

San Fernando Valley Japanese American Citizens League Chapter Newsletter

April - May 2023

SFV JACL 2023 INSTALLATION



The Board welcomed the **2023 New Year** with renewed energy and eagerness to finally have the INSTALLATION in person. The Installation was held on Sunday, January 22, 2023, at the Community Center in the Sakaguchi Hall. We enjoyed delicious Hawaiian cuisine from West LA Rutts Catering.

The Officers were installed by Ryan Yoshikawa, Pacific Southwest (PSW) Governor. SFV JACL President, **Nancy Takayama** expressed her gratitude for the Executive Board and all of our JACL members because without them we would not be able to give back to the community and fulfill our vision to support Civil Right and Justice.



Emily Woo was our keynote speaker who gave a presentation on her Girl Scout Gold Project, her book, "The Journey to a New Beginning". It was very impressive as Emily related what she went through to earn the Gold Award. Only 6 percent

of Girl Scouts in the U.S. earn their Gold Award. She spent several years working on this project and never gave up. She interviewed senior citizens and members of the SFV JACC to illuminate life in the San Fernando Valley as experienced by our Japanese American



friends and neighbors before and after World War II. The book includes many photos of the farms that surrounded the northeastern San Fernando Valley.

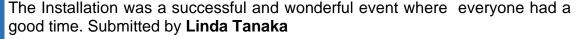
Emily was recognized by the Girl Scout board for her outstanding project and represented the Girl Scouts in Washington D.C. Attendees were able to purchase a signed copy of Emily Woo's book. Get a copy. It will provide an interesting background for all new and old members of the SFV Japanese American Community Center.



The entertainment was delightful with the visually exciting Hula performed by Barbara Okita, Julie Otake and Janet Yamato, and the Off-Off Broadway line dance by Marcia Mahony, Barbara Okita, Julie Otake and Linda Tanaka



wearing hats and carrying canes. **Nancy Takayama** led the crowd in a challenging and fun game accessing our memories.

















2023 SFVJACL Events

May - SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS / June 23-24 - SFV Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Obon July 19-23- JACL National Convention – Little Tokyo / August – Summer Gathering September - Santa Anita Field Trip / October - Halloween Festivities Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue Fundraiser Begins SFVJA Community Center Clean-Up



THE NATIONAL YOUTH/STUDENT COUNCIL (NY/SC)

The National Youth Student Council body of student and professional voung leaders representing their peers on the district and national levels of the JACL. Together we develop young leaders

support one another, engage in advocacy on a national level, and are empowered to make the change they want to see in their schools, workplaces, and communities.

The **MISSION** of the NY/SC is to raise awareness of AAPI issues and to engage and develop young leaders who create positive change in our community.

Their **VISION** is a network of collaborative young community leaders and allies with the collective power and passion to make change.

Meet Lana Kobayashi current Pacific Southwest ((PSW) Youth Representative

During **PSW's Back to School Campaign**, Lana gave presentations about the Japanese American Citizens' League (JACL) at **UCLA Nikkei Students Union** (NSU) and **Polaris Gakuin**. As NY/SC representative she successfully recruited 10 members at Polaris Gakuin.

At the Rising Stars Youth Leadership Program in Little Tokyo, she engaged parents and students in conversations with a question and answer session. Two students later reached out to Lana for information about joining JACL as youth members.

Lana informed the groups about the National JACL Convention on July 19-23, 2023 in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles with the theme: "Rooted in Community" which will provide many volunteer opportunities for interested adults and youths to showcase our local history.

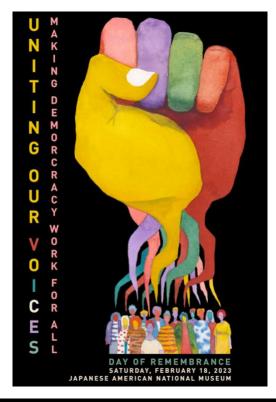
Lana will attend a **NY/SC Biannual Retreat** during the second week of April in Chicago. We look forward to further reports **from NY/SC**.

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE at Japanese American National Museum

"Uniting Our Voices" was the theme for the 2023 Los Angeles. DOR, Day of Remembrance at the Japanese American Historical National Museum in Little Tokyo. Over 300 incarcerees, family members, and guests attended the annual event. DOR commemorates the signing of Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. It authorized the U.S. military to remove persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast and set into motion their incarceration into ten concentrations camps from 1942 to the end of WWII.

DOR Committee Co-Chair, **Richard Katsuda** noted the importance of putting democracy at the forefront of its work considering the events of January 6, 2021. With the ongoing disinformation around election dualism and the attack on the rights of minority people and women, we need to rally together to support our Constitution and Democracy.

Boy Scouts Troop from Evergreen carried banners of the ten camps with a senior incarcerees joining them to honor those who were interred. Musical presentations were performed by Dan and June Kumamoto. Guest speakers shared their thoughts and concerns.



LA Times will not use internment to describe WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans

AsAm News BY Akemi Tamanaha | March 18, 2023

The Los Angeles Times has announced it will not use "internment" to describe the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. Instead, it will use words like "incarceration," "imprisonment" or "detention."

The announcement was made in an article written on March 16, 2023 by Los Angeles Times Staff Writer Teresa Watanabe, whose parents were incarcerated during the war.

"No, my parents were not interned. They were not "evacuated" or "relocated," even worse euphemisms. They were incarcerated. They were imprisoned in remote Idaho facilities ringed with barbed wire and guard towers manned by armed soldiers who were their fellow U.S. citizens," she wrote in the article.

The Los Angeles Times also reflected on its support of Japanese incarceration after announcing it would stop using the word "internment."

"The Los Angeles Times itself supported the incarceration at the time, and this style change reflects our commitment as an institution to better represent the communities we serve. We hope this will help bring closure to the families of those unjustly incarcerated and deepen our society's understanding of that period," Times Executive Editor Kevin Merida said in an interview with Watanabe.

In 2022, the AP Style book also announced that it would not use the term "internment."



Elections and Voter Registration

Primary elections in California are less than one year away. All persons eighteen years of age and a citizen of the United States is eligible to register to vote if a resident of California.

The State of California is offering the California Motor Voter Program for Voter Registration to anyone 18 years or older. Anyone with a state driver's license and California residence is eligible to register. Some restrictions apply to persons with a criminal history or not currently found mentally incompetent. (Check with the Secretary of State's office). Persons 16 or 17 years old can preregister to vote, and be automatically registered when they turn 18. You may also register online.

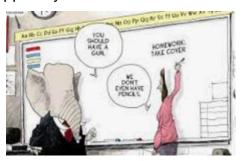
President Biden in Monterey Park

President Biden addressed a crowd in **Monterey**Park a month after the Lunar New Year
Celebration where a mass shooting killed 11 and injured 9 people. Biden announced he was signing an executive order to strengthen restrictions on gun sales.

With anti-Asian hate crimes on the rise in California; **Georgia** and **New York** among other states focused on more severe gun control legislation to show Democratic support for Asian American communities.

CNN suggested that this visit to the largely Asian American community was prompted by the **17% rise** in GOP support by Asian American voters.

Submitted by Patricia Takayama



"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 recipes to Patty Takayama at: pe.high.mtn@gmail.com

Kodomo no hi: Children's Day Celebration

In Japan, Kodomo no hi, or "Children's Day," is celebrated

every year on May 5.
On this national holiday, children are respected and honored for their individual strengths and happiness is wished upon

them. Children's Day was originally known as *Tango no* The



holiday was officially changed to celebrate the health and growth of both girls and boys in 1948. *Kodomo no hi* is particularly well known for the unique traditions and decorations that are associated with the celebration of the holiday.

On Kodomo no hi, Koinobori, or cloth carp streamers, are flown on poles outside of public buildings and private houses to bring luck and good fortune to the children inside. Koi fish, or Carp, are believed to be strong, spirited fish and are revered for their determination in fighting as they swim upstream and through powerful waterfalls. Koinobori symbolize the desire for children to become brave and strong individuals

Article by Michiyo Kigawa of Japan Society



HAIKU

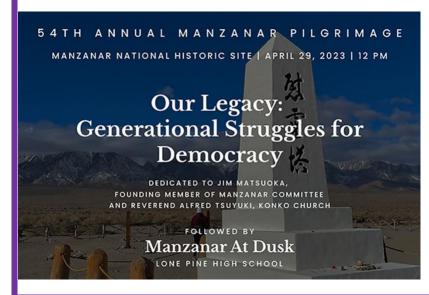
(three versus, 5-7-5 syllables per line)

Spring Blossoms

Daffodils delight Golden marigolds entice Playful adventures.

Submitted by Patty Takayama





Reserve your spot on the Little Tokyo Bus ASAP

Reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The non-refundable donation is \$60.00 per seat. Complimentary fares are available for those who were incarcerated at any of the former American concentration camps or other confinement sites during World War II.

Bento (Japanese-style) lunches (chicken and vegetarian) are also available for \$18.00 each.

Go to the Manzanar Committee Website: https://manzanarcommittee.org

Anyone wishing to attend the Manzanar At Dusk program that evening should make other transportation arrangements.









San Fernando Valley JACL presents a

Grateful Crane Ensemble production

SONGS FOR A SANSEI

Featuring the Back in the Day Band Helen Ota and Brian Yamamoto, Vocals Dave Iwataki, Keyboards, Danny Yamamoto, drums









Join us for a fun and nostalgic trip down memory lane as
Grateful Crane's Back in the Day Band returns to the
San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center with your
favorites songs from the 60's and 70's. Whether it's Motown, Rock & Roll or R&B,
let's "Come Together" at the CC for some "Good Vibrations."

Saturday, May 20, 2023 2:00 p.m.

San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center 12053 Branford Street, Pacoima 91331

Pre-order dinner by May 12th

Admission tickets: \$15.00 / Bento dinner \$10:00

Make checks payable to: SFV JACL

Mail: SFV JACL / 12953 Branford Street / Pacoima, CA 91331

For more information or credit card charge contact:

Nancy Takayama / (818) 899-7916 / nt.high.mtn@gmail.com or Soji Kashiwagi / (310) 995-5841 / soji1062@verizon.net

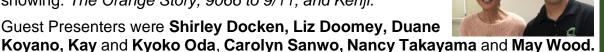
Day of Remembrance - "A Day That Changed Our America"



The San Fernando Valley Japanese Community Center organized their **FIRST DAY OF REMEMBERANCE** in Sakaguchi Hall on February 19, 2023. DOR was chaired by Bing Lau so that the San Fernando Valley Community could "... reflect upon the impact of Executive Order 9066..."

E.O.9066 changed the lives of Over 120,000 Japanese Americans and Japanese immigrants. The exhibits in Sakaguchi Hall included many members of the SFV Community: 1,000 Cranes, photos from Manzanar, The Takeuchi Family Documents, Tule Lake, and Tuna Canyon Detention Station.

Video Shorts and Media were also on a continuous feed showing: *The Orange Story*, 9066 to 9/11, and Kenji.





It was a heartfelt tribute to those who experienced the Camps and the descendants who still feel the ripples of that experience. We hope to see the SFV JACC as a permanent site for DOR in the future.





Welcome to our Chapter!

The San Fernando Valley JACL Chapter would like to welcome new chapter members. The new members are **Pamelyn Smith** and **Clay Shimizu**. **Troy Kadonaga**, and **Rebecca Yonemura** are youth members who are high school seniors. We want to extend membership to all high school, college students and graduate students to join our Chapter. The Chapter will pay for its membership for the first year. Please help our Chapter recruit students interested in the JACL, and its efforts to fight for civil and social justice and democracy.

Current member may wish to further support JACL by joining the "Thousand Club," with an annual contribution of \$200. The "Century Club" members generously contribute \$350 annually.



Puyallup Valley Chapter of the JACL "Puyallup Assembly Center" Remembrance Gallery Opening target date: Spring 2024

Puyallup Valley Chapter of the JACL seeks support and endorsement of its effort to build the "Puyallup Assembly Center" Remembrance Gallery on the Washington State Fair (WSF) located in Puyallup Washington. It will be located under the iconic grandstands, where up to 1 million annual visitors will pass.

- To bring awareness and education about the wartime incarceration experience which affect all people of Japanese descent.
- To honor the 7,600 Japanese and Japanese Americans who were unjustly removed from their homes and imprisoned on the Puyallup fairground during WWII.
- To highlight the social injustices of this wartime experience and make comparisons to those being denied justice today to ensure this part of history is never repeated

Join our Honorary Co-Chairs: Frank and Penny Fukui, and Bill Weyerhaeuser

Donation information can be found on the website:

https://www.puyallupvalleyjacl.org/donate-1

Fundraising Goal: \$1.8M



Keynote Speaker WARREN FURUTANI



Warren speaks at the Commemoration in 2019

Much-appreciated, tax-deductible donations can be sent to:

Venice Arts Council/VJAMM P.O. Box 993, Venice, CA 90294 Checks payable to "VCH/VJAMM"

Venice Community Housing serves as fiscal sponsor for the Venice Arts Council and the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument Committe

Thursday, April 20, 2023

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Commemoration of the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument

In person at the

Northwest Corner of Venice Blvd and Lincoln Blvd

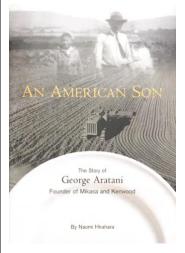
VENICE JAPANESE AMERICAN MEMORIAL MONUMENT FUNDRAISER AT HAMA SUSHI RESTAURANT

213 WINDWARD AVENUE "ON THE CIRCLE" IN VENICE 4:00 - 9:00 PM - DINNER ONLY

ORDER ANYTHING ON THE MENU! ONLINE: hamasushi.com/menus 310-396-8783

Hama Sushi will donate 10% of all dinner sales to VJAMM for educational outreach, continuing maintenance of the monument, and funding for the Annual Arnold Maeda Manzanar Pilgrimage Grant

Ventura County JACL Book Club with Naomi Hirahara



Acclaimed mystery writer of the Mas Arai Series, Naomi Hirahara was the speaker at the Ventura County JACL Chapter Book Club, a virtual meeting on Wednesday, March 22, 2023.

The topic of discussion was "An American Son – The story of George Aratani, founder of Mikasa and Kenwood." The book was part of the Japanese American National Museum's American Biography Series. Hirahara was drafted to write the biography by JANM copyrighted in 2001.

Setsuo, George's father was a successful entrepreneur who died while George was enrolled at Keio University and left him a sprawling many faceted agricultural

business in Guadalupe Valley, California. His father's business acumen and strategies helped George to deal with the many issues brought on by **WWII** and his family's incarceration at **Gila River Camp.**

George Aratani's name appears on the auditorium at the JACCC Plaza in Little Tokyo. The story also references friends and acquaintances such as: John Aiso, a fellow teacher at the M.I.S. Japanese Language School. Judge Aiso's name appears on a street sign opposite San Pedro Street and First Street,

Participating members from the SFV JACL Chapter were Barbara Okita, May Wood and Patty Takayama.

By: Patricia Takayama



SFV JACC COORDINATING COUNCIL - NOTES OF INTEREST

LAPD Sergeant Ojeda from Foothill Division reported on **CRIME REDUCTION** in our neighborhood concerning **aggravated assault** which will ease our community spirit as we exit and enter our Community Center grounds.

The **Future Planning Committee** continues to follow the process of approval according to **Margaret Takimoto.**

The **SFV Buddhist Temple** has announced an **Afternoon Tea** on May 07, 2023 for \$35.00 More information will follow. There will be two days of a Face to Face Obon Festival on June 24th and 25th

Sun Valley Community Center will also celebrate Obon on Saturday, June 17, 2023 only.

Bing Lau announced a Children's Event on April 29, 2023 at the SFV JACC.

The **Japanese Language Institute** (JLI) is having a **Spring Yard Sale on April 22**, 2023, in the parking lot. *Submitted by May Wood*

2023 Women of the Year Luncheon

Sunday, May 7, 2023 12:30-2:30 P.M.

Quiet Cannon – Crystal 1 & 3 Room 901 N. Via San Clemente, Montebello, CA 90640 (323)-724-4500

Honoring:

Kyūka Kanesaka (AKA Yukari Kanesaka) Matsutoyo Sato Fumiyo (Fumi) Stark Margaret Nitta Takimoto

Join us in making this a memorable day for these women.

Cost: \$50.00/person
Prime Rib or Vegetarian Pasta Primavera
Child's Plate (10 yrs. & under) – Chicken Strips \$25

Make checks payable to Downtown JACL

To reserve a seat and where to mail your check contact:

Kyoko Nancy Oda / 818-786-0914 / nancyoda64@gmail.com

Or

Liz Doomey / 818-429-4096 or lizdoomey@yahoo.com

Save the Date

Saturday, May 13, 2023 9 AM

Pacific Southwest District Pre-Convention Meeting

Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute 1964 W 162nd Street / Gardena, CA 90247

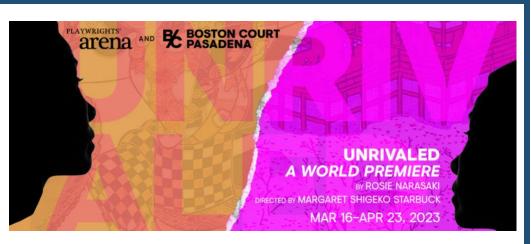
Greater Los Angeles Virtual Program / Sunday, April 16, 2023 at 1 PM Guest Speaker: Ron Wakabayashi

Japanese American Support for African American Reparations

Assembly Bill 3121 was enacted on September 30, 2020 and establishes the Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation proposals for African Americans. AB 3121 charges the California Department of Justice with providing administrative, technical, and legal assistance to the Task Force. Ron Wakabayashi, National Director of the Japanese American Citizens League in 1981 and former Regional Director with the U.S. Department of justice, Community Relations Service will be presenting. The presentation is for the purpose of requesting endorsement of the AB 3121 mission. An endorsement campaign has been initiated to support broad community engagement with this issue. For a Zoom link to the program, please RSVP to email: greaterlajacl@gmail.com

AAPI Affinity Night is next Thursday, April 6th at 8PM at Boston Court Pasadena.

This performance of *Unrivaled* is specifically reserved for members of the AAPI community and will be followed by a post-show discussion focused on female solidarity and rivalry in the arts &



entertainment industry featuring guest speakers Tamlyn Tomita, Kristina Wong, and Michelle Sugihara!

Unrivaled by Rosie Narasaki tells the hilariously re-imagined story of 11th century Ladies-in-Waiting Murasaki Shikibu and Sei Shonagon who are, to this day, two of Japan's most beloved writers. They also kind of hated each other. This play is about friendship, heartbreak, and what it means to

A CO-PRODUCTION WITH PLAYWRIGHTS' ARENA

UNRIVALED

AAPI AFFINITY NIGHT

BY ROSIE NARASAKI

DIRECTED BY MARGARET SHIGEKO STARBUCK

APR 6, 2023

This world premiere play tells the story of 11th-century Ladies-in-Waiting Murasaki Shikibu and Sei Shonagon, two of Japan's most beloved writers, and their rivalry,

Join us on April 6th for Unrivaled AAPI Affinity Night! This performance is specifically reserved for members of the AAPI community and will be followed by a post-show discussion focused on female solidarity and rivalry in the entertainment industry featuring a panel of incredible AAPI women artists!

Only valid on April 6, 2023 and not valid with other offers Subject to availability.

be a female artist. Perhaps most of all, it's about how

no matter how much things change, the more they

stay the same... even after a thousand years. This

Playwrights' Arena and Boston Court co-production

THEN & NOW: POETRY FROM THE 11TH TO THE 21ST CENTURY

SUNDAY, APR 9 4PM

Immediately following the 2PM matinee

Unrivaled, a world-premiere play by Rosie Narasaki, tells the story of 11th-century Ladies-in-Waiting Murasaki Shikibu and Sei Shonagon, two of Japan's most beloved writers, and their rivalry, friendship, and heartbreak.

Inis special engagement event immediately following the matinee performance of *Unrivaled* will feature contemporary poetry readings from LA-based poets Traci Kato-Kiriyama, Kenji Liu, and Vicki Vertiz alongside readings from Murasaki Shikibu's *The Tale of Genji* and Sei Shonagon's *The Pillow Book* to honor the legacy of poetry from the Heian Period all the way to 2023 Los Angeles.

A CO-PRODUCTION WITH PLAYWRIGHTS' ARENA **UNRIVALED**

of Unrivaled runs now through April 23rd!

A WORLD PREMIERE

BY ROSIE NARASAKI

DIRECTED BY MARGARET SHIGEKO STARBUCK

APR 15, 2023

This world premiere play tells the story of 11th-century Ladies-in-Walting Murasaki Shikibu and Sei Shonagon, two of Japan's most beloved writers, and their rivalry, friendship, and heartbreak.

STUDENT NIGHT APR 15, 2023 \$5 TICKETS

lood and a creative activity hosted by the Attadena Library and TeenTix LA starting at 7PM, and a post-show discussion with the actors following the show! Parents accompanying a student receive \$15 tickets. This play is appropriate for ages 13 and up.

USE CODE: STUDENTNIGHTBC23

Only valid on April 15th and not valid with other offers. Subject to

Reserve your tickets here:

https://bostoncourtpasadena.org/events/unrivaled/



2023 JACL National Convention Workshop Proposals Due Next Week!

Do you have an idea for a possible workshop at this year's upcoming JACL National Convention? Then help us by submitting your idea to possibly see it as a workshop this year! **Proposals are due by Monday, April 10th.** Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. This year's workshops will be spread across two days with each dedicated to a specific theme:

Friday Workshops: Envisioning JACL for the Future

Workshops on this day should focus on the current work that JACL is doing, educating and skill-building for chapters and members, and/or discussing how JACL can prepare itself for the future

Saturday Workshops: Rooted in Community

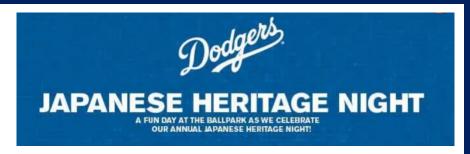
Workshops on this day should focus on the work individuals and organizations are doing to preserve and celebrate the Japanese American, the larger Asian American & Pacific Islander community, and allied communities.

Submit Proposal Here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAlpQLSeFDLVt0ilxM2UmMT97eA0qN4D3g70r0FEb-g4vshOjMLTfnQ/viewform

Los Angeles Dodgers vs LA Angels Saturday, July 8, 2023 at 6:10 PM

Dodger Stadium





Dave Roberts was born on May 31, 1972, in Naha, Okinawa, Japan. He grew up in San Diego, Calif., starring as a multi-sport athlete for Rancho Vista High School. Roberts played baseball, basketball and football.

He drew interest from schools for his football skills, but declined in favor of proceeding with a baseball career. Roberts ultimately enrolled at UCLA and earned a spot on the baseball team as a walk-on outfielder.

He impressed during his junior season, leading the Cleveland Indians to select him in the 47th round of the 1993 MLB Draft. Roberts opted against signing and returned to the Bruins for his senior season.

Read more about Roberts by Jayne Kamin-Oncea/USA Today Sports at https://dodgerblue.com/dave-roberts-manager-biography-los-angeles-dodgers-career/

Shohei Ohtani was born to Kayoko and Toru Ohtani in Mizusawa (now part of Ōshū), Iwate, Japan, on July 5, 1994. His mother, Kayoko, was a national-level badminton player in high school and his father worked at a local automobile manufacturing plant and was an amateur baseball player who played in the Japanese Industrial League. The youngest of three children, he has one older sister, Yuka, and one older brother Ryuta, who is also an amateur baseball player in the Japanese Industrial League. In Japan, Ohtani was known as a "yakyū shōnen" (野球少年)—a kid who lives, eats and breathes baseball.



Wikipedia-The Free Encyclopedia:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shohei Ohtani

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, Couple/Family - \$1,036

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

		nent assessing a \$17 surcharge on memberships Digital subscriptions do not incur additional fees.	
		Please add \$17 to my purchase. he digital version via email for free	
□ New Membership	☐ Renewing – Member ID: _	Gift Membership	
SAN	FERNANDO VALLEY Member	<u>Information</u>	
First Name	Last Name		
Street Address			
City	State	Zip Code	
Phone	Email		
•	k enclosed, make checks payo d Visa American Ex		
Card Number:		Expiration Date:/Security Code:	
Name (as it appears on card):		(Month / Year)	
Please mail this form to: JACL Membership P.O. Box 45397		Membership Dues \$ Pacific Citizen Newspaper (\$17) \$ Additional donation to JACL (optional) \$	

Or JOIN or RENEW Online: http://www.jacl.org/member Questions: mbr@jacl.org

San Francisco, CA 94145-0397

Additional donation to SFV JACL (optional) \$

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