



# GARDENA VALLEY JAPANESE CULTURAL INSTITUTE

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.

## MISSION STATEMENT

## 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.

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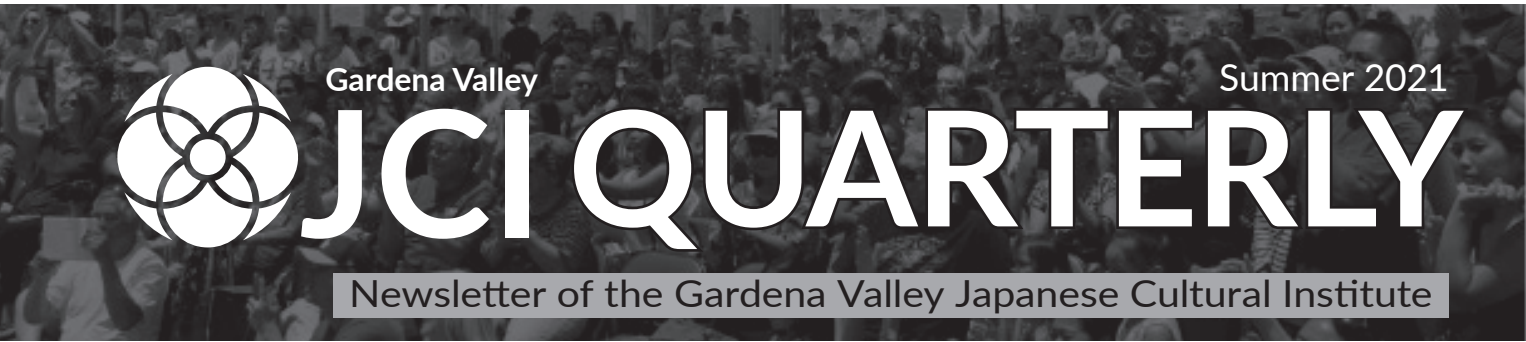
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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

By Alison Kochiyama, Executive Director



I hope this issue finds all of you safe and well. As the June 15th California State and Los Angeles County “re-opening” occurred, many of you are asking when GVCJCI will reopen. Our plans are in progress, and we’re working with the various groups, teachers, volunteers, and staff to reopen activities in stages. We are reminded that the COVID-19 pandemic is still with us and LA County has not reached herd immunity yet. We are also hearing more concerning news about the rise in the Delta variant, and LA County continues to update the Best Practices guidelines in the various categories of gatherings. With these continuing developments, we are proceeding with everyone’s health and safety in the forefront of our planning.

Here's what's happening so far. In late June, we began our senior technology classes, which included a hybrid combination of teacher and students accessing the classes online and some onsite. GVJCI member organizations are making the necessary changes and preparations to resume their onsite cultural and martial arts classes, and other group activities, which can start as early as mid-July. We are planning to resume our onsite Tomo No Kai and Senior classes in September with some classes continuing to be offered online. Our Japanese Language School's Fall 2021 school year will begin on September 11, but because children under 12 years of age cannot be vaccinated yet, we have decided to continue the school year online and not onsite.

With all that said, we will follow the guidelines and instructions of LA County and the City of Gardena, and these plans may change in the future. To get the latest updates, please be sure to check our website: [jci-gardena.org](http://jci-gardena.org).

Thank you for your patience and understanding, and thank you for all of the support you give GVJCI. We look forward to seeing all of you soon!

Stay safe and well,  
Alison Kochiyama  
GVJCI Executive Director


## 2021 GVJCI VIRTUAL MATSURI THANK YOU'S

*By Cathy Lee, Director of Development and Marketing*



Hello everyone! We hope you enjoyed our Virtual Matsuri week! Thank you to all who supported us! Donors, Volunteers, Member Organizations, Sponsors, Staff & Board—we've completed another successful Virtual Matsuri and couldn't have done it without you! This year's theme "Community Strong" was definitely evident by the outpouring of love and support from each of you!

The Annual GVJCI Matsuri Fundraiser has been a South Bay tradition for almost 70 years, bringing all ages of the community together, including many generations of families, for a fun-filled, family-friendly weekend celebrating the Nikkei culture. We are so happy that we were able to continue our tradition with our second Virtual Matsuri!

 The 2021 GVJCI Virtual Matsuri Fundraiser was held from June 21 - 25, and was completely online. Guests enjoyed virtual matsuri content throughout the week. Each day began with a special welcome from GVJCI Board Members and staff followed by videos and social media posts featuring GVJCI Matsuri favorites like taiko, hula, games, spam musubi, yakisoba, martial arts and more! We even included a virtual matsuri Art Gallery showcasing work from the GVJCI Tomo No Kai Oil Painting class on our website. The good news is that you can always visit our website, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube channels to enjoy this content again or even for the first time! On Monday, we announced the 2021 GVJCI Scholarship Fund recipients.

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We finished off the week with virtual bingo on Thursday and Friday and a special closing message from our GVJCI Executive Director, Alison Kochiyama.

You shared and we listened! New this year, you'll find Matsuri memories and recipes for our Matsuri Food videos on our web-site based on comments from last year. We also introduced a new design for our poster and commemorative t-shirt gift. We hope you enjoyed our poster designed to bring joy through fun and colorful GVJCI Matsuri characters!

Thank you for your ongoing support and well wishes during this time. It means so much to us! We hope our content inspired you to make and enjoy your favorite GVJCI Matsuri food or at least created anticipation for next year's Annual 2022 GVJCI Matsuri! We are missing you too and look forward to seeing you again next year! Hopefully in person!! :D

A special thank you to our GVJCI Executive Director, Alison Kochiyama for your continued leadership, insight and support. Thank you to our Matsuri Committee members for your hard work and many hours planning and preparing our Matsuri content. Your combined effort and support made the Virtual Matsuri a success!



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MONETARY DONATIONS

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ENTERTAINMENT VIDEOS

Boy Scout Troop 719  
Elemental Funk  
Bando Hidesomi  
Brian Hoshiko  
Kanani Kalama Hula Studio  
LA Men's Glee Club  
Sansei Baseball League  
Yuujou Taiko

FOOD VIDEOS

Boy Scout Troop 719  
Gardena JCI Kendo Club  
Cathy Lee  
Dayton Lee  
Stephanie Mayeda  
Debbie Oba  
Chikako Roper  
Ray and Sharon Shibata

MARTIAL ARTS VIDEOS

Gardena Judo Club

Gardena Kendo Club

JCI Kendo Club  
Kyudo Renmei

ART GALLERY ARTIST

Steve Jones

WELCOME & INTRO  
VIDEOS

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Board Secretary  
Michelle Hirano, GVJCI  
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Alan Kita, GVJCI Board  
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Alison Kochiyama, GVJCI  
Executive Director  
Cathy Lee, GVJCI Director of  
Development & Marketing  
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Scholarship Fund  
Committee, GVJCI Board  
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Cathy Lee  
Dayton Lee, GVJCI Facilities  
Manager  
Stephanie Mayeda, GVJCI  
Programs Manager  
Ray Shibata

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Airi Oye, GVJCI Board  
Member  
Nicole Sato, GVJCI Volunteer

GVJCI INTERN  
Kimi Nagasaki

VIRTUAL MATSURI VIDEO  
EDITORS

Alan Hino, GVJCI Volunteer  
Dayton Lee

VIRTUAL MATSURI  
WEBPAGE COUNTDOWN  
CLOCK

Jeffrey Berry

T-SHIRT & POSTER DESIGN  
Kabahead Kreations

GVJCI SOCIAL MEDIA/  
ONLINE FOLLOWERS

Facebook  
Instagram  
YouTube  
Website

THANK YOU!

# 2021 ANNUAL GVJCI SIGNATURE EVENT: TABE-DORAIBU



DATES: July 30th - August 15th, 2021  
LOCATIONS: Gardena and Torrance

DESCRIPTION: Tabé-Doraibu is our second annual GVJCI Signature Event Fundraiser, a fun event that aims to highlight and help our amazing event restaurant and business partners in the Gardena and Torrance area across two weeks. It's about supporting our local community while enjoying & discovering delicious food and snacks!

The South Bay is a hidden gem for food lovers and is an area of Southern California known as a food mecca. The name "tabe-doraibu" derives from the word "tabe-aruki", a popular event in Japan where foodies travel around town to visit restaurants to try specialty dishes.

HOW IT WORKS:

REGISTER:

Please visit our website to register. Event participants are required to register on our website for the event for a fee of \$10 for individuals and \$20 for teams. We invite you to register for this fun and tasty event, benefiting our event partners and GVJCI!

EAT, ENJOY & COLLECT POINTS:

Visit event partners during the event dates, make a purchase, take a photo of the business and/or the food, & post on social media and collect points.

Points will be awarded and tracked by GVJCI. In the event of a tie, GVJCI will make the final decision.

HELP OUR COMMUNITY!

For our event partners, 100% of the sales during these 2 weeks will go to our business partners and GVJCI is not seeking proceeds from them for this event!

WIN FABULOUS PRIZES!

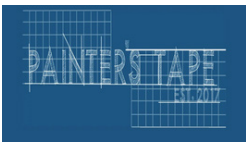
Those who acquire the most points in each category receive a special prize-gift cards from our event partners!  
\*\*Over\$1,500 in gift card prizes!\*\*

Grand prize valued at over \$200! for Individual and Team winners! With additional opportunities to win gift cards during the event!

Winners from individual and team categories will be announced after the event.

Don't delay! Sign up today!

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### Adventurers Club

By Tim Toyama

The Adventurers Club has been to Japan three times, each trip was very successful: seeing new places, sharing new experiences, expanding horizons, and feeling the friendliness and hospitality of the Japanese people, while fostering new friendships within the tour group. We had plans to go to Japan in the Fall of 2020 and Spring of 2021, however, the pandemic made these trips impossible. Now that travelling is opening up, the Adventurers Club is happy to announce two Japan Tours next year:

SUMMER 2022: Japan's Famous OBONs – Honoring Ancestors with Dance (July with Gion Matsuri)  
FALL 2022: Beautiful Walks of Japan (portions of the Nakasendo, Kumano Kodo and Fuji-San)  
The tours will be organized and guided by Roxana Lewis, who has organized/guided tours to Japan and around the world.

They will be limited to 12-participants each. If interested please contact Tim Toyama at [timtoyama@gmail.com](mailto:timtoyama@gmail.com), or 310-848-9890

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

### AZUMA & GARDENA BOWL COFFEE SHOP

By Kimi Nagasaki, GVJCI Marketing & Social Media Intern

This article is the beginning of an interview series featuring GVJCI's local business supporters and member organizations who have supported the organization over many years. This project is made possible through funding by the Boeing Employee Community Fund. GVJCI would also like to express gratitude to Hideki Obayashi and Frank Nakano, owners of Gardena Bowl Coffee Shop and Azuma Restaurant, for their great generosity and support of our events and programs throughout the years.



Pictured: Frank Nakano, Genie Nakano, and Hideki Obayashi in front of Gardena Bowl Coffee Shop.

Hideki Obayashi and Frank Nakano have been co-owners of Gardena Bowl Coffee Shop and Azuma Restaurant for 20 years. They first took over Gardena Bowl in the Spring of 2001, after the original owners decided to sell the coffee shop. Neither of them had experience going into this business, but their love for the food and the restaurant allowed them to continue running this local favorite. Gardena Bowl is a beloved business here in the South Bay that serves everything, from local food to comfort food. Some of Hideki and Frank's favorites are the Lau Lau, Sausage and Eggs, Bacon Fried Rice, and Hawaiian Royal.

After owning Gardena Bowl for about a year, Hideki and Frank were told that Azuma Restaurant was being sold. They bought Azuma in 2002 and were excited to continue serving authentic Japanese food. Azuma is an izakaya restaurant, similar to Spanish tapas, in which there are many small dishes you share with friends and family. Azuma was Hideki and Frank's favorite Japanese restaurant in Gardena, so they wanted to keep the menu to show their appreciation for the restaurant and the delicious food they serve. Hideki's favorite item on the menu is the Black Cod, and one of Frank's favorite items is the Teriyaki Beef. For Azuma and Gardena Bowl, business was always good, until the pandemic hit in 2020.



Pictured: Frank Nakano, Genie Nakano, and Hideki Obayashi in front of Azuma Japanese Restaurant.

This past year has been an adjustment, not only for Gardena Bowl and Azuma but for all small businesses. Hideki and Frank were able to adjust pretty quickly in response to the pandemic. It was difficult at first, but with the help of their staff and landlords, they were able to continue running their businesses. It was much easier for them to adapt at Gardena Bowl since their take-out business was already quite popular. However, at Azuma, a smaller percentage of their sales came from take-out. Luckily, as the pandemic started to calm down, business began to pick up as indoor and outdoor dining became available. Hideki and Frank owe much of their survival to their customers and staff.

Hideki and Frank are very thankful to the community for supporting them during these challenging times. They want to thank their loyal customers for continuing to eat at their restaurants and for recommending their restaurants to their friends/families. In addition, they appreciate all of the comments, suggestions, and ratings they receive through Yelp! and in person. Hideki and Frank also want to thank their dedicated staff for contributing to the smooth transition to takeout and back again to indoor dining. They have recognized how great the community is here in the South Bay and again want to thank everyone for supporting their restaurants. Gardena Bowl and Azuma Restaurant are currently open for take-out and they are very excited for the reopening in mid-June.

Azuma Restaurant  
16123 S. Western Ave. Gardena, CA 90247

Gardena Bowl Coffee Shop  
15707 S. Vermont Ave. Gardena, CA 90247

### BOARD UPDATE

By Alan Kita, President, GVJCI Board of Directors



It is a pleasure to introduce the newest member of the Board of Gardena Valley JCI - Kerilyn Sato. Kerilyn is the Development Manager of the Asian Pacific Community Fund since 2020. Her primary responsibilities there are fundraising through events such as the Giving for All Seasons, Workplace Giving Programs and corporate philanthropy. She also continues as a coordinator of the Board Leadership Program with the Asian American Professional Association.

Her work in nonprofits began in 2015 as a recruitment manager for Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches. She has continued to gain experience in fundraising in nonprofits such as Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles, Keiro and Asian Pacific Alumni Association at the University of Southern California.



Kerilyn comes to us after serving as a Kizuna Board Fellowship with the Nisei Week Foundation Board. She continues to help Nisei Week with their social media and marketing.

Kerilyn received her Bachelor's degree in public health science from the University of California, Irvine.

We welcome Kerilyn to the leadership at GVJCI and her experiences to help lead us to the future of our center in the community. Thank you, Kerilyn, for accepting our invitation!



### BE A 2021 FRIEND OF THE GVJCI!

Thank you Friends of the GVJCI who renewed your 2021 pledge or became a new Friend! Your contribution supports the continued growth of the GVJCI and its programs, services, and activities, serving the increasingly diverse and dynamic Nikkei community in the South Bay through programs such as our Day of Remembrance, our Tanoshii Fun Camp for youth, and our Tomo No Kai senior programs. As a Friend, you enable us to further advance to achieving our mission and vision into the future.

We are currently at 63% of our 2021 Goal. It's not too late to join or renew as a 2021 Friend of the GVJCI! Please visit our website at [jci-gardena.org](http://jci-gardena.org) under "HOW TO HELP" then click on the "BECOME A FRIEND OF THE GVJCI" button to either donate on-line or by check. We invite you to become a part of this South Bay treasure!

Prudent financial stewardship has allowed the GVJCI to continue planning for our reopening, but we continue to face many challenges as we balance our reopening with prioritizing the health and safety of the community. The GVJCI has been temporarily closed since March 13, 2020 due to the pandemic and as we move into the summer, we will need your support to help us provide the services and programs so many in our community rely on. A large monthly deficit still remains. Losing regular income each month has a great impact and we have an immediate need for financial support. Now more than ever, every donation will help, and we appreciate any amount you are able to give.

The good news is that the GVJCI has received state and federal COVID-19 relief assistance and we held a successful virtual matsuri fundraiser, thanks to our supporters like you! We also offer online GVJCI classes and services that launched last year.

Your 2021 Friends of the GVJCI donation also helps us:

- Purchase new equipment & supplies to prepare our facilities to reopen according to COVID-19 guide lines, such as hand sanitizer dispensers, decontamination equipment, electronic thermometers, etc.
- Support and retain staff to continue developing and providing our programs and services in innovative ways.
- Cover monthly fixed operating costs.



- Below are our 2021 Friends so far who have pledged support as of early June 2021. Thank you, Friends!**

**Platinum (\$1,000 or more)**  
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 James Matsushita  
 Tamiko Murman  
 Helen Nakano  
 Hazel Shimabuku

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 Alison Kochiyama  
 Amy Iwata  
 Bob M Nakata  
 Robyn Robbins  
 Yoshiko Sasahara  
 Erik Soderburg  
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- Victoria Tani  
 Nancy Teshima  
 Sandy Toshiyuki  
 Sadae Uwahori  
 Edna Yoshii

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 Jeffrey Dohzen  
 Carole Endo  
 Richard Y Enomoto  
 Ted Gohata  
 James Gutman  
 Akiko Hamamoto  
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 Peggy Inatomi  
 Sachiko Isaka  
 Yasuko Iseri  
 Rosie Jo  
 Hiroko Amy Kato  
 Isao Kato  
 Lillian Kitagawa  
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 June Kobayashi

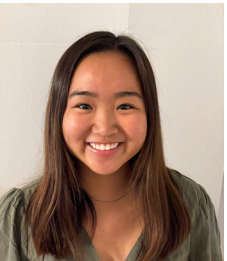
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 Osamu Matsushita  
 Melvin Mayeda  
 Kathy Miceli  
 Hito Muneno  
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 Kay Nakawatase  
 Akiko Oshiro  
 Betty Oshiro  
 Yoko Pagador  
 Fumie Sayegusa  
 Ann Shima  
 Ken Shimamoto  
 Jane Shimatsu  
 Lilly Y Shiroma  
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 Shirley Lee Tanaka  
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 Ivy Toma  
 Tadao Uehara  
 Doreen Urata  
 Cindy Williams  
 Satoru Yamagata  
 Karin Yamamoto  
 Flora Yamanaka  
 Yoshie Yokota  
 Wallace Yuki

2021 GVJCI SCHOLARSHIP FUND RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to our three scholarship recipients who have not only highly achieved academically, but they also dedicated many volunteer hours to the community. We are very proud of all of the recipients and wish them success in their college education! The following are messages from the recipients.

GVJCI Gary Hori Memorial Scholarship  
 Rachel Arakawa, West High School graduate

"I feel very grateful to have earned this JCI scholarship. From Japanese school to Asian-Ball pictures to the JCI carnival, JCI has played a huge role in my childhood and in my identity as an Asian American. I will never forget the countless memories I have made and am very appreciative to the board for this opportunity to help further my education in college!"



Gardena Valley Japanese American Citizens League



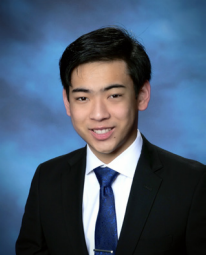
Scholarship  
 Riley-Piper Takenaka, West High School graduate  
 "I am so thankful for this opportunity and grateful to have been chosen. This scholarship made me extremely happy and I'm very excited for what the future holds!"

Gardena Valley Japanese American Citizens League

Scholarship and

Gardena Valley Gardeners Association Legacy Scholarship ·  
 Garrett Tamura, Torrance High School graduate

"I would like to thank the Gardena Valley JCI for selecting me as a recipient for the Gardena Valley JACL Scholarship and the Gardena Valley Gardeners Association Legacy Scholarship. I'm very honored to be recognized by an organization such as yours who makes it possible for young people such as myself to connect to our community and our Japanese heritage. Through your support of organizations such as Faith United Methodist Church's BSA Troop 719, we are given the opportunity to connect with our community and participate in events that bring families and members of the community together. I look forward to continuing my support of the Gardena Valley JCI in the years to come as an alumni of Troop 719."



To make a donation to the GVJCI Scholarship Fund or for more information, please contact the GVJCI Office or visit our website at jci-gardena.org. The GVJCI awards annual scholarships to high school seniors, and GVJCI Japanese Language School graduates. Applicants must have been directly involved with the GVJCI or its member organizations that hold regular activity at the GVJCI. Emphasis is placed upon GVJCI and other community involvement, volunteerism and future goals. High school students must have a minimum of a 2.5 GPA and have post-secondary educational plans.

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**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!



TOMO NO KAI CLASS UPDATE

We are excited to announce the reopening of our TNK classes in early September! Our program staff is working diligently with TNK teachers to schedule all of the classes, so we appreciate your patience as we finalize the new schedule. Starting in September, we will also be taking 2022 memberships (and distributing membership cards) that can be applied to TNK classes beginning in September 2021. Lastly, we would like to emphasize that due to rising concerns regarding the new Delta variant, GVJCI staff will continue to follow LA County’s safety guidelines in order to protect everyone’s health. We encourage you to keep informed about our reopening plans by checking the GVJCI website. If you have any questions, you can call the GVJCI office at (310) 324-6611. We’ve missed you all so much over this past year and a half, but we look forward to seeing you all in-person soon!

友の会のクラスを9月から再開する事をお知らせします！ 長期にわたりお待ちいただきましたが、私たちスタッフ一同は友の会クラスの先生方と調整を行ない、新しいスケジュールが決定しました。再開後、友の会クラスに参加していただけるように、9月から2022年度友の会メンバーシップを発行(メンバーシップカードを配布)します。最後にデルタ変異株感染数の上昇に配慮して、ガーデナ平原日本文化会館スタッフは皆様の健康を守るために今後もLA群のセーフティーガイドラインに従います。つきましては、私たちのホームページで再開プランを随時確認、お願いいたします。ご質問がございましたら、電話(310) 324-6611にメッセージを残してください。この1年半にわたり皆様にお会いできませんでした。キャンパスでお目にかかれるのを楽しみにしております！

Current TNK membership is at 274.

Established on May 31, 1979, the GVJCI Tomo No Kai or Senior Citizen Friendship Society was formed to promote and support programs at the GVJCI for the senior community, as well as, to provide recreational and social activities, such as, the monthly senior birthday luncheon, and the annual Christmas parties. Your membership dues, class participation fees, and donations support the senior programs and GVJCI facility operations. Thank you very much for your participation and support!



GARDENA VALLEY

JCI

MAPFRE INSURANCE

Insurance program for members of Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute.

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

<p>COSTA MESA</p> <p>Miyazaki Insurance Services</p> <p>(714) 979-8700</p>	<p>LA PALMA</p> <p>J Morey Company Inc.</p> <p>(714) 562-5910</p>	<p>Aihara &amp; Associates Insurance Services</p> <p>(213) 626-9625</p> <p>Minato Insurance Agency</p> <p>(310) 540-8595</p> <p>Frank M. Iwasaki Insurance Agency</p> <p>(323) 879-2184</p>	<p>TORRANCE</p> <p>Kamiya Insurance Agency</p> <p>(310) 781-2066</p> <p>Tsuneishi Insurance Agency, Inc.</p> <p>(310) 533-8877</p> <p>Daiwa Insurance Marketing, Inc.</p> <p>(310) 540-8595</p> <p>Nakazawa Insurance Services</p> <p>(310) 771-1500</p> <p>FIA Insurance Services, Inc.</p> <p>(626) 795-7059</p>
<p>GARDENA</p> <p>AHTKY Insurance Agency</p> <p>(310) 516-0110</p> <p>Nakamura Insurance Agency</p> <p>(310) 327-0717</p>	<p>LONG BEACH</p> <p>Noriyuki Marumoto</p> <p>(562) 595-4403</p>	<p>MONTEREY PARK</p> <p>Quality Ins. Service Inc.</p> <p>(323) 727-7755</p>	<p>VAN NUYS</p> <p>Panorama Insurance Agency Inc.</p> <p>(818) 781-6630</p>
<p>HUNTINGTON BEACH</p> <p>Mizuno Insurance Agency</p> <p>(714) 964-7227</p>	<p>LOS ANGELES</p> <p>Buna Insurance Agency</p> <p>(213) 626-1547</p> <p>FIA Insurance Services, Inc.</p> <p>(626) 795-7059</p> <p>Tatsuno Business Service, Inc.</p> <p>(213) 626-1954</p>		

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

JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL

The GVJCI Japanese Language School 2020–2021 school year concluded on June 26, 2021. Though we all had to navigate through the COVID pandemic, all the students worked and studied diligently to continue their studies online. The Sensei all worked very hard to create an engaging environment for their students to learn. I can’t express my gratitude enough to the students, parents, Sensei, and the GVJCI for all the support you’ve offered to our Japanese language program.

I congratulate all the students promoting to their next level of instruction and it is my honor to present the 2021 Graduation Class. The Graduates are Evan Yuuki Berkin, Kassidy Yuriye Higa, Evan Kaito Tamura, Daigo Yoshida-Berz, and Takahiro Yoshida-Berz. They all persevered during their many years of study at the school and I am proud of each and every one of them for this accomplishment. I hope they will look back at their experiences with fondness and continue to develop their Japanese language skills in the future. I look forward to continuing seeing you all at future GVJCI events or as volunteers.

Though we are emerging from the dark shadow of the COVID pandemic, there still are some regulations regarding schools that are still in place and the possibility of new outbreaks from emerging variants is still uncertain. We seriously discussed our options and to err on the side of safety for all, we have determined that the 2021-2022 school year will be conducted online. The school year will begin on September 11, 2021 and will end on June 18, 2022. Registration information will be posted on the GVJCI website around mid-July and we will be offering a 10% discount on the one-time new student registration fee for early registration until August 14, 2021. Open registration for all Children’s and Adult classes will close on August 24, 2021 so please submit your forms and payment by that date.

We have all weathered through this unprecedented and difficult time but the words I remember hearing all my life are “Issho ni gambarimasho” (Let us all do our best together). These are strong and meaningful words that unite our community and our spirits. Together we can overcome any ordeals and obstacles we encounter in our lives, now and in the future. This sense of community is the legacy we can nurture and entrust for the sake of future generations.

In parting, I truly wish to express my gratitude and ask for your continued support “Yoroshiku onegaishimasu”.

Lawrence Hada  
GVJCI Japanese Language School Principal



Evan Yuuki Berkin



Kassidy Yuriye Higa



Evan Kaito Tamura



Daigo Yoshida-Berz



Takahiro Yoshida-Berz





AUG

**WEDS, AUG 4, SEP 2, OCT 6,  
9-10AM  
GVJCI Parking Lot**

**2021 ANNUAL GVJCI  
SIGNATURE EVENT:  
TABE-DORAIBU  
FRI, JULY 30 - SUN, AUG 15  
Gardena & Torrance**

Tabe-Doraibu is our second annual GVJCI Signature Event Fundraiser, a fun event that aims to highlight and help our amazing event restaurant and business partners in the Gardena and Torrance area across two weeks. It's about supporting our local community while enjoying & discovering delicious food and snacks!

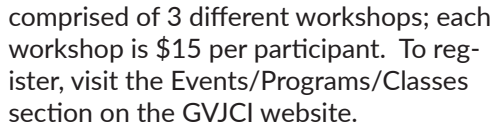
**MEDITATION FOR  
SLEEPLESSNESS**  
**睡眠瞑想ワークショップ**  
THURS, AUG 12, SEP 9, & OCT 14  
7:00-7:40PM  
Online

**COPING WITH THE  
EFFECTS OF THE  
COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND  
GLOBAL DEVASTATION**  
SAT, AUG 28, 2-4PM  
Online

This FREE presentation will include a question and answer session. Please join us for an informative and interactive afternoon. To register, please visit the Events/Programs/Classes section on the GVJCI website.

## HOW TO WRITE HAIKU WORKSHOPS

WEDS, SEP 8, 15, & 22, 6-7:30PM  
Online



**2021 KEIRO NO HI FESTIVAL**  
**SAT, SEP 18, 11AM-1PM Bento & Gift Bag Pick-Up (registrants only) at GVJCI Parking Lot**  
**2-3pm Online Video Premiere**  
Keiro and Japanese American Cultural & Community Center (JACCC) will present the fourth annual Keiro no Hi Festival to honor the older adults in Our Community. The event will consist of pre-registered complimentary bento and gift bag pickup at GVJCI, or a mailed gift package component, as well as an online video premiere featuring community performers, speakers, and an arts showcase. Gift bag and bento will only be available via registration for those age 60+. Registration closes 8/27 or while supplies last. The online video premiere is available to anyone.

Visit [keiro.org/knh](http://keiro.org/knh) for more information on how to participate in this exciting event!

This year's art show is online once again as we share art from around the South Bay community and beyond! The theme of this year's exhibit is "Cultural Heritage." Cultural heritage can encompass many different parts of one's identity; it can be defined as one's ethnic or national identity, or it can include values that have been passed on, such as a strong work ethic or a passion for advocacy. All artwork will be posted on the GVJCI website starting Sat, Sept. 18th at 9am and will be available for public viewing until Thursday, Sept. 30th.

**クラフトクラス、手作りカード**  
TUES, SEP 21, 10-11AM  
GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

手作りですてきなカードを2枚作ります。材料費\$11はペーパークラフト専用の糊とカード用紙をしっかりと折り込むためのボーンホルダー、カードのデコレーションのためのクッションシールを含みます。その他、ご自分のハサミ、定規をお持ちください。細かい作業がありますのでメガネをお忘れなく。このクラスは最低3人で開催されます。

Join us for a FREE online seminar on safety for seniors. Ron Mark, Director, Center for Criminal Justice Research and Training at California State University, Long Beach, will be giving an on-line 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 GVCJCI website or call (310) 324-6611.

This class is bilingual (English and Japanese). Beginners welcome! Instructors will be teaching participants how to sew Dolman Rib T-shirt using a surge sewing machine. Sewing machine and materials included. Participation fee is \$30. Limited to 6 people. To register, please visit our Upcoming Events page on our website!

このクラスは日英両語で行われます。初心者大歓迎!ドルマンリブTシャツを縫いましょう。ロックミシンを使って、簡単に縫えます。材料すべてご用意します。6人までの人数制限がありますので、お早めに登録してください。受講料、材料費込み\$30。

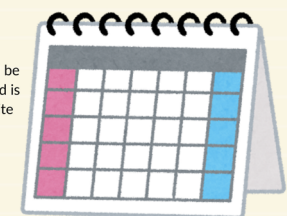
Join us for a new online workshop featuring self shiatsu massage techniques taught by Hideki Obayashi! The series will include a short history of massage and shiatsu, shiatsu literature, and equipment and surfaces used for shiatsu. Fee is \$10 per workshop. To register, visit the Events/Programs/Classes section on the GVJCI website.

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. To register, please visit the Upcoming Events page on the GJVCJ website.

Let's get in the Halloween spirit by making Halloween-themed bento boxes together! Make onigiri ghosts and ghouls, omurice jack-o-lanterns, and more! You can be as creative as you want or follow the instructor! Open to all ages (children and adults). \$5 per participant. To register, visit the Events/Programs/Classes section on the GVJCI website.



**Online**  
Details Coming Soon. Please check our website for details. All GJVCI Fundraiser proceeds benefit the GJVCI.  
Contact: Cathy Lee at [clee@jci-gardena.org](mailto:clee@jci-gardena.org) or 310-324-6611



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