

San Fernando Valley Japanese American Citizens League Chapter Newsletter

August - September 2023

My name is **Troy Kadonaga** and I am a recent high school graduate who will be attending USC as a freshman in the fall. I would like to thank the SFVJACL for selecting me as one of this year's scholarship recipients and for giving me the opportunity to attend this year's JACL national convention. I would like to especially thank Nancy Takayama, SFVJACL president, and **Ryan Yoshikawa**, Pacific Southwest District Governor, for their efforts in organizing the convention and guiding me through this experience.



Prior to attending, I didn't know what to expect. But as I began to immerse myself in the convention, I started to gain a greater

understanding of my Japanese American heritage and what the JACL is all about. I realized how widespread and active the Japanese American community is, and I was amazed by the incredible efforts to both preserve JA culture and history and fight for rights and reparations for all people across the country.

This year's convention was held in Los Angeles, and I was able to experience Little Tokyo with a new perspective, one that gave me a much more personal connection to the area as a Japanese American. But while I certainly enjoyed spending time in Little Tokyo, it was the people that I encountered that made the biggest impact on my experience. Everyone from famous actors to chapter leaders to youth representatives were all there for the same reason: to preserve the JA legacy and defend equality and justice in this country.



Initially, I was impressed by those who are a part of the National Youth Student Council. Their active involvement in the JACL illustrates how welcoming the JACL is of young voices who believe in making a difference. Additionally, I was also surprised by the other attendees of the convention. Aside from seeing more Japanese Americans in one place than I ever have before, it was very meaningful to see so many passionate people united by their ancestry, which showed me that I was a part of a nationwide community of Japanese Americans.

It was also great to see members of the San Fernando community at the convention. I especially enjoyed the LA Historic Landmark Preservation workshop which featured **Mrs. Kyoko Oda's** talk about the Tuna Canyon Detention Center, which I found to be particularly fascinating.

I also got to see figures who are well-known outside of the JA community,



like Tamlyn Tomita, George Takei, and David Ono, take time to contribute to this convention. Getting to experience these individuals utilize their platforms to express



their shared passion for the JACL was particularly impactful. I especially enjoyed David Ono's "**Defining Courage**", which was undoubtedly one of the most powerful and moving performances that I have ever experienced. (cont. page 2).

(cont. from page 1)



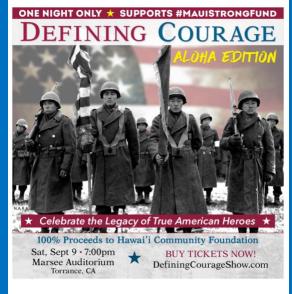
The show illustrated the incredible strength of the Japanese American spirit that lives on today, and while the issues of today are different from those that were faced by the Nisei soldiers, the Japanese American community continues to rally around the legacy of these soldiers to fight for what is right even today.

There was a specific quote

from the performance that stuck with me: "It's amazing how something so far away can hit so close to home". Despite the fact that these stories seemed like so long ago, they continue to inspire and motivate our communities almost eighty years later. If I have learned anything from my experience at the JACL convention, it is that the Japanese American community is alive and thriving.







ONE NIGHT ONLY!

Saturday, September 9, 2023 - 7:00 p.m. at The Marsee Auditorium 6007 Crenshaw Blvd, Torrance, CA

Buy Tickets HERE

You're invited to support the Maui relief efforts

The immersive live performance honors the most decorated US soldiers of World War II—the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service—which originated in Hawai'i more than 80 years ago.

This special "Aloha" edition honors Hawai'i with additional stories, and with dance by Hālau Hula Keali'i O Nālani and music by Nick Lee and Grammy award winners Daniel Ho and Tia Carrere.

100% monies raised will benefit the Hawai'i Community Foundation.

"It's the perfect way to keep this incredible story alive in the most memorable way," said David Ono, the host and coproducer of "Defining Courage". "More importantly, right now our friends on Maui are 'defining courage' under the most difficult and tragic of circumstances. Let's stand with them and give them our love and support."

LOIS and TADAO OKUI FAREWELL LUNCHION

The OKUI FAREWELL LUNCHION was held on Saturday, July 15 at Fuji Buffet and Grill in Glendale.



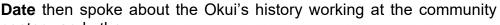
It was a, grand event with a hundred seventy family and friends present to wish **Lois and Tadao** happiness on their new adventure to retirement. Everyone had a chance to greet and socialize with friends they have not seen for a while. It was nice to see Lois making the rounds to talk to everyone and we all had a chance to sign the large banner wishing the Okuis the best on their next adventure.

The buffet was amazing with a yakitori station; seafood station serving fish, clams, oysters,

mussels, seaweed salad, calamari, a variety of sushi and sashimi; dishes with meat and vegetables, noodles, soup, salads and desserts.



Then **Danny Okazaki** said a few words on how he enjoyed working with Lois and Tadao and how helpful and supportive they were when he was president. He sincerely thanked and wished them good luck. **Stan**



center and the difference they

made over the years. He then ended with the tradition three cheer Banzai, explaining that the second Banzai should be louder than the first and the third should be even louder. Everyone stood up and raised their glasses and the room roared. It was great. What a wonderful send-off.



It was hard to say good-bye to Lois and Tadao. They will be moving to Henderson, NV on July 25th. They will be truly missed.

Submitted by Linda Tanaka

May Nomura Arakawa

May was born in Sacramento, California as the fourth of five children in the Nomura family. Their family was interned at Topaz Concentration Camp in Utah. After the War, the Nomura family relocated to Cleveland, Ohio. Then they returned to California in 1948. In her youth, May was very active, she played on the basketball teams and bowling leagues, where she met Wally. They were married in 1964 with three and were blessed lovely Kathie, Joyce and Janice. May enrolled them to experience everything: art lessons, speed reading classes, flamenco, ballet, tap and jazz dance lessons, glass blowing, swimming, diving and synchronized swimming. She always wanted the best for them. May was a gracious hostess at our JACL events, always smiling and greeting people with kind word. Five days after her 91st birthday, May passed from this life. She will be dearly missed by our chapter.



















"The JACL 2023 National Convention Roundup"

Citizens Japanese American League delegate and Chapter members from Philadelphia to Portland gathered in Little Tokyo for the 2023 National Convention. Attendees were introduced Whova"computer software application which made sure we were aware of the topics, location, and schedule for the many workshops, meetings, video presentations, receptions, and other special program presentations.

The "Welcome Reception" was held at the Terasaki Budokan, and the Mayor of Los Angeles, Karen Bass,

joined the festivities. Cousin' J Town performed Hompa Hongwanji Temple, and JACLers were able to cha cha, line dance and dance the night away. A Special Reception, with food and drinks, was provided for all members at Sake Dojo by the Consulate General of Japan. One of the highlights of the conference was an evening performance at the Aratani Theater. "Question 27*** Question 28" is based on verbatim excepts of oral histories and interviews from a woman's perspective. The Chay Yew's play was read by

Tamlyn Tomita, Meg Cashei, Mika Dyo, and Katie Kitani. An enthusiastic standing ovation greeted the

performance, and many in the audience wanted it shown in many other cities. With enthusiasm, renewed dedication, and commitment by the Youth Group, delegates, and veteran JACL members, the 2023 Convention held the SAYONARA BANQUET under the stars at the JACCC. By Linda Tanaka

LOYALTY OATH, Question 27, Question 28

The play, Question 27, 28 was read at the Aratani Theater, Thursday, July 20, 2023. It was presented by Tamlyn Tomita/David Blinkoff and the JACL Pacific Southwest District as part of the JACL National Convention program.

The reading featured Tamlyn Tomita, Mika Dyo, Katie Kitani and Meg Cashel. These four women portrayed the voices of numerous women incarcerated in WWII U.S. Relocation camps under Executive Order 9066 signed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Among those voices were: Mary Tsukamoto an activist teacher and the author of "We the People"; Yuri Kochiyama, a



political activist who supported Black Power organizations after meeting Malcolm X. She was also a leader in the Asian American civil rights movement and subject of several books, including her memoir, "Passing it On"; A Caucasian incarceree, Elaine joined her family in Manzanar, as a wife whose baby's father was a communist union organizer and activist, Karl Yoneda. Her only options were to be separated from her baby and husband or join them in camp.

These testimonies were pieces of interviews on file with Densho, offered insight into the hardship of these women held captive in barracks who suffered freezing cold and roasting hot accommodations in isolation while enduring the humiliation and anxiety of dealing with the "Loyalty Oath Questionnaire" put to them despite their U.S. citizenship and those of 2/3 of the more than 120,000 incarcerated people of Japanese ancestry.

This reading brought to life the testimonials of actual incarcerees in WWII U.S. camps in the dramatized voices of women whose lives were forever changed by the experience.

By: Patricia Takayama

REMEMBER WHEN.....

Growing up in Hawaii, I remember eating a lot of SPAM. I had spam for lunch in my aluminum school bento box with rice and an umeboshi on top, shoyu spam for dinner and spam sandwiches. We had onigiri, but we used the term musubi, with umeboshi or bottled nori in it. Being raised with spam, I thought it was just a basic food everyone enjoyed.

I did not know Spam arrived early in Hawaii due to the presence of the military before and after the war. Spam was part of the battling soldiers ration and for the locals it was cheap protein. **Barbara Funamura** invented the spam musubi 80 years ago. I did not know about spam musubi until I got married and raised my boys.

It's amazing how a simple, country dish is popular all over Hawaii and parts of California. L&L Hawaiian Barbecue first introduced the spam musubi in 1999 in Puente Hills, California. Today, you can purchase it at any eatery, even high-end Fusion restaurants and at the Annual San

Fernando Valley Obon.

Now I have the mold to make spam musubi and it is always a big hit at Happy Hour.

Submitted by Linda Tanaka

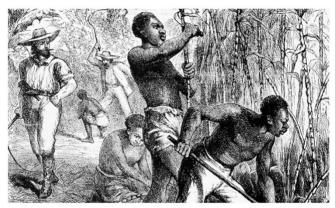


Slavery in America - Part Two

SLAVERY and REPARATIONS
Reconstruction and Jim Crow Era

For almost two hundred years the U.S. South was an American goldmine. It had rich nutrient soil and two cash crops: tobacco and cotton. But more importantly it had cheap labor. Southern plantation owners had slaves. As many as 10 million slaves kidnapped from African shores and sold as chattel to enslavers in North, Central and South America.

The enslavers treated their slaves as chattel, as prisoners to advance the productivity of their family enterprises. And, to promote continued prosperity they enacted laws that ensured slaves did not escape and any child born to a slave, was deemed a slave, just like



Copyright: Credit: Lordprice Collection / Alamy Stock Photo

chattel. Moreover, a Black person born free could be kidnapped and enslaved.

Southerners held that Black people were inferior and their white owner's advice and direction was due to benevolent superior intellect and care. This perspective, of superior intellect and ownership encouraged a sense of racial superiority among all southern white residents to differentiate poor white people from seemingly middle class people of color. This racial class system continued to sustain the institutionalized economic hierarchy in the South.

Despite the loss of the Civil War, the Confederate South declined to accept the **Emancipation Proclamation** even after it became the 13th Amendment in 1865 and a condition of acceptance back into the Union, the United States of America.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

A Proglamation.

Whereas, on the twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing, among other things, the following, to wit:

"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever, free; and the Executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.

Despite the end of the Civil War, during Reconstruction when Black Americans were freed and given citizenship rights, including the right to vote, Southern states enacted regulations such as poll taxes and reading requirements that interfered with the ability to register to vote. Controlling voter turn-out enabled Confederate Dixiecrats to Gerrymander district boundaries to retain House seats.

Where Federal authorities were called upon and came to support the freed Black citizens,

voter turnout elected Black leaders and Congressmen. Black businesses sprang up as well as schools and colleges. Black communities thrived. However, this period was short lived.

Southern whites angry over the prosperity of former Black slaves expressed their hostility in various ways: hanging, beatings, massacres and arson. The most egregious and famous include:

- A) 1898 the largest and majority Black city of Wilmington, NC was attacked by 2000 white men and massacred the inhabitants of whom 1400 fled into the swamps for safety.
- B) Nov. 2, 1920 Ocoee, FL Afro-Americans attempted to exercise their legal right to vote when at least 50 of them were murdered in a brutal massacre.

To be continued in the next newsletter.

Robert "Bob" Moriguchi

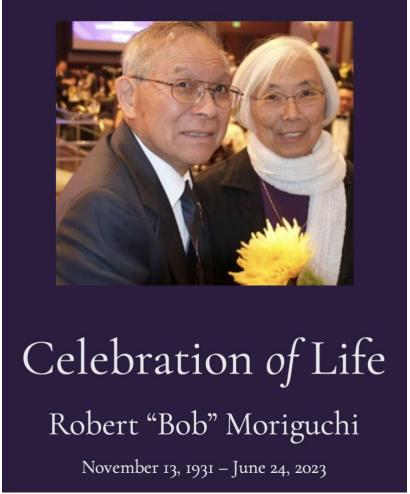
Bob was born on November 13, 1931 at Children's Hospital in San Francisco. His parents, Tatsumi "Louis" Moriguchi—an Issei—and Shizuko "Pearl" Morimoto—a Nisei—were wed in an arranged marriage. Bob remembered that early family life was a happy one despite the hard work and hardships his parents endured as they raised their two sons, Robert and Richard.

On October 3, 1959, Bob wed Akiko Tashima at the West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple. Bob and Aki met at the home of Bob's friend, Steve Ihara, who was throwing a New Year's Eve party on December 31, 1958.

They had their first child, Larry Hisao, who was lucky enough to attend Pinecrest School, a private school with a pool and horseback riding.

Susan Harumi was born about a year and a half later with big, pink cheeks.

Brian Kenji was born a little more than a year later, and everyone marveled at his adorable dimples! Larry and Susan loved Brian's dimples, too (not really).



When Bob and Aki first moved to Granada Hills, Bob joined the SFV Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League. Japanese-Americans were starting to campaign vigorously to dismantle many discriminatory and unjust laws aimed at making Japanese-Americans, and other minorities, secondclass citizens. Bob felt the community and power of the more than 100 Chapters of JACL that helped repeal Title II of the Security Act of 1950, which gave the government the authority to detain and arrest committing anvone the mere suspicion of an act detrimental the security of the U.S.—and along with it—the authority to establish or re-activate detention camps such as the ones that Japanese-Americans were sent to.

When the JACL purchased and distributed books to high schools throughout the SFV, Bob gave presentations to many school classes to spread awareness of the discrimination that Japanese-Americans had faced, and to promote discussions about Civil Rights. In 1968, Bob was elected the President of the JACL SFV Chapter and chaired the Nisei Relays which was like the J-A Olympics! He was enjoying being an active part of the community and continued on the Board of JACL for another 20 years. While Bob's sons both played in the J-A baseball leagues, Larry dropped out after only a year but Brian continued baseball and joined basketball as well. Bob was happy to participate as a coach on some of Brian's teams as well.

The above are excerpts from Bob's biography. A 49 page booklet with photos created by the Moriguchi family. The family has authorized JACL to share Bob's life. A digital copy is attached to this email or can be requested by email.



SFV JACL HOLIDAY GREETINGS FUNDRAISER

DEADLINE - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31st

The 2023 The Pacific Citizen Holiday Ad Fundraiser campaign is right around the corner. Please help the SFV JACL promote our annual Pacific Citizen Fundraiser by renewing or 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 the following programs and events in **2022**:

- JACL Installation
- "Tule Lake Stockade Diary" book promotion and panel discussion
- · Dan Taguchi's Big Band Music
- Awarded scholarships to 3 local students
- Nethercutt Museum guided tour
- 3 free buses to David Ono's "Defining Courage" event at Aratani Theater in Little Tokyo
- Halloween party, in partnership with the SFV Japanese Language Institute

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: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2023

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

Barbara Okita (818) 784-5128 or barbokt@aol.com Linda Tanaka (805) 304-5745 or lkitai@hotmail.com Marcia Mahony (818) 669-0409 or msmahony2@gmail.com May Wood (818) 399-7221 or may.wood66@yahoo.com

For monetary donations, please write a check to SFV JACL and send to:

SFV JACL Attn: Marcia Mahony 12953 Branford St. Pacoima, CA 91331

SFVJACC Coordinating Council - Notes of Interest

FOOTHILL DIVISION LAPD: There's an overall 20% drop of crime, but an uptake of traffic related accidents. Unfortunately, a lot of folks are homeless so the division is handing out reflective vests or shirts to help reduce pedestrians – traffic accidents. The tiny homes down the street on Bradford, is nearing capacity. There are no encampments or RV issue around the community center area.

SFV JACC NEWSLETTER: Lois will continue to do the newsletter from Henderson NV.

SFV JACC: Taiko is starting up for seniors and anyone interested in learning and performing. Classes will be taught by Walter Nishinaka. The LUAU Fundraiser Event will be held on August 19th at 4:00pm. See flyer. The annual steak dinner is scheduled for September 16. Bing is working on a Book Panal Event for October.

CHATSWORTH WEST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: The church took in an immigrant family of 5, fed, housed and helped them to continue their journey to Seattle.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

Saturday, July 8th, 6:10 PM



Those of us who are Dodgers and/or Angel fans were thrilled when the SFVJACC announced they would offer reserved tickets to the Japanese Heritage Night game on Saturday, July 8th. Judging from the response, many CC members, friends and family were



anxious to support their L.A. teams and the first batch of 70 tickets was sold out within a week of the announcement.

To assist those who did not want to drive to the stadium, the SFV JACL sponsored a free mini-bus to the game, on a first-come basis. Several fans were lucky enough to take advantage of the group transportation and avoided the traffic and parking nightmare.

The game did not disappoint Dodger fans, with the final score at 10-5. This fan saw her favorite players, Mookie Betts and Shohei Ohtani, hit home runs in the 1st and 7th innings, respectively. Pitcher Michael Grove held the Angels at bay as he pitched a respectable game from the 2nd to the 7th innings. Adding to the Dodgers' HR hitters for the night were Freddie Freeman, JD Martinez, Max Muncy, and of course, Mookie.



We had a good view of the field from our reserved section seats along the 3rd baseline. The two DodgerVision screens ensured we didn't miss any of the action at home plate. The weather was comfortable, the free promo jerseys were a welcome surprise, and the Dodger Dogs were a "must-have."

Being in the stadium and

rooting for our favorite team was the perfect way to spend a summer evening.

Thank you to the SFVJACC and SFV JACL for making this event a huge Home Run! Now, if the Dodgers can only sign Ohtani....

Submitted by Marcia Mahony



The Basketball Rows for Doughball Winners!

The San Fernando Valley JACL Chapter was pleased to join the San Fernando Buddhist Temple for their COVID delayed OBON.

Volunteers, Harold Kameya, Kay Oda, Kase Clark, (my grandson), Bruce Schaefer David Osaka, Marcia Mahoney, came out on Friday to set up the booth for the weekend. We were ready to roll the basketball on Saturday to begin the 25-cent chance to win more coins.

The players were greeted by **Diana Lau**, (her son Tre), **Linda Kuratomi**, **Pattie Takayama**, **Kase Clark**, **Marcia Mahoney**, **Bruce** and **Kristen Schaefer**, (their supporters **Willow** and **Stone**), **Nancy Takayama**, **Linda Tanaka**, and **Michiko Kus**. **Bruce Schaefer** saw our lights for the booth were not working well, and he generously brought new lights for the booth. The bright lights brought more players to our booth to try their luck.

Our supporters expressed their desire to help us next year, and we greatly appreciated their enthusiastic and friendly support. It was nice to see how a few winning quarters brought joy to the faces of our players.





Tuna Canyon Detention Station Biennial Luncheon in honor of the Japanese, German, and Italian immigrants and Japanese taken from Peru and their families during World War II.

September 23, 2023 at 12:30 pm

TABLE SPONSORSHIPS

GOLD-\$5,000

SILVER-\$3,000

2 tables of 10 with premium seating Full page ad in program booklet

BRONZE-\$2,000

2 table of 10 with premium seating Half page ad in program booklet Recognition on website

Recognition on website

1 table of ten with premium seating Acknowledgement in program booklet

Community-\$1,000

One table of ten with premium seating

\$100 INDIVIDUAL ticket for lunch

AD SPECIFICATIONS

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1/2 PAGE SPONSORSHIP \$300

Please provide artwork with 1/8" bleed, finished size 8.75" x 11.25"

Horizontal 10.5" X 7" Vertical 7" X 10.5"

1/4 PAGE SPONSORSHIP \$175 3.75" x 5"

ART DEADLINE: 8/15/23

BUSINESS CARD AD \$125

3.75" x 2.5"

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ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
PHONE (HOME):		
EMAIL:		
SIZE OF AD:		
DONATION \$		
LISE AD EDOM 2010		

Artwork must be camera ready in HIGH RESOLUTION, 300 dpi. (jpeg, jpg, tiff, pdf formats). Email artwork to:

NancyHayata@gmail.com WITH "TCDSC AD" in the subject line. by 8/15/23.

Please enclose order form with check payable to Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition
Mail to: Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition
c/o San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center
12953 Branford St, Arleta, CA 91331
Payment may also be made to PayPal via our website, www.tunacanyon.org

All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Nonprofit Tax ID 95-4642330











KEIKO

DARREL

FEATURED CHEF Akira Hirose, AZAY Restaurant

DINNER SHOW: SONGS FOR A SANSEI
FEATURING THE GRATEFUL CRANE SINGERS Haruye Ioka, Keiko Kawashima & Helen H. Ota
MASTER OF CEREMONIES DATTELL KUNITOMI

Join us for a fun and nostalgic trip down memory lane as we bring back some of the all-time Sansei favorites from the 50's, 60's and 70's. Whether it's Motown, Rock and Roll or R&B, let's "Come Together" at the Nishi Kaikan for some "Good Vibrations."

Saturday, September 16, 2023 | 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Kaikan 815 E. First Street, Los Angeles, 90012



YES, I would like to attend Grateful Crane's 13th Annual Fundraising Dinner

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

<u>Life Membership Categories</u>

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

		ent assessing a \$17 surcharge on memberships igital subscriptions do not incur additional fees.				
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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 \$ n Newspaper (\$17) \$ on 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) \$

TOTAL enclosed

\$



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