



1964 West 162nd Street  
 Gardena, CA 90247  
 Phone: 310-324-6611  
 Fax: 310-324-3223  
 Email: info@jci-gardena.org  
 Website: jci-gardena.org  
 Like & Connect:  
 www.facebook.com/GVJCI

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

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

Charlie Oyagi, President  
 Ray Shibata, Vice President  
 Marilyn Tsuge, Secretary  
 Miles Akiyama, Treasurer  
 Richard Ames  
 Steven Awakuni  
 Gail Doi  
 Larry Hada  
 Alan Kita  
 Teri Kuwahara  
 Helen Nakano  
 Grant Nakaoka

### Emeritus Board of Directors

George Ajioka  
 Dan Ashimine  
 Bob Horii  
 Helen Kawagoe  
 Paul Koshi  
 Glenn Tachibana  
 Terry Terauchi

### Staff

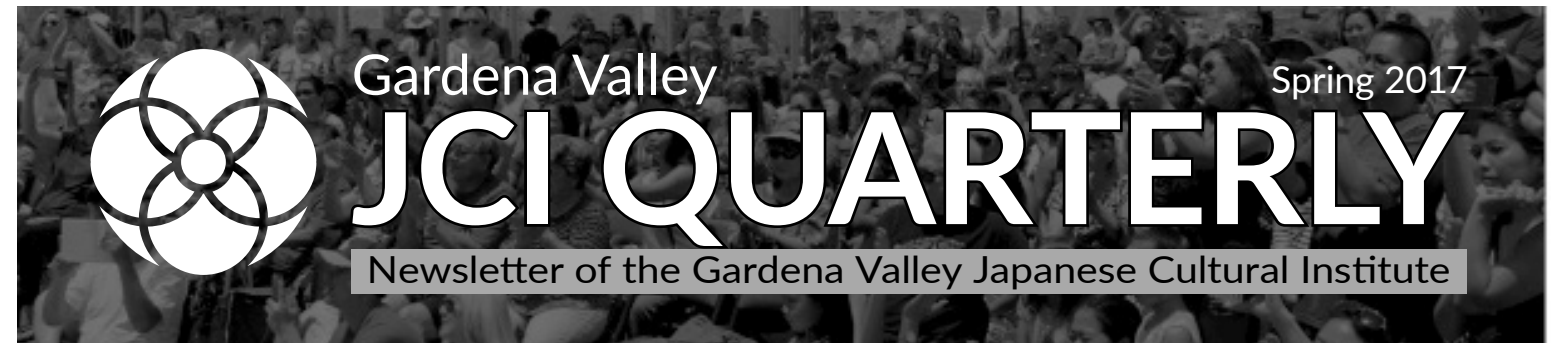
**Administration & Programs**  
 Alison Kochiyama, Executive Director  
 Dale Inafuku, Office Manager/  
 Technology Specialist  
 Nicole Sato, Program Coordinator  
 Sharon Sawai, Events & Fundraising  
 Coordinator

### Facilities

Debbie Oba, Facility Operations  
 Manager  
 Brian Hoshiko, Maintenance Custodian  
 Bob Seki, Maintenance Custodian  
 Gerald Mayewaki, Facility Assistant

### Japanese Language School

Larry Hada, Principal  
 Atsuko Vorreiter, Vice Principal &  
 Teacher  
 Satoru Kawakita, Teacher  
 Misako Nunez, Teacher  
 Naoko Okamoto, Teacher  
 Chiaki Suzuki, Teacher  
 Eriko Yamamoto, Adult Class &  
 Conversation Class Teacher



## Grab A Pen! 2017 GVJCI Matsuri is Coming!

Please come out and support one of our most popular fundraising events of the year!

June 24 & 25, 2017  
 Saturday, noon to 9:00 pm  
 Sunday, noon to 7:00 pm

FOOD  
 BEER GARDEN - NEW!  
 GAMES  
 INDOOR/OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT  
 MARTIAL ARTS DEMONSTRATIONS  
 RAFFLE DRAWINGS  
 "THE GVJCI ESCAPE ROOM" - NEW!  
 NURSERY SALE  
 CRAFTS & WHITE ELEPHANT SALE  
 BINGO  
 ONDO DANCING

### In This Newsletter...

GVJCI News.....3  
 GVJCI Calendar.....6  
 Tomo No Kai Corner.....7  
 Community News.....8



**Ondo Dancing** - SATURDAY, June 24th at 6:00pm - 8:00pm  
 Dust off your happi coats, yukatas or kimonos as the Ondo dancing season is upon us! We are excited to offer Ondo dancing again this year! Please help us to make this a growing activity at our Matsuri. Gather your family & friends and join in on the fun!

**NEW! Beer Garden** - SATURDAY, June 24th at 3:00pm - 8:00pm; SUNDAY, June 25th at 3:00pm - 6:00pm  
 Take a break and wander over to our Beer Garden! Grab a beer, relax, and catch up with friends by our JCI Gardens' Koi Pond.

**Food Booths** - With our unfortunate kitchen fire, udon is out this year, but new dishes are being added in.....try our "gourmet" hot dogs - Banh Mi and Terimayo Japanese dogs. Or indulge in our usual mouthwatering offerings - cold somen, teri burgers, chirashi, Okinawa andagi, lau lau, inari, chicken teriyaki, or imagawayaki to name a delicious few.....

**Game Booths** - What's a Matsuri without a traditional Matsuri game like Yo-Yo Tsuru? Come by and play this NEW game & see what the hype is all about!

**Performances** - Grab some food, relax and be entertained by the many classes and programs held at the GVJCI! Taiko, hula, 'ukulele, line dancing, as well as, guest performers will perform throughout the weekend. Come see what these performers learn throughout the year, and maybe you can join them at their weekly classes!



Continued on next page

**Martial Arts Demonstrations**— Come and observe the various martial artists in action! GVJCI's martial arts classes will be featured each day: Shotokan Karate, Naginata, Gardena Judo, Gardena Kendo, Shorinji Kempo, Kyudo Renmei, and Gardena JCI Kendo. Ever wonder what these various martial art disciplines entail? This is the perfect time to catch a glimpse and see if one of these are for you or the family!

**Outdoor Nursery Sale**— Supporting nurseries and gracious community plant enthusiasts, donate beautiful plants from their businesses and backyards for our Matsuri. We have nurserymen that volunteer their time at the booth for you to ask your pressing gardening questions to.

**Holding Station** – Do you ever get tired from holding all of your plants, food items, or your white elephant treasures? Well, fear no more.....take all of your belongings to our holding station. You may check everything in and the Boy Scout Troop 683 will keep a watchful eye on your items while you are able to stroll through our Matsuri "hands free".

**The Bridge: GVJCI Heritage Center**—Pay a visit and come see what we have upstairs! Visit our Japanese cultural heritage library & our educational tokonoma display. Once again, the Tri-City CERT community organization will be hosting a booth upstairs. Come learn about disaster preparedness & basic first aid. They will have FREE giveaways too!

Or try and "escape" our very own GVJCI Escape Room! Sansei Stories and Tanka will have their readings on display, as well as, original paintings painted by our TNK seniors.

Want to inquire about our Japanese Language School? Come pay a visit & receive all of the information you need to enroll in the upcoming Fall session.

**Bingo**— O-72, B-2, BINGO! Try your luck at Bingo! Games begin at 4pm on Saturday & Sunday with chances to win cash prizes or gift cards!

**Prize Drawings**—Don't forget to turn in your raffle stubs! The raffle is held on both days of the Matsuri, with prizes being donated by various businesses and individuals throughout the community. Winners need not be present to win.

**Presale-Matsuri Coupon Books**—Come by & purchase your tickets! Tickets are currently being sold by GVJCI programs and supporting organizations, as well as, the GVJCI office for \$10 per book prior to the Matsuri. The ten \$1.00 coupons can be used as scrip at all carnival booths, as well as raffle drawings eligibility.

For information and coupon books purchase, call GVJCI office at 310-324-6611 or email s\_sawai@jci-gardena.org.

**Save the Date!**  
**Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute**  
**Kaisha Craft Show**  
 Sunday, September 24, 2017  
 9AM-3PM  
 Looking for new craft vendors to join us for this fun, community-oriented craft show!  
 Call Sharon Sawai at (310) 324-6611 or email s\_sawai@jci-gardena.org for more information.

**Build So Cal**  
 D.B.A. Hardwood Floors LA, INC  
 Roofing Electrical Hardwood Remodels  
 General & Flooring Contactor  
 Ray Nakamura  
 License # 857-944  
 C-15, C-54, B  
 Insured, Worker's Comp  
 (323) 646-6100  
 BuildSC@gmail.com  
 www.BuildSoCal.com  
 www.HardwoodFloorsLA.com

**RAFFLE DONATIONS NEEDED!**  
 GVJCI is looking for a variety of prize donations from individuals and businesses for the GVJCI Matsuri raffle drawings. Prize donors will be identified at the time of prize drawings, in our Matsuri program, and newsletter. If preferred, you may remain anonymous. Please contact the GVJCI Office, if you would like to donate prizes for these drawings.

Also needed are handicraft items for our Crafts booth, and new, UNUSED items for the White Elephants booth. We will begin to take such donations in May. Please bring all items by Friday, June 9th to the GVJCI Office.

## 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.

<b>COSTA MESA</b> Miyazaki Ins. Svcs. (714) 979-8700	<b>HUNTINGTON BEACH</b> Mizuno Insurance (714) 964-7227	Kagawa Ins. (213) 628-1800	<b>PASADENA</b> FIA Ins. Svcs., Inc. (626) 795-7059
<b>CULVER CITY</b> Trust Insurance (310) 839-3127	<b>LA PALMA</b> The J. Morey Ins. Co. (714) 562-5910	Tatsuno Insurance (213) 626-1954	<b>SANTA MONICA</b> Autoline (800) 770-7978
<b>GARDENA</b> AHTKY Insurance (310) 516-0110	<b>LONG BEACH</b> Nori Marumoto Inc. (562) 595-4403	<b>MONTEBELLO</b> Ogino-Aizumi, Inc. (323) 728-7488	<b>TORRANCE</b> Kamiya Ins. Agency (310) 781-2066
Nakamura Agency (310) 327-0717	<b>LOS ANGELES</b> Buna Insurance (213) 626-1547	<b>MONTEREY PARK</b> Quality Ins. Service (323) 727-7755	Isu Tsuneishi Ins. (310) 533-8877

# WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU IS IMPORTANT TO US.

Union Bank® understands the importance of community. We are deeply grateful for the personal and professional ties we have developed throughout the years. And with our proven history of solid financial performance, we will continue to put our strength to work for you. Together with you, we look forward to building a successful future for generations to come.

Union Bank is proud to support the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute.

unionbank.com



<b>Gardena</b> 310-354-4700	<b>Irvine</b> 949-250-0580	<b>Little Tokyo</b> 213-972-5500	<b>Los Angeles Main</b> 213-236-7700	<b>Montebello</b> 323-726-0081
<b>Orange County Airport</b> 949-225-4320	<b>Palos Verdes Center</b> 310-541-2571	<b>South Gardena</b> 310-532-5522	<b>Torrance</b> 310-373-8411	<b>West Los Angeles</b> 310-391-0678

## Gardena Nisei Memorial Post 1961

To all VFW Members, Women's Club, Families, and Friends of Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute, Happy Easter.

Summer will be upon us in no time and along with summer comes the busy time for your VFW.

This year we will be traveling to Reno, NV for the 67th Annual Nisei VFW Reunion at the Sands Regency Casino Hotel. If you would like to have more information please contact a VFW or Women's Club member. They should be able to get registration information for you.

We will be hosting or attending the following Memorial Day Events:

5/27/2017

Green Hills Cemetery Clean up

5/27/2017

Memorial Day Service at the Memorial Court, JACCC

5/28/2017

Memorial Day Service at GVJCI

5/29/2017

Memorial Day Service at Rose Hills

5/29/2017

Memorial Day Service at Westminster, CA

Don't forget to attend the GVJCI Matsuri. We will be slicing, dicing, mixing, cooking the unforgettable GVJCI Matsuri Cold Somen. The key ingredient to the GVJCI Cold Somen is the super secret Cold Somen sauce passed from one commander to the next. We will be mixing a lot of the super secret Cold Somen sauce so be sure to get your appetites satisfied. Once the Cold Somen is sold out, there will be no more until next year.

I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Ladies of the VFW Women's Club. All of you have played such a crucial part in helping us continue on with the mission of our Post. Also, to the staff of the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute, thank you again and again for all your support and patience.

Contact information for Post 1961:

Steve Moriyama, 1127 W 213th Street, Torrance, CA 90502, Tel: 310-533-8987,

Email: moriyamaohana@sbcglobal.net

## Saga Art Center's Art Exhibit In Tokyo

If you're ever here at the GVJCI on Saturdays, you'll find Saga Art Class in session, tucked in the corner of the upstairs classroom in Room 205 and 206. Shun Kohrogi has been teaching children and adults the joy of painting and craft-making for 33 years here at the GVJCI. Shun's dream of becoming an artist started young, at the age of three, his parents, both artists, being his biggest influencers. He went onto UCLA both as an undergraduate and graduate earning his BFA and MFA in Fine Arts, and as a graduate student, started teaching at the GVJCI.

This past February through March, Shun travelled to Tokyo to hold his art exhibition at the Tokyo Metro Shinjuku Station, one of the busiest train stations in Japan. Thousands of people pass by every day and was able to enjoy his artworks. Congratulations, Shun, and thank you for your lifelong service to the community!



Shun Kohrogi at Shinjuku Station in Tokyo with this artwork.

## Be A Friend of the GVJCI in 2017

Spring is a wonderful time for refreshing and reflecting on the year. At the GVJCI, programs it cultivates are making a difference in the community. Direct support for these programs, such as Day of Remembrance and our cultural heritage family programs, helps in the presentations. Keeping up with the work is what Friends of GVJCI helps to do. The continued commitment from the Charter friends counts towards making the programs and facilities work for the community.

This is the time for you to join our Friends and be a supporter to help the GVJCI continue to provide meaningful and important programs for the community. Complete and turn in the Friends envelope so you can be a part of this important support.

I grew up 60 miles away but weekends meant coming to Gardena to visit with cousins and friends. I looked forward to go to the Carnival (now Matsuri) and see so many people having fun. I moved to South Bay after graduating from college and started a family over 30 years ago. It was important to have the GVJCI nearby.

A lot had changed over the years, and I'm glad to be active at the GVJCI to help usher new programs, activities and events that meet the changes in an important area of the greater community. I heard that statistics show that the area of Gardena-Torrance has the largest population of Japanese and Japanese Americans in the U.S. And here in the middle of that is the GVJCI and its importance in the cultural growth which has increased.

So why not become a Friend and be part of the excitement of people from different backgrounds for Japanese American and Japanese culture? Send back your contribution right away. For our Friends who are renewing, you will be sent a reminder around a year later, but you can send in your 2017 contribution at this time too.

Thank you,  
Alan Kita, Development Chair  
GVJCI Board of Directors

## Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall, What's Wrong with the Kitchen???

Debbie Oba, Facility Operations Manager

For those of you who frequent GVJCI on a regular basis, you have noticed some changes—Senior Bento Program has moved to the Main (JCI) Hall, parking in front of the NVMH seems lighter than normal. For GVJCI staff, the NVMH is noticeably quieter. Who would have thought a simple hall kitchen added so much energy and life to an area of our campus?

The kitchen fire which occurred in the Fall of 2016 has had an impact on our "normal" GVJCI weekly life. The inconveniences endured and patience of not only those who frequent GVJCI but the individuals and organizations who rent/use the NVMH, we cannot thank you enough.



The process of repairs of the kitchen is taking longer than any of us would like, however, in seeking the repairs and restoration, we are taking this opportunity to

improve it with commercial upgrades. In doing so, the process of developing plans and layouts, approvals needed by the LA County Department of Health and the City of Gardena is time consuming. GVJCI does not take this project lightly as funds needed to accomplish the restoration and upgrades are costly. Many who knew of the fire during our annual GVJCI Raffle had made additional donations towards funding the repairs of the kitchen. We thank you!

Anyone wishing to make contributions specifically towards the repairs/upgrades of the kitchen, please note it on the memo of your check. Again, thank you for your patience and cooperation during this process. We hope to provide a fully operational kitchen for everyone's enjoyment very soon.



## What's Happening at JLS?

This school year has truly flown by and we are quickly approaching the last few weeks of school. I am very happy and grateful for the successful events that we have held and look forward to the events still to come.

The first event of the year was our annual Undokai, Sports Day, on October 22, 2016 at El Nido Park in Torrance. On January 21, 2017, the Japanese School conducted its New Year's Party. The students performed a play, written by our own Naoko Okamoto Sensei. All the students participated and it gave them a platform to demonstrate their Japanese language conversational skills. I thank our former teacher, Yukikazu Nagashima Sensei, for continuing to support our school by writing a very nice article about the event for the Rafu Shimpo newspaper. On February 4, 2017, we conducted our Mochitsuki jointly with the GVJCI Programs so the public was also invited to attend. Nicole Sato, Program Coordinator, did a wonderful job organizing the event. During the event, the students were able to see the rice being steamed, participate in the pounding, shape their own mochi, and finally enjoy the product of their efforts. I truly wish to thank Larry and Jane Kawahara, as well as their family, for bringing all their personal mochitsuki equipment, demonstrating, and instructing the students during the entire event. The Kawahara family has always been tremendous supporters of our school and we deeply appreciate all their efforts. On March 4, 2017, we celebrated Hinamatsuri as a part of the GVJCI Programs. The students learned how Hinamatsuri is celebrated, created their own stone dolls, and enjoyed sakura mochi together. We still have our own Bunka Sai

(Cultural Day) and Kodomo no Hi (Children's Day) still to come. On May 13, 2017 is our Open House and I invite all who are interested in our Japanese School to attend. During this time you can tour our school and we can answer any questions you may have. We will also be on hand at the GVJCI Matsuri on June 24 and 25, 2017 to not only answer questions but we will also be taking applications for our Summer School which will be held July 8 to July 29, 2017. At the Matsuri, please make sure to stop by the Shaved Ice booth, which will be manned by our hardworking and loyal Japanese School Parent Group.

Growing up in Gardena, I was fortunate to have been able to benefit from all the programs that the GVJCI had to offer as a youth and now in my more senior years. To be truly honest, serving as Principal of the Japanese Language School was never a childhood goal but I am humbly grateful for the opportunity of this wonderful experience. My appreciation and gratitude always goes out to the teachers, students, parents, volunteers, and supporters.

This year we welcome two new teachers, Misako Nunez Sensei and Chiaki Suzuki Sensei, to our teaching staff. Together with the wonderful teaching staff that we currently have, Naoko Okamoto Sensei, Satoru Kawakita Sensei, Eriko Yamamoto Sensei, and Atsuko Vorreiter Sensei who is also Vice Principal, we will do our best to help the students build a strong foundation in their endeavors to learn Japanese.

Thank you,  
Lawrence Hada  
Principal

## Come Check Out Our New Classes!

### Smartphone/Tablet Class

6 weeks, Every Thurs May 4th to June 8th  
10AM to 11AM  
\$10 per each class (paid before or at the beginning of each class)  
or  
\$50 for the entire session (paid at the beginning of the session)

### New! Computer Public Access Hours

Have questions about your smartphone or just want to come use a computer? Come to our public access hours at our computer lab anytime during the below hours. We will have computers (PC) ready. Please bring your own smartphone/tablet.  
Starting April 20th  
Thurs 11AM-12PM, Fri 3PM-5PM (Please call the office to confirm hours)

### Playwriting Fundamentals Class

Explore playwriting in a supportive environment! This class is open to writers of all levels. Led by Tim Toyama, author of *Visas and Virtues* and *Bronzeville*  
May 3rd to July 5th (skipping May 10 and June 21)  
Wed 7-9:30PM, Room 205  
\$60 for the session (No drop-ins)

### Kokoro Yoga Class 心ヨガ

Always wanted to try yoga but afraid you weren't flexible enough? Never had the time to? Come to our new all levels foundational yoga class! It will be taught by a certified yoga teacher. So come on down with a mat, towel, water, and a smile!:) 日本語でのご指導も致します。  
Wed's starting May 17th 7-8PM, GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall  
\$5 per session

### Sansei Stories

Sansei Stories is back! Come join Tim Toyama as you work through to develop your own story. Everyone has a story, trust us.  
July 12th to Aug 16th, Room 205  
Wed 7-9PM  
\$5 per session (drop-in)

### Taiko Basic Beginner's Class

7 week course starting May 21st  
Sun 12-1PM  
\$85  
Contact Judi Kaminishi at jnkaminishi@gmail.com for information and registration.



## Tomo No Kai Corner

Tomo No Kai (TNK) 2017 membership is climbing. Thanks to all of you who have signed up as new or renewed TNK members. Dues are \$10 and payment can be either at the class you attend, or at the GVJCI office.

Get ready for the OBON season! OBON dance practice sessions are now in full swing on Tuesday afternoons 2-3PM in the Main Hall.

New TNK class started: MOVE & GROOVE, Tuesday afternoon 2-3PM in the Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall.

### Mark your calendar:

Casino trip to Pechanga April 29th, May Memorial Day

TNK activities of April/May birthday party date May 26th

Also reminder that TNK Bingo is every Monday and Wednesday 12:15-1:15PM

GVJCI annual Matsuri fundraiser on June 24 & 25, which TNK works and supports.

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



## NEW CLASSES COMING TO TOMO NO KAI

### Move & Groove

(low impact aerobics)  
Tues, 2PM-3PM

GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

### Move, Dance, & Groove

(Starting April 19) Wed, 12:15PM-1PM

## Wills & Living Trusts



Judd Matsunaga  
Attorney at Law



Staci Yamashita-Iida  
Attorney at Law



- Living Trusts & Wills
- Medi-Cal Planning
- Probate
- Powers of Attorney
- Conservatorship

**FREE** one hour  
Attorney Consultation  
Expires July 1st 2017

Comprehensive planning today  
Peace of mind for the future

Office Address: 1609 Cravens Ave, 90501



## Torrance Office (310) 348-2995

### Senior Relocation Specialist



Kyle Miyamoto  
CalBRE Lic #02011451

**Moving???**  
**Downsizing?**



### We Provide...

- FREE decluttering
- FREE professional packing
- FREE moving services
- FREE home cleaning
- FREE trash removal
- FREE consultations

**CALL for details (310) 348-7235**

## 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!

## MAY

### KODOMO NO HI SAT, MAY 6, 11-12:30 PM Breezeway

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's a koinobori! Come join us for Kodomo No Hi, or Children's Day, with the Japanese Language School students. We will be making a koinobori (carp flag) craft, eating mochi, and the JLS students will be performing songs. Please note everyone is welcome, however this event is geared towards children. Registration fee is \$5 and will include everything. Register online or through the office by 4/25/17! <https://gvjci.wufoo.com/forms/kodomo-no-hi-registration/>

### HOW TO RAISE FINANCIALLY AWARE CHILDREN SAT, MAY 6, 2-3:30PM GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

One of the many challenges of parenting is teaching children about money. Creating financially aware children can be a challenge, but luckily it is one lesson where you can easily lead by example. Little Tokyo Service Center will help you learn about how to help your children appreciate the value of a dollar in this informative presentation by Matt Kobata, CFP of American Century Investments. In addition, we will address the topic of Long Term Care insurance for parents, so your children won't have to make your difficult medical decisions for you. Admission is free but donations are appreciated.

### SHIBORI DYE WORKSHOP SAT, MAY 13, 1-3 PM GVJCI Main Hall

Wanted to try shibori before but never got the chance to? Wait, what's shibori? Remember those colorful vinegar smelling rainbow tie-dye shirts you made as a kid? Well, think of it as the sophisticated, adult version! We will be working with a natural plant dye (kusakizome method) to make a silk scarf! Register online or at our office. \$35 will get you all the materials (but please bring an apron or shirt you don't mind getting dirty!), and you get to take home your freshly dyed silk scarf! Register here: <https://gvjci.wufoo.com/forms/shibori-dye-workshop-2017/> (Hurry! Only 30 seats!)

## JUNE

### HOW TO CHOOSE AN EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM SAT, JUNE 10, 2-3:30 PM GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Do you or your elderly parents live alone and worry about safety in case of a fall? The GVJCI will be partnering with Little Tokyo Service Center. Ardis Shubin

from Healthcare and Elder Law Programs Corporation (H.E.L.P) will discuss the elements of a good emergency alert system, what questions to ask and what to look for when reviewing a proposal for installing a system. You will also learn how to determine your needs in an emergency system. The goal is to find the right system for you. Included is a review of many of the available systems and the extent of their services. Admission is free but donations are appreciated. Please call: (213) 473-3035 to RSVP.

## JULY

### TANOSHII FUN CAMP MON-FRI, JULY 10-14, 9AM-3PM GVJCI Upstairs Classrooms

Get ready for a tanoshii week with TANOSHII Fun Camp! Have kids that are ages 7-10? Tanoshii is a camp designed to teach young children about the Japanese American history, tradition, and culture through hands-on activities, community speaker presentations, demonstrations, games and many other fun explorations. Past activities included taiko, kendo (martial arts), origami, obon dancing, Japanese language, and Japanese cooking. Campers will get a chance to learn and connect with their heritage along with high school juniors, seniors and college students serving as camp counselors under adult supervision. We have several themes throughout the different years and this year we will be focusing on the Japanese American incarceration. Campers will be able to learn about the history of WWII through stories, food tasting, and even a field trip to Little Tokyo! Cost is \$225 per camper. Please register online or download a form through: <http://www.jci-gardena.org/tanoshii-fun-camp.html> by May 31st.

### Telling The Past: EO 9066 Book Reading for Children SAT, JULY 29, 2-4 PM GVJCI Bridge: JCI Heritage Center

In remembrance of the 75th anniversary of EO 9066, we want the next generations to come to know about the mass incarceration of the 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans during WWII. We will be having a book reading for children, focusing on books about the incarceration camps. We will be reading The Bracelet, Fred Korematsu Speaks Up, So Far From The Sea, A Place Where Sunflowers Grow, Baseball Saved Us, and a Fish for Jimmy. Please go to our website for more information on the time for each book reading. Heritage Source will be on-site selling books as well.

If you are interested in volunteering at any of our events, please let us know by calling at (310) 324-6611 or emailing us at [info@jci-gardena.org](mailto:info@jci-gardena.org). Please note that not all events will need volunteers.

## GVJCI Internship Experience

Stephanie Mayeda, Social Media & Community Outreach Intern

After hundreds of hours of doing email blasts, social media posts, helping out at various events, and consuming more than a healthy human's share of sugary treats in the office, I'm glad to say I made the right choice in taking this position. While there are so many aspects of being the GVJCI's social media and community outreach intern I could speak of with enthusiasm, there are two in particular that are of great importance to me. The first being that working here has allowed me to learn about and engage with a culture that has always been both familiar and foreign to me. For a little background, I am a sansei and a child to Japanese-American parents who largely identify with the latter of that hyphenated descriptor, so it's safe to say I grew up feeling a little more detached from Japanese culture than they did. Visiting my Japanese-speaking grandparents who lived nearby was my only link to a country I've still yet to visit (but plan to eventually), so the opportunity to take part in an organization that holds Japanese cultural events every year was something that struck my interest instantly.

Events like our annual Matsuri Carnival and newer ones like the O-tsukimi festival have exposed me to Japanese culture in new ways. Because I had to promote these events as a part of my job, I would sometimes also have to research certain aspects in order to educate the public who may not always be familiar with certain Japanese concepts, phrases, or words. Throughout my time at the GVJCI, I've had the opportunity and the pleasure of watching multiple taiko performances

as well as witnessing young kids explore Japanese culture through our week-long TANOSHII Fun Camp. I feel like I was in a unique position to have to learn about these things through internet research and then actually get to see it in action not long after, which brings me to the second part of why working here has been so important to me. I've



been able to learn about non-profits from the inside and see first-hand how they operate. This is by far the most real-world job experience I've gotten and it's been insurmountably valuable at that. I even had the opportunity to organize my own donation drive/fundraising event for the GVJCI called Mottainai Day. From that I learned so many important things not from what I did right, but from the mistakes I made. I had so much support from everyone who works here, so I never lacked assistance and encouragement, but I definitely learned the imperativeness of pre-planning and trying to tackle problems before they happen. On a final note about my experience, I mostly want to give my thanks and appreciation to the entire GVJCI for the wonderful opportunity to work here! It's been very special to me, and I will continue to come back and volunteer!

## May Deadline For 2017 GVJCI Scholarships

The GVJCI will be awarding scholarships to 2017 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](http://jci-gardena.org). Submission deadline is May 15, 2017, and award presentations will be made in June 2017 at the GVJCI Matsuri.

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



## On The Tokonoma ...

What's on display in the second floor Bridge: JCI Heritage Center Tokonoma?? GVJCI volunteer artist Alvin Takamori will be featuring our Manzanar display until late May and then in switching gears to a Matsuri theme!

Our Manzanar display will feature photos from the camps from the National Archive, photos and information from past Manzanar Pilgrimages, and a painting by Tokonoma master himself, Alvin Takamori, whose painting was a part of the Henry Fukuhara Manzanar Painting Workshop.

Did the incarceration camps have matsuri/festivals too? For our Matsuri display, we will be featuring photos from the camps during matsuri season so come check it out!

