Constitution & Bylaw (CBL) Amendments. Here are brief summaries.

CBL-1. Creed

The Midwest District Council proposes to amend the Bylaws be deleting the Addendum containing the JACL Creed, Slogan, and Hymn.

CBL-2. Pacific Citizen

The National Board proposes to amend the Bylaws to reorganize the authority to staff, manage, and fund the *Pacific Citizen*.

CBL-3. Biennial Conventions

The Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific District Council proposes to amend the Bylaws to resume biennial conventions.

- **R-1.** Midwestern Colleges Addressing Exclusionary Practices Towards Japanese American (Midwest District Council)
- R-2. Midwest District Staffing (Midwest District Council)
- **R-3.** Recognition of and Apology to Tule Lake Resisters (Pacific Northwest District Council and Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific District Council)

The full amendments and resolutions for this convention can be found on the JACL website. Below is a link to all the convention documents.

https://www.convention2019.jacl.org/convention-documents

Our PSW District Pre-Convention/Quarterly meeting is scheduled for Sunday, July 14th at UC Irvine. Here, all chapter representatives will discuss each of the proposed amendments and resolutions and the affect, if any, on our chapter, our district and our future. If need be, we will work on a plan to lobby for or against an amendment or resolution.

If you would like to stay updated on the outcome of these amendments and resolutions after the quarterly, before convention and during convention please email me at: nt.high.mtn@gmail.com

and I will add you to the chapter board email thread.

On another note. **SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, August 25, 2019**We will be sponsoring a "Caregiver's Concerts" performed by the Grateful Crane Ensemble thanking the Caregivers for their work and passion to help others. This is a Free concert for all.

Nancy Takayama



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DOUGH BALL 2019

You know the saying, "It takes a village"? No truer words can be said about the SFV JACL's Dough Ball Booth at the Obon Festival on June 29^{th} and 30^{th} .

Thanks to the efforts of our fabulous paint crew, **Phil Shigekuni**, **Harold Kameya**, **Kiyo Fukumoto and David Osako**, our booth went from worn red and yellow to the sparkling SFV JACL colors of purple and white. They organized a paint party in early June to make sure all the pieces were ready in time for the set-up in late June. Great job guys!

The heart of the DB Booth are the enthusiastic volunteers who keep the crowds coming back for more - Nancy Takayama, Kiyo Fukumoto, Alexander Oda, Patty Takayama, Shawn Iwaoka, Michiko Kus, Karen Yoshino, Kim Gohata, Linda Kuratomi, Wolf Mahony, Dr. Randi Oyama, Tyson Tanaka, Linda Tanaka, Harold Kameya, Cathy Uchida and Marion Shigekuni.

This year we were fortunate to have many first-time volunteers - Angelo Mutia, Alyssa Cruz, Kim Lee, Diana Lau, Mike Santos, Taylor Beardsley, Kase Clark and Board Member May Wood and her daughter Kristen Schaefer and granddaughter Annie Wood. Thank you all for your dedication!

A special thanks to the hard-working crew that set-up and tore down the booth - Yas Gohata, Kay Oda, Kiyo Fukumoto, Alexander Oda, Dennis Okita, and the staff members from Bert Corona Charter Middle School. You are the foundation of our event!

Thank you Villagers for another successful year!

Photo (L to R): Mike Santos, Tyson Tanaka, Dr. Randi Oyama, Annie Wood, Kristen Schaefer



Unite for Peace and Nuclear Justice

-Hiroshima/Nagasaki Never Again-

August 8, 2019 (Thu) 6:30 - 7:30pm Silent prayer at 7:02pm

Toriumi Plaza

(Northwest corner of E. 1st St. NoWar on Iran Petition Drive ...

"Give Peace o'nace: Sing-Along... Please join us as we commemorate the victims of all nuclear atrocities of the past and present and unite to take action for a nuclear free future.

Prayers offered:

*Rev. Peter Hata, Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple

*Rev. Ryuzen Hayashi, Koyasan Beikoku Betsuin

*Rev. Dickson Yagi, Emeritus Professor of Christian Studies, Seinan Gakuin University, Fukuoka, Japan

Speakers:

*Nuclear Free Schools *Michiko Kato. Fukushima Survivor *Denise Duffield. Associate Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility-L.A. *Frances Yasmeen Motiwalla, Candidate for Congress in CA-34 *Farideh Kioumehr, Founder & Executive Director, International Health and Epidemiology Center *Hiroshima Jogakuin High School Students (live from Hiroshima, Japan)

Special Guitar Performance by GOH (Goh Kurosawa). Bicultural Music Samurai

Parking: Aiso Street Parking Garage (entrance on Judge John Aiso St.)



Contact: Tsukuru 323-899-0463 or forfuturefukushima@gmail.com

Sponsored by:

Fukushima Support Committee & Council for Pacific Asian Theology Endorsed by:

*PANA, Progressive Asian Network for Action

*Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress, NCRR

*Nikkei Resisters *Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles

*Council on American-Islamic Relations - LA *Peace Action

*International Health and Epidemiology Research Center

*Veterans for Peace Los Angeles *MLK Coalition of Greater Los Angeles

*Answer Coalition and Party for Socialism and Liberation

*Southern California War Tax Resistance

*Friends of Chain Reaction

*Holy Faith Episcopal Church of Inglewood

*Topanga Peace Alliance

"SEARCHING for our Japanese American ROOTS"

A special day is being planned for the entire family and family friends. Save the date: **Saturday**, **September 7th**, **from 1pm to 4 pm**.

The San Fernando JACL and members of the San Fernando Valley Community Center are joining together to provide the opportunity for students and their parents to learn more about their Japanese cultural heritage.

We will explore our family tree and look at our historical past. We will explore reasons of how the Japanese people adapted to this new foreign country. Some of the things we will be sharing are:

- trying some *judo* techniques
- writing your last name in *kanji (Japanese characters)*
- learning how to play the taiko
- counting and speaking some Japanese words
- wearing Japanese clothes
- joining in a friendly game of ping pong







We hope this experience will enhance your search for your ROOTS. Possibly, you will learn why we can be proud of our family members who survived and persevered as they achieved success in our community.

SAN FERNANDO JACL MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We are pleased by the large number of our loyal JACL members who continue to support our Chapter. The SFV JACL Board would like to invite you to join us by taking part in our many events and activities.

We greatly appreciate the membership renewal by the following members.

Robert Goka
Ariel Imamoto
George Kawahara
Doreen Kawamoto
Linda Kuratomi
Jane Norton
Ikuyo Sakaguchi
Jeanne Sharnon



Please check to see if your membership is up-to-date. The JACL National Membership does not send reminders to lapsed members.

For any questions about your membership, please contact:

Membership Chair: Kiyo Fukumoto at kiyofukumoto@yahoo.com



A Swinging Big Band Concert

Featuring Dan Taguchi and Friends

An afternoon of classic and contemporary jazz from the 1940s to the present with a seventeen piece jazz ensemble and quest vocalists

Saturday, September 28, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Place: San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center 12953 Branford Street, Pacoima 91331

> Donation: \$15 per ticket Bento Orders: \$10 each





For tickets contact Nancy Gohata at nancygohata@gmail.com or (818) 371-8013

Make checks payable to SFVJACL Send to: Nancy Gohata, 14229 Carl Street, Arleta, CA 91331

> \$10 bento available after the concert Must be reserved by September 20, 2019

OUR TAMINARU FIELD TRIP TO THE LOS ANGELES MARITIME MUSEUM

School field trips take kids to faraway places to bring more awareness of the world. On June 15th, the SFVJACLers were a bunch of seniors who left the Valley for a day at the Los Angeles Maritime Museum. With our able docent, **marifrance**, the day started off well. It was a look at the morning, noon, and evening on Terminal Island. If you plan to go, you must plan it before the end of August since the museum will be closed for two years while undergoing major infrastructure upgrades. In the exhibit at the museum, Cousins, **Priscilla Mio Mui** and **Evelyn Hashimoto Kita** pointed out photos of their grandparents and parents and told us about the superior kendo club that went to Japan and won match after match. It was very personal for them as they spoke about the Mio Café, Dad in baseball uniform, Tuna fisherman, and Abalone divers. It made a huge difference to hear the stories from the Terminal Island children. To imagine the sandy soil where kids played barefooted and the hardworking women would heed the "toot" to the cannery any hour of the day when boats came in with their catch, sometimes even at midnight. The isseis (first generation) from Wakayama prefecture were expert fishermen with a language all their own.

With just 48 hours notice, one thousand men went to Manzanar. They were burly men who spoke Japanese and English with a seaman's rough edge resulting in them being called "yogores", most of them living in block 9 and 10 in the Manzanar Concentration Camp.

After the war, since where was no home to return to for the Terminal Islanders, they stayed in trailers, then settled in Long Beach. President of the Terminal Islanders Club, **June Miyamoto Donovan**, explained that after rebuilding their lives, the Terminal Islanders Club was established in 1971. The club would host New Year's Day Festivities and an annual picnic. They produced an educational movie, "*The Lost Village of Terminal Island*".

In 2002, the Terminal Island Japanese Memorial was dedicated at a site along Fish Harbor across from the Southwest Marina. The monument with a "tori" gate designed like a Shinto Shrine with a kanji that means "great fishing". The centerpiece was an art work with two fisherman repairing nets. The architecture was done pro bono. To visualize where the people lived, there was an etching of the inner harbor and a poem written by **Yukio Tatsumi**. It says, "Black currents off of our shore, Fishes are plentiful, Yet hardships our parents endured, We remember".

Although we shed some tears and felt intense sadness at the devastating loss of their village, we ultimately are more aware of the Terminal Islanders' hearty souls and pride in their heritage.

Special thanks to **Mitzi Kushida**, who organized this outing. Thanks also to **Al Kushida**, who along with Mitzi for going that extra mile.

Article submitted by Nancy Oda

Photo: Terminal Island Descendants Priscilla Mui and Evelyn Hashimoto



FORT SIL PROTEST AT JANM

Attorney **Mia Yamamoto**, a Poston internee, was the main speaker at a rally held in the courtyard of JANM on June 27. Hundreds of young and old, multi-ethnic people were there to hear Mia declare that "Never Again" is happening again to innocent children at Fort Sil Oklahoma where Native Americans in the 1800's and Japanese were interned during WWII. At the same time similar rallies were taking place in the Japantowns of San Francisco, and San Jose.

Also appearing at the rally was the group who demonstrated at Fort Sil. They displayed thousands of cranes which were made for the occasion. The group was invited to appear at a follow-up demonstration to occur later this year.

Statements of protest from 13 community organizations, including the Pacific Southwest District of JACL, were read. **Ann Burroughs**, CEO of JANM spoke forcefully of the injustice of the incarceration. Our own JACL President, **Nancy Takayama**, was a participant in the evening's program.

MC, Sanseis activists, **Sean Miura** and **Mya Worrell** led the rally in repeated shouts of, "*Never Again is Now*". They vowed to continue protesting until these inhuman concentration camps were shut down.

Representing our Chapter at the event were Nancy Oda, representing "Only the Oaks Remain", JP Deguzman, Nancy and Yas Gohata and Marion and Phil Shigekuni.

Article submitted by Phil Shigekuni



Photo (L to R): Marion & Phil Shigekuni, Yas & Nancy Gohata, JP deGuzman, Nancy Takayaa, Nancy Oda

OUR LOST YEARS

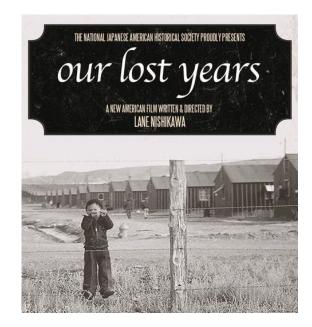
By: Patricia Takayama

The premiere of Lane Nishikawa's film "Our Lost Years" opened to a packed house, on Sunday, June 23, 2019 at The Aratani Theater.

Through numerous interviews of Nisei and Sansei, Nishikawa chronicles the historic events that led to incarceration in WWII relocation camps and its social and political impact on the Japanese American community.

Among those local personalities interviewed were two founders of the National Coalition of Redress and Reparations. Board member **Phil Shigekuni**, who led the campaign in the Valley was also interviewed.

Nishikawa reminds us how shame and Embarrassment kept the camp experience a secret for decades until the sanseis discovered information about America's Concentration Camps. In the midst of the civil



rights movement, Asian American youth found a purpose and under the leadership of **Edison Uno** began formulating a plan to seek a public apology and reparations for innocent Japanese American internees.

Recognizing the importance of the JACL, as the sole Japanese American national civil rights organization with a presence in Washington, D.C., Edison Uno began attending every JACL National Convention beginning in 1970, to gain their support. It wasn't until 1976, when **Mike Matsuoka** came out in support of reparations, not just an apology, that a push toward a legislative remedy could begin. Japanese American political and community organizations began organizing in earnest.

By 1978 legislation was introduced to seek an apology and reparations, but Senator Inouye, a 442 veteran, convinced community supporters of the bill, over numerous objections, that a commission hearing was necessary to learn more about the conditions and circumstances of those incarcerated in the camps.

NCRR, among other community organizations, insisted that commission hearing be held on the west coast, not just in Washington, D.C. Testimony by Isseis and Niseis at the Commission Hearings on the Wartime Relocation Camps revealed the decades of shame, loss and suffering they endured, that spontaneously spilled out before a usually stoic community and family members whose unrestrained tears overflowed.

The testimony was instrumental in the Commission's recommendation to support not only an apology, but also, \$20,000 reparation for each surviving internee. Testimony offered was in many ways cathartic not only for the Isseis and Niseis but it provided the Sanseis a deeper understanding of the reason the Niseis never spoke about the camp experience.

Watch for this film "Our Lost Years" as we will be bringing Lane Nishikawas's film to the San Fernando Valley.

A PLEA FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP DESK

DID YOU KNOW...

- SFVJACL offered its first scholarship 60 years ago this year, in 1959?
- Sam and Terry Uyehara were the brains behind the original scholarship program?
- Former scholarship chairs included Harriet Nishizaka, Ron Yoshida, and Sumi Yamaguchi.
- The SFVJACL Holiday Boutique of the 1970s and 1980s helped fund scholarships?
- **Dr. Mary Sakaguchi Oda** generously endowed two scholarships in the 1970s and 1980s—one for Japanese Americans and other for Mexican Americans—in honor of her late son, Eugene.
- Thirty years later, Dr. Oda's brother, **Dr. Bo Sakaguchi** endowed a new scholarship in honor of their elder brother and longtime benefactor, **Dr. Sanbo Sakaguchi**.
- Our scholarship winners have gone onto to become attorneys, community activists, journalists, medical professionals and more?
- This past year not a single student applied to our scholarship program?

Although we want to make our scholarships as inclusive as possible (e.g., we do not require unattainably high scores) we do ask students to articulate their interest in civil rights. We also try to recognize community service. These twin interests are, after all, at the heart of our organization. Are students intimidated by this? Perhaps. Maybe they may not be familiar with our organization and all of our opportunities to support young people.

If <u>YOU</u> want to see the legacy that the Nisei pioneers established to support young people continue, our board needs <u>YOU</u> to publicize SFVJACL to the high school and college aged young people in your lives: children, grandkids, nieces, nephews, youth at your church or temple, neighborhood kids, etc. JACL, at the chapter, regional, and national level, is a civil rights organization that supports the next generation through opportunities for networking, internships, leadership skills, and, most directly, <u>scholarships</u> for the evergrowing costs of quality higher education. Please, tell your young people about our chapter: <u>www.jacl.org</u> or check us out on Facebook.

Have thoughts on how to reinvigorate our scholarship program? Or, want to join our committee? We're all ears: email deguzman.ucla@gmail.com.

Article submitted by: Jean-Paul deGuzman, on behalf of the Scholarship Committee

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2020
77th ANNUAL INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS LUNCHEON
Knollwood Country Club
Sunday, January 19, 2020
11:30 am Social Hour 12:00pm Lunch
\$35:00 per person

Guest speaker **Duncan Ryuken Williams**, a Soto Zen Buddhist priest and Director of the USC Shinso Ito Center for Japanese Religions and Culture. Author of: *American Sutra: A Story of Faith and Freedom in the Second World War;* which in April 2019 was listed No. 3 in hardcover nonfiction on the LA Times Bestseller List.



JACLers, family and friends attended the screening of *Our Lost Years* at the Aratani Theater. Pictured from left to right are Joshua Nobida (Tamlyn Tomita's nephew), Tamlyn Tomita, Nancy Takayama, Emi Wilks (Marion and Phil's granddaughter), Marion Shigekuni, Phil Shigekuni, Michiko Kus, Barbara Okita, Patty Takayama and Nancy Gohata.

JUNE DONATION

We are most grateful to **SETSUKO TANAKA** (Beverly Oyama's mother) who gave us a generous monetary donation in memory of Dr Bo Sakaguchi.

Dr Bo, as he was called by all his friends, was featured in our last newsletter issue. We thank you Mrs. Tanaka for your donation and for remembering our chapter as your donation site.

Help Us Reduce Postage and Visit Us Online

You can greatly help our chapter by getting the Chapter newsletter via email. Please go to kyoshino@verizon.net and register your e-mail address



Donate

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A Special Concert for Baby Boomer Sansei & Nikkei Caregivers

Open to All SFV JACL & SFV JACC Members and Guests

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FEATURING The Grateful Crane Singers
KEIKO KAWASHIMA KURT KUNIYOSHI HELEN H. OTA

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BRIAN YAMAMOTO ("Elemental Funk," "The Ronin Stones," "Local Mojo")

MUSICIANS

SCOTT NAGATANI KEYBOARDS DANNY YAMAMOTO DRUMS HIRO MOROZUMI BASS

Sunday, August 25, 2019 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION (Light refreshments provided by the SFV JACL)

San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center 12953 Branford St., Pacoima 91331

TAKE A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE with the Grateful Crane Ensemble as we proudly present, "Back in the Day," a special concert just for Sansei baby boomers and Nikkei caregivers featuring your favorite tunes from those Sansei dances of the 1960's and 70's. Whether it's "My Girl," "Hello Stranger" or "That's All," Back in the Day will take you back to Rodger Young's or Blarney's Castle where only you remember what you were wearing, who you were dancing with—and the songs like "Summer Sun" that will bring it all back, just like old times.

This special one-hour concert is designed just for you to relive those carefree days of dancing to the sounds of Carry On, Free Flight and Winfield Summit, and the after-dance good eats at Holiday Bowl or Mago's.

A post-concert reception will give you a chance to remember those good ol' days, and reunite with friends old and new. And for Nikkei caregivers, it's a chance for you to forget all your troubles, take a much needed break and have some fun! So come on out and join us—it's FREE and it's gonna be a GAS!





Terminal Island Photo Caption

Photo: Front Children: Connor & Taylor Fukumoto, Kai Gonzales

(L-R) Kiyo Fukumoto, Emi Hino, Nancy Gohata, Linda Tanaka, Michiko Kus, Barbara Okita, Marion

Shigekuni, Linda Kuratomi, Mitzi Kushida, May Wood, Liz Doomey

Back Row L-R Nancy Oda, Al Kushida, Priscilla Mui, marifrances, Phil Shigekuni, Evelyn Kita

JACLers with Terminal Island Docents



THANKS TO THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH COMMUNITY PLUS BUSINESSES WHO SUPPORTED OUR PACIFIC CITIZEN HOLIDAY ISSUE FUNDRAISER

Scott Nishizaka, DDS and Stacey, Ava and Maya Bo Sakaguchi, DDS and Mrs. Ikuyo Sakaguchi Mark Uyehara, Loreen and Sarah 15989 Yarnell St., Sylmar, CA 91342

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412 San Fernando Mission Blvd. San Fernando, CA 91340 (818) 365-3934



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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 - \$25

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 - \$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

The 2016 JACL National Council approve receiving the print edition of the Pacific				·
\square Yes , I would like to receive the B \square No , I will not pay an additional s				
☐ New Member	☐ Renewing Membership		☐ Gift Membership	
<u>SAN I</u>	ERNANDO VALLEY Men	nber Informo	<u>ıtion</u>	
First Name	Last Name	Last Name		
Street Address				
City	State	Zip C	ode	
Phone	Email			
Payment Method Check en Please charge my Credit Card				□ Discover
Card Number:	Expiration			ode:
Name (as it appears on card):		•	h / Year)	
Please send this form to: Japanese American Citizens Lea	que Pacific Cil		ship Dues \$ aper (\$17) \$	

Additional donation to JACL (optional) \$

TOTAL enclosed \$

Additional donation to SFV JACL (optional) \$_

JOIN or RENEW Online: http://www.jacl.org/member

P.O. Box 45397

San Francisco, CA 94145-0397



14229 Carl Street Arleta, CA 91331