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GVJCI MATSURI FUNDRAISER



Please Save-the-Date!

Saturday, June 29, 2024
 10:00am - 7:00pm
 Location: GVJCI

We are happy to announce that the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute (GVJCI) Annual Matsuri, our largest annual fundraiser, is back again this year.

The Matsuri has always been a festive time where our member organizations and supporters get together to volunteer, enjoy food, entertainment, games, community and so much more, all while raising funds to support the GVJCI. It is one of the highlights of the year that we look forward to each June and is 100% volunteer run by our GVJCI Member Organizations with all proceeds benefiting the GVJCI. We hope to see you there!

Here's what we have in store this year:

- Delicious Food
- Fun Games
- Raffle Drawings
- Plant Sale
- Bingo
- Beer Garden
- White Elephant Sale
- Craft Sale
- Indoor/Outdoor Entertainment
- Martial Arts Demonstrations

Here are some ways you can help support the GVJCI Matsuri!

1. PRE-PURCHASE Matsuri Coupons. Coupon books will be distributed through our Member Organizations in April or visit the GVJCI office
2. Make an optional **ADDITIONAL DONATION** (\$50+ donations will be gifted a special 2024 GVJCI Matsuri Fundraiser t-shirt). Please visit our website to donate online, or complete the form in this newsletter & return it to GVJCI with your donation.
3. Mark your calendar and **attend the event!**
4. Invite your family, friends & colleagues!

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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.

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

- Richard Ames, President
- Alvin Takamori, Vice President
- Juan Hernandez, Treasurer
- Marilyn Tsuge, Secretary
- Miles Akiyama
- Gail Saito Doi
- Randall Fujimoto
- Lawrence Hada
- Michelle Hirano
- Alan Kita
- Kerilyn Kotani
- Grant Nakaoka
- Alexis Okihara
- Taylor Weik

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- Glenn Tachibana
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Staff

- Administration**
 Alison Kochiyama, Executive Director
 Cathy Lee, Director of Development and Marketing
 Debbie Oba, Administrative Manager
 Sandy Uyesugi, Administrative Assistant
- Programs**
 Stephanie Mayeda, Program Manager
 Yukiko Natori, Senior & Bilingual Programs Coordinator
- Facilities**
 Lyndon Meighan, Community Engagement and Facility Manager
 Brian Hoshiko, Maintenance Custodian

- Bob Seki, Maintenance Custodian
- Bryan Tamura, Maintenance Custodian
- Gary Fujikawa, Facility Assistant
- Alvin Takamori, Facility Assistant

- 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

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!

Congratulations 2024 Raffle Winners!

- 1st Prize: \$1,000.00 Doreen Saito
- 2nd Prize: \$500.00 Roy Fisher
- 3rd Prize: \$500.00 Takako Hinkson
- 4th Prize: \$250.00 Irene Miyake
- 5th Prize: \$250.00 Richard Enomoto

Thanks to all who participated, we raised over \$49,000 and concluded another successful raffle fundraiser. The Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute (GVJCI) Board and Staff sincerely thank you for all of the support you give us.

Your generous support allows us to continue our important work. We were built by the community, and are truly sustained by the community.

We are celebrating over 70 years! The GVJCI Matsuri Fundraiser is a South Bay tradition that is enjoyed by many generations of local residents. As the GVJCI's largest annual fundraiser, we invite you, your family and friends, to enjoy this fun family weekend. Everyone is welcome! We thank all of our volunteers, member organizations, sponsors, board members, staff and attendees for the GVJCI Matsuri Fundraiser's continued success!

Food & Game Booths - Community organizations and classes that are housed at the GVJCI lend their volunteer support to run all of our booths including fun games such as Bingo, or our ever popular Pitch 'Til U Win, or cooking/ selling tasty food like chicken teriyaki, hot dogs, chili dogs, spam musubi, udon, Okinawa andagi and more! Our community volunteers are the BEST---they help run all of the booths and are the heart of our Matsuri!

Performances - Get here early, get some food, grab a seat and be ready to be entertained by the many talented people here at the GVJCI! We showcase many classes and programs that are held at our facility such as taiko, hula, Japanese traditional dance, singing and line dancing. Come see what these performers learn throughout the year, and maybe you'll be encouraged to join them at their weekly classes and perform next year!

Martial Arts Demonstrations - Ever wonder what these various martial art disciplines entail? Now is the time to find out! GVJCI's martial arts classes will be featured: Naginata, Gardena Judo Club, Gardena Kendo, and Kyudo Renmei. This is the perfect time to catch a glimpse and see if one of these is for you and/or your family!

Outdoor Plant Sale - One of our most popular booths year after year, supporting nurseries and gracious community plant enthusiasts donate beautiful plants from their businesses and backyards for our Matsuri. We also have nursery experts who volunteer their time at the booth to answer all of your most intricate questions on how to grow and maintain your new plants!

Holding Station - Are your hands full of food items, white elephant treasures, and crafts...and you REALLY want to purchase a house plant? Well, worry no more. Take all of your belongings to our holding station where we'll keep a watchful eye on your items. Now you are able to roam our Matsuri "hands free". Then drive your car by the loading zone and pick up all of your goodies!

Bingo - Try your luck at Bingo! Games begin at 4pm with chances to win cash & prizes!

Beer Garden - From opening to closing, take a break and come on over to our Beer Garden! Grab a beer, relax, and catch up with friends.

The Bridge: GVJCI Heritage Center - Come upstairs and see what we have to share with you! Visit our Japanese cultural heritage library and our educational **Tokonoma Display**. Want to inquire about our **Japanese Language School**? Come pay a visit and receive information you need to enroll

in the upcoming fall session. Returning this year is the **CERT** display, learn about Community Emergency Response; and visit the **Tomo No Kai Art** display! New this year, come and see the **Ikebana Class'** ikebana display! Do you love homemade crafts? Come visit and purchase beautiful hand made crafts from our **Tomo No Kai Crafters!** Who doesn't love a homemade crocheted scrubby? Yes please!

Pre-sale GVJCI Matsuri Fundraiser Coupon Books - Come by and purchase your coupons! Coupons will be sold by GVJCI programs and supporting organizations beginning in April. You may also visit the GVJCI office to purchase coupon books at \$20 per book prior to the Matsuri. The ten \$2.00 coupons can be used as scrip at all Matsuri booths. And back by popular demand is our raffle! Each pre-sale coupon includes an added value raffle ticket!

Matsuri Raffles - One raffle ticket is included with each pre-sale coupon. Return your completed raffle tickets to the GVJCI by 12:00pm, June 29 for your chance to win prizes during our matsuri. In addition, purchase special tickets for the **Mega Matsuri Raffle** at the Matsuri Info booth. Be sure to visit our website to see the **Mega Matsuri Raffle** drawing prizes. Drawings for this special raffle will be held on Saturday near closing.

White Elephant Donations Needed! Also needed are **NEW & LIKE NEW** and clean items for the White Elephant booth. **White Elephant donation drop off dates: May 13 - June 14, Weekdays, 9:00am- 12:30pm.** Last Drop off date is Friday, June 14th to the GVJCI Office. Thank you!



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COMMEMORATIVE MATSURI T-SHIRT

Please visit our website Matsuri page and click the donate button to donate today! Or you can complete & return the form below.

Those who donate a minimum of \$50 have the option of receiving a 2024 commemorative t-shirt gift. Each additional \$50 donation qualifies for another t-shirt.

T-shirt gifts are available for qualified donations received through June 7, 2024.

T-shirts are available in Men's, Women's and Youth sizes in navy blue. 2024 GVJCI Matsuri Fundraiser graphic is printed on the back of the t-shirt. The GVJCI logo will be on the front, left chest. T-shirt is 100% cotton. (Please see sample)

Please make checks payable to GVJCI, note Matsuri on your check, complete the form below and return your completed form to 2024 GVJCI Matsuri, 1964 W. 162nd St., Gardena, CA 90247. You can also donate online by visiting our website on the Matsuri page. As a 501(c)(3) your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Have any questions about your order? Call our office at (310) 324-6611 or email matsuri@jci-gardena.org. Thank you for your generous support!



GVJCI 2024 MATSURI COMMEMORATIVE T-SHIRT ORDER FORM. Please note, Matsuri & Friends of the GVJCI are 2 different fundraisers. To receive the Matsuri t-shirt gift, only Matsuri donations qualify. Payment must be received by Friday, June 7, 12:00 noon. Thank You!

NAME:										DATE:				
PHONE:										CHECK #:				
MEN'S					WOMEN'S				YOUTH				TOTAL T-SHIRT GIFTS	TOTAL DONATION AMOUNT
S	M	L	XL	2XL	S	M	L	XL	S	M	L	XL		
														\$

日時	クラス	インストラクター	場所	参加費
水曜日				
9:00 AM-11:00 AM	友カフェ	n/a	GVJCI 二世ベテランズメモリアルホール	n/a
9:45 AM-10:45 AM	シニアのためのフィジカルフィットネス	Jack Read, Regan Read	GVJCI メインホール	\$6
10:00 AM-12:00 PM	水彩画	Masa Lee	2階クラスルーム207/208	\$6
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	シニア弁当ピックアップ	n/a	GVJCI 二世ベテランズメモリアルホール	\$7/1個
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	チーゴンフォーヘルシーバックケア	Genie Nakano	GVJCI メインホール	\$6
12:15 PM-1:15 PM	チェア インヨガ	Genie Nakano	GVJCI メインホール	\$6

木曜日				
9:00 AM-11:00 AM	友カフェ	n/a	GVJCI 二世ベテランズメモリアルホール	n/a
9:00 AM-2:00 PM	ネットワークショップ	n/a	2階クラスルーム205	\$7
9:45 AM-10:45 AM	シニアのためのフィジカルフィットネス	Jack Read, Regan Read	GVJCI メインホール	\$6
12:00 AM-2:00 PM	ビンゴ	n/a	GVJCI 二世ベテランズメモリアルホール	\$0.50 /一人 \$0.10 /カード
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	シニア弁当ピックアップ	n/a	GVJCI 二世ベテランズメモリアルホール	\$7/1個
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	ムーヴ&グルーヴ	Tim Toyama	GVJCI メインホール	\$6
12:15 PM-1:15 PM	基本ラインダンス	Chris Mori	GVJCI メインホール	\$6
1:30 PM-2:30 PM	初級ラインダンス	Chris Mori	GVJCI メインホール	\$6

金曜日				
9:00 AM-11:00 AM	クラフトワークショップ	n/a	2階クラスルーム205	\$3
9:00 AM-11:00 AM	友カフェ	n/a	GVJCI 二世ベテランズメモリアルホール	n/a
9:45 AM-10:45 AM	シニアのためのフィジカルフィットネス	Jack Read, Regan Read	GVJCI メインホール	\$6
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	ジェントルヨガ	Genie Nakano	GVJCI メインホール	\$6
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	シニア弁当ピックアップ	n/a	GVJCI 二世ベテランズメモリアルホール	\$7
12:15AM-1:15PM	チーゴンダウー	Genie Nakano	GVJCIメインホール	\$6
1:30 PM-2:30 PM	ボールルームダンス	David Shinjo	GVJCI メインホール	\$6



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



As the first calendar quarter comes to an end, Kisetsu ga Kawaru; the season begins to change. In Japan, Hana Mi is very popular as the countryside and some Cities are painted with beautiful white and delicate pink flowers of the different varieties of Sakura. Sakura can be found blooming in the South Bay as well. With the season change, please welcome our two new Board Members who are anxious to support our community: Randall Fujimoto and Alexis Okihara.

Randall is working to make education at all levels more engaging and enjoyable. Randall has created various game-based educational programs and also is a designer and instructor of a game-based learning micro credential program at CSU Fullerton. His community engagement includes education program design for the Go For Broke National Educational Center, designing various Japanese American media and immersive experiences, including an animated documentary on Sawtelle Japantown and the Manzanar Immersive live-action experience, and serving on the Board for the Sawtelle Japantown Association and the Nikkei Basketball Heritage Association.






Alexis recently completed her board internship with Kizuna, where she learned and applied theory into practice as a board intern at GVJCI. During this past summer she also volunteered at GVJCI's TANOSHII Fun Camp focused on Japanese American and Japanese culture and heritage. Alexis is originally from Hawai'i, with family roots from the Big Island in the small town of Hilo. Currently, Alexis is an Intervention Coordinator with the Los Angeles Unified School District and a doctoral candidate at the University of Southern California.



Spring also brings many interesting workshops and programs. Check them out!

Richard Ames
President, GVJCI Board of Directors



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Keiro's Community Survey Results are In!

What **PROGRAMS** or **SERVICES** would be most beneficial in navigating your **AGING JOURNEY?** (for respondents or their loved ones)



58%
Social programs hosted at Japanese American community centers



58%
Transportation services



51%
In-home support with activities of daily living



50%
In-home support with instrumental activities of daily living

Keiro conducted a survey in summer 2023 to assess the needs and preferences of older adults and caregivers as part of an ongoing commitment to better understand the evolving needs of Our Community. For more information and results of the survey, visit keiro.org/survey

Keiro.

ANTI-ASIAN HATE CRIMES AND INCIDENTS

By Tim Toyama

In Oakland's Chinatown, a 52-year-old Asian American woman was shot in the head with a flare gun, sustaining serious injuries.

84-year-old Vicha Ratanapakdee was violently shoved to the ground, and died shortly after arrival in the hospital.

A white man opened fire at three spas around Atlanta, killing eight people including six women of Asian descent.

More than 11,000 acts of hate against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have been reported to Stop AAPI Hate (a reporting database) since March 2020 and the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. People are commuting to work, taking their kids to school, shopping for groceries, or running errands—only to suddenly face discrimination, bullying, harassment, shunning, or physical assault.

Asian American elders—those ages 60 and up—experienced verbal harassment, shunning, physical assault, and other hate incidents:

- One out of four cases involving Asian American elders were physical assault, twice the rate of those under the age of 60. Elders also reported being refused service and having their property vandalized more than non-elders.
- Six out of 10 incidents reported by elders involved verbal harassment or shunning—the deliberate avoidance of individuals.
- In one in 12 incidents, elders were coughed and spat upon.
- Like those under the age of 60, Asian American elders were most likely to face discrimination on public streets and at businesses.
- Nearly all (98.2%) Asian American elders who experienced hate incidents believed the United States has become more physically dangerous for Asian Americans.
- Asian American elders who experienced hate incidents stated they experienced higher levels of stress and anxiety.

Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents must be reported!

By reporting Hate Crimes and Incidents, you are protecting yourself and others. When Hate Crimes and Incidents are reported, law enforcement agencies have a record of it, which could lead to an arrest when there's more information about this crime or incident. Also, if there are Hate Crimes and Incidents reported in a certain area, the police will assign more officers to that area.

Reporting Hate Crimes and Incidents to Law Enforcement

Any individual who's in immediate danger, or has been a victim of a hate crime, or has witnessed a hate crime, **should call 911**. If not in immediate danger, call your local police department:

Gardena Police Department: (310) 217-9670; Torrance Police Department: (310) 328-3456

Reporting Hate Crimes & Incidents to Community Organizations

These Asian American organizations track and record hate crimes and hate incidents: "How To Report a Hate Crime" HateCrimeBook.com; "Asian Americans Advancing Justice" StandAgainstHatred.org; "Stop AAPI Hate" StopAAPIHate.org

Tips for Going Out

- Be aware of your surroundings, avoid isolated areas, choose busy and well-lit streets
- Conduct errands in pairs or with others
- Carry a whistle and flashlight
- Limit distractions such as phone or headphones
- Stay vigilant

What To Do When Attacked (physical or verbal)

- Walk away, get out of the situation, go where there are other people
- Don't participate in arguments
- Engage bystanders
- Use your phone to take pictures or video (if safe)
- Call 911 if attacked
- Scream for help or blow whistle
- If you are physically attacked, protect yourself

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- Estate Planning
- Trust Administration
- Probate

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Byul Stella Jung Attorney at Law
 Judd Matsunaga Attorney at Law

DAY & TIME	CLASS	INSTRUCTOR	LOCATION	FEE
THURSDAY				
9:00 AM-11:00 AM	Tomo Cafe	n/a	GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall	n/a
9:00 AM-2:00 PM	Knitter's Workshop	n/a	Classroom 205	\$7
9:45 AM-10:45 AM	Physical Fitness For Seniors	Jack Read Regan Read	GVJCI Main Hall	\$6
12:00 AM-2:00 PM	BINGO	n/a	GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall	\$0.50 per person; \$0.10 per card
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	Senior Bento Pick-Up	n/a	GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall	\$7 per bento
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	Move & Groove	Tim Toyama	GVJCI Main Hall	\$6
12:15 PM-1:15 PM	Basic Beginner Line Dance	Chris Mori	GVJCI Main Hall	\$6
1:30 PM-2:30PM	Beginner Line Dance	Chris Mori	GVJCI Main Hall	\$6

FRIDAY				
9:00 AM-11:00 AM	Friday Craft Group	n/a	Classroom 205	\$3
9:00 AM-11:00 AM	Tomo Cafe	n/a	GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall	n/a
9:45 AM-10:45 AM	Physical Fitness For Seniors	Jack Read Regan Read	GVJCI Main Hall	\$6
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	Gentle Yoga	Genie Nakano	GVJCI Main Hall	\$6
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	Senior Bento Pick-Up	n/a	GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall	\$7 per bento
12:15-1:15PM	Chi Gong Da Wu	Genie Nakano	GVJCI Main Hall	\$6
1:30 PM-2:30 PM	Ballroom Dancing	David Shinjo	GVJCI Main Hall	\$6

日時	クラス	インストラクター	場所	参加費
月曜日				
9:00 AM -11:00 AM	友カフェ	n/a	GVJCI 二世ベテランズメモリアルホール	n/a
9:45 AM-10:45 AM	シニアの為のフィジカルフィットネス	Jack Read, Regan Read	GVJCI メインホール	\$6
10:00 AM-12:00 PM	麻雀クラブ	n/a	GVJCI 二世ベテランズメモリアルホール	\$3
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	シニア弁当ピックアップ	n/a	GVJCI 二世ベテランズメモリアルホール	\$7/1個
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	チェアヨガ	Tim Toyama	GVJCI メインホール	\$6
12:45 PM-2:15 PM	ラインダンス	Chris Mori	GVJCI メインホール	\$6

火曜日				
9:00 AM-11:00 AM	友カフェ	n/a	GVJCI 二世ベテランズメモリアルホール	n/a
9:00 AM-2:00 PM	ネットワークショップ	n/a	2階クラスルーム 205	\$3
10:00 AM-11:30 AM	初級/中級 フラダンス	Harriet Nagata	GVJCI メインホール	\$6
10:00 AM-2:00 PM	オイルペインティング	Steve Jones	2階クラスルーム207/208	\$8
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	シニア弁当ピックアップ	n/a	GVJCI 二世ベテランズメモリアルホール	\$7/1個
12:00 PM-2:00 PM	ビンゴ	n/a	GVJCI 二世ベテランズメモリアルホール	\$0.50 /一人 \$0.10 /カード
12:15 PM-1:15 PM	チェアヨガ	Tim Toyama	GVJCI メインホール	\$6
1:30 PM-2:30PM	ムーヴ&グルーヴ	Tim Toyama	GVJCI メインホール	\$6



Tomo No Kai Corner

As GVJCI continues to grow its Tomo No Kai Schedule of Classes, we encourage everyone to sign up for 2024 membership (for just \$12!), come with your friends, and enjoy all that we have to offer the community! Check out our class list below and come on down to GVJCI. We can't wait to see you.

クラスやアクティビティに参加するには、GVJCI 友の会会員である必要があります。年会費は年間 12 ドルです。会員情報と支払いについては、GVJCI オフィスにアクセスしてください。詳しくは講師にお問い合わせいただくか、教室にお越しください。



For more information, please contact the instructor or visit the class.

DAY & TIME	CLASS	INSTRUCTOR	LOCATION	FEE
MONDAY				
9:00 AM -11:00 AM	Tomo Cafe	n/a	GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall	n/a
9:45 AM-10:45 AM	Physical Fitness For Seniors	Jack Read, Regan Read	GVJCI Main Hall	\$6
10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Mahjong Class	n/a	GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall	\$3
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	Senior Bento Pick-Up	n/a	GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall	\$7 per bento
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	Chair Yoga	Tim Toyama	GVJCI Main Hall	\$6
12:45 PM-2:15 PM	Line Dance	Chris Mori	GVJCI Main Hall	\$6
TUESDAY				
9:00 AM-11:00 AM	Tomo Cafe	n/a	GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall	n/a
9:00 AM-2:00 PM	Knitter's Workshop	n/a	Classroom 205	\$7
10:00 AM-11:30 AM	Beginner & Intermediate Hula Class	Harriet Nagata	GVJCI Main Hall	\$6
10:00 AM-2:00 PM	Oil Painting	Steve Jones	Classroom 207/208	\$8
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	Senior Bento Pick-Up	n/a	GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall	\$7 per bento
12:00 PM-2:00 PM	BINGO	n/a	GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall	\$0.50 per person; \$0.10 per card
12:15 PM-1:15 PM	Chair Yoga	Tim Toyama	GVJCI Main Hall	\$6
1:30 PM-2:30PM	Move & Groove	Tim Toyama	GVJCI Main Hall	\$6
WEDNESDAY				
9:00 AM-11:00 AM	Tomo Cafe	n/a	GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall	n/a
9:45 AM-10:45 AM	Physical Fitness For Seniors	Jack Read, Regan Read	GVJCI Main Hall	\$6
10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Watercolor Class	Masa Lee	Classroom 207/208	\$6
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	Senior Bento Pick-Up	n/a	GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall	\$7 per bento
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	Chi Gong For Healthy Back Care	Genie Nakano	GVJCI Main Hall	\$6
12:15 PM-1:15 PM	Chair Yin Yoga	Genie Nakano	GVJCI Main Hall	\$6

FRIENDS OF THE GVJCI



The GVJCI has long been a place of gathering for me, my family, and my friends. It's safe to say, we go way back.

Thirty-something years ago, it was where my parents hosted my first birthday party. In elementary school, it was where my hula halau, Kanani Kalama Hula Studio, hosted fundraisers for competitions. In high school, it was where I volunteered at the then-JCI Carnival game booths. In college, I continued to dance hula at the JCI Matsuri with the many keiki and my hula sisters. As a young adult, I taught lei making workshops, attended signature events like Oysters Bites and Biiru, and learned valuable "adulting" skills from the virtual workshops during the pandemic.

And now, I serve on the GVJCI's Board of Directors. I get to see the behind-the-scenes work that the staff and volunteers put in to make the organization function. I get to meet the program participants and hear about how having the GVJCI has impacted their lives for the better. I get to give back to the organization that has provided me with a space to grow up.

And this year? This year I get to celebrate my daughter's first birthday party, in the same hall where my friends and family celebrated mine. Things have truly come full circle.

The longevity of the GVJCI speaks to the importance of its facilities as a gathering place for the community, and the importance of its programs that serve someone like me through every stage of life. This is why I'm a Friend of the GVJCI, to make sure that there is a space and place for future generations to come. I know that my participation in GVJCI programs will continue, putting my daughter into Tanoshii Fun Camp and, eventually, myself in Tomo no Kai programming.

I hope you will join me, and many more members of the community, and become a Friend of the GVJCI today!

Kerilyn Kotani
GVJCI Board of Director



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!

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



Gardena Valley JCI CALENDAR

MAY

日本語によるアルツハイマーワークショップ

4回シリーズ：月曜日 4/29, 5/6, 5/13, 5/20, 午後1時-3時、2階クラスルーム207/208 参加費無料、どなたでも参加できます

各シリーズ講演者を招いてのワークショップです

1回目 アルツハイマーとは？:4/29午後1時から3時 福嶋幹雄氏

2回目 脳を健康に保つ方法：5/6午後1時から3時 関谷基嗣氏

3回目 行動とアルツハイマー病:5/13午後1時から3時 ロドリゲスユリ氏

4回目 安全な家庭内環境：5/20午後1時から3時 関谷基嗣氏

ALZHEIMERS: SAVVY CAREGIVERS WORKSHOPS FRI, MAY 3, 10, & 17, 1-3PM GVJCI UPSTAIRS CLASSROOM 207/208

A 3-week program based on the Savvy Caregiver. This program develops the basic knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to care for someone with Alzheimer's disease or another dementia. Participants are required to attend all workshops. To register for this FREE workshop, contact Kristy Huang-Arai at (323)930-6257 or khuang@alzla.org.

KODOMO NO HI SAT, MAY 4, 10-11AM GVJCI Upstairs Classroom 207/208

Celebrate Kodomo No Hi (Children's Day) with GVJCI with fun themed crafts and activities for children ages 5-10. Participation fee is \$5. Please visit our website to register.

MOTHER'S DAY SANGETSU IKEBANA WORKSHOP SUN, MAY 5, 10AM-12PM GVJCI UPSTAIRS CLASSROOM 207/208

Celebrate Mom by making a beautiful Sangetsu-style ikebana arrangement called Kyoku Sen. In this workshop, participants will learn about this traditional Japanese art form that involves

the arrangement of flowers in a very unique and simple way. Participants will practice creating a pleasing arrangement expressing a sense of balance, harmony, and the beauty of nature. This arrangement expresses the beauty of branches flowing and dancing in the wind. Participants will be using materials that are light and buoyant, with great flowing curves or angles that give a feeling of lively motion. Fee is \$35 per person. Limited to 30 participants.

JCI ガーデンス アパートメント説明会

5月16日木曜日午前10時~11時
GVJCI ニセベテランズメモリアルホール

GVJCI に隣接する低所得者向け高齢者向けアパートである JCI ガーデンス アパートメントに関する非公式の情報共有会に参加し、申請する資格とは何か、申請方法について学びましょう。無料公開、登録不要。

IYASHI CARE WORKSHOP THURS, MAY 16, 10-11AM GVJCI UPSTAIRS CLASSROOM 207/208

Join us to learn more about this innovative program, a partnership between Keiro and Providence, that offers community-based palliative care to the Japanese American community in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Using a whole-person care approach, the bilingual Iyashi Care team provides guidance and support to older adults with serious and chronic illnesses and their families, as they pursue the best quality of life possible. Free to the public, but registration is required.

AAPI HERITAGE MONTH: SHORT FILMS SCREENING & PANEL DISCUSSION

SAT, MAY 18, 2-4PM
GVJCI MAIN HALL

In partnership with Visual Communication, the community is invited to a celebration of AAPI Heritage Month with a showing of 7 diverse short films: They Served, More Than A Roast Chicken, The Tale of Uncle Frank and Stories For Another Day, Missing Pieces, Mochi Sticks Us Together, See You In

My Dreams, and When I'm 64. A panel discussion and Q&A session with the 5 filmmakers: Don Bannai, Patty Fong, Stony Furutani, Barbara Kagawa Shore, Teresa Matsushima, Robert Shoji, and George Wada will take place after the screening. Registration is highly recommended. Entry fee is \$15 per person.

JCI GARDENS APARTMENTS INFORMATION SESSIONS

TUES, MAY 21, 10-11AM
GVJCI NISEI VETERANS MEMORIAL HALL
SAT, MAY 25, 10-11AM
GVJCI UPSTAIRS CLASSROOM 207/208

Come to this informal informational sharing on the JCI Gardens Apartments, low-income senior apartments next door to the GVJCI, and learn about what the qualifications are and how to apply. Free to the public, no registration required.

ONDO (JAPANESE DANCE) CLASSES WEDS, MAY 22, 29, JUNE 5, 12, 6-7PM

GVJCI BREEZEWAY
Get ready for summer in our ondo (Japanese dance) classes for all ages! Each class is \$5 participation, and all levels are welcome to join. Registration is required.

COMMUNITY OPEN MIC NIGHT FRI, MAY 24, 7-9PM, DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM GVJCI NISEI VETERANS MEMORIAL HALL

Join us for our first Open Mic event of 2024! Come enjoy this event for all ages as we support our local artist community! Entry is free and light refreshments will be available. We encourage anyone interested in performing to come at 6:30pm to sign up, as the show begins at 7pm. Stay tuned for more information on the GVJCI website.

JUNE

HOME SELLING & DOWNSIZING SEMINAR SAT, JUNE 1, 11AM-12:30PM GVJCI NISEI VETERANS MEMORIAL HALL

Downsizing can feel like a daunting task to undertake. Whether for yourself or a loved one, we invite you to join us for an essential free seminar addressing this important topic. Delve into the rationale behind downsizing, explore its potential advantages, and receive a comprehensive overview of the home selling process. We look forward to providing valuable insights to guide you through this significant decision! Proudly presented by Derek Hirano (Hirano Homes Group at Keller Williams). Free lunch will be provided!

2024 GVJCI MATSURI FUNDRAISER SAT, JUNE 29, 10AM-7:00PM GVJCI

Food, games, entertainment, beer and more! What's not to love? Come by our annual Matsuri Fundraiser to kick-off your summer fun! Please visit our website for more information, entertainment schedule and to donate.

SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE CAMERA TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF OUR PROGRAMS!



Save-the-Date! CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

This year, the theme for the GVJCI's annual art show is "art inspired by Japanese and Japanese diasporic artists." Whether you take inspiration from Hayao Miyazaki, Ruth Asawa, or your favorite manga artist, we encourage and welcome all applicants to show their passion and appreciation for these great artists. Be creative and interpret this theme broadly. This will be a live, in-person exhibit at the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute. The artwork can be in any media: paintings, photos, sculptures, etc. and the show is open to all artists of any age, ethnicity, and skill level. There is no fee to enter. However, artwork submitted needs to be approved. Acceptance into the show is at the discretion of the GVJCI.

JULY

SMARTPHONE & TABLET CLASS MONS, JULY 1, 8, 15, 22, AUG 5, 12, 1:00-3:00PM

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. The second hour of each class will be an informal tutoring hour where students can ask questions and receive help from tech volunteers!

EMPOWERING FIRST-TIME BUYERS: LET'S MAKE YOUR HOMEOWNERSHIP DREAM A REALITY

SAT, JULY 13, 11AM-12:30PM
GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall
Join us for a free informative seminar designed to guide you through purchasing your first home. Learn invaluable tips on navigating the housing market, understanding mortgage options, and securing financing tailored to your needs. Whether you're a first-time buyer or just looking to refresh your knowledge, this event promises to empower you with the essential knowledge to confidently step

into homeownership. Plus, stay tuned for an exciting raffle at the end with some awesome prizes! Proudly presented by Derek Hirano (Hirano Homes Group at Keller Williams) and Mina Yasuda (Mina Mortgage Group).

SELF DEFENSE WORKSHOP THURS, JULY 18, 10AM-12PM

GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall
The theme of these free workshops is Self Defense and Situational Awareness Workshop. The first 30 minutes will focus on Situational Awareness and general considerations of preparedness. The remaining 90 minutes consists of introduction of practical self defense techniques including striking, kicking, and blocking as methods to minimize any attack and injury and to facilitate escape. Each workshop is taught by 6th degree black belt instructor Art Ishii from the Matsubayashi-Ryu Karate-Do of Little Tokyo.

TANOSHII FUN CAMP MON-FRI, JULY 29-AUG 2, 9AM-3PM GVJCI Main Hall, Classrooms, Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Registration is open for TANOSHII Fun Camp 2024! Children ages 7-10 will enjoy a fun-filled week of team-building games, interactive cultural activities, a field trip, and more, all while learning about Japanese and Japanese American cultural heritage. Registration ends on May 24th 2024. To register, please visit our website!

GVJCI ART SHOW SAT, SEPT. 28, 11AM-5PM SUN, SEPT. 29, 11AM-5PM GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall



Please send one photo of each artwork (preferably in PNG format) and a submission form, which is available on the GVJCI website or by request. Apply online or deliver or mail it to Stephanie Mayeda c/o Gardena Valley JCI, 1964 W. 162nd St., Gardena, CA 90247 by August 9, 2024. Notification of the acceptance of artwork will be given by August 18, 2024. The GVJCI does not conduct sales of artwork during the show, however artists are free to share contact information with anyone interested in their work.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Alvin Takamori
GVJCI Art Show Curator
alvintaka@att.net

Stephanie Mayeda
Program Manager
smayeda@jci-gardena.org