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. 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.

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Thank you one and all!
**Gardena Valley JCI CALENDAR**

**NOV**

**SANSEI FILMMAKER SCREENING**
SAT, NOV 3, 1:30-4PM
GVJC 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
GVJC Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall
Our past Day of Persimmons workshop was so popular in the community, and we heard requests from many wanting to actually learn how to make hoshigaki (dried persimmon). So here we are! Come 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 arrange, 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 alumni.

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!

**Gardena Nisei Memorial VFW Post 1961**
Steve Moriyama, Commander
Aloha to all the Members, Friends, Family and Extended Family members of the Gardena Nisei 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 we begin preparing for the upcoming holiday season, please mark your calendars for Veteran's Day Holiday, Sunday, November 11, 2018.

The Gardena Nisei VFW Post 1961 will hold its first annual Hull Hull Chicken Dinner in the Nisei Veterans Hall of GVJCi. The dinner will include Hull Hull 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 JACC, 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, LAIUSD JROTC Voice of Democracy Program, NTHS JROTC program, Redondo Union High School MJROTC program, Gardena High School JROTC 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: moriyamachana@sbcglobal.net
In August, Tomo No Kai lost a longtime member of our TNK Set Up Crew, Art Nishitsujii, 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 activities. We also lost our dedicated 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.

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