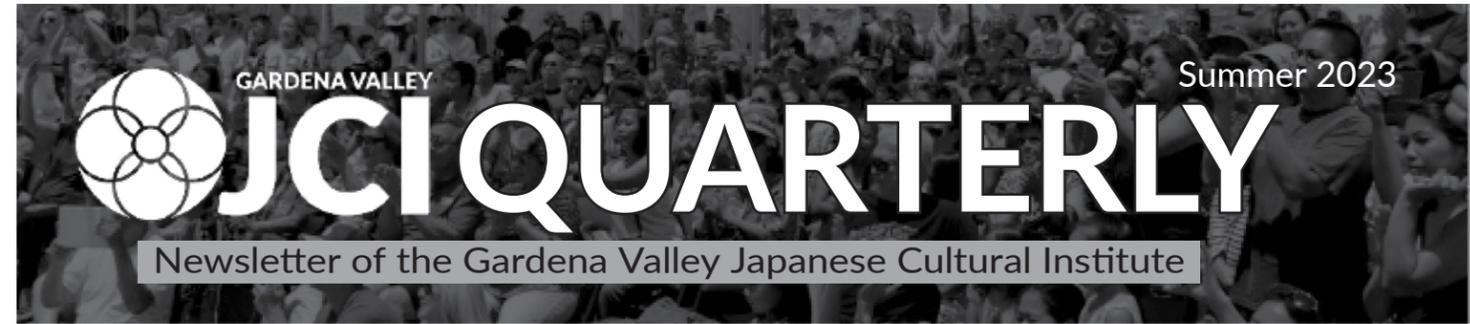




1964 West 162nd Street
Gardena, CA 90247
Phone: 310-324-6611
Fax: 310-324-3223
Email: info@JCI-Gardena.org
Website: JCI-Gardena.org
Facebook.com/GVJCI
@GardenaValleyJCI

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Gardena, CA 90247
PERMIT NO. 75



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

OR CURRENT OCCUPANT

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 Doi
Lawrence Hada
Michelle Hirano
Alan Kita
Kerilyn Kotani
Grant Nakaoka
Ray Shibata
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
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*

2023 GVJCI MATSURI FUNDRAISER THANK YOU'S

By Cathy Lee, Director of Development and Marketing



Hello everyone! The 2023 GVJCI Matsuri Fundraiser was held on Saturday, June 24, from 10:00am - 7:00pm at the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute (GVJCI), bringing the community together for a fun-filled, family-friendly day celebrating the Nikkei culture with delicious food & beverages, fun games, amazing entertainment, bingo, white elephant, beer garden and more. Can you believe this popular annual South Bay tradition has been held for 70+ years and is 100% volunteer run with all proceeds benefiting the GVJCI?! We were so happy to be able to bring the matsuri back in person after four pandemic years!

This year's matsuri theme was Thankful for Community! And we are so thankful for our community who came together to make this year's event a success! This Matsuri would not exist without the support, hard work, and dedication from our Member Organizations, Volunteers, GVJCI Board, Staff and their families, before, during, and after the Matsuri. We are so thankful for the many committed Matsuri supporters including the corporate sponsors, local businesses, nurseries, and individuals who generously donated their time, financial support and products and all who came out to support and enjoy our event.

Thank you to our Member Organizations: South Bay FOR for grilling & assembling the tasty teriyaki chicken, cooking corn, running our game booths, prepping, taking and filling food orders, JCI Kendo for making their delicious fresh YAKISOBA and new this year - Dole Whip, GEO for making all of the rice, Gardena Judo Club for making the hot dogs, tamales & chili, Gardena Kendo for making cold and hot udon, Nikkei Social Club and Yuujou Taiko for making andagi, Kyudo Renmei for making the shave ice, Nisei VFW for making somen salad, Sansei Baseball League as bingo and plant runners! LA Men's Glee Club and Randall and friends ran our beer garden! Boy Scout Troop 683 & 719 ran our Holding Booth, trash pick up and helped with tear down.

In This Newsletter...	
GVJCI News.....	3
GVJCI Calendar.....	6
Tomo No Kai Corner.....	8





Every year our senior volunteers, Tomo No Kai, work tirelessly behind the scenes before and during our matsuri. They clean and prep ingredients, cut all of the fresh produce, make tons of super tasty spam musubi, volunteer in our White Elephant, Crafts and Volunteer Hospitality Areas – we are so thankful for all you do for us!

Eric Yonemura and Julio Gomez from ABC Nursery and Doyle Saito with Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai members were instrumental in helping us with our very popular plant sale! They, along with other nursery volunteers, were on hand throughout the day to answer any questions as our plant experts. We had so many beautiful plants donated by local nurseries that were enjoyed by all!

Thank you Justin Katsuno, for your expertise in reviewing our menus, supplies, prepping, setting up and managing our food cooking and assembly areas!

We also thank all of the many volunteers, area volunteer managers, cashiers, staff & interns who prepped, cooked, assembled and distributed our super oishii matsuri fare! It was a lot of hard work, but all of you worked so diligently and always with a smile!

Thank you to our Matsuri Committee members for your input, suggestions and hard work. Your combined effort and support made the Matsuri a success!

As a nonprofit community organization, this annual fundraising event is essential in order to support the operational, programming, overhead, and maintenance expenses of the GVJCI. We are able to continue to keep rental fees low for our community classes, and even waive fees for community youth organizations. Funding also supports our various cultural, educational, and social programs and services. On behalf of the GVJCI, we sincerely thank you all!



CORPORATE SPONSORS



Universal Waste Systems, Inc.

NURSERY DONORS
 ABC Nursery
 C Stars Nursery
 Centeno's Nursery-Landscaping
 Garibaldo's Nursery
 H&H Nursery
 Hawthorne Nursery
 Javier's Nursery
 Larry Kawahara
 Marie Masumoto
 Sandy Uyesugi
 Sunflower Farms Nursery

DISCOUNTED SERVICES & GOODS
 B & G House of Printing
 Guerrero Mexican Foods
 Hawaiian Sweet
 Hong Kong Bakery
 Kabahead Kreations
 Mixer Ink

IN KIND SERVICES & GOODS
 ConGlobal Industries, LLC
 Jimmy Kochiyama
 Tracy Lee

BINGO DONORS
 Cherrystone's Restaurant & Catering
 Gardena Bowl Coffee Shop

MEGA MATSURI RAFFLE DONORS
 FIA Insurance
 Michelle Hirano, Ray Shibata & Marilyn Tsuge, GVJCI Board Members

Alison Kochiyama, Executive Director
 Donna Sugimoto, Berkshire Hathaway
 Shin-Sen-Gumi Group

SPECIAL DONOR
 Matthew Kuriyama, Dole Whip
 Machine rental

MONETARY DONORS
 83+ donations from Individuals
 Corporate
 Member Organizations

VOLUNTEERS & MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS
 Bando Hidesomi
 Boy Scout Troop 683
 Boy Scout Troop 719
 Gardena Buddhist Church
 Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai
 GVJCI Board
 GVJCI Staff
 GVJCI Tomo No Kai
 Gardena Evening Optimist
 Gardena JCI Kendo
 Gardena Judo Club
 Gardena Kendo Dojo
 Gardena Valley Nisei Club
 Happy Qi Gong
 L.A. Men's Glee Club
 Nikkei Social Dance Club
 Nisei VFW Post 1961
 Randall Fujimoto & Friends
 Sansei Baseball League
 South Bay Animal CERT

South Bay F.O.R.
 South Bay Singers
 Southern California Kyudo Renmei
 Southern California Naginata Federation
 Yuujou Taiko

GVJCI MATSURI COMMITTEE
 Alison Kochiyama, Executive Director
 Cathy Lee, Director of Development & Marketing
 Stephanie Mayeda, Programs Manager
 Lyndon Meighan, Community Engagement & Facility Operations Manager
 Ray Shibata, Board of Directors

GVJCI INTERNS
 Stephanie Ajifu
 Ryan Hino
 Haruka Ishii
 Darren Kawazoe
 Sammy Williams

T-SHIRT & POSTER DESIGN
 Kabahead Kreations

GVJCI SOCIAL MEDIA/ONLINE FOLLOWERS
 Facebook
 Instagram
 Website

THANK YOU! We couldn't have done it without you and see you next year!

To summarize:

	Direct Hire	Agency
Taxes and liabilities	You, the employer, are responsible.	The agency is responsible.
Cost	Negotiate with the caregiver as long as you meet minimum wage and overtime rules.	More than hiring directly since you are also hiring a middleman to take care of taxes, liabilities accounting, etc.
Job description	Decide what kind of help you want, how often, and for how long. List the skills that are important for the help you want.	Agencies often assess your needs to find a match, but decide what is important to you in advance.
Interviews	Come up with your own questions and interview multiple candidates to find a good fit.	Ask the agency if you can interview multiple candidates to find a good fit.
References	Ask for job-related references, not just character references.	Ask if you can speak with other clients being served by the caregiver
Background checks	Get written consent from the prospective caregiver for you (or a paid representative) to request records.	Find out what types of background checks the agency conducts and discuss any concerns you have if there are gaps.
Written agreement	Create an agreement to facilitate communication about expectations and avoid misunderstandings about wages, hours, etc.	Review the agreements between yourself and the agency, and the agency and its employee before signing.

The process can be overwhelming at times, but getting support will help you take better care of yourself and your family in the long run. The information provided here is meant to be basic tips rather than formal legal advice since every family and every situation is different. For specific legal questions, it's a good idea to consult with an attorney. For more information about caregiving in general and other social service needs, please feel free to call the Little Tokyo Service Center at (310) 819-8659 or (213) 473-3035 to talk with a social worker.

NISEI VFW POST 1961

By Steve Moriyama, Commander

When we started the cold somen project for the GVJCI Matsuri, there were so many questions asked and the answer to the primary question "where are you going to get all the volunteers" was unknown. Because the VFW Post and its Post 1961 Women's Club suffered so many losses due to the aging of its membership, that question was a valid one.

However, the question was answered by the overwhelming support we received from the GVJCI volunteers who came to our aid. Your cheerful and helpful attitude made completing the cold somen project so very pleasant, fun and a really good time for all.

We, at the VFW Post 1961, cannot thank you enough for all your hard work and cooperation. Truly an impossible task without your help. And hey, all of our hard work paid off, when the cold somen was "sold out" in about 2 hours!

Thank you So Very Much.

To everyone at the GVJCI, please join and support us at the following events:

- September 10, 2023, Our Annual Huli Huli Chicken Fundraiser drive by @ Cherrystones Grill & Grotto. (Presale Tickets Only)
- September 11, 2023, 911 Commemoration Service @ the Nakaoka Community Center Lawn.
- November 11, 2023, Veterans' Day Celebration, @ the Nakaoka Community Center Lawn.

Once again, Thank You to the Post 1961 Women's Club, the Members of Nisei Post 1961, the Staff of GVJCI and all of our friends and family for your continuing support of our Post as we continue to work towards making our VFW Post an integral part of our community.

Contact information for Post 1961:
 Steve Moriyama, 1127 W 213th Street, Torrance, CA 90502, Tel: 213-700-0364,
 Email: moriyamaohana@sbcglobal.net

HIRING A CAREGIVER – A DEEPLY PERSONAL CHOICE

By Amy Phillips
 Director of Program Administration, Little Tokyo Service Center

One of the greatest strengths of Japanese American cultural values is respect for the ties that bind families together and encourage us to care for one another. However, as much as we find joy (or maybe just a sense of fulfilling a duty) in caring for our family members, sometimes we need outside support.

The most important rule is: Don't feel guilty about asking for help! Sometimes we feel like we're letting our loved ones down when we turn to an outsider for help. But hiring someone to take care of everyday tasks can provide family members with valuable time and energy for the things we really want with our families: quality time and long-lasting memories.

When you're ready to ask for help, don't just settle for anyone. The two main options are to hire someone directly or go through a caregiving agency. One option may be more appropriate than the other depending on your situation. Get the level of help that fits your needs.

If you hire a caregiver directly, you technically become an employer with all the responsibilities and liabilities. Depending on how many hours they work for you and how much they earn, caregivers may be entitled to certain benefits. At the very least, it's important to follow basic labor laws about minimum wage and overtime even if the person will be taking care of their taxes on their own. Also, check your homeowner or renter insurance policy to see if it includes workers compensation coverage for household employees.

- To find a caregiver that's a good fit:
1. Develop a job description. You should have a clear idea of what services and skills you are looking for, and a written document will make it easier for candidates to understand your expectations.
 2. Interview multiple candidates. Caregiving is very personal. A person may have the right skills, but everyone will suffer if personalities don't mesh.
 3. Ask for job-related references, not just character references.
 4. Conduct background checks. This may include things such as a criminal background check with the Department of Justice or FBI, DMV records (especially if the caregiver

will be driving your loved one on errands), and credit reports (to see if someone's financial situation might make them susceptible to temptation). You must receive signed consent from the prospective employee in order to check records, and each report has a processing fee.

For example, you can get a copy of a prospective employee's driver record by submitting form INF 70 with the DMV by mail or in-person for \$5, or online. If the candidate has an online DMV account, they can print their own record for a \$2 fee. (If the prospective caregiver has lived in other states, you may want to request a National Driver Register Record Check through the DMV using form INF 1301A.) A criminal background check typically costs \$20 or more depending on the extent of the search you request.

If you don't like the idea of having to piece together multiple reports, you can consider consulting with your lawyer or hiring a private investigator to conduct a comprehensive search and give you a full report.

5. Don't rely on just one caregiver to meet your needs. It's always good to have back-ups in case your caregiver is not available when you need them. Also, it's not a good idea to be the primary source of income for any one person because it may lead to dependency (and sometimes our cultural values may lead us to feel guilty about terminating employment).

6. Have a written agreement. It's much easier to deal with issues later if the expectations are clearly spelled out from the beginning. You can always modify things with mutual agreement, but always make updates in writing. You should also keep a record of work time and payments.

The general rules above apply when getting a caregiver through an agency as well. The advantage of using an agency is that they handle payroll, benefits, taxes, insurance, scheduling, etc. for you. (But this is only true if the caregiver is an actual employee of the agency, so always check!) The more caregiving hours you need, the more important these administrative functions become.

Although agencies conduct interviews and manage their employees, it's still a good idea for you to interview candidates from the agency to make sure you find a good fit. You can also ask the agency if you can speak with other clients who are being served by the caregiver. You may also want to inquire about the types of background checks the agency conducts.

BE A 2023 FRIEND OF THE GVJCI!

Thank you Friends of the GVJCI who renewed your 2023 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 Tomo No Kai senior programs, Day of Remembrance, our Tanoshii Fun Camp for youth programs. As a Friend, you enable us to further advance to achieving our mission and vision into the future.

We are currently at 44% of our 2023 Goal. It's not too late to join or renew as a 2023 Friend of the GVJCI! Please visit our website at 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!

If you are able, please consider becoming a Friend of the GVJCI!



Protect Your Assets

Medi-Cal | Living Trust | Probate

- Medi-Cal Planning
- Estate Planning
- Trust Administration
- Probate

ES Judd Matsunaga's ELDER LAW SERVICES OF CALIFORNIA
 A Professional Law Corporation
310-348-2995
elderlawcalifornia.com
 Multiple locations throughout California

Judd Matsunaga
 Attorney at Law

SELLING OR BUYING A HOME?

We're here to help!

Derek Hirano, SRES®
 DRE #01962754
 310.803.0633
www.hiranohomes.com

BUY SELL INVEST DOWNSIZE

kw SOUTH BAY
 REALTY

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!

Millennia Personal Care Services
THEKEY Formerly Home Care Assistance

Live your way— at home.

Looking for a long-term care solution that allows you or a loved one to stay in the home you love? From companionship a few hours a day to 24/7 care, we have the right Care Plan for your needs now—and into the future.

What makes TheKey different?

- Expertly trained caregivers
- Care focused on overall wellness
- Personalized, flexible Care Plans
- A team-based approach with 24/7 support

How can we help you?
 Call today to set up a free phone consultation.
 (888) 285-4913
 日本語どうぞ
TheKey.com/Millennia

YOUR JAPANESE HOME CARE PROVIDER

carelife

Caregivers can assist with:

- Cooking
- Driving
- Light Housekeeping
- Home Exercise & more

Doctor of Physical Therapy(DPT) on staff

310.373.6030 carelifeinc.com
facebook.com/CareLifeHomeCare

Answer Keiro's Community Survey!

Keiro is partnering with Vantage Research & Consulting, Inc. to conduct a community-wide, 10-15 minute online survey designed to assess the needs and preferences of Our Community.

Please answer the survey if you are...

- Part of the Japanese American and Japanese community AND
- Residing or have a close loved one in LA, Orange, or Ventura Counties

How to Participate:

1. Submit your name and email address to keiro.org/survey by Aug. 31, 2023.
2. Look out for an email between Aug. 1 and Sep. 5 for the survey link. All surveys must be completed by Sep. 15, 2023.

Contact 213.873.5700 or survey@keiro.org before July 28, 2023 to request a mailed survey.
 Scan the QR code or visit keiro.org/survey.
 For questions, email survey@keiro.org.

Keiro

JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL

The GVJCI Japanese Language School concluded its 2022 – 2023 school year on June 17, 2023. I offer my deepest appreciation to the students, parents, and teachers for their dedication and assistance in helping to make it another successful year. As always, I wish to especially thank Alison Kochiyama and the GVJCI staff for all their support and guidance. I commend their determination and commitment to preserve and continue to nurture the GVJCI Japanese Language School, not just as a legacy but as a community culture. I am extremely proud and grateful to serve as the Principal and to be allowed the opportunity to assist and serve in this mission.

I congratulate all the promoting students, especially this year's Graduation Class. The Graduation Class consisted of 5 students, Lexi Kiyomi Higa, Rio Horikita, Cosmo Ichikazu Larson, Taylie Mika Saga-Narikawa, and Olivia Erina Yamashiro. Though it may have been a struggle continuing online, they all preserved and completed their courses during all their years of study at the school. I hope they will look back at their experiences with fondness and continue to polish their Japanese language skills in the future.

After struggling under the shadow and after effects of COVID for the past 3 years, it is with joy and a deep sense of kancha that I can announce that the GVJCI Japanese Language School will be returning to in-person instruction starting with the 2023 Summer Session which started July 8, 2023 and will conclude on July 29, 2023. The 2023 – 2024 School Year will begin on September 9, 2023 and run till June 22, 2023. Adult Beginning and Intermediate Classes will continue to be taught online. We are still finalizing plans for the new school year so registration and class information is forthcoming and will be posted on the website soon. Returning for the new school year will be Masumi Sasaki Sensei, who will serve as Vice Principal, Naoko Tran Sensei, Asaka Morita Sensei, Chiaki Suzuki

Sensei, Mayumi Fuchino Sensei, and Aki Izumi Sensei, who teaches the Adult Class. I also wish to welcome a new member to our teaching staff, Noboru Mishima Sensei. We all look forward to working hand in hand with him.

As a youth, attending Japanese School, I remember always hearing the words “arigatasa” (thankfulness), “kansha” (gratitude), “magokoro” (sincerity), and “gambarimasu” (I will continue to do my best), but I was also fortunate to have had the advantage of seeing the meaning of these words in action through the deeds of my Issei and Nisei elders. I saw a depth and feeling in these words that could not easily be translated into English and recognized the need to learn Japanese more in depth in order to understand and appreciate the culture fully. I embrace these words that represent the core values and spirit our Issei and Nisei forefathers possessed and strive to incorporate them in my daily life. Their desire to pass the best parts of the Japanese culture within the community that they adopted and loved, lead to the establishment of centers like the GVJCI, which supported Japanese language schools, to assist in promoting a better understanding of the Japanese culture and create “kokeisha” (future successors) to continue passing these feelings and attitudes to future generations. I am indebted to them for the community spirit they helped establish for us and am very proud to be associated, in even a small way, with the mission that they established.

In parting, I truly wish to express my gratitude and “Issho ni gambarimasho” (Let us all do our best together).

Lawrence Hada
Principal

The following are messages from the 2022-2023 Japanese Language School graduates.

Lexi Higa



Hello, my name is Lexi Higa and I am 13 years old. I have been in Japanese school for 6 years. During my time at JCI I've learned new things about my culture and met many friends. One of my favorite memories was doing Undokai. This was one of my favorite memories because each class would compete against each other with different sport activities. I just want to say thank you to all of my teachers for teaching me Japanese.

こんにちは、私の名前はレキシィーヒガ、13歳です。日本語学校には6年間通いました。JCIで過ごした期間、私は自分の文化について新しいことを学び、たくさんの友達に出会いました。私の好きな思い出の一つは、運動会をしたことです。運動会は、各クラスが様々なスポーツ活動で互いに競い合うので、私の楽しい良い思い出の一つとなりました。日本語を教えてくださいました、ただただ、ありがとうございました、と言いたいと思います。

Mika Saga-Narikawa



My name is Mika Saga-Narikawa and I've been at JCI for about 7 years now. JCI was almost like a second family to me. The teachers were always so kind and my classmates were always fun to talk to. One of my favorite things at JCI was the sports day festivals and got to compete with each other. JCI has taught me many things, and I hope to use this knowledge to communicate with others and go to Japan.

私の名前はミカ サガ-ナリカワ です。JCIで学んで約7年になります。JCIは私にとって、ほとんど第二の家族のようなものでした。先生方はいつもとても優しく、クラスメイトはいつも楽しく話してくれました。JCIで好きなことの一つは、運動会で、お互いに競争したことです。私はJCIでいろいろなことを学ぶ事が出来ました。この知識を生かして、他の人とコミュニケーションをとりたいと思います。そして日本へ行きたいと思っています。

2023 GVJCI SCHOLARSHIP FUND RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to our 2023 GVJCI scholarship recipients! This year we were able to award scholarships to three high school graduates and two undergraduate/graduate scholars. The recipients not only achieved academically, but they also dedicated many volunteer hours to the community. Many of them worked directly with GVJCI staff on projects and internships making lasting contributions. We are very proud of all of the recipients and wish them success in their continued education and future goals! The following are messages from the recipients.

BRIAN TAKEO MITSUNAGA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS



Shingo Morita, California State University, San Diego graduate, will be attending University of Southern California

"I am honored to receive the scholarship from GVJCI, which reaffirms my commitment to academic excellence and community involvement."

Joshua Yamane, El Camino College Honors Transfer Program Graduate, will be attending University of California, Los Angeles



"Receiving this scholarship, especially from GVJCI, is so special! I grew up right next to the facility and JCI has always played a massive role in helping me understand my culture as a fifth-generation Japanese American. I'm so grateful I had the opportunity to intern and interact with the community the organization benefits. Thank you so much GVJCI. It is truly an honor to receive this award!"

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.

GARY HORI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Keigo Morita, Patrick Henry High School graduate, will be attending Weber Honor College at San Diego State University



"GVJCI's scholarship provides me with the motivation to pursue my academic and personal goals. I would like to express my deepest appreciation for this generous scholarship opportunity. The support and encouragement provided by GVJCI mean a great deal to me, and I am truly grateful for this recognition."

GARDENA VALLEY JAACL SCHOLARSHIP



Kyle Yamazaki, South High School graduate, will be attending Chapman University

"Thank you to the GVJAACL and GVJCI for awarding me this scholarship. This scholarship means a lot to me as I have been going to the GVJCI since I was 11 years old as a Boy Scout. What I

will remember and cherish the most is working on the can food drive, helping kids in the game booth at the Matsuri and serving as a color guard at the GVJCI Day of Remembrance. GVJCI is important to me and to my troop."

GARDENA VALLEY GARDENERS ASSOCIATION LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

Olivia Maehara, Redondo Union High School graduate, will be attending University of California, Riverside



"I am truly honored to be this year's recipient of the Gardena Valley Gardeners Association Legacy Scholarship. This scholarship along with JCI has been the backbone of my upbringing in the South Bay, paving a pivotal role in my development of leadership, volunteerism and community. I look forward to continuing to be part of the GVJCI community throughout college and beyond."



2023 GVJCI Matsuri Scholarship Presentation: L-R Alison Kochiyama, Executive Director; Joshua Yamane; Olivia Maehara; Kyle Yamazaki; Ray Shibata, GVJCI Board and Scholarship Committee Member. Not pictured: Shingo and Keigo Morita. (Photo courtesy of Gary Kohatsu, Gardena Valley News)

Tomo No Kai membership has reached 509 members! Did you know there are tons of great benefits that come with an annual Tomo No Kai membership? For \$12 a year, you can participate in:

- Senior Bento Program – Members who are 60 years or older can purchase freshly-made Japanese bento lunches for a subsidized cost of \$7.
- Tomo Cafe – Members can drop in the GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall Monday through Friday, 9-11am, for hot coffee and free pastries, and get together to chat with friends!
- A variety of different TNK classes including, physical fitness, ballroom and hula dance, yoga, oil and watercolor painting, and more! Most classes are only \$6 to participate. To see the full schedule of classes, please visit our website or visit our front office to pick up a flyer!

SENIOR BENTO PROGRAM UPDATE

We're grateful to share that our Senior Bento Program continues to grow and now serves approximately 130 – 145 bento per week! With the community's ongoing support, GVJCI has been able to subsidize these bento meals for over a year now.

All of this would not be possible without the support of all of you! If you'd like to help, you can become a Bento Buddy by donating on the GVJCI website or making a donation at our office. Bento Buddy donations provide ongoing support to keep the Senior Bento Program operating and providing delicious, nutritious meals to our seniors. Thank you!

BECOME A BENTO BUDDY!

Spring is here! We hope you all have stayed warm during this unusually cold Southern California winter! We cannot thank you all enough for your contributions to GVJCI's programs, but especially to our Senior Bento Program.

Since relaunching our Senior Bento program in May 2022, our bento program now serves approximately 160 bentos every week for seniors 60 years and older. As the need for affordable and healthy meals for seniors increases at GVJCI, we are asking for your help in subsidizing the cost of bento lunches for our senior participants. We hope to continue charging only \$7 per bento to our seniors with GVJCI absorbing the other half.

By donating to our Bento Buddies program, you can help lower the cost of a senior's bento by 50%. That means a \$14 bento will only cost a senior \$7!

1. DONATE



2. GVJCI BUYS BENTO FROM A LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS



3. SENIORS PAY FOR BENTO AT A 50% SUBSIDIZED PRICE



**TO DONATE,
SCAN USING
YOUR PHONE
CAMERA!**



continued from page 4

Rio Horikita



Hello, my name is Rio Horikita, I'm 12 years old, and I've been attending JCI School for 7 years. During those years, I've made many new friends. and met many nice teachers! My most memorable thing at JCI School is the sports festival Undokai. It was fun racing and competing with the opposing team, and being able to work with each other to try to win. But my most favorite part of JCI School has to be being able to learn and experience Japanese Culture, and being able to learn Japanese altogether. Thank you, teachers, friends for giving me such an amazing and fun experience at JCI School! Thank you!

こんにちは、私の名前は堀北莉央で、十二歳です。JCIスクールに七年間通いました。この七年間、私はたくさんの新しい友達を作り、たくさんの素敵な先生方と出会いました！JCIスクールで一番印象に残っていることは、スポーツフェスティバル、運動会です。相手チームと競い合ったり、勝つためにお互いに協力し合ったりするのが楽しかったです。しかし、JCI スクールが一番好きなところは、何と言っても、日本文化に触れて体験しながら日本語を学べたことです。先生方、友達、JCIスクールでこんなに楽しくて素晴らしい経験をさせてくれたことを感謝しています！ありがとうございました！

Cosmo Larson



My name is Cosmo Larson. It is fun but sad at the same time to know that I'm graduating Japanese school. The best memory of Japanese school was participating in Undokai. It was a lot of fun. The most impressive thing about Japanese school was going to Tanaka Farms. I also enjoyed doing Mochitsuki. Japanese school has helped me learn and appreciate different languages. If I go to Japan, this will help me a lot. Thank you, Daniel Sensei, Atsuko Sensei, Masumi Sensei, Asaka Sensei, Chiaki Sensei, and Mayumi Sensei. I enjoyed so much throughout the years. Thank you very much.

私の名前はコズモ・ラーソンです。日本語学校を卒業するのは楽しいですが、同時に悲しいです。日本語学校での一番の思い出は、運動会に参加したことです。とても楽しかったです。日本語学校で一番印象に残っているのは、タナカファームに行ったことです。また、餅つきも楽しかったです。日本語学校のおかげで、僕はさまざまな言葉を学び、理解することができました。もし僕が日本に行くなら、これまで学んできたことはとても役に立つと思います。ダニエル先生、アツコ先生、マスミ先生、アサカ先生、チアキ先生、マユミ先生、ありがとうございました。日本語学校はずっととても楽しかったです。どうもありがとうございました。

Erina Yamashiro

My name is Erina Yamashiro and I am in the 7th grade. I have been coming to JCI's Japanese School since my brother attended Japanese School in fall of 2011. I was one years old. I have lots of good memories here. I enjoyed all of the many teachers I have had, they were all unique and supportive. A lot of the things I liked about Japanese School were the activities to understand Japanese culture better. The arts and crafts aspect that was part of the Saturday school helped me look forward to coming to Japanese School. Like making the Hina Matsuri dolls, the Childrens Day flying fish and writing our names using ink and a paintbrush. Often break time at Japanese School was when origami and crayons would be placed out so kids freely used them to express themselves. During that time, I hung out, ate snacks and talked to my friends too. Another fun memory was guessing the amount of candy corn in a big jar during Halloween. Tanaka Farms too, I loved eating all the strawberries and picking them, showing my parents the ones I've picked. I do miss in person school, and prefer it over the current COVID online school. I hope in-class returns because that makes Japanese School special. I've enjoyed the Japanese culture that Japanese School had to offer.

私はヤマシロエリナで、7ねんせい年生です。わたし私は一歳さい歳でしたが、2011ねん年のにあに兄がにほんご日本語がっこう学校ににゅうがく入学してからずっとJCIにほんご日本語がっこう学校にいました。がっこう学校にはよ良いおもいで出がたくさんあります。せんせいがた先生方はみんなユニークで、サポートしてくれてたの楽しかったです。がっこう学校では、にほん日本ぶんか文化をよりふか深くりかい理解できるアクティビティがす好きでした。ひなにんぎょう雛人形や こい鯉のぼりをつく作ったりすみ墨とふで筆でなまえ名前をか書いたりするアートクラフトがあったので、がっこう学校にく来るのがたの楽しみになりました。やす休みじかん時間にはよくたくさん沢山のこども子供たちがお折りがみ紙やクレヨンをじゆう自由につかってじぶん自分をひょうげん表現していました。わたし私はぶらぶらしたりおかし菓子を食べたり、ともだち友達とはな話したりしました。もうひとつのたの楽しいおもいで出はハロウィンのとき時におお大きなビンにはい入ったキャンデーのりょう量をよそう予想したことです。タナカファームでイチゴを食べたりつ摘んだり、つ摘んだものをりょうしん両親にみ見せるのもだいす大好きでした。げんざい現在 がっこう学校はコロナのためにオンラインですが、私はたいめん対面のがっこう学校がこい恋しくてす好きです。それはにほんご日本語がっこう学校をとくべつ特別なものにするとおも思うのでふっかつ復活することをねが願っています。わたし私はにほんご日本語がっこう学校でにほん日本ぶんか文化にふ触れておお大いにたの楽しむことができました。



AUG

KAMI BAND WORKSHOP: CUTLERY CASE

MON, AUG 21, 10AM-12PM
GVJCI Upstairs Classroom 207/208
 Taught by instructor Maggie Meza, participants will make a cutlery case (a case for storing chopsticks, spoons, forks, etc.) Fee is \$10 per participant (all supplies included) Limited to 8 people.

紙バンドワークショップ: カトラリーケースを作りましょう

8月21日(月) 午前10時から午後12時
GVJCI二階207/208
 講師マギーさんによるワークショップ。今回は紙バンドでカトラリーケース(箸やスプーン、フォークなどを収納するケース)を制作します。参加費\$10(材料費込み)、人数限定のため先着8名にて締め切ります。

HIRAGANA ADVENTURE: EXPLORE JAPAN WITH あっちゃん あがつく たべもの あいうえお! A-CHAN AGATSUKU FOOD A-I-U-E-O

FRI, AUG 11, 4-5:30PM
Online
 Join us for a thrilling online journey as we dive into the world of the Japanese language and culture with the interactive workshop, "Hiragana Adventure: Explore Japan with あっちゃん あがつく たべもの あいうえお!" Designed especially for American kids, this workshop promises an exciting and immersive experience that will captivate young learners and ignite their curiosity.

- Workshop Highlights:
- Engaging activities inspired by the picture book "あっちゃん あがつく たべもの あいうえお" by さいとうし のぶ
 - Discover the wonders of Japanese food culture and expand your culinary horizons
 - Interactive bingo game based on the picture book, combining reading and enjoyment.
 - Create your own mini picture book with the well-known Japanese author of picture books, Ms. Shinobu Saitou.

SEPT

ALZHEIMER'S LA: SAVVY CAREGIVER EXPRESS

September 15, 22 & 29, 1-2PM
GVJCI UPSTAIRS CLASSROOM 207/208
 This series consists of 3 different themes: Memory Loss & Alzheimers (9/15), Dementia Friends(9/22), and Communication & Dementia: Connecting With a Person Living with Memory Loss (9/29). To register for this FREE workshop series, please contact Kristy Huang-Arai at (323) 930-6257 or khuang@alzla.org.

GVJCI ART SHOW
SAT, SEPT. 23, 11AM-5PM
SUN, SEPT. 24, 11AM-4PM

GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall
 This year, we're here to celebrate the South Bay at our annual art show! Sceneries, iconic locations or South Bay staples, we're here to showcase it all to the local community. We invite you to join us for a fun-filled weekend of incredible art, activities, and celebration. Free refreshments will be served all weekend as well! The art show offers free admission to all, but donations are welcome and greatly appreciated.

OCT

BEGINNER BONSAI WORKSHOP
SAT, OCT 7, 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. \$60 fee to participate.

- This workshop series includes:
- Total 4 hours of experienced instruction from the Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai
 - Supplies: tree, wire, soil, plastic pot

初めての盆栽ワークショップ
10月7日(土)、午前10時から午後2時まで
ガーデナバレーJCIブリーズウェイ

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。受講料材料費込み一人60ドル

SELF DEFENSE WORKSHOPS
THURS, OCT 12, 10AM-12PM
GVJCI NISEI VETERANS MEMORIAL HALL
 The theme of these 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. This program is made possible by the Asian Pacific Community Fund COVID-19 Recovery Fund.

セルフディフェンスワークショップ
10月12日(木)午前10時から午後12時
ガーデナバレー二世ベテランズホール
 このワークショップのテーマは自己防衛と状況把握意識です。前半30分はどのような状況かを認識する事と日常の備えにフォーカスします。後半90分は攻撃を最小限にとどめ脱出を容易にするために実践的なあらゆる手段の自己防衛テクニック方法を紹介しします。各ワークショップはリトル東京松林流空手道黒帯六段のアートイシイ先生にご教授いただきます。無料、ご寄付いただくと幸いです。このプログラム提供はアジアンパシフィックコミュニティコロナ19ファンドにより可能になりました。

COMICS, ZINES, & FAMILY HISTORY
SAT, OCT 14 & 21, 2-3:30PM
GVJCI Upstairs Classroom 207/208

This two-part workshop series taught by artist Sam Nakahira gathers people from the South Bay to create sequential art based on our family histories, environment, and sense of place and home. Brief lectures cover the basics of comics and sequential art, zines, art and symbolism, and there will be ample time for free drawing and zine creation. While each student will work individually on their art, hopefully, people will find that sharing their stories of the South Bay through art might make the art-making process feel collaborative with workshop participants. To register, please visit our website. Registration is \$20 per workshop. All supplies will be provided, but participants are welcome to bring their own art supplies too!

SMARTPHONE & TABLET CLASS
MON, OCT 16, 23, 30, NOV 6, 13, 20, 1-3PM
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!

This program is made possible through funding from Keiro.

OSECHI RYORI WORKSHOP SERIES
SAT, OCT 28, NOV 4 & 18, 2-3:30PM
GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall
 will be instructed by veteran sushi chef Mike Inouye on how to prepare a variety of dishes. This is a three-part workshop series taking place over 3 Saturdays. Participation fee is \$90 for the entire series and includes all foods and supplies. Limited to 10 people. To register, please visit the GVJCI website!
 Workshop #1 (10/28)

- Kuromame (Sweet Black Soybeans)
- Kinpira Gobo (Braised Burdock Root)
- Kazunoko (Herring Roe)

Workshop #2 (11/4)

- Kuri Kinton (Candied Chestnuts and Sweet Potato)
- Datemaki (Sweet Rolled Omelette)
- Chikuzenni / Nishime (Simmered Chicken and Vegetables)

Workshop #3 (11/18)

- Namasu (Daikon and Carrot Salad)
- Ozoni (Japanese New Year Mochi Soup - Kanto Style)
- Toshikoshi Soba (New Year's Eve Soba Noodle Soup)

2024 GVJCI Calendar: Ad Space Available for Purchase
 Support the GVJCI by placing an ad in the GVJCI Calendar! Your ad will promote your company/business or celebrate special people and milestones (graduations, birthdays, anniversaries, weddings etc.) with a personal ad. The calendar will be distributed to over 1,600 people and businesses and is enjoyed throughout the year. Please visit our website to purchase ad space.

Full size:	\$900	Business Card size:	\$200
Half size:	\$550	Well Wisher:	\$150
Third size:	\$350		

Donations are also welcome!

Please consider supporting us by placing an ad in our calendar. All GVJCI Fundraiser proceeds benefit the GVJCI. Contact: Cathy Lee at clee@jci-gardena.org or 310-324-6611

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

