

# MAPFRE/Commerce West

MAPFRE/Commerce West Insurance Company, formerly Western Pioneer, was formed in 1948 with the help of many Nisei insurance agents to provide Japanese Americans affordable automobile insurance. MAPFRE/Commerce West Insurance Company continues the "Western Pioneer Group Program" today, in which members of Japanese American non-profit organizations can purchase automobile insurance at discounted rates. In addition, annual donations are given to non-profit organizations that have the most members joining this plan. This special discount program benefits the drivers and the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute (GVJCI). Please ask your agent about this program. Below is a partial list of participating agencies.

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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

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Gerald Mayewaki, *Facility Assistant*

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Mayumi Fuchino, *Teacher*  
Atsuko Fukuda, *Teacher*  
Masumi Sasaki, *Teacher*  
Aimee Shimizu, *Teacher*  
Chiaki Suzuki, *Teacher*  
Eriko Yamamoto, *Adult Class & Conversation Class Teacher*



Gardena Valley

Fall 2018

# JCI QUARTERLY

Newsletter of the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute

## KITCHEN 2.0!

Dale Inafuku, *Facility Operations Manager*

We had a fire in the kitchen of the GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall (NVMH) on October 9, 2016, causing smoke damage throughout the building and the kitchen to need repair and remodeling. This displaced the Tomo No Kai bento program and made our programming difficult. Renters of the NVMH had to deal with not having the use of a kitchen and other activities ceased. We had to come through this better, so a plan was developed to rebuild the kitchen as a fully functional commercial kitchen. It took over a year of drawing up the plans, developing a budget, raising startup funds, dealing with different government agencies, but the plans finally got approved and construction started in December of 2017. We received our final approval from the Los Angeles County Department of Health this summer. It took a long time to complete the project, but it only takes one look to know that it was completely worth it. Happily, the senior lunch program has moved back to the NVMH kitchen and is putting it through its paces! We are hoping that the kitchen will be a major benefit in our hall rentals, and also is used in some new innovative programming.

We need to thank our general contractor Bruce Kato for all the work he did for us on this project. He provided us with enormous amounts of guidance, sprinkled with patience. Thank you for everything, Bruce! Thanks also to all of Bruce's subcontractors for the top notch work they did. Everything from ceiling to floor (and a little above and below that) had to be redone, refitted, and replaced. Awesome job, guys! Finally we want to thank all our donors for their belief in us that we would honor their monetary donations with something we can all be proud of. Thank you one and all!



### In This Newsletter...

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## GVJCI CAR DONATION PROGRAM



Thinking of donating your car to charity? Now, you can, and at the same time, support the GVJCI! We have teamed up with Harold's Car Donation Service (HCDS).

### Here's the Easy Steps:

1. Call or email us to arrange pickup at (310) 324-6611 or cars@jci-gardena.org.
2. HCDS will arrange towing, always free 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 car is sold, your acknowledgement and tax forms will arrive by mail.
5. You get rid of an unwanted car and the satisfaction of helping others, and you receive an IRS-approved tax deduction!

## NOV

### SANSEI FILMMAKER SCREENING

SAT, NOV 3, 1:30-4PM

GVJCI Nisei Veterans

Memorial Hall

Come join us for an afternoon featuring the works of four *sansei* (third-generation) filmmakers! In collaboration with Sansei Legacy, we'll be featuring four short films: Steve Nagano's *The Arts District Without Artists*, Mitchell Matsumura's *Holiday Bowl*, Cory Shiozaki's *Jeff Imada: Breaking Barriers by Design*, and George Takaki's *Say Yes to Your Heart*. Short panel will follow. Please check our website for more information about each film.

JapaneseYa will be on-site selling t-shirts. Proceeds will go towards GVJCI programs.

Admission is free but donations appreciated. RSVP necessary, please RSVP through our website, or by emailing or calling us. Seating is limited.

### HOSHIGAKI WORKSHOP

SUN, NOV 4, 1:30-4:30PM

GVJCI Nisei Veterans

Memorial Hall

Our past Day of Persimmons programs were very popular in the community, and we heard requests from many wanting to actually learn how to make *hoshigaki* (dried persimmons)-- so here we are! Come join us as we welcome back Tosh Kuratomi of Otow Orchards (famous from their *hoshigaki* being featured in Huell Howser's *California Gold*). This hands-on workshop will focus on the how to make *hoshigaki* from start to finish!

Participants will need to bring: **Hachiya Persimmons** (Other persimmons like Fuyu can be used, but we can't guarantee they will always work out. Leave the stems intact when picking), **vegetable peeler**, **4" bladed knife (paring or**

**steak knife**), **bucket** (GVJCI will have buckets on hand to throw peels away, but if you'd like your own, please bring one, **apron and/or clothes** you don't mind getting dirty! Plastic bags will be provided, but you can bring your own **storage container**.

\$30 per participant. Please sign-up on our website or come into the office. Payment guarantees registration.

### THE GO FOR BROKE SPIRIT: PORTRAITS OF COURAGE BOOK EVENT

SAT, NOV 17, 1:30-4PM

GVJCI Nisei Veterans

Memorial Hall

Join us as we welcome Shane Sato, author of *The Go for Broke Spirit: Portraits of Courage*, a moving photo book featuring the Japanese American veterans of World War II, oral historian Robert Horsting, Don Seki, 442nd RCT, and others. We will also be showing *Citizen Tanouye*, a documentary focusing on high school students from Torrance and their investigation, realization of parallels to their own lives, and conversations with veterans to find out more about the Torrance High School alumnus.

Admission is free but donations appreciated. Please RSVP online on our website, or by emailing or calling us.

## DEC

### HOLIDAY IKEBANA WORKSHOP

SAT, DEC 1, 2-4PM

Upstairs RM 207/208

Wreaths, candles, and poinsettias are all nice, but how about some holiday ikebana for a change? Come join us for another round of our ikebana workshop! We'll be working with fresh cut flowers for two arrangements you can take home! All supplies except small garden clippers will be provided.

\$40 per participant. Please sign-up on our website or at our office. Payment guarantees registration. Please bring small garden clippers with you!

## JAN

### OSHOUGATSU WORKSHOP

SAT, JAN 5, 11:30-12:30PM

Breezeway

*Akemashite omedetougozaimasu!* Come join us for an *oshougatsu*, or New Years, craft workshop along with New Years activities to bring in good luck and happiness for 2019!

\$5 per participant. Please sign-up on our website or come into the office. Payment guarantees registration.

### BARBED VOICES: BOOK SIGNING WITH ART HANSEN

SUN, JAN 6, 1-3PM

GVJCI Main Hall

Join us and Manzanar Committee as we welcome Art Hansen, author of *Barbed Voices* as he joins us for a discussion and book signing. *Barbed Voices* is an engaging anthology of the most significant published articles written by the well-known and highly respected historian of Japanese American history Arthur Hansen, updated and annotated for contemporary context. Featuring selected inmates and camp groups who spearheaded resistance movements in the ten War Relocation Authority-administered compounds in the United States during World War II, Hansen's writing provides a basis for understanding why, when, where, and how some of the 120,000 incarcerated Japanese Americans opposed the threats to themselves, their families, their reference groups, and their racial-ethnic community."

We will be offering copies of *Barbed Voices* at possibly 20% off of the list price. Please let Manzanar Committee know at: [jchomori@manzanarcommittee.org](mailto:jchomori@manzanarcommittee.org) you would like a copy. Please RSVP at the email above.

## Gardena Nisei Memorial VFW Post 1961

Steve Moriyama, *Commander*

Aloha to all the Members, Friends, Family and Extended Family members of the Gardena Nisei Memorial VFW Post 1961. Time keeps marching on as we say hello to new Friends and sadly, goodbye to our friends and family who have passed on. Fall is rapidly approaching, and as everyone begins preparation for the oncoming holiday season, please mark your calendars for Veteran's Day Holiday, Sunday, November 11, 2018.

The Gardena Nisei Memorial VFW Post 1961 will hold its first annual Huli Huli Chicken Dinner in the Nisei Veterans Hall of GVJCI. The dinner will include Huli Huli Chicken ½, Aloha Baked Beans, Rice, Garden Salad with the VFW Salad Dressing. The price will be \$15.00 presale and at the door. The presale ticket, however, will include a raffle ticket for 6 prizes of \$50.00 (winner need not be present).

Throughout the year our post is actively involved with community and veteran programs. We are responsible for planning, funding, and executing these projects. To list a few: Annual Nisei VFW Reunion in Reno NV, Cemetery clean up and service at Roosevelt Memorial Park, Cemetery clean up at Green Hills Memorial Park, Memorial Day service at the Memorial Wall at JACCC, Memorial Day Service at the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute, Memorial Day Service at Rose Hills Memorial Park, Memorial Day Service at Westminster in support of Nisei VFW Post 3670, Annual Homeless Compton Stand Down, Annual Manzanar field trip, LAUSD JROTC Voice of Democracy Program, NTHS AJROTC program, Redondo Union High School MCJROTC program, Gardena High School AJROTC program, City of Gardena Veterans Programs such as Veteran's Day and Wall that Heals, Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute programs and Matsuri.

Your assistance of our post will be greatly appreciated. Please plan on either having your dinner to go or eat in. I'm sure many of you will be having dinner in the hall with your family and friends as well as making new friends. This is a time of reflection and hearing from all of you to make our post an integral part of our community.

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 help our community.

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



SHOP ON AMAZON?

## GIVE BACK WITH AMAZON SMILE

Go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), and a window will pop up asking for an organization to support. Type in "Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute" and you're set to go! Amazon will donate part of your eligible to us, at absolutely no cost to you!



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## GARDENA THEN & NOW

SAT, JAN 19, 1:30-4PM

### GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Panel of Gardena Notables including Grant Nakaoka, son of past Gardena Mayor Ken Nakaoka, Don Bannai, son of Emeritus Gardena Councilman Paul Bannai and others. Moderated by Ronald Ikejiri, Emeritus Gardena City Councilman. We will also feature episodes of *Freeway City* by Max Votolato. What is Gardena to them? Why did their families come to Gardena? Who were the families and businesses in the early days? How did Japanese American realtors and poker clubs play a role in its growth?

Admission is free but donations appreciated. Please RSVP through our website, calling, or emailing us.

## LTSC FIVE WISHES WORKSHOP

FRI, JAN 25, 10-11:30AM

### Upstairs RM 207/208

Little Tokyo Service Center and the GVJCI will be holding a workshop to provide information to help older adults plan and maintain control of their critical health care decisions by creating their own Advance Health Care Directive forms. The forms will be available in multiple languages.

Please RSVP to LTSC at (213) 473-3035. Workshop is free, but space is limited to the first 50 people who RSVP.

## SMARTPHONE/TABLET CLASS!

Nov 8th-Dec 20th, Thurs 10-11AM, \$10 per class OR \$50 at the beginning of the series

### WEEK 1 - NOV 8, 2018

- Components, Symbols
- Settings - display, volume/sound, etc.

### WEEK 2 - NOV 15, 2018

- Adding contacts
- Phone calls, Text Messages, Email
- Using the camera

### \*NO CLASS- NOV 22, 2018\*

### WEEK 3 - NOV 29, 2018

- Apps - Already Installed & Adding New Apps  
 \*\*Please bring your Apple App Store or Google Play passwords

### WEEK 4 - DEC 6, 2018

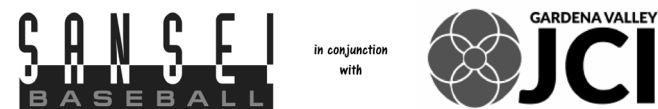
- Apps - Useful Emergency Apps

### WEEK 5 - DEC 13, 2018

- Wi-Fi / Data Usage / Storage

### WEEK 6 - DEC 20, 2018

- Questions & Answers



Saturday, November 3, 2018

Reconnect with your team and join us for a fun night of BINGO. Proceeds go to SBL and Gardena Valley JCI. Pre order online at [sanseibaseball.com](http://sanseibaseball.com) no later than **October 19th, 2018.**

Time: 6pm-9pm  
 Cost: \$10 presale, \$12 at the door  
 (Each bundle has 10 sheets with 3 cards/sheet)  
 Place: Gardena Valley JCI - 1/964 W, 162nd St., Gardena, CA 90247

For information on these events & more, follow us on:  
 /sanseibaseball  
 @sanseibaseball

## New Player Orientation

New to Sansei Baseball? Kids 4-6 yrs old can participate in fun baseball skill stations. Board members will be available for any questions you may have about our League. Then join us for our Bingo Night immediately following this event.

Time: 5pm-6pm  
 Cost: FREE  
 Place: Gardena Valley JCI - 1964 W, 162nd St., Gardena, CA 90247

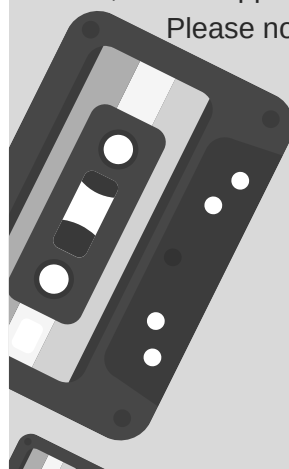
Check our website for updates on these events and more!  
[www.sanseibaseball.com](http://www.sanseibaseball.com)

## Elemental Funk

a fundraiser concert for GVJCI  
 November 10, 2018, 7 - 11pm, JCI Hall

Limited seating! Reserve ASAP!  
 \$10 postmarked by Nov. 2nd or \$15 @ the door

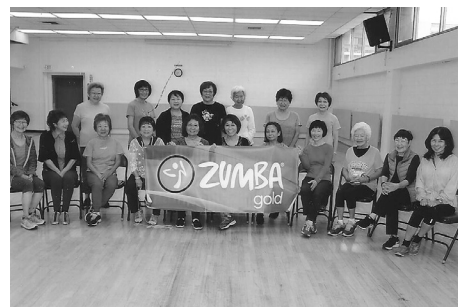
Brewyard Beer Co & Three Weav3rs Brewing Co, wine & appetizers avail for purchase  
 Please no outside food or drinks



Contact  
 Sharon Sawai  
 310.324.6611  
[s\\_sawai@jci-gardena.org](mailto:s_sawai@jci-gardena.org)  
 Gardena Valley JCI  
 1964 W. 162nd Street  
 Gardena, CA 90247



In August, Tomo No Kai lost a longtime member of our TNK Set Up Crew, **Art Nishitsuji**, who had volunteered each morning setting up the chairs and tables for the TNK classes and activities. We also lost our dedicated teacher and friend in September, **Eriko Shinozuka**, who was a charismatic Zumba teacher. As Eriko loved Zumba so much, she passed that same energy onto her students which made the class fun along with it being good exercise. We miss them dearly and send our deepest condolences to their families.



We also express our gratitude to **Ray Herbrick**, who retired from the TNK Executive Board, TNK Set Up Crew, and assisted with TNK's bookkeeping, and wife **Sybil Herbrick**, who volunteered for many years taking blood pressure readings for the seniors as a retired nurse. Thank you both for your many years of service and dedication.

The **Tomo No Kai Christmas Party** will be on Saturday, December 1, 2018, 11 am - 1:30 pm in the Main Hall. \$12 admission ticket are being sold in the TNK classes and GVJCI office. Please join us for good food, lively entertainment by TNK classes, 50/50 raffle and holiday fun!

## JOIN US AT THE TOMO CAFÉ!

Mondays to Fridays, 9AM to 11AM  
 GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall  
 GVJCI Tomo No Kai hosts a café, Monday through Friday. Enjoy coffee or tea for 25cents. Delicious pastries donated by Torrance Bakery are free. Meet interesting and friendly people, socialize, and make new friends! Starting Nov.1st, bilingual (Japanese and English speaking) volunteers will host Mondays & Thursdays to foster bonding and communication for all language levels. Don't be shy, come to the Tomo Café!!

## “友カフェ”で一緒に楽しみませんか!

友の会(50歳以上の方を対象にしたGVJCI、日本平原文化会館のシニアグループ)が月曜日から金曜日まで毎朝9時から11時までお茶会を主催しています。コーヒー又はお茶が

25セント、トランスペーカリからドネーションしていただく、美味しいペイストリーは、無料です。朝のコーヒーを飲みながら楽しくフレンドリーな人たちと語り合ったりお友達を作りませんか! 11月1日から月曜日と木曜日の朝9時から11時には、日本語を話すボランティアも皆様のお手伝いをさせていただきます。日本語で語り合いを楽しみたい方も是非お気軽にご参加ください。

ご質問は優子まで(310)324-6611

## TNK CLASS HIGHLIGHT

### SUMI-E CLASS

Wednesdays 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM in Classroom 205  
 Come join the class in the art of Sumi-e, Japanese Ink painting. Learn the fundamental brush techniques of painting on absorbent paper using ink stick and grinding stone. You will learn to create different brush strokes in a peaceful atmosphere. Painting supplies are provided but if you have your own, please bring them to the class. The teacher is Asako Ota who was born in Japan and grew up in Southern California. She learned her Sumi-e techniques at the Kawaii Art school in 1991. She has volunteered at the Gardena Mayme Dear Library teaching Sumi-e. Asako is now retired from working in the fashion & toy industry from New York to Los Angeles.



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, bus excursions and 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.

