

Fall 2024



GARDENA VALLEY

JCI QUARTERLY

Newsletter of the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute

GVJCI Japanese Language School Principal's Message

Greetings! It is with great joy that I announce that the first day of the 2024-2025 Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute Japanese Language School began on September 7, successfully with a notable increase in enrollment in all classes. This is the second year of returning to in-person instruction after COVID and we are all extremely optimistic and are striving to bring the school back to the same level that we had prior to the COVID break.

This year, the in-person Sensei are Naoko Tran Sensei - Nyumon Class, Noboru Mishima Sensei - Primary Class, Masumi Sasaki Sensei - Intermediate Class, Chiaki Suzuki Sensei - Advanced Class and Mayumi Fuchino Sensei - Graduation Preparation Class. Instructing the Online Adult Beginner and Intermediate Class is Aki Izumi Sensei. Asaka Morita Sensei is instructing the Online Children's Conversation Class with the assistance of College students in Japan.



I am sincerely grateful to our dedicated teaching staff and the GVJCI staff for all their support to ensure that the Japanese School can continue in its mission to assist all persons interested to gain a better understanding of the Japanese language and culture. During this school year we will be developing a Parent Group of volunteers to assist us in many of the cultural programs and activities we offer for the benefit of the students.

Many of you may have received the GVJCI volunteer t-shirt for the service you provided and the word Kansha is boldly written on the back, both in Japanese kanji and English. I am privileged to possess several and I wear them to not only honor the volunteers but to express Kansha to the GVJCI for providing us with an environment and atmosphere conducive to honoring and learning more about the Japanese culture.

I thank you and ask for your continued support and hope that you will consider volunteering at the Japanese School. If you have any questions or are interested in becoming a JLS Parent Volunteer, please contact us at JLS@JCI-Gardena.org or call (310) 324-6611 ext 109.

Dozo Yoroshiku Onegaishimasu,
Lawrence Hada
Principal
GVJCI Japanese Language School



To visit the GVJCI website,
scan the QR code using your
phone camera!

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Website: JCI-Gardena.org
 Facebook.com/GVJCI
 [@GardenaValleyJCI](https://www.instagram.com/GardenaValleyJCI)



GARDENA VALLEY

JCI Gardena Valley JCI News

South Bay Nikkei Collaborative Website Relaunch

The South Bay Nikkei Directory website (SBNikkeiCollab.org) is live again! This digital directory was created in 2019 as a collaboration with the GVJCI, Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC) and other community volunteers of the South Bay Nikkei Collaborative, but unfortunately went dormant due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The website will be continuously updated and is now available to the public online. Its purpose is to serve as a virtual “hub” of the South Bay Nikkei community, which will provide needed resources and linkages. It can be found on the Resources page of the GVJCI website. And much kanchi to our volunteer Ami Nakashima for helping us reach out to the organizations and update the website!



History of the South Bay Nikkei Collaborative:

The South Bay is home to the largest Japanese American and Japanese national populations (collectively called Nikkei) in the mainland United States. Numerous Nikkei groups, services and programs are concentrated in this area. However, since the South Bay Nikkei community is a unique community without a center, the community has been disconnected. In 2019, ten Nikkei organizations representing both Japanese American and Japanese-speaking organizations started meeting to discuss how we can get to know each other better and collaborate. Those who came together identified a bilingual directory to gather information on various Nikkei groups active in the South Bay as the highest priority. As more information was gathered, it was discovered there are numerous nonprofit organizations providing activities and services in the South Bay Nikkei community, and we reached out to each one. Those who responded helped provide information to create this website.

サウスベイ日系ディレクトリのウェブサイト (SBNikkeiCollab.org) が再び公開されました。このデジタルディレクトリは、GVJCI、リトル東京サービスセンター (LTSC)、およびサウスベイ日系コラボレーティブの他の地域ボランティアとのコラボレーションとして2019年に作成されましたが、残念ながらCOVID-19パンデミックのため休止状態となっていました。ウェブサイトは継続的に更新され、現在オンラインで一般公開されています。その目的は、サウスベイ日系人コミュニティの仮想「ハブ」として機能し、必要なリソースとつながりを提供することです。GVJCIウェブサイトのリソースページに掲載されております。また、組織への連絡とウェブサイトの更新を手伝ってくれたボランティアの Ami・ナカシマさんにも感謝します。

サウスベイ日系共同体の歴史:

サウスベイは、米国本土で最大の日系アメリカ人および日本人人口 (総称して日系人) を抱える地域です。数多くの日系団体、サービス、プログラムがこの地域に集中しています。しかし、サウスベイの日系コミュニティは中心のないユニークなコミュニティであるため、コミュニティは分断されていました。2019年、日系アメリカ人と日本語圏の団体の両方を代表する10の日系団体が集まり、お互いをよりよく知り、協力する方法について話し合いました。集まった人々は、サウスベイで活動しているさまざまな日系団体に関する情報を収集するためのバイリンガルディレクトリを最優先事項として挙げました。より多くの情報が集まるにつれて、サウスベイの日系コミュニティで活動やサービスを提供している非営利団体が多数あることが判明し、私たちは各団体に連絡を取りました。応答してくれた人々は、このウェブサイトを作成するための情報提供に協力してくれました。

この度、サウスベイの日系団体録 (ウェブサイト) が一般公開されました。この団体録は、日英バイリンガルで、ウェブサイト上で随時更新され、誰でも、どこからでも、簡単にアクセスできるものです。

Check out Keiro's Aging & Caregiving Services Directory



Drawing from 60 years of experience in health care, Keiro has a culturally sensitive directory to help find the care planning you need.

Visit Aging & Caregiving Services Directory at keiro.org/directory.

Keiro



GARDENA VALLEY

JCI Tomo No Kai Corner

It's almost time to renew or sign up for 2025 Tomo No Kai membership! You can sign up or renew your membership for \$12 beginning October 21st, and you can begin using your membership to participate in classes immediately. What comes with membership? Participation in any of our TNK classes (most of which are only \$6!), our senior bento program which serves healthy and delicious \$7 Japanese bento meals, and our Tomo Cafe social hour where friends and new friends gather to socialize and enjoy coffee and pastries.

There are 2 ways to sign up/renew membership:

1. Visit JCI-Gardena.org/Membership and fill out the online membership form OR download and print out a paper form to fill out and return to the GVJCI Office.
2. Visit the GVJCI front office to fill out a paper membership form.

Please see our website for the latest class schedule or pick one up at our office.

TNK Class Updates:

This summer, Chika Nagata's ukulele class ended in August. And our Watercolor Class instructor Masa Lee left after 3 years of teaching at GVJCI. We sincerely thank both Chika and Masa for their support and providing a space for our Tomo No Kai students to express their creativity. Please note the Watercolor Class students will continue to hold the class and encourage new students to join. The class has been renamed to "Studio Artist Workshop," where students can come to work on their own personal art projects and meet fellow art students for just \$3 per class! They meet every Wednesday, from 10am to 12pm starting on October 9th.

And lastly, please note the following dates/holidays for 2024:

GVJCI CLOSURE DATES:

- Monday, November 11 - Veterans Day
- Thursday, November 28 & Friday, November 29 - Thanksgiving Holiday
- Wednesday, December 25, 2024 to Wednesday, January 1, 2025 - HOLIDAY CLOSURE

Important Dates:

- Wednesday, December 11 - Last day to order senior bento for 2024
- Friday, December 20 - Last day of TNK classes and Senior Bento Program for 2024

2025年の友の会会員の更新または登録の時期が近づいてきました。10月21日から12ドルで会員登録または更新でき、10月21日から会員資格を使用してクラスに参加することもできます。会員になると何が得られますか? TNKクラスへの参加(ほとんどが6ドル!)、健康的でおいしい7ドルの日本食弁当を提供するシニア向け弁当プログラム、友人や新しい友人が集まってコーヒーやペストリーを楽しみながら交流できる友カフェ ソーシャル アワーなどがあります。

会員登録/更新には2つの方法があります:

1. JCI-Gardena.org/Membershipにアクセスし、オンライン会員登録フォームに記入するか、紙のフォームをダウンロードして印刷し、記入してGVJCI オフィスに返送してください。
2. GVJCI フロントオフィスを訪れて、紙の会員登録フォームに記入してください。

最新のクラススケジュールについては当社のウェブサイトをご覧ください。当社オフィスで入手してください。

TNKクラスのアップデート:

この夏、永田ちかさんのウクレレ教室は8月に終了しました。そして、3年間当館にて水彩画を教えてくださいましたマサ・リーさんが10月2日を最終日にお辞めになりました。水彩画クラスは引き続き生徒さん達のみで開催されています。このクラスは「スタジオアーティストワークショップ」に名前が変更され、参加者の皆が自分の個人的なアートプロジェクトに取り組み毎回\$3で参加することが出来ます。興味のある方は是非参加してください。友の会の生徒達が創造性を発揮する場を提供し、サポートして下さったちかさんとマサさんに心より感謝申し上げます。

最後に、2024年の以下の日付/休日にご注意ください。

GVJCI 休館日:

- 11月11日月曜日 - ベテランズデー
- 11月28日(木) および11月29日(金) - 感謝祭
- 2024年12月25日水曜日から2025年1月1日水曜日まで - 休館

重要な日付:

- 12月11日水曜日 - 2024年度シニア弁当注文最終日
- 12月20日金曜日 - 2024年のTNKクラスとシニア弁当プログラムの最終日



GARDENA VALLEY

JCI Calendar

NOVEMBER

JAPANESE TEA CEREMONY DEMONSTRATION

SAT, NOV. 2, 2:30-3:30PM
GVJCI UPSTAIRS CLASSROOM
207/208

Experience the art of Japanese tea ceremony! This workshop will be led by Kenji Mayeda - a student of Tea at MOA Museum in Japan with over 10 years of experience. Participants will be able to observe "Temae" or the procedure of making tea. Wagashi (Japanese sweets) will also be served as part of the workshop. Limited to 30 participants. Participation fee is \$15 per person.

ストレッチプラス

11月4日(月) 午前10時-11時、GVJCI 2階クラスルーム
207/208、参加費無料

ストレッチインストラクターでリンパ

ドリナーージュ講師のAyaさんによる新しいワークショップ。1時間でストレッチ、軽い筋肉のエクササイズ、深い呼吸を取り入れながら体内に蓄積された疲労とコリをとりましょう。水とヨガマットを持参してください。和気あいあいとしたとても楽しいクラスです。(日本語)

OSECHI RYORI WORKSHOP SERIES

SUNS, NOV. 10 & 17, 10AM-12PM
GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall Kitchen

Learn to make Osechi Ryori (traditional Japanese New Years foods) in time for the new year! Participants will be instructed by veteran sushi chef Mike Inouye on how to prepare a variety of dishes. This is a two-part workshop series taking place over 2 Sundays. In-person participation fee is \$90 for the entire series and includes all foods and supplies. Virtual/online participation fee is \$45 for the series. Limited to 6

people for the in-person workshop and 100 participants to join virtually. The recording for each workshop will be shared with all paid participants. This workshop is for ages 16+. To register, please visit the GVJCI website!

DECEMBER

KAMIBAND WORKSHOP: SHIMENAWA MAKING

MONDAY, DEC 9,
12:00-2:00PM/2:30-4:30PM
GVJCI UPSTAIRS CLASSROOM
207/208

Taught by instructor Maggie Meza and Asako. Participants will make a New Year's Wreath. Free to attend. Instruction will be offered at two different times. Students can only take one of the 2 sessions. Limited 10 people per class. To register, please visit the GVJCI website. This program is made possible through grant funding from Keiro.

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紙バンドワークショップ：「正月しめ縄メイキング」

12月9日(月) 午後12時-2時、/午後2:30-4:30
 (お一人1回のみ参加可能、2セッション開催) /GVJCI2階クラスルーム207/208,参加費無料
 講師マギーさんとあさこさんによるワークショップ。今回はお正月の「しめ縄」を制作します。しめ縄の締め方を習います。各クラス10名限定。申し込みはGVJCIウェブサイトからこのプログラムは敬老グループによる付与金によって開催可能となりました。

JANUARY

2025 GVJCI RAFFLE DRAWING

THURSDAY, JAN 30, 10:00AM

NISEI VETERANS MEMORIAL HALL

Enter for your chance to win! 1st Prize - \$1,000.00, 2nd Prize - \$500.00, 3rd Prize - \$500.00, 4th Prize - \$250.00, 5th Prize - \$250.00.

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Special thanks to Leo Dominguez, GVJCI Marketing Volunteer for the newsletter design & production.



Insurance program for members of Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute. Our partnership with MAPFRE Insurance offers important auto coverages like comprehensive and collision deductible options and of course a multitude of discounts including multi-policy discounts up to 20%. As part of your MAPFRE Insurance auto policy you also receive a complimentary membership to Road America's Roadside Assistance service.

Please contact one of the agencies below to get your auto quote today!

<p>COSTA MESA Miyazaki Insurance Services (714) 979-8700</p>	<p>J Morey Company Inc. (714) 562-5910</p>	<p>Insurance Services (213) 626-9625 Minato Insurance Agency (310) 540-8595 Frank M. Iwasaki Insurance Agency (323) 879-2184</p>	<p>Agency, Inc. (310) 533-8877 Daiwa Insurance Marketing, Inc. (310) 540-8595 Nakazawa Insurance Services (310) 771-1500 FIA Insurance Services, Inc. (626) 795-7059 VAN NUYS Panorama Insurance Agency Inc. (818) 781-6630</p>
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Car Donation Program

Thinking of donating your car to charity? Now you can, and at the same time, support GVJCI! We have teamed up with Harold's Car Donation Service.

HOW IT WORKS:

1. Call or email us to arrange pickup at: (310) 324-6611 or cars@jci-gardena.org
2. Harold's Car Donation Service (HCDS) will arrange towing, always free of charge to you. (Disabled Vehicles, Junk Cars, Scrap Cars and Wrecks also accepted.)
3. HCDS handles all DMV paperwork at time of pickup, including Release of Liability.
4. After the car is sold, your acknowledgment and tax forms will arrive by mail.
5. You get rid of an unwanted car and get the satisfaction of helping others. You also get an IRS approved tax deduction. Yay!

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GARDENA VALLEY JAPANESE CULTURAL INSTITUTE

The Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute (GVJCI) is a 501(c) (3) non-profit community center providing various classes, programs, services, and facilities to the South Bay area. We also provide affordable housing through the JCI Gardens Apartments, the adjacent senior housing property.

The GVJCI's roots date back to 1912, when it was known as the Moneta Gakuen, a Japanese language school. In 1967, it was formally incorporated as the Gardena Valley Japanese Language School. Then, in 1968, the corporation changed its name to the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute to incorporate the broader services and functions the organization offers. In 1971, Compton Gakuen, Gardena Gakuen, and Moneta Gakuen merged, opening its doors officially as the GVJCI's Japanese Language School. The GVJCI has a very proud history spanning over 100 years.

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Japanese Language School

- Lawrence Hada, *Principal*
- Masumi Sasaki, *Vice Principal & Teacher*
- Mayumi Fuchino, *Teacher*
- Noboru Mishima, *Teacher*
- Asaka Morita, *Teacher*
- Chiaki Suzuki, *Teacher*
- Naoko Tran, *Teacher*
- Aki Izumi, *Adult Class & Conversation Class Teacher*

Today, we continue to provide a variety of activities, programs, and services. We are truly fortunate to have an active and well-utilized center serving people of all ages. We thank you, the community, for your active participation and for your support through donations and volunteerism that enables the GVJCI to continue.

MISSION STATEMENT

A space to engage, share, and embrace the Nikkei experience and culture.

VISION STATEMENT

The GVJCI envisions a vibrant network and a welcoming space for all persons interested in Japanese heritage and culture where history and tradition are honored, people are inspired to create action and change, and cultural pride and respect for all humanity are promoted.