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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

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Shizuka Marinakis, *Teacher*
Asaka Morita, *Teacher*
Chiaki Suzuki, *Teacher*
Naoko Tran, *Teacher*
Aki Izumi, *Adult Class & Conversation Class Teacher*



HAPPY YEAR OF THE TIGER!

Akemashite omedetou gozaimasu! The Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute (GVJCI) sends you happy new year wishes for 2022! May this Tiger year bring in new energy, strength, protection, and altruism as we continue to progress through these trying times. Our thoughts are with all of you who have lost loved ones or have suffered illness due to COVID-19 or related issues. We truly hope that 2022 will be a better year for us all as we continue to stay as healthy and safe as we can.

In 2021, the GVJCI continued to serve the community the best that it could. Some of our activities in the classrooms and halls started up again in the latter part of the year, and seeing some of our GVJCI friends again after our year-and-a-half temporary facility closure was so heartwarming. In September 2021, we added a new part-time staff member, Alvin Takamori, who many of you know as a member of the GVJCI Board of Director, longtime program volunteer, and graphic and fine artist whose work is featured in our annual DOR's, GVJCI Art Shows, and GVJCI Calendar. Alvin had been helping us with the opening/closing of our facility, which was back to seven-days-a-week again. However, with health and safety continuing to be our priority, in January 2022, we had to temporarily suspend our onsite activities again due to the drastic increase of COVID-19 cases and the highly contagious Omicron variant. (Please check back on our website for the latest updates.)

With the twists and turns and major changes that GVJCI underwent, fundraising, donations, and grants have continued to be critical to continue in this limited capacity. We deeply appreciate the support you gave GVJCI through our fundraising efforts, volunteerism, and participation in our online programs. We truly couldn't have done it without your unwavering kindness and generosity. Please continue to take care of yourselves and be well.

With sincere kansha,
Alison Kochiyama, Executive Director

THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 SUPPORTERS!

GVJCI's 2021 supporters through grants and donations received between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021 (If we inadvertently missed any names, please let our office know.)

\$10,000 +

Asian Pacific Community Fund of So Cal
E.G.K. Foundation
Keiro Services Inc.

\$5,000 + - \$9,999

Anonymous
Boeing Employees Community Fund

\$1,000 - \$4,999

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Amazon Smile Foundation
Anonymous
FIA Insurance
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Fujii, Raymond

Gardena JCI Kendo Club
Gardena Judo Club
Gardena Kendo Club
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Hataishi, Paul
Hoops For Friends
Inadomi, Donald & Kim
Kagawa, Noboru, Shizue & Brent

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Nishio, Alan & Yvonne
Ono, Paula
Oyama, Kiyoshi & Saeko
Phillips 66 Company - Corporate Matching Gift
South Bay FOR

Tanaka Family Foundation
Wang, Timothy
Yamada, Dr Jason

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Barncastle, Kimberly
Eakins, Anna
Goetz, Elaine
Iizuka, Melvin & Pearl
Ingman, Doreen
Kohama, Jean
Nakatsu, Wayne & Karen
Oi, Sammy J & Evelyn C
Shimabuku, Hazel
Song, Terence
Tanioka, Helen A. & Stanley
Toyota Motor North America, Corporate Matching Gift

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Yamauchi, Bryce & Cheryl

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Akashi, Kazuye & Kathy
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Apple Charitable Giving - Corporate Matching Gift
Asato, John & Michiko
B&G House of Printing
Benson, Charles & Laura
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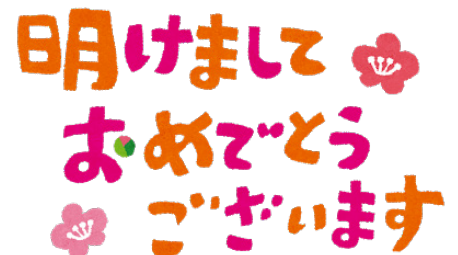
Capital Group Co Charitable Foundation - Corporate Matching Gift
Chuman, Christine & Shunsuke
DiFonso, Catherine
Doi, Gail
Ebihara, Junko & Teruaki
Eguchi, Mieko
Enomoto, Richard
Facebook Charitable Giving - Corporate Matching Gift
Fujii, Iris I. & Edwin
Fujii, Nobuko & Masao
Fujioki, Ruby
Fujita, Edward
Fujita, Jeanne & Gary
Fujita, Marianne
Fukui Mortuary

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 Furukawa, Norman & Linda
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 Goto, Rei
 Haramoto, Doreen & Danny
 Hata, Donald
 Hayamizu, Sumiko
 Hayashida, Marion
 Higa, Brenda Y.
 Higa, H.
 Higuchi, Dean
 Hino, Rob & Nina
 Hinkson, Takako & Roger
 Hino, Rob, Nina, Kayleen, Derek & Ryan
 Hirano, Isaac & Arleen
 Hori, Bryan & Kathy
 Hori, Harriet J.
 Horiuchi, Edna
 Howes, Yuko
 Iba, Beverly
 Ida, David
 Ideo, Sadayuki
 Ikemi, Douglas
 Ikemoto, Paul
 Imamoto, Eiko
 Inatomi, James & Peggy
 Inose, Kay & Ken
 Inouye, Ben
 Isa, Kumiko
 Ishigo, Norma A.
 Iura, Shigeeko
 Iwamoto, Diane
 Iwanaga Family, Tayeko
 Iwata, Jerry & Amy
 Kane, Sallie
 Kaneda, Joyce
 Kaneko, Kevin & Gail
 Kanomata Yasuyoshi Ken
 Kibota, Emiko & Tsugio
 Kido, Robert & Hisako
 Kika, Amy
 Kishi-Phillips, Kathleen
 Kita, Alan & Dawn
 Kita, Yoshiko & Dixon, Dianne
 Kobayashi, Steve & June
 Kuwahara, Arthur
 Lee, Catherine & Tracy
 Lim, Derrick E.
 Lim, Jessica
 Lowe, C.
 Lum, Albert & Alma
 Maeda, Tom & Akiko
 Mark, Edith & Richard
 Maruyama, Phyllis
 Masumoto, Marie & Ernie
 Matsushima, Teresa & Robert
 Matsumoto, Akemi
 Matsumoto, Sachi
 Matsushima, Bob & Teresa
 Matsushita, Osamu Sam
 Mayeda, Eileen
 Mayeda, Guy & Amy
 Mayeda, Janet
 Mayeda, Mark
 Mayeda, Melvin & Christine
 Mayemura, Louise
 Mayemura, Robin
 Miceli, Kathy

Microsoft Corporate Giving -
 Corporate Matching Gift
 Mikami, Shirley
 Minami, Dale & Mori Sandra Ai
 Minami, Seiko
 Mitani, Dave
 Miura, Paula
 Miyamoto, Alan & Joann
 Miyamoto, Sheri
 Miyamura, Stella & Wallace
 Miyashiro, Marc-Mitchell
 Mochizuki, Gilbert
 Mochizuki, S.M. & D.T.
 Mori, Susanne & Thomas
 Morimoto, Michael & Vivian
 Morioka, Dennis & Velda
 Morishige, Jim
 Motoyasu, Ken & Joyce
 Muha, Barbara & Michael
 Murakami, Charles & Merle
 Murakami, June & Kameki
 Nagamine, Nathan
 Nagao, Stanley & Shirley N.
 Nagasaki Family
 Nagasaki, Kimi
 Nakakihara, Mae
 Nakakura, Kenneth & Doris
 Nakamatsu, Maria V.
 Nakao, Harumi & James
 Nakasuji, Rose
 Nakata, Bob & Taeko
 Nakatani, David & Lily
 Nishihira, Joe & Violet
 Noguchi, Michael
 Nomura, Jon & Kathy
 Noone, Terry
 Nozaki, Janet N. & Kent J.
 Oda & Chang, Warren & Juliet
 Oda, Dwight
 Oda Omori, Susan
 Ogawa, Masao & Amy A.
 Ogomori, Sharon & Howard
 Ohara, Ross K.
 Okazaki, Shirley
 Onomura, Lionel & Naomi
 Onomura, Sandra & Brad
 Onomura-Kazahaya, Stacy
 Osa, Susan
 Oshiro, Betty H.
 Oshiro, Fred
 Oshita, George
 Otani, Keiko
 Oyama, J. Lisa
 Oye, Derek
 Ozaki, Joe & Aiko Mary
 Ozaki, Joseph & Grace
 Quon, Jimmy & Tokita, Lori
 Saalfeld, Michelle & Toby
 Sagawa, Nancy
 Saika, Peggy
 Saito, Bruce
 Sakamoto, Eileen & Roy
 Sakauye, Greg & Fusako
 Sanada, Glenn & Donna
 Sasahara, Yoshiko
 Sasaki, Jennifer E.
 Sayegusa, Fumie
 Shibata, Raymond & Sharon
 Shigemura Family Trust
 Shimatsu, Jane

Shimizu, Mitzi
 Shiotani, Lori
 Shishima, William
 Stinson, Everett & Kathleen
 Sumi, Mark
 Sumi, Senichi & Hiroko
 Sumida, Paul
 Suzuki, Roy & Terri
 Taga, Chris (Hiroyuki) & Janet
 Tahara, Randi
 Takefuji & Nakahara Family
 Tani, Edward & Victoria
 Tasaki, Stephanie & Ronald
 Tayeko Iwanaga Family
 Tenpo, Helen
 Tokudomi, Virginia
 Tomiyama, Alan & Akiko
 Tomoike, Yutaka & Bruce
 U Yi, Pong
 Uehara, Tadao
 Urata, Doreen & Sidney
 Uyemura, Cathy & David
 Vinluan, Lynne
 Vorreiter, Atsuko
 Wagner, Kristi
 Wakinaka, Asa & Bernice
 Watanabe, Jun & Charlotte
 Weber, Sharon
 Wehara, Itsuko & Russell
 Willoughby, Aileen Kitaoka
 Yamada, Alvin
 Yamagata, Satoru
 Yamanaka, Flora
 Yamane, Dick & Judy
 Yamasaki, Robert DDS
 Yamasawa, Hazel
 Yanagita, Lilly
 Yokota, James & Gladys
 Yokota, Masao & Yoshie
 Yonemura, Harry
 Yoshiba, Ann F.
 Yoshida, Mae & Clayton
 Yoshii, Lil
 Yoshimura, Eileen

\$20 - \$99
 Anonymous
 Abe, Kevin & Abe, Toshiko
 Abercrombie, Hisae
 Ajari, Paul
 Akashi, Kim
 Akima, Matsuaki & Mieko
 Almarez, Sandie
 Ando, Frances & Ken
 Bergeron, Joan Y.
 Berthiaume, Barbara
 Burns, Maureen
 Calzadias, Erica
 Castro, Mildred
 Cauble, Diana
 Chomori, J.M.
 Chun, Gerald & Sue
 Dennehy, Kristine
 Doi, Kerry
 Eakins, Anna
 Endo, Jim & Carole
 Enoki, Shosaburo
 Esquivel-Ize, Adiel & Amirah
 Ford, Umeno
 Fujimoto, Maya

Fujimoto, Randall
 Fujinami, Sam
 Fujiwara, Andres
 Fukuji, Barbara Jo E.
 Fukuman, Thomas N.
 Fukunaga, Christine
 Fukunaga, Lisa
 Fukunaga, Mickey
 Fukuzawa, Naomi
 Furukawa, Richard & Irene
 Furutani, Warren & Lisa
 Futami, Raymond
 Gilmore, Erin
 Goto, Rei
 Haas, Jane
 Hamamura, Carol
 Harada, Natalie & Wesley
 Hashimoto, Jane
 Hashizume, Kevin
 Hata, Joan & Gary
 Hatanaka, Tomiye
 Hatashita, Suliene Patti & Gerry
 Hayashi, Karen & Ronald
 Higa, George & Pully
 Hill, Elaine
 Hino, Alan
 Hino, Hiromi
 Hino, Irene
 Hirano, Derek
 Hirano, Tatsuo
 Hiranuma, Michael
 Hirose, Denko
 Honda, Katherine & Wilfred
 Hong, Joon
 Horii, Rina
 Horikawa, Patricia
 Horner, Jessica
 Ida, Doreen
 Ihori, David & Kristine
 Iida, Lisa
 Ikehara, Pablo & Toyama, Elisa
 Ikemoto, Terry
 Ikuhara, Kimiko
 Imamoto, Eiko
 Imose, Mae
 Inaba, Evelyn
 Inouye, Ruth
 Inouye, Tomoko
 Ingman, Taylor
 Irizawa, Ciana
 Isaka, Sachiko
 Iwai, Makoto
 Iwamasa, Yukio
 Iwamoto, Daniel & Ruby
 Iwamoto, Henry
 Iwata, Clyde and Fern
 Izawa, Marion
 Jeffery, Anita
 Jo, Rosie Y
 Kaba-Dien, Keri
 Kadomiya, Ruth
 Kageyama, Daniel
 Kaku, Mike
 Kameya, Glen
 Kamiya, Edward K. & Janet R.
 Kamiya, Katherine
 Kamiya, Luanne
 Kato, Karie
 Katsumata, Yasuo & Kyoko
 Kawasaki, Mary Ann & Harold

DONATIONS TO GVJCI

By: Alvin Takamori, GVJCI Board Member & GVJCI Day of Remembrance Committee Member

Recently, the GVJCI received a generous donation from Heishiro Otani: a farmer in the Torrance, CA area and a survivor of Rohwer Concentration Camp in Arkansas during World War II. At this camp, he met and became fascinated by artists, Henry Sugimoto's paintings and drawings, and with the woodcarvings of Harry Genji Koizumi. This led to a "hobby" in woodcarving, that he pursued for the rest of his life.

Thanks to a contact from Heishiro's grandniece Diana Ono, the GVJCI was connected to Heishiro's daughter Keiko Otani, as she was liquidating his estate. This included numerous carvings, some several feet in size. His home in Palos Verdes was a veritable museum of his art, beginning with a stunningly carved wooden front entrance. Heishiro never sought profits from his art, and freely donated them to family, temples and institutions. Keiko and her brother Joji, understood their father's intentions and



in that spirit have generously donated a half dozen of Heishiro's wood carvings to the GVJCI. The pieces carved at Rohwer will be shown online during the GVJCI's Day of Remembrance program in February of 2022. Eventually, Heishiro's carvings will be part of a permanent display upstairs, in the tokonoma of the GVJCI building.




THANK YOU TO OUR AWESOME 2021 RESTAURANT FUNDRAISER PARTNERS!



- Azuma Japanese Restaurant
- Gardena Bowl Coffee Shop
- King's Hawaiian Bakery & Restaurant
- The Local Place
- Shin-Sen-Gumi Yakitori Gardena
- Shin-Sen-Gumi 2GO Gardena
- Shin-Sen-Gumi Hakata Ramen Gardena

THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 SIGNATURE EVENT: TABE-DORAIBU RESTAURANT PARTNERS!

- Azuma
- Cafe Peruvia
- Cherrystones
- Croissants Du Tokyo
- Gardena Bowl
- Kansha Creamery
- N Cafe
- Painter's Tape
- Rascals
- Rutt's Hawaiian Cafe and Catering
- Sakura-Ya
- Scoops
- Shin-Sen-Gumi 2GO
- Shin-Sen-Gumi Hakata Ramen
- Shin-Sen-GumiShabu-Shabu Dining
- Shin-Sen-Gumi Yakitori
- The Loft

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Okazaki, Joyce
Okazaki, Shirley
Robbins, Robyn
Sagawa, Nancy
Sakamoto, Dan & Setsuko
Sasahara, Emiko
Sasahara, Yoshiko
Sasaki, Chuck Soderburg, Erik
Sumi, Senichi & Hiroko
Tabata, Lynn
Taga, Chris (Hiroyuki) & Janet
Takashima Oye, Airi & Oye, Derek
Tani, Edward & Victoria
Teshima, Ted & Nancy
Toma, Ivy & James
Toshiyuki, Sandra
Uwahori, Sadae
Yamasawa, Hazel
Yokota, Masao & Yoshie
Yoshida, Mae & Clayton
Yoshii, Edna & Nancy

Bronze \$100 - \$249

Akiyama, Miles
Arakawa, Takeko & Wallace
Butler, Benjamin & Shizue
Currie, Phyllis
Dohzen, Jeffrey
Endo, Jim & Carole
Enomoto, Richard & Jean
Fujita, Marianne (& Mitsuo)
Fukunaga, Karl
Gohata, Ted & Linda
Gutman, James
Hamamoto, Thomas & Akiko
Hara, Steven S. & Carol J.
Hashizume, Kevin
Hata, Grace
Hayashida, Marion
Higa, Hiroko
Hirabayashi, Tsuneo
Ideo, Sadayuki
Inatomi, James & Peggy
Iseri, Joe & Yasuko
Ishigo, Norma
Ishikawa, Derek, Sydney & Keni
Jo, Rosie Y.
Kato, Hiroko Amy
Kato, Isao & Mary
Kikuta, Gayle
Kiriya, Iku
Kitagawa, Lillian
Kobayashi, Steve & June
Koyanagi, Stan & Teri
Koyanagi, Tomio & Juliet
Kuniyoshi, Jane
Kuwahara, Arthur
Kuwahara, Masayuki & Taeko
Lum, Albert & Chang, Alma K
Mahoney, Ikuko
Maruyama, Kazuko
Maruyama, Phyllis
Matsumoto, Sachi
Matsushita, Osamu Sam
Mayeda, Janet
Mayeda, Melvin & Christine
Mito, Alice
Miyamoto, Satoshi & Mitsuko
Miyashiro, Marc-Mitchell
Moy, Phil
Muneno, Hito
Muramoto, Mary I
Nakakura, Kenneth & Doris
Nakasuji, Rose
Nakatani, David & Lily

Nohara, Dorothy
Oda & Chang, Warren & Juliet
Ogawa, Masao & Amy A.
Okuda, Michael
Oshiro, Akiko
Oshiro, Betty H
Sanada, Craig & Elaine
Shimamoto, Irene & Ken
Shimatsu, Jane
Shimizu, Amy S. & Jeffery L.
Shiroma, Joseph & Lilly
Soga, Glenn
Stinson, Everett & Kathleen
Sueda, Irene
Suzuki, Kimihiro
Tahata Erma & William
Takamori, Alvin & Mochidome, Debbie
Tamura, Mary
Tanaka, Kouichi & Grace
Taniguchi, Pat
Tanimoto, Kaoru & Yorinobu
Tarumoto Paul & Margie
Tokudomi, Virginia
Toyama, Tim
Uchima, Ray & Estela
Uehara, Tadao
Urata, Doreen & Sidney
Uyehara, Eleanor
Watanabe, Jun & Charlotte
Watanabe, Pat
Watanabe, Sue
Williams, Cindy
Willoughby, Aileen Kitaoka
Yamagata, Satoru
Yamanaka, Flora
Yamane, Dick & Judy
Yamasaki, Robert DDS
Yokota, Fae
Yuki, Wallace & June

Tributes

\$1000+

In Memory of Robert Horii
Clancy Family
Horii Family, Steven
Tartaglia Family
In Memory of Nob & Shiz Kagawa
Kagawa, Brent
In Memory of Florence Mayeda
Mayeda, Karen, Brian & Terri
In Honor of Brian T. Mitsunaga
Mitsunaga, Brian T. Memorial Fund
Victor Mitsunaga & Sherry
Gandee
In Memory of Iwao Mochidome
Kanji W Mochidome
In Memory of Sadao Mochidome
Kanji W Mochidome

\$500 - \$999

In Memory of Robert Horii
Oyama, Lisa & Lee, Gary
In Memory of Eiji Inouye
Inouye, Tomoko
In Memory of George & Alice
Kuwahara
Kuwahara, Clyde Y
In Memory of Lois Toyama
Toyama, Timothy
Saburo Toyama, Titus
Toyama, Blanca Estella

\$100 - \$499

In Memory of Aileen Arakawa
Yamamoto, Roy & Karin
In Memory of Masae Arima
Kobayashi, Colleen
In Memory of Bill Hayakawa
Hayakawa, Helen
In Memory of Robert Horii
Awakuni, Steven
Bassett, Donal J.L.
Belinkoff Katz, Alisa
Currie, Phyllis
Furuta, Sam
Iwata Bolhuis, Kiku Lani
Kochiyama, Alison & Jimmy
Marcus, Felicia
Gary Moore
Oyagi, Charlie & Carol
Romming, Kimi
Sasnakul, Somsak
In Memory of Myrna Kawahara
Joyce N. Kaneda Charitable Fund
In Remembrance of Yuri
Kochiyama
Wu-Kochiyama, Pamela
In Memory of Florence Mayeda
Takemoto, Ronald & Jo Ann
Tanaka, Keith & Lee, Shirley
In Memory of Lois Toyama
Korn, Sandra E
In Memory of James Toma
Toma, Ivy
In Memory of Janet Yamada
Shimabuku, Hazel

To \$99

In Memory of Dorothy Awakuni
Kajikawa, Lynette
Shiroma, Isamu
Shiroma, Sharlene
Takahashi, Deanna
In Memory of Robert Horii
Hayashi, Yoshiko
Kagawa, Mirei & Takumi
Khorsandi Family
Miyatake, Robert
Sunahara, Marilyn
Wong, Gayle
In Memory of Joseph S. Muto
Takamiya, Craig & Joni
In Memory of Ron Toguchi
Shimabuku, Hazel
In Memory of Hank S Umemoto
Nakamura, Skye Michelle

Vehicle Donations

Aceret, Linda
Anonymous
Asato, John
Chuman, Gerald
Fujikawa, Gary
Fujizawa, Masa
Hagino, Isamu
Harada, Brent
Harada, Mary Ann
Horio, Fory
Hunt, Murray
Jue, Larry
Kato, Dan
Kato, Yukio
Masuda, Kevin
Matsushita, Jim
Miyata, Shoichi
Nakayama Nursery Inc.
Nishikawa, Jeff

Noguchi, Iris
Nozaki, Roy
Oshima, Michael
Sugiyama, Claire
Suyehiro, Wayne
Takatsuki, Atsushi Ryan
Takatsuki, Futoshi
Tanigawa, Cliff
Taniguchi, Ned
Uyekawa, Gary
Uyemura, Kenneth
Yamada, Alvin

In-Kind Donations of Items or Services

Berry, Jeffrey
Bourbon Foods, USA
Boy Scout Troop 683
Fujimoto, Randy
Homan, David
Ito-En
Kids' Community Dental Clinic
Kim, Donna
King's Hawaiian Bakery & Restaurant
Kochiyama, Jimmy
Lee, Tracy
Little Tokyo Service Center
Morinaga Nutritional Foods Inc
South Bay Animal CERT
Sunflower Farms Nursery
Sun Noodle
Yakult U.S.A. Inc.
Yasutomi Farms



GARDENA VALLEY JCI Gardena Valley JCI News

BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

As we bid goodbye to the old year and welcome the new, there is always the difficult task of letting go – sometimes of things, of habits, or of outdated ideas. The transience of the world in which we live keeps us focusing on the present and the future, but with gratitude for the work that has been accomplished. Together, these efforts have helped keep the GVJCI at the heart of our community, a heart that continues to be vibrant and relevant.

As we enter 2022, we want to take a moment to express our gratitude for the dedication of our board members to keep this heart going through the many adaptations the GVJCI has made over the years.

In particular, the GVJCI is fortunate to have benefitted from the ener-

gy and insights of Airi Takashima Oye, who first came to the GVJCI as a Board Fellow of the Kizuna program before accepting an invitation to serve on the board. While Airi completed her term on the GVJCI board with the close of 2021, in her three years with us, her insights opened our eyes and welcomed a world about which our forebearers could have only dreamed. Thank you, Airi for giving us that start, for giving confidence to new ideas and re-energizing the heart of GVJCI.

While we know we will continue to see you at the Matsuri and at our Signature fundraising events, we can't wait to see where your trail-blazing will take you in 2022 and beyond.

Alan Kita
President, GVJCI Board of Directors

APRIL DEADLINE FOR 2022 GVJCI YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS

The GVJCI will be awarding scholarships to 2022 South Bay high school seniors and GVJCI Japanese Language School graduates (may live outside of the South Bay area). 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.

Applications are available on our website: jci-gardena.org. Submission deadline is April 4, 2022, and award recognitions will be made in June 2022.

Scholarships available: Gary Hori Memorial Scholarship, Gardena Valley JACL Scholarship, and the Gardena Valley Gardeners Association Legacy Scholarship, and other GVJCI scholarships.

SENIOR FOOD BOX DISTRIBUTION TRAFFIC SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS:

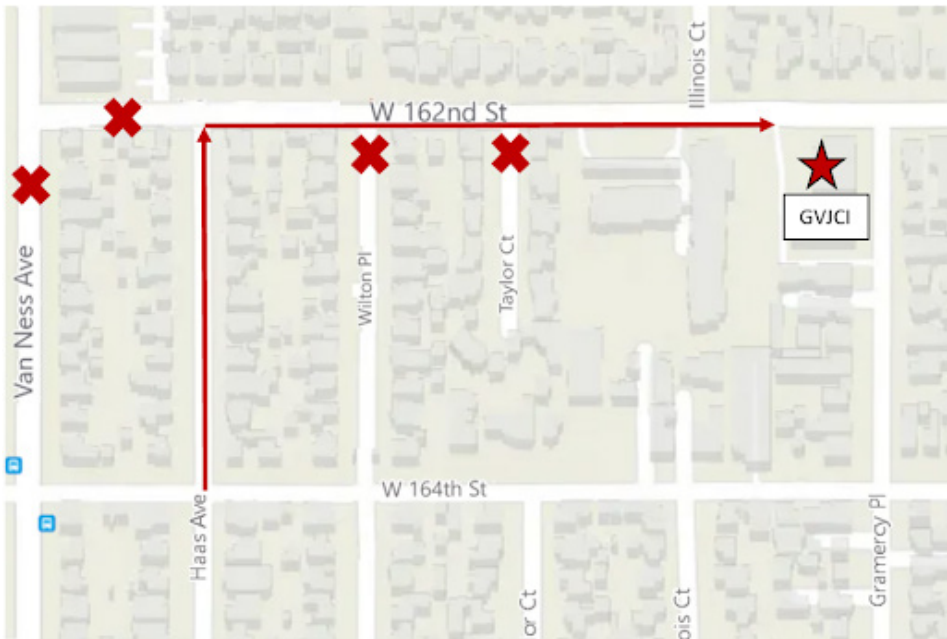
Regarding our monthly Senior Food Box Distributions that take place on the first Wednesday of the month, we would like to inform the public about traffic instructions when lining up to receive a box. To ensure the safety of all food box recipients, GVJCI volunteers, and staff, we ask that you adhere to the following instructions. A map is also provided for your reference.

1. Adhere to GVJCI traffic volunteers at all times.
2. All recipients must line up on 162nd Street heading east toward the GVJCI north driveway. Stay parked on the curbside until the line begins moving. 162nd Street is a busy street -- when in line, please keep your vehicle as close to the curb as possible and avoid lining up in the middle of the street. DO NOT block resident driveways and intersections.
3. Additional traffic to line up heading north on Haas Avenue, turning right on to 162nd Street.
4. Enter GVJCI entrance on 162nd. Adhere to GVJCI traffic volunteers who will signal you to enter the parking lot. Drive SLOWLY at all times.
5. Stay in line after receiving your food box. Wait for volunteers to signal that it is safe to exit. Exiting prematurely increases the risk of injury to volunteers and staff. All cars will exit at the same time by volunteers and staff.
6. Exit on Gramercy Place by making a RIGHT turn only.

REMEMBER:

- Please DO NOT line up on Van Ness Avenue OR line up west of Haas Avenue on 162nd Street.
- Please DO NOT line up OR try to access the line from Wilton Place or Taylor Court.

Continued on page 11





Community News

ADVENTURER'S CLUB

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

****Please note that the Adventurer's Club is a non-GVJCI sponsored activity.****

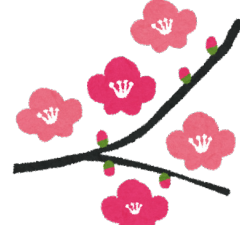
JAPAN in FOUR SEASONS

All trips are Guided by Japan Expert, Roxana Lewis

1. SUMMER, 2022 (July 15-26) The Famous Festivals & Obon Including Kyoto's Gion Matsuri, Gujo Hachiman Obon & Indigo dyeing, Fushimi Inari Matsuri, Kanazawa & UNESCO Shirakawa-go, Noto Peninsula Kiriko Matsuri, Osaka's Tenjin Matsuri.
2. FALL, 2022 (Nov 1 -11) Beautiful Fall Foliage Walks Leisurely strolls to enjoy the countryside of (A) The historic Nakasendo from Magome to Tsumago (B) The Kumano Kodo at Kumano Nachi Taisha and (C) UNESCO designated

3. WINTER, 2023 (Jan 31-Feb 9) The Elusive Plum Blossom To include Setsubun and the Fukuoka Ume Matsuri, Nagahama Ume Bonsai and more
4. SPRING, 2023 (April 30-May 10) The Spectacular Gardens & Late Sakura. To include the beauty spots of Tohoku: Matsushima, Hirosaki & Kitakami Sakura and more.

Each of the trips will be limited to a maximum of 12 participants. Contact Roxana Lewis at Roxana.lewis@protravelinc.com or Tim Toyama at timtoyama@gmail.com for further details.



Insurance program for members of Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute.

Our partnership with MAPFRE Insurance offers important auto coverages like comprehensive and collision deductible options and of course a multitude of discounts including multi-policy discounts up to 20%. As part of your MAPFRE Insurance auto policy you also receive a complimentary membership to Road America's Roadside Assistance service.

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

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You shop. Amazon gives.

Shopping 'til you drop? Shop on Amazon Smile and they'll give us a percentage of your purchases back to us! (That means at no cost to you!)

Thank you to all who supported us through Amazon Smile in 2021!! You raised \$1,123.68 in donations that came directly to GVJCI! Please visit our website <https://www.jci-gardena.org/donate.html> for details!

Corporate Matching Gifts

Your company may be one of thousands that "match" employee charitable contributions with corporate dollars. Many companies also match volunteer hours or gifts from spouses, retirees and board members. A corporate matching gift is an easy way to double, or even triple, the impact of your personal contribution to the GVJCI. Thank you to all who donated via matched employee charitable contributions in 2021!



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!

YOUR JAPANESE HOME CARE PROVIDER



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 Anthony
 Kunisaki, Suyeno (Sue)
 Kusaka, Karen
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 Masada, Ayako
 Masaoka, Joseph
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 Masuda, Norma
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 Matsumura, Emily
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 Mayeda, Janet
 Mayeda, Michael
 Mena, Gilbert & Jeanette
 Meyer, Kerry
 Mikawa, Daniel
 Mishima, Noboru
 Miura, Paula
 Miyakoda, Hisako
 Miyamoto, Amy
 Miyamoto, Kari
 Miyamoto, Satoshi & Mitsuko
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Nishio, Dennis
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 Okada, Nobuko
 Okamoto, Jean Naomi
 Okamura, Dean
 Okita, Brandon
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 Oshima, Glenn
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 Ota, Tsutomu (Tom)
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 Oyagi, Charlie & Carol
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 Motoyasu, Ken & Joyce
 Murakami, June & Kameki
 Nagao, Stanley & Shirley N.
 Nakata, Bob & Taeko

GARDENA VALLEY JCI Tomo No Kai Corner

From December 14-16, we had a TNK Holiday Gift Pick-Up in lieu of our annual Christmas party! We gave out 200 bags filled with cookies, an activity book, and a special holiday card. We ended 2021 with 282 total members. Thank you to all our TNK members!



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 annual Christmas party. Your membership dues, class participation fees, and, and donations support senior programs and GVJCI facility operations. Thank you very much for your participation and support!

COVID-19 UPDATE: コロナ新情報:

In light of the current increase in COVID-19 cases and the Omicron variant, we have decided to temporarily suspend all Tomo No Kai class activities for the month of January 2022. Please check in with your TNK class teacher for the latest information on when classes will resume or visit the GVJCI website for the latest updates on our reopening.

We know many of you were just starting to come back to classes and have just purchased 2022 TNK membership, so we greatly appreciate your understanding in this matter. Your health and safety is our top priority, and we will continue to update you as we learn new information. Until then, please continue to stay safe and well!

現在のコロナ感染ケースとオミクロン変異株の増加を考慮して、2022年1月の友の会クラスは一時休止することになりました。再開の最新情報は友の会クラスの先生方に確認されるか、ガーデナ平原日本文化会館ホームページをご覧ください。

多くの方々に2022年メンバーシップをお支払いいただき、ようやくクラスを再開したばかりでしたが、ご理解いただきますようお願い申し上げます。皆様の健康と安全を最優先とし、今後も最新情報をお伝えしていく所存です。それまで、どうか安全に健康にお過ごしください。



Caregiver Conference

Join us for the 2022 Caregiver Conference! This year's virtual conference will be held via Zoom Webinar in a series format over the course of three weeks throughout March 2022.

Presentation Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stress Management for Caregivers Navigating Challenging Conversations Understanding Long-Term Care Costs
----------------------------	--

Visit www.keiro.org/caregiver-conference or scan this QR code for more information.

Registration will open January 17, 2022.

For more information, contact programs@keiro.org

keiro.org |

Answer this Survey on Arthritis for a Cause!

Keiro is partnering with the Arthritis Foundation and we need your help collecting valuable data, specifically in the Japanese American and Asian American communities. Regardless of your age or whether you have arthritis or not, please help Keiro by participating in this brief survey!

Survey link: <https://qrco.de/Keiro> Scan here for the survey!

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

FEBRUARY

SENIOR FOOD BOX DISTRIBUTION
WEDS, FEB 2, MAR 2, APR 6, MAY 4, 9-10AM
GVJCI Parking Lot

Food distribution takes place regularly on the first Wednesday of the month. 10-12 lb boxes of shelf stable items for seniors 60 years and older. 1st come, 1st served. 1 box per car. NO RSVPs. To maintain social distancing, this distribution is drive-thru only; no walk-ins please. As a courtesy to our staff and volunteers, please put on a face mask before you enter the lot. Please do NOT line up your cars prior to 9AM. All cars must enter coming east through the W 162nd street entrance.

Please see map and instructions on page 3.

SETSUBUN
SAT, FEB 5, 2-3PM
Online

Celebrate Setsubun online with GVJCI! We'll be making an oni-themed obento and learning about the traditions of this Japanese holiday! Participation fee is \$5. Please visit our website to register.

PAPER MÂCHÉ MANEKI NEKO WORKSHOP
紙張り子 招き猫 作り
ワークショップ
WEDS, Feb. 16 & 23, 1-3PM
WEDS, Feb. 16 & 23, 6-8PM
GVJCI Upstairs Classroom 207/208

Make your own paper mache Maneki-neko. Maneki-neko is a symbol of welcoming and inviting good luck. Instructor Masa Lee will teach you how to shape and paint a traditional Japanese Maneki-neko using everyday supplies! This is a 2-part workshop conducted in Japanese and English. Limited to 10 participants. Fee is \$25 to take both 2-hour workshops. 紙の張り子招き猫を作ります。マサ リー先生が日本伝統の招き猫の形作りと色付けを教えます。このワークショップは2部構成で日本語と英語で行われます。定員10人。

MEMORY LOSS & ALZHEIMERS WORKSHOP
THURS, FEB 17, 10AM-12PM
GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Presented by Alzheimer's LA, this workshop will offer an overview of Alzheimer's disease and its effects. Learn about what causes memory loss,

the difference between normal aging and signs of dementia, and what to do when you visit the doctor. To register, please call the GVJCI office (310) 324-6611 or visit our website. FREE admission.

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE 2022
TUE, FEB 22 - SAT, FEB 26, 2-4PM
Online/GVJCI Website

This year's DOR theme will be "Camp Creativity: Resilience Through Art" with the intention of highlighting the courage, expressions of their thoughts and emotions, healing, and creativity of camp survivors through fine and performing arts. Specifically, we will be sharing works ranging from cultural performances, big band music, and more. From February 22-25, the GVJCI will be publishing these stories through special video interviews, film clips, music playlists, and photographs. The February 26th live program will feature keynote speaker Delphine Hirasuna, author of *The Art of Gaman*, and will conduct interviews with some of those featured throughout the week of the virtual DOR, including filmmakers Shirley Muramoto Wong and Amy Uyeki. Admission is FREE, but donations are greatly appreciated! To register for this event, please visit <https://www.jci-gardena.org/day-of-remembrance.html>.

This program is co-sponsored by The George and Sakaye Aratani CARE Award and UCLA's Asian American Studies Center.

ALZHEIMER'S LA: KEEPING YOUR BRAIN HEALTHY
THURS, FEB 24, 10AM-12PM
GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Did you know that your brain is an organ? Learn what research is showing we can do now to keep our memory strong as we age - including nutritional tips, how to keep active and ways to challenge your brain. This session includes several interactive brain games. To register, please call the GVJCI office (310) 324-6611 or visit our website. FREE admission.

MARCH RESTAURANT FUNDRAISER
MARCH 2022 SHIN-SEN-GUMI

A huge "Thank You" to everyone who supported the local restaurants that partnered with us on our restaurant fundraisers. We're excited to again team

with long-time South Bay favorite Shin-Sen-Gumi! The fundraiser is scheduled for March of 2022. Please check our website for updates: www.jci-gardena.org/restaurant-fundraiser.html

Our hope is to continue to help our local businesses and to offer you delicious food. With each meal you purchase, a percentage of the proceeds go to support the GVJCI. Last year, you helped raise nearly \$3,900 for the GVJCI through all of our restaurant fundraisers! Thank you for your continued support—we couldn't do it without you!

折り紙ワークショップ
3月2日 火曜日午前11時から午後12時まで
ガーデナ平原日本文化会館
二世ベテランズメモリアルホール
 8角形のケースを折り紙16枚で作ります。たくさんの方の折り紙プロジェクトを手掛けている丸田洋子さんが教えてくれます。材料の折り紙はご用意します。このワークショップは日本語のみで行われます。無料。定員10人。

HINAMATSURI
SAT, MAR 6, 2-3PM
Online
 Celebrate Girl's Day online with GVJCI! We'll be learning about the history and traditions of Hinamatsuri through activities and cooking! Participation fee is \$5. Register on the GVJCI website!

ALZHEIMER'S LA: SAVVY CAREGIVER EXPRESS
THURS, MAR 10, 17, & 24, 10AM-12PM
GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

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. To register, please call the GVJCI office (310) 324-6611 or visit our website. FREE admission.

HAIKU & TANKA WORKSHOP
WEDS, MAR 16, 23, & 30, 6-7:30PM
GVJCI Upstairs Classroom 207/208

Taught by writer and author Genie Nakano, students will compare, contrast and learn to write the short-form Japanese poetic forms--Haiku (a 3 line poem) and Tanka (5 line poem), as well as the history and the development of these provocative poetic expressions. Each class is \$15. To register, please visit our Upcoming Events page on the GVJCI website.

HANAMI OBENTO WORKSHOP: TEMARI SUSHI
SAT, MAR 26, 11AM-12:30PM

Online
 Learn to make beautiful, colorful, and delicious temari sushi (handball sushi) for a fun hanami (flower viewing) picnic! Ingredient list and recipe instructions will be sent to participants before the workshop date. Participation fee is \$10. To register, please visit the Upcoming Events page on our website.

APRIL ONLINE SMARTPHONE CLASS
MONS, APR 4 - MAY 9 10:30-11:30AM
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. To register, please visit the Upcoming Events page on the GVJCI website or call (310) 324-6611.

SELF DEFENSE CLASSES
API WOMEN - TUES, APR 5, 7-9PM
API OLDER ADULTS (men &

women) - TUES, APR 19, 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 FREE and taught by 6th degree black belt instructor Art Ishii from the Matsubayashi-Ryu Karate-Do of Little Tokyo; limited to 30 students per workshop. To register, please visit the GVJCI Upcoming Events page on our website or call (310) 324-6611.

SHIATSU MASSAGE WORKSHOP SERIES
WEDS, APR 13, 20, & 27, 6-7PM
GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Learn the art and techniques of shiatsu massage in this 3-part workshop series taught by Hideki Obayashi. Whether you are a caregiver or someone who just wants to explore the mental and physical benefits of shiatsu massage, anyone is welcome! Each workshop is \$10 per person. To register, please visit the Upcoming Events page on the GVJCI website.

TOMODACHI BAKING WORKSHOP: MATCHA MOCHI CHOCOLATE

CHIP COOKIES
SAT, APR 16, 2-3:30PM
Online

Invite a friend or two and join us for another Tomodachi Online Baking Workshop! Matcha Mochi cookies offer the classic, crispy exterior of a chocolate chip cookie with the satisfying chew of freshly made mochi inside. The perfect dessert for all to enjoy! Participation fee is \$5 per person. To register, please visit the Upcoming Events page on the GVJCI website.

MAY

セルフディフェンスワークショップ
女性クラス - 5月3日火曜日 午後7時から9時まで
シニアクラス (男性/女性) - 5月17日火曜日 午前10時から午後12時まで

ガーデナ平原日本文化会館
二世ベテランズメモリアルホール
 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いたします。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。30名限定。無料、ご寄付いただけると幸いです。参加登録はホームページの"EVENTS/PROGRAMS/CLASSES"からお願いします!



EARLY BIRD PRICING! REGISTER TODAY!

For more information, please visit the GVJCI website (www.jci-gardena.org/tanoshii-fun-camp) or call (310) 324-6611.

Save-the-Date!
2022 GVJCI Matsuri
Grab & Go Bento Fundraiser

Date: Saturday, June 25, 2022
 Location: GVJCI Parking Lot, website, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube

We, like so many of you, were looking forward to Matsuri this year! With the on-going pandemic and safety as our priority, we decided to pre-sell a special Matsuri Bento, featuring a few Matsuri food favorites. The bento items will be shared as we get closer to the event. These will be pre-sold bento with a scheduled pick up at the GVJCI. We'll share details on how to sign up on our website in May.

We hope you'll join us!