

# ADVENTURERS CLUB

Announces a series of unique trips to Japan providing an in depth look at a particular region(s) and highlighting the diversity of the landscape, arts & crafts, history and food, each trip is flavored by the element of the Seasons.

**\*\*Please note that the Adventurers Club is a non-GVJCI sponsored activity.\*\***

## JAPAN in FOUR SEASONS

All trips are Guided by Japan Expert, Roxana Lewis

(1) SUMMER, 2022 (July 15-26) The Famous Festivals & Obon Including Kyoto's Gion Matsuri, Gujo Hachiman Obon & Indigo dyeing, Fushimi Inari Matsuri, Kanazawa & UNESCO Shirakawa-go, Noto Peninsula Kiriko Matsuri, Osaka's Tenjin Matsuri.

(2) FALL, 2022 (Nov 1 -11) Beautiful Fall Foliage Walks Leisurely strolls to enjoy the countryside of (A) The historic Nakasendo from Magome to Tsumago (B) The Kumano Kodo at Kumano Nachi Taisha and (C) UNESCO designated Mt.Fuji reflected around Lake Kawaguchi.

(3) WINTER, 2023 (January 31-February 9) The Elusive Plum Blossom To include Setsubun and the Fukuoka Ume Matsuri, Nagahama Ume Bonsai and more

(4) SPRING, 2023 (April 30-May 10) The Spectacular Gardens & Late Sakura To include the beauty spots of Tohoku: Matsushima, Hirosaki & Kitakami Sakura and more.

Each of the trips will be limited to a maximum of 12 participants.

Contact Tim Toyama at [timtoyama@gmail.com](mailto:timtoyama@gmail.com) or Roxana Lewis at [Roxana.lewis@protravelinc.com](mailto:Roxana.lewis@protravelinc.com) for further details.



# 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.

<p><b>Board of Directors</b></p> <p>Alan Kita, <i>President</i>              Richard Ames, <i>Vice President</i>              Ray Shibata, <i>Treasurer</i>              Juan Hernandez, <i>Secretary</i>              Miles Akiyama              Gail Doi              Lawrence Hada              Michelle Hirano              Bryce Ikemura              Grant Nakaoka              Kerilyn Sato              Alvin Takamori              Airi Takashima Oye              Marilyn Tsuge</p>	<p><b>Emeritus Board of Directors</b></p> <p>Dan Ashimine              Paul Koshi              Helen Nakano              Charles Oyagi              Glenn Tachibana              Terry Terauchi</p>	<p><b>Staff</b></p> <p><b>Administration</b>              Alison Kochiyama, <i>Executive Director</i>              Cathy Lee, <i>Director of Development and Marketing</i>              Debbie Oba, <i>Administrative Manager</i></p> <p><b>Programs</b>              Stephanie Mayeda, <i>Program Manager</i>              Chikako Roper, <i>Bilingual Programs Coordinator</i></p> <p><b>Facilities</b>              Dayton Lee, <i>Facility Operations Manager</i>              Brian Hoshiko, <i>Maintenance Custodian</i>              Bob Seki, <i>Maintenance Custodian</i>              Gerald Mayewaki, <i>Facility Assistant</i></p>	<p><b>Japanese Language School</b>              Lawrence Hada, <i>Principal</i>              Masumi Sasaki, <i>Vice Principal &amp; Teacher</i>              Mayumi Fuchino, <i>Teacher</i>              Shizuka Marinakis, <i>Teacher</i>              Asaka Morita, <i>Teacher</i>              Chiaki Suzuki, <i>Teacher</i>              Naoko Tran, <i>Teacher</i>              Aki Izumi, <i>Adult Class &amp; Conversation Class Teacher</i></p>
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Fall 2021

GARDENA VALLEY

# JCI QUARTERLY

Newsletter of the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute

## FALL IS HERE

I can't believe we're approaching the holiday season and end of the year! With upcoming gatherings and more contact with many people, please continue to be mindful of COVID-19 safe and best practices. If you have any symptoms of illness, even if it may be a common cold, please be considerate and protect others by being cautious and staying home if need be.



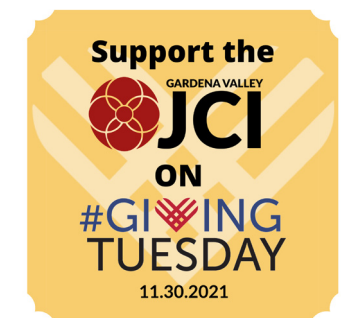
Some classes have now reopened at the GVJCI in smaller capacities. It's been so heartwarming to see GVJCI's halls and classrooms partially filled with smiling (masked) faces once again! Please refer to the TNK Corner to see what classes started. Some of GVJCI Member Organizations resumed their weeknights/weekend classes too, so please check with those organizations for information. GVJCI and the GVJCI Member Organizations are following the LA County Department of Public Health's guidelines carefully and are proceeding with safety procedures for everyone's continued safety. We thank all of the organizations, teachers, and participants for their continued care in this matter.

To all of you, thank you again for your continued support of the GVJCI. Stay safe and well!

With kansha,  
 Alison Kochiyama  
 Executive Director



## Save the Date! 2021 GVJCI Giving Tuesday Campaign is November 30, 2021



You can participate in a 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 \$4,000 (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://www.jci-gardena.org/giving-tuesday.html> 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!

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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](mailto: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 JCI CALENDAR

## NOV

### GVJCI RESTAURANT FUNDRAISER

Coming in November

Please visit our website for details!

### One to One ESL Tutoring Hours オンライン中級英会話クラス

TUES, NOV 2-DEC 14 (6 WKS), NO CLASS

11/23, 11AM-12PM

#### ONLINE

Sign up for 1-on-1 tutoring session with our TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language)-certified teacher this fall! These sessions are designed for intermediate to advanced level English speakers. Ask questions, practice your conversation skills, and get the help you need to improve your speaking and fluency. \$15 per session. To register, visit our Events/Programs/Classes section of our website!  
TEFL(外国語英語教員)資格を持った教師による1対1での英会話授業。中級から上級レベルの会話クラスです。質問をしたり英語のスキルアップなどで会話をさらに充実させるためのお手伝いをします。登録はホームページ、Event/Programs/Classesからお願いします。

### SENIOR FOOD BOX DISTRIBUTION

WEDS, NOV 3, DEC 1, JAN 5, FEB 2, 9-10AM

#### GVJCI Parking Lot

10-12 lb boxes of shelf stable items and fresh produce for seniors 60 years and older. 1st come, 1st served. 1 box per car. NO RSVP. To maintain social distancing, this distribution is drive-thru only; no walk-ins. Please do NOT line up your cars prior to 9AM. All cars must enter coming east through the 162nd street entrance.

恒例の無料食品配布は毎月第一水曜日です。60歳以上のシニアの方々に10-12ポンドの常温保存食品を順番に1台につき1箱、お配りします。予約不可。社会的距離を保つためにドライブスルーのみ、歩いて立ち寄ることはできません。ボランティアやスタッフの安全確保のため、駐車場に入る際はマスク使用をお願いします。また、9時前に並ばないようお願いいたします。162番街を東から並んで入場してください。

### BEGINNER BONSAI WORKSHOP

#### 初めての盆栽ワークショップ

SAT, NOV 6 & SAT, MAR 12, 10AM-2PM

#### GVJCI 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 where instructors will explain the basics of watering, fertilizing, pest control, and tree maintenance. This is a two-part workshop; the second workshop date will take place on Sat, March 12, 2022 from 10am-2pm. \$60 fee covers both workshops. Limited to 15 participants. Supplies included.

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、害虫駆除などの基本的な手入れの仕方

を教えます。このワークショップは2部になっています；第2部は2022年3月12日、土曜日、午前10時から午後3時まで、\$60は両1部2部ワークショップの受講料になります。15名まで。全講(1部2部)受講料お一人60ドル。

### UKIYO-E STYLE WATERCOLOR PAINTING CLASS

WED, NOV 10 & 17, 6-7PM

#### Classroom 207/208

Learn how to paint Ukiyo-e style watercolor art in this new two-part class taught by artist Masa Lee! Fee includes one paint brush and watercolor paper for students to keep. If students have their own brush, paper and paints, the supply fee will be waived and will only need to pay \$5 participation fee. Please note that this class does not utilize wood-cut print technique as in traditional Ukiyo-e. Visit our website to register!

### SAFETY FOR SENIORS SEMINAR

FRI, NOV 12, 1-2PM

#### GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Join us for a FREE seminar on safety for seniors. Ron Mark, Director, Center for Criminal Justice Research and Training at California State University, Long Beach, will be giving a presentation on how to stay safe when out in public, what types of behaviors to look out for to avoid potentially dangerous situations, and more. A Q&A session will follow the presentation. To register for this program, please visit the GVJCI website or call (310) 324-6611.

### GUIDED ONLINE MEDITATION FOR RELIEVING HOLIDAY STRESS

#### オンラインホリデーストレス対処瞑想ワークショップ

THURS, NOV 4 & DEC 9, 7:00-7:40PM

#### ONLINE

This guided online meditation workshop taught by certified massage therapist and Kundalini yoga teacher Yuki Uwasawa focuses on breathing techniques that relieve the stress that builds up from busy Holiday season. This workshop is conducted in English and Japanese. Fee is \$5 per participant. To register, visit the Events/Programs/Classes section on the GVJCI website. このオンラインワークショップは日英両語で行われます。長く外出自粛していましたが、気がつくともうホリデーシーズン。いろいろなイベントやお買い物など、忙しい生活に戻りつつあります。ユキ先生が呼吸法を使って蓄積していくストレスを解消する瞑想に導いてくれます。参加登録はホームページからお願いします。

## DEC

### JAPANESE GIFT WRAPPING WORKSHOP

日本式プレゼントの包み方ワークショップ  
SAT, DEC 4, 10-11AM

#### GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Make your presents extra special this gift-giving season in our Japanese Gift Wrapping Workshop! Learn how to wrap various small boxes, containers, and even a bottle with intricate and beautiful folding designs. Wrapping paper and ribbon will be provided with registration. Participants can bring their own



# Tomo No Kai Corner

## TNK WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE

### MONDAY

9:45 - 10:45am Physical Fitness for Seniors w/ weights  
1:00 - 2:30pm Line Dance

### TUESDAY

10:00 - 2:00pm Oil Painting  
10:00-11:30am Beginning/Intermediate Hula  
11:45-12:45pm Basic Beginner Hula

### WEDNESDAY

9:00 - 2:00pm Knitters Workshop (No teacher)  
9:45 - 10:45am Physical Fitness for Seniors w/ weights  
10:00-12:00pm Watercolor Painting (Starts 11/10)  
11:00-12:00pm Gentle Yoga  
12:15- 1:15pm Belly-up Salsa Aerobics

### THURSDAY

9:45 - 10:45am Physical Fitness for Seniors w/ Bands  
12:00 - 1:00pm Basic Line Dance  
1:15 - 2:15pm Beginner Line Dance

### FRIDAY

9:00 - 2:00pm Knitters Workshop (No teacher)  
9:45 - 10:45am Physical Fitness for Seniors w/ weights  
11:00-12:00pm Chair Yoga (Starts 11/5)  
12:15- 1:15pm Belly-up Salsa Aerobics (Starts 11/5)  
9:00 - 11:00am Friday Craft Workshop (No teacher)

TNK membership is currently at 282!

For more information, please contact Chikako Roper (chatamoto@jci-gardena.org) or call (310) 324-6611.

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- Probate



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small box /container items to wrap during the workshop. Workshop is limited to 20 participants. Fee is \$10 per person. .  
ステキな包み方を覚えてプレゼントに特別な気持ちを含めましょう。このワークショップでは小さな箱などや包みにくい瓶もきれいに見栄えよく包む方法を教えます。ラッピングペーパーやリボンをご用意します。プレゼントする箱などお持ちください。20名まで。受講料お一人10ドル。

## HOLIDAY MUSHI PAN MAKING WORKSHOP

SAT, DEC 11, 2-3:30PM

Online

The holidays are a time for baking! But what about steaming? Yes, this season we are making Japanese mushi pan (steamed cakes)! Learn how to make these light and delicious little cakes in matcha, strawberry, and vanilla. This workshop is open to all ages. Fee is \$5 per participant. Visit our website to register!

## JAN

### ADULTING WORKSHOP: CAREERS IN TECHNOLOGY

SAT, JAN 8, 2-3PM

ONLINE

Join us for a FREE online workshop designed to provide an overview on what it's like to work in the tech industry, as well as how to best prepare for it.

- Description of various career paths in technology
- What type of education and/or knowledge is appropriate for certain career paths in technology
- What the interview and selection process is like in technology
- What to expect in a tech career (things you might already know about vs. things you might not know about)

#### About the Speaker:

Brenton Mori is a 4th generation Japanese American originally from the Montebello/Monterey Park area, and has lived in the South Bay for the past eight years. He has been working in the tech industry over the past seven years for companies such as TRUECar, AT&T, Amazon, and most recently for PlutoTV/ViacomCBS where he's currently a Senior Lead of Business Intelligence.

### Kakizome Taikai 書初め大会

SAT, JAN 15, 10-11AM

#### GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

KAKIZOME is a Japanese tradition of the first calligraphy writing of the new year. Instructor Akemi Harvey will explain the tradition of Kakizome and teach participants how to hold a shuji-brush and write their own wish for the new year. A brush, ink and paper will be provided with registration. Participants may also bring your own shuji set. Limited to 20 participants. \$5 participation fee.

日本の伝統行事、書初めをしませんか?年の初めに気持ちを新たに筆で1年の抱負や願いを書きましょう。筆、墨や半紙をご用意します。お習字セットのある方はお持ちください。20名まで。

### CONVERSATION ON TULE LAKE STOCKADE DIARY BY TATSUO RYUSEI INOUE

SAT, JAN 22, 2-4PM

Online

Join Nancy Kyoko Oda, Martha Nakagawa, Richard Murakami, Jason Fujii in a conversation moderated by Bruce Embrey around this groundbreaking new book, Tule Lake Stockade Diary. The diary, originally written in Japanese and translated for the first time into English, tells Tatsuo Ryusei Inouye's story of struggle and resilience in his own voice. This online program is FREE to attend. The book is available to purchase for \$36 for those who register. Please visit our website for more information and to register!

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### INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE AT GVJCI

By: Kimi Nagasaki, GVJCI Marketing & Social Media Intern

Hi, my name is Kimi Nagasaki, and I served as the GVJCI's Marketing and Social Media Intern this past summer! I have loved my experience as a Marketing & Social Media Intern at GVJCI. This summer, I helped plan social media content for our Virtual Matsuri Fund-raiser. I learned so much about managing social media accounts and what it takes to plan and execute marketing campaigns. I also gained valuable experience in tracking social media engagement in order to measure effective marketing strategies. Interning at GVJCI was more than just gaining marketing experience, it also allowed me to meet more people within the Japanese American community in the South Bay. During my time with GVJCI, I was able to meet Hideki Obayashi and Frank Nakano, owners of Gardena Bowl Coffee Shop and Azuma. I interviewed them for an article and we discussed how they came to own these two beloved local restaurants and how they have adjusted since the pandemic hit. In addition, I enjoyed going to the office for our monthly Senior Food Box Distributions. These drives provide fresh produce and canned goods for seniors in our community. The volunteers at our monthly drive are always so kind and it's been a pleasure to meet these amazing community members.



To close my time here, I helped out at our annual TANOSHII Fun Camp. TANOSHII has been one of my favorite parts of this internship not only because I get to hang out with the funniest little kiddos, but also to learn more about Japanese American culture and heritage. For part of my life, I felt a little distant from my heritage as a gosei. But being a part of TANOSHII, I feel as though I've learned just as much as the young campers. During camp, I learned some Japanese language from our Japanese Language School teacher, Asaka Sensei. She taught us about different festivals and holidays in Japan like Tanabata and Otsukimi. We also made Japanese food like mochi and tsukemono, played taiko drums, and even went on a virtual field trip to Sunflower Farms Nursery, a local Japanese-owned small business. This opportunity at GVJCI was more than just your average internship. I gained hands-on experience in marketing, but more importantly, I had the chance to connect to my Japanese American heritage and community.

Special thanks to  for supporting the GVJCI Internship Program!




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.

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<b>HUNTINGTON BEACH</b> Mizuno Insurance Agency (714) 964-7227	<b>LOS ANGELES</b> Buna Insurance Agency (213) 626-1547 FIA Insurance Services, Inc. (626) 795-7059 Tatsuno Business Service, Inc. (213) 626-1954		

\*\* Insert any legal disclosures i.e. underwritten by CWIC etc.