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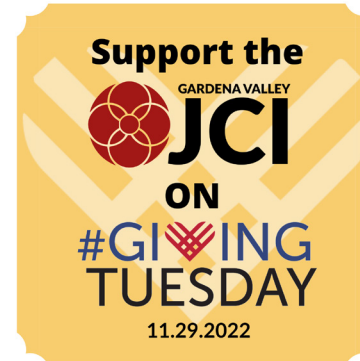
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GARDENA VALLEY JCI QUARTERLY

Newsletter of the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute

Fall 2022

Save the Date! 2022 GVJCI Giving Tuesday Campaign is November 29, 2022



Join us in this Global Day of Giving by supporting the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute (GVJCI). We invite you to support the programs and events that enable us to continue creating a space to engage, share, and embrace Nikkei culture! No amount is too little. Last year, we raised over \$8,000 (Thank you!) and hope to match or exceed that amount this year.

There are 2 ways you can support GVJCI on Giving Tuesday:

1. Donate to GVJCI's Giving Tuesday Campaign via GVJCI's Website <https://gvjci.wufoo.com/forms/donate-to-gvjci-giving-tuesday-2022/> or Facebook page
2. Create a Facebook Giving Tuesday Fundraiser benefiting the GVJCI, and share with your Facebook friends. You can find instructions on our Giving Tuesday page on our website

Thank you for your support!



STAFF UPDATES



We are sad to announce the retirement of **Gerald Mayewaki** at the end of September. Gerald has served as our Facility Assistant, handyman, and volunteer at numerous Matsuri for almost 10 years! However, his relationship with GVJCI was even longer, as he shared, "But for me, it all started with Sansei League Baseball, Gardena Kendo, and the JCI Carnival's in the early 70's. I've always had a heart for the GVJCI and its outreach and programs for the Japanese/Japanese American community here in the South Bay." Thank you, Gerald, for all that you did for GVJCI and the community! We will miss you on staff, but we know that you'll still be a part of GVJCI!

Let us welcome **Bryan Tamura** to our GVJCI Custodial Team. Bryan has participated in the martial arts program at GVJCI in the past and is familiar with our mission. He enjoys reading and listening to a variety of music, especially Jazz. In his spare time, he dabbles with a paintbrush creating meaningful art. We are excited to have Bryan part-time, maintaining the appearance of the GVJCI. Bryan, welcome to the GVJCI Family!



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JCI 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 acknowledgement 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!

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.

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.

Board of Directors

- Alan Kita, *President*
- Richard Ames, *Vice President*
- Ray Shibata, *Treasurer*
- Juan Hernandez, *Secretary*
- Miles Akiyama
- Gail Doi
- Lawrence Hada
- Michelle Hirano
- Bryce Ikemura
- Grant Nakaoka
- Kerilyn Sato
- Alvin Takamori
- Marilyn Tsuge
- Taylor Weik

Emeritus Board of Directors

- Dan Ashimine
- Paul Koshi
- Helen Nakano
- Charles Oyagi
- Glenn Tachibana
- Terry Terauchi

Staff

Administration

- Alison Kochiyama, *Executive Director*
- Cathy Lee, *Director of Development and Marketing*
- Debbie Oba, *Administrative Manager*

Programs

- Stephanie Mayeda, *Program Manager*
- Chikako Roper, *Bilingual Programs Coordinator*

Facilities

- Lyndon Meighan, *Community Engagement & Facility Manager*
- Brian Hoshiko, *Maintenance Custodian*
- Bob Seki, *Maintenance Custodian*
- Bryan Tamura, *Maintenance Custodian*
- Alvin Takamori, *Facility Assistant*

Japanese Language School

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



Gardena Valley JCI Calendar

*Please note that all programs are subject to change in the event of any health concerns regarding COVID-19.**

OCT

GVJCI SEE'S CANDIES ONLINE FUNDRAISER

OCT 3 - DEC 2, 2022 ONLINE ONLY

Please support our See's Candies Fundraiser Benefiting GVJCI! We'll receive all profits from any items you purchase. Order more to help us reach our fundraising goal of \$500! Great for holiday parties & gifts! This is an online fundraiser, orders can only be placed online. Winter items are available to ship 11/10/22.

How to order:

1. Visit the GVJCI online See's Candies storefront at: https://www.yumraising.com/secure/gardenavjc_sees_candies_fundraiser_for_gvj-ci24/CatLee4033/candy
- You can also access our storefront from our website or Instagram link bio.
2. Choose your candies for purchase
3. Pay online. Note Ground shipping is free with \$70+ orders!
4. Orders will be shipped beginning November 10, 2022.
5. Thank you for supporting our fundraising efforts!

SMARTPHONE CLASS MONS, OCT 17 - NOV 21, 12-1PM

GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Do you need help using apps on your smartphone? Not sure how to edit the settings on your iPhone or Android? Register for our smartphone/tablet class to learn the basic functions of your device! A question and answer session will conclude each class. This is a 6 class series; each class is \$10 or \$50 for the whole series.

ALZHEIMER'S LA: HOME SAFETY WORKSHOP

THURS, OCT 27, 2-3PM
GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Identify potentially dangerous situations for someone living with dementia. Learn easy ways you can change your home to make it safer, simple tips you can use, and ways you can use technology to improve a person living with dementia's ability

to remain at home safely. to register for this FREE workshop, please contact Kristy Huang-Arai at (323) 930-6257 or khuang@alzla.org.

NOV

ADULTING WORKSHOP: FIRST TIME HOME BUYING

SAT, NOV 5, 2-3:30PM ONLINE

Join us for a FREE online Adulting Workshop about buying your first home and gain valuable insight from our amazing speakers! Derek Hirano is the founder and leader of the Hirano Homes Group at Keller Williams where he advises his clients on selling, purchasing and investing in residential real estate. Mina Yasuda is the founder of the Mina Mortgage Group operating under the company - Guaranteed Rate Affinity. Her team consistently ranks in the top 1% within her company nationwide. All attendees will receive a FREE home buying guide. Visit our website to register today!

2022 GVJCI ELEMENTAL FUNK CONCERT FUNDRAISER

SAT, NOV 12, 3-7PM
GVJCI Main Hall

Get ready to GROOVE!! Do you miss listening & dancing to those old school LIVE bands? Well, today is your day! Come join us and be entertained by the BEST live band in the South Bay.... Elemental Funk!! While you are being entertained with the smooth songs of Earth Wind & Fire, or with the upbeat pop songs of Bruno Mars, you are supporting the GVJCI and our community! Sapporo draft beer, wine and super tasty appetizers are on our menu and available for purchase! NOTE: All attendees must be age 21 or over. Please bring valid identification.

TICKETS:

Early Bird Ticket Price: \$35.00 through October 28, 2022
General Admission Ticket Price: \$40.00 at the door (while supplies last)
Limited quantities of tables for 10 people available for purchase @ \$350.00 per table. Reserve your table today!

SENIOR TOMODACHI PROGRAM - HOLIDAY KAMI TAPE WREATH PIN WORK-

SHOP | ホリデーリースピンワークショップ

FRI, NOV. 18, 1PM-3:30PM 11月18日(金) 午後1時から3時30分まで
GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall ガーデナバレー二世ベテランズホール

Learn to make a Holiday Wreath pin with Kami (Paper) Tape. Kami Tape is a Japanese traditional tape, MIZUHIKI, made out of paper. FREE to participate and all supplies included. Register by calling our office at (310) 324-6611. Limited 10 participants.
日本伝統の水引を使ったホリデーリースピンを作ります。受講費、材料費は無料です。参加希望登録はホームページ、または電話 (310) 324-6611 でお問い合わせください。

KITSUNE AMIGURUMI WORKSHOP

SAT, NOV 19, 10AM-1PM
GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Learn to make a kawaii kitsune (fox) amigurumi this fall using simple crochet techniques! This will be a studio-type workshop for participants to create their own amigurumi fox using the instructions provided. An instructor will be present to assist participants, but everyone is required to know how to single crochet, change colors, and make a magic ring. Video links with tutorials will be shared with those who register. This is a FREE workshop. Yarn, crochet hooks, and instructions will be provided.

DEC

BEGINNER BONSAI WORKSHOP | 初めての盆栽ワークショップ

SAT, DEC 3, 10AM-2PM
GVJCI Outdoor Breezeway

This workshop will be a hands-on working introduction to bonsai taught by the Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai. Students will learn the basics of pruning and maintaining their own bonsai tree. Instructors will discuss the many styles of bonsai trees and selecting the best for their own tree. Bonsai is an outdoor activity, and instructors will explain the basics of watering, fertilizing, pest control, and tree maintenance. Limited to 20 participants. Supplies included.



Tomo No Kai Corner

2022 TNK Membership: 404 current members

GVJCI SENIOR BENTO PROGRAM

MONDAY-FRIDAY, 11AM-12PM
GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

The GVJCI Senior Bento Program has started up again and this time with 3 new vendors in addition to *Painter's Tape: Healthy Food For Kids*, *Ladybug Cafe*, and *N Cafe*! For those 60 years of age and older, our program offers a subsidized price of \$7 per bento. Those who are 59 years or younger can still order bento but must pay the full price of \$14 per bento. Pick-up takes place at GVJCI between 11AM-12PM, Monday through Friday, excluding public holidays.

There are 3 ways to order: (1) simply go to the GVJCI website's Senior Bento Program page and fill out the online form, (2) Go to the GVJCI front office and place your order with our staff, or (3) call the GVJCI office at

(310) 324-6611 to place your order. Full payment must be received by our office by the previous week's Wednesday at 1pm. If we do not receive payment in time, we cannot place your bento order. We accept credit card (online only), check, and cash payments only. Please call our office for any questions!

BECOME A BENTO BUDDY

As the cost of goods and services continues to rise, we're looking for ways to help subsidize the cost of bento lunches for our senior participants.

Consider becoming a monthly Bento Buddy by donating to our Bento Buddies program. Recurring donations help GVJCI keep up with the monthly expense of subsidizing senior bentos by 50%. Your ongoing support will help us reduce senior bento prices from \$14 to \$7 all year round!

Historically, our bento program has served approximately 30-45 bentos each weekday for seniors 60 years and older. As our Tomo No Kai senior weekday classes continue to grow,

we need ongoing financial support to help provide low cost bento lunches.

HOW TO DONATE:

To donate to the GVJCI Bento Buddies Program, scan the QR code with your phone camera OR visit www.jci-gardena.org/bento-program and click on the donate button.



RENEW TNK MEMBERSHIP FOR 2023!

Starting in November, you can renew or sign up for 2023 Tomo No Kai membership, which is also valid for the rest of 2022. Come to our office to sign up!

TNK BINGO STARTS 11/10!

BINGO is back starting Thurs, Nov. 10th! Only 10 cents per card in order to play.

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第一盆栽会による初めての盆栽作りワークショップ。盆栽の基本的な剪定や手入れの仕方を教わります。インストラクターが様々な盆栽のスタイルを紹介しあなたの盆栽はどのようなスタイルが適しているのかアドバイスします。盆栽はアウトドアで行い、水やり、肥料、害虫駆除など基本的な手入れの仕方を教えます。20名まで。受講料材料費込みお一人50ドル

HOLIDAY SCARF SEWING WORKSHOP

THURS, DEC 8, 2-3:30PM
GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Learn how to make a snood scarf using a serger sewing machine! A perfect holiday gift for anyone who gets chilly during a social winter! Serger sewing machine, thread, and other supplies will be provided. Fee is \$30 per person and limited to 10 participants. To register, please visit our website.

SENIOR TOMODACHI PROGRAM: HOLIDAY SUCCULENT WORKSHOP

FRI, DEC 9, 1-2PM
GVJCI Outdoor Breezeway

Let's destress from the business of the

holiday rush with a merry holiday succulent workshop! Participants will prepare their own arrangements with holiday figurines and decorations. If you're looking for a cute holiday gift idea, this succulent arrangement makes the perfect present for your loved one. FREE to participate and all supplies included. Register by calling our office at (310) 324-6611.

JAN

OSHOGATSU

SAT, JAN 7, 2-3PM
GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Celebrate the new year with us as we come together for Oshogatsu! \$5 per participant. Details to be announced soon. Please visit our website for more information and to register!

IKENOBOU IKEBANA WORKSHOP

TUE, JAN 17, 1-4PM
GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Learn the Japanese art of Ikenobou Ikebana flower arrangements with Izumi Minamitani, President of the Ikenobou Ikebana Society of LA. To register for this

workshop, please visit the GVJCI website! \$30 per participant, includes all materials.

SENIOR TOMODACHI PROGRAM - SMARTPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

FRI, JAN 20, 1-2PM
GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Join our FREE Smartphone Photography Club for seniors! In this meeting, we will cover smartphone camera basics, how to send and share photos using your phone, and how to use a few popular photo editing apps. Limited to 20 participants. Please call our office to reserve your spot today! iPhone and Android users are both welcome.

GVJCI 2023 RAFFLE DRAWING

FRI, JAN 27, 10AM
Join us for our annual raffle drawing! Raffle tickets can be purchased through 1/23/23, 3PM. Additional tickets can be mailed to you, please contact our office. Each book comes with 10 tickets and is \$20 per book! (That's just \$2 per ticket!) Oh, and did we mention first prize is \$1000?! Please call our office or visit our website for more info.

BOARD UPDATE



I would like you to meet Taylor Weik, a newest board member who will start her term in January. I met Taylor a few years ago when she was a Kizuna Program Manager and I am glad that she will become part of the leadership at the GVJCI. For many years, she has been a member of the GVJCI Day of Remembrance Committee.

She is a tech writer by day but we have seen her work as a journalist in Teen Vogue, NBC Asian America and others. In addition to Kizuna, she has volunteered with other Japanese American nonprofits. A graduate of UC Irvine's literary journalism and Asian American studies program. She is a member of the Asian American Journalism Association.

Above all, Taylor is excited and honored to deepen her involvement in the community by joining GVJCI as a board member. Please join me to congratulate and welcome Taylor to the GVJCI!

Alan Kita
President, GVJCI Board of Directors

FACILITY UPDATE

By Lyndon Meighan, *Community Engagement & Facility Manager*

In the world we live in today, it takes my breath away to know that there are still fantastic, kind-hearted, unselfish people walking this earth. I am grateful to be among these people every day. I want to highlight a few gentlemen who have unselfishly donated their time, tools, equipment, and knowledge to assist the GVJCI.



From Westside Connect, Todd Kirshenbaum and his team, Eric and Jaime, spent several hours hard wiring the NVMH Hall and the Main Hall to improve our security and internet. Our volunteer IT, Kevin Higa, did the final testing and donated his time to help complete this project.

From Gardena JCI Kendo, our Yakisoba specialists, these men are committed and dedicated to the GVJCI. Once again, they came through when the GVJCI needed to replace 100 chair shells for the 2nd floor classrooms. They drilled out the rivets, and new holes, bolted, cut excess bolts and sanded them down on a beautiful Saturday afternoon. Larry Hada and his team Matthew Kuriyama, Kazuhiro Takatsuki, Jason Diec, Kent Kawai, Justin Katsuno, Steve Hirai and Jason Ahn, I applaud you, gentlemen. I want to thank these gentlemen for their kindness and commitment to the community.



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2022 GVJCI Elemental Funk Concert Fundraiser Ticket Form

Please return with payment no later than October 28 for Early Bird Price \$35.

Send form & payment to:
GVJCI
1964 W 162nd St,
Gardena, CA 90247

Or visit our website to purchase tickets online!

Name	
Email	
Phone #	
Number of Tickets	
Total Ticket Amount	\$
Optional Additional Donation Amount	\$
Total Amount Enclosed	\$
I'd like to reserve a table for 10 people. Names are listed here, or I will send/email names to Cathy Lee, clee@jci-gardena.org by 10/28/22	
Additional Comments	