Celebrate the SUMMER…With the 2018 GVJCI Matsuri!

June 23 & 24, 2018
Saturday, noon to 8:00 pm
Sunday, noon to 6:00 pm

ONDO DANCING – BINGO
DANCE– COME OUT AND SUPPORT OUR ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT.

It’s that time again to kick off the summer months with our annual Matsuri! Please come out and support our annual fundraising event.

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

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 Cultural Institute to incorporate the broader services and functions of 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 volunteering that enables the GVJCI to continue.

MISSION 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.

VISION STATEMENT
A space to engage, share, and embrace the Nikkei experience and culture.

Board of Directors
Charles Oyagi, President
Ray Shibata, Vice President
Marilyn Tsuge, Secretary
Miles Akira, Treasurer
Richard Ames
Steven Awakuni
Gail Dow
Lawrence Hada
Juan Hernandez
Alan Kita
Tari Kuwahara
Grant Nakasaka
Alvin Takashina
Aki Takashima

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Helen Kanagawa
Paul Kozaki
Helen Nahrain
Glenn Takehisa
Terry Terauchi

Staff
Administration & Programs
Asian Arthur, Executive Director
Debbie Ota, Administrative Manager
Nicole Sato, Program Manager
Yoko Hiones, Staff Associate
Sharon Sawai, Events & Fundraising Coordinator
Facilities
Date Shusan, Facility Operations Manager
Brian Hisakura, Maintenance Custodian
Bob Seki, Maintenance Custodian
Gerald Mayawaki, Facility Assistant

Japanese Language School
Lawrence Hada, Principal
Atsuko Vorreiter, Vice Principal & Teacher
Mayumi Funaki, Teacher
Yoko Hione, Teacher
Naoko Okamoto, Teacher
Masaomi Suzuki, Teacher
Chiaki Suzuki, Teacher
Eiko Yamamoto, Adult Class & Conversation Class Teacher

GARDENA VALLEY JAPANESE CULTURAL INSTITUTE
1964 West 162nd Street
Gardena, CA 90247
Phone: 310-324-6511
Fax: 310-324-3223
Email: info@jci-gardena.org
Website: jci-gardena.org
Like & Connect:
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Email: info@jci-gardena.org
Fax: 310-324-3223

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Outdoor Nursery – One of our most popular booths year after year...supporting nurseries and gracious community plant enthusiasts donate beautiful plants from their businesses and backyards for our Matsuri. We also have expert nurserymen who volunteer their time at the booth to answer all of your most intricate questions on how to grow and maintain your new plants!

Holding Stations – Are your hands full of food items, white elephant treasures, and crafts...and you REALLY want to purchase a house plant? Well, worry no more. Take all of your belongings to our holding station and let the Boy Scout Troop 683 keep a watchful eye on your items! Now you can be at our Matsuri “hands free”.

Bingo – Try your luck at Bingo! Games begin at 4pm on Saturday & Sunday with chances to win cash & prizes!

Beer Garden - Both days from noon to closing, take a break and come on over to our Beer Garden! Grab a beer, relax, and catch up with friends by our JCI Garden’s Koi Pond.

The Bridge: GVJCI Heritage Center – Come upstairs and see what we have to share with you! Visit our Japanese cultural heritage library and our educational tokonoma display. Or learn about disaster preparedness & basic first aid from Tri-City CERT. Once again, they will have FREE giveaways too!

Institute (GVJCI). Please ask your agent about this program. Below is a partial list of participating agencies.

As we head into the busy time for our VFW Post, it is amazing how all of the upcoming events are coming together so nicely. This is all thanks to the support of our community of families, friends, and members. In early April, our Post will be involved with the arrival of "The Wall That Heals" at the Mas Fukai Park. In May, we will be attending the 68th Annual Nisei VFW Reunion at the Sands Regency, Reno NV, and upon return will be holding or supporting other organizations at their Memorial Day Services. Please make plans to attend our Memorial Day Service at the GVJCI on Sunday, May 27, 2018, @ 2:00 pm. It is an important day to remember our fallen heroes and come together and renew old friendships. Don't let this event become a thing of the past. We will also be hosting a Memorial Day Service at Rose Hills Memorial Park on Monday, May 28, 2018 @ 9:30 am. It is just amazing how by word of mouth, our Memorial Day Service at Rose Hills has grown from just a handful of attendees to over 75 participants. If you would like to participate, please feel free to attend. In June, we are planning a trip to Manzanar with the JROTC Cadet and their families for a day of remembrance. If you would like to go with us to Manzanar or to the Nisei VFW Reunion in Reno NV, feel free to contact an active VFW member or Women's Club member for more information.

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

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.

COSTA MESA
Miyazaki Ins. Svcs. (714) 979-8700

HUNTINGTON BEACH
Mizuno Insurance (714) 964-7227

Kagawa Ins. (213) 628-1800

PASADENA
FIA Ins. Svcs., Inc. (626) 795-7059

SANTA MONICA
Autoline (800) 770-7978

TORRANCE
Kamiya Ins. Agency (310) 781-2066

Tsuneishi Insurance (310) 533-8877

Gardena Nisei Memorial Post 1961
Steve Moriyama, Commander

THANK YOU!

RAFFLE DONATIONS NEEDED!
The 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 Craft Booth, and new UNUSED items for the White Elephant Booth. We will begin to take such donations in May. Please bring all items by Friday, June 8th to the GVJCI Office.

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Also needed...are handicraft items for our Craft Booth, and new UNUSED items for the White Elephant Booth. We will begin to take such donations in May. Please bring all items by Friday, June 8th to the GVJCI Office.

For more information:
Craft: Sharon Sawai at: s.sawai@jci-gardena.org.
Art: Nicole Sato at: nsato@jci-gardena.org
(310) 324-6611

Save The Date!
GVJCI 4th Annual
Kansha Craft Show
Sun, Sept 30, 2018
9AM-2PM
Looking for new craft vendors to join us for this fun, community oriented craft show!

New Art Show!
Looking for artists to showcase their art!
Theme is: Nikkei Community or Nikkei Family
For more information:
Craft: Sharon Sawai at: s.sawai@jci-gardena.org.
Art: Nicole Sato at: nsato@jci-gardena.org
(310) 324-6611

THANK YOU!
Thanks to all of the Tomo No Kai (TNK) members and their guests that supported the first two fundraisers of 2018. They were successful and enjoyed by everyone—a good start of the year in supporting GVJCI.

**TNK membership** is $50. Please remember to promote GVJCI's senior activities available with TNK membership. New classes have been added for both physical and mental exercise, so join TNK to remain both physically and mentally young.

**TNK Fundraisers:** The next casino trip will be on April 28th celebrating spring!

**TNK Activities:** TNK Card games are every Monday and Wednesday 9:00-11:30; Bingo is every Monday and Wednesday 12:15-1:15p.

**New TNK Classes:**
- **Fumanet Exercise Class**
  - Fridays, 11AM-12PM
  - Start at the beginning of the year in supporting GVJCI.
- **GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall**
  - Thursdays, 10-11AM
  - GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall
  - We worked with a Board Certified Music Therapist to design a music program that's good for the soul and brain! Participants experience simple rhythmic instruments, some light movements, some singing (in both English and Japanese songs), and all around creativeness! This program is made possible by a Keiro grant funding.

Established on May 31, 1979, the GVJCI Tono 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 party. 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!

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**Sumie Japanese Ink Painting**
- Wednesdays, 1:30-3PM
- Room 205
- Come and join a class on Japanese sumie ink painting. Learn the different techniques by trained instructor Asako Ota. We will have some supplies, but if you have some of your own, please bring them.

**Music For Wellness**
- Thursdays, 10-11AM
- GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall
- We worked with a Board Certified Music Therapist to design a music program that's good for the soul and brain! Participants experience simple rhythmic instruments, some light movements, some singing (in both English and Japanese songs), and all around creativeness! This program is made possible by a Keiro grant funding.

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**Gardena Valley JCI News**

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**Be A Friend of the GVJCI in 2018**

"Within the last year, there seems to be an increasing trend of division between individuals and groups who separate themselves from others due to differences. These perceived differences may come in many forms, such as ethnicity, gender or skin color, and it is truly disappointing to see many of the negative headlines that pollute our news every day. However, these areas of division are not unsolvable and I believe the GVJCI is one of these places where community members can find a safe space to share ideas, tell personal stories and have conversations with one another. At the GVJCI, differences between each person are celebrated, ideas are valued, and individual voices are welcomed. There is true value in the richness of diversity, whether it be in age, religion or socioeconomic status, and I cannot think of anything more crucial than this kind of openness in a community.

Throughout its history of 50+ years, the GVJCI has become home to many events and activities, cultivating a special meaning to each visitor. During my younger years, I never truly realized what a gift it is to live in the South Bay, where the neighborhoods are abundant with resources and services that help enrich the Japanese and Japanese American communities. My dream is one day to have the GVJCI be known not only for the strides it has taken to keep this rich Japanese culture alive in the South Bay, but also the ways in which we help other communities thrive and grow. I hope that the GVJCI can continue to be a center of conversations and a place for new friendships and memories for people like you and me.

I hope you will join me in supporting the GVJCI by becoming a Friend of the Gardena Valley JCI for this upcoming spring campaign. Thank you for your consideration and continued support of the GVJCI."

Airi Takashima
GVJCI Board of Director

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**Board Updates**

Please welcome two new members to GVJCI's Board of Directors:

- **Airi Takashima** served as a board fellow with the GVJCI through Kizuna’s Board Fellowship Program in 2017. Through the year-long program, she attended board meetings and volunteered at various events to learn how to best serve the needs of today’s South Bay community. She was struck by the passion and dedication of each GVJCI board member, staff and volunteer and is very excited to join this welcoming team. Airi states, "I wanted to become a GVJCI board member to better understand the needs of Japanese and Japanese American culture in the South Bay and to help promote the voices of those involved in the community."

- **Juan Martin Hernandez** is born and raised in Southern California, and was introduced to GVJCI through naginata training. He started training in naginata more than ten years ago, and was introduced to Japanese culture many years before that. Through friendships and visits to Japan, Juan has acquired a deep respect and appreciation for the Japanese culture. Juan states, "My naginata sensei (Helen Nakano) provided the recommendation needed to join the Board of Directors. Now, as a board member, my hope is to help promote the goals and vision of the Gardena Valley JCI."
**Smartphone/Tablet Class**
6 weeks, Every Thurs May 3rd to June 7th
10AM to 11AM
$10 per each class (paid before or at the beginning of each class)
$50 for the entire session (paid at the beginning of the session)

Our 6 week series is back! Learn how to use your smartphone or tablet from the basics or come drop in on the weeks you want to brush up on! Don’t have a smartphone/tablet but still want to learn? No problem! We have rentals, free of charge, but both iPads and Android tablets.

Week 1 – May 3, 2018
Components, Symbols
Settings - display, volume/sound, etc.

Week 2 – May 10, 2018
Adding contacts
Phone calls, Text Messages, Email
Using the camera

Week 3 – May 17, 2018
Apps - Already Installed & Adding New Apps
** Please bring your Apple App Store or Google Play Passwords

Week 4 – May 24, 2018
Apps - Useful Emergency Apps

Week 5 – May 31, 2018
Wi-Fi / Data Usage / Storage

Week 6 – June 7, 2018
Questions & Answers

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**May Deadline For 2018 GVJCI Scholarships**
The GVJCI will be awarding scholarships to 2018 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 on 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 May 14, 2018, and award presentations will be made in June 2018 at the GVJCI Matsuri.

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

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**Looking to exercise? Take a low-impact aerobics class!**
"Low-Impact Aerobics" on Sundays is here! Yes, exercising on Sundays: End your week refreshed, or start your week energized.

"Low-Impact Aerobics" is a moderate cardio workout with no jumping, thus reducing stress on knees, hips, and back. This class focuses on total body conditioning, and stretching.

Sundays, 1:30 to 2:40, in an upstairs classroom, beginning on May 6th.
Fee is $5 per class; first class is free! Wear exercise clothes and shoes, and bring water.

Maria Shriver says in an article about preventing dementia: "If I could tell people any one thing to prevent dementia, it would be to exercise." Los Angeles Times, March 30, 2018.