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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 GVJCl's Japanese Language School. The GVJCl 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 Charles Oyagi, President Ray Shibata, Vice President Marilyn Tsuge, Secretary Miles Akiyama, Treasurer Richard Ames Steven Awakuni Gail Doi Lawrence Hada Juan Hernandez Alan Kita Teri Kuwahara Grant Nakaoka

Alvin Takamori

Airi Takashima

Emeritus Board of Directors

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

Staff

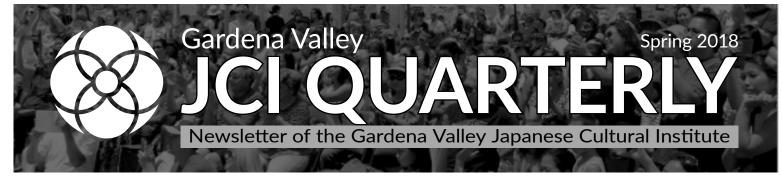
Administration & Programs Alison Kochiyama, Executive Director Debbie Oba, Administrative Manager Nicole Sato, Program Manager Yuko Howes, Staff Associate Sharon Sawai, Events & Fundraising Coordinator

Facilities

Dale Inafuku, Facility Operations Brian Hoshiko, Maintenance Custodian Bob Seki, Maintenance Custodian Gerald Mayewaki, Facility Assistant

Japanese Language School

Lawrence Hada, Principal Atsuko Vorreiter, Vice Principal & Teacher Mayumi Fuchino, Teacher Atsuko Fukuda, Teacher Naoko Okamoto, Teacher Masumi Sasaki, Teacher Chiaki Suzuki, Teacher Eriko Yamamoto, Adult Class & **Conversation Class Teacher**



Celebrate the Summer...With the 2018 GVJCI Matsuril

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

DELICIOUS FOOD FUN GAMES INDOOR/OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT MARTIAL ARTS DEMONSTRATIONS **RAFFLE DRAWINGS NURSERY SALE CRAFTS & WHITE ELEPHANT SALE BINGO** ONDO DANCING **BEER GARDEN**



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

Ondo Dancing - Saturday, June 23rd at 5:00pm. Start off the Ondo dancing season with the GVJCI! We are excited to offer this fun, cultural experience once again. Please continue to help make this a popular event at our Matsuri!

Food & Game Booths - Community organizations and classes that are housed at the GVJCI lend their volunteer support to run a variety of booths. Whether it be fun games such as Yo-Yo Tsuri, or our ever popular Pitch 'Til U Win (to name a few)...or cooking/selling mouthwatering dishes like cold somen, chicken teriyaki, imagawayaki, spam musubi, teri burgers, tamales, lau lau, Okinawa andagi, chicken bao sliders, chirashi & inari, or NEW to the menu, okonomiyaki, (and more!), our community volunteers are the heart of our Matsuri!

Performances - Get here early, get some food, grab a seat and be ready to be entertained by the many talented people here at the GVJCI! We showcase many classes and programs that are held at our facility such as taiko, hula, 'ukulele, or line dancing, as well as, guest performers. Come see what these performers learn throughout the year, and maybe you will want to join them at their weekly classes!

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







Continued on next page

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 that 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 are able to roam 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! Want to inquire about our Japanese Language School? Come pay a visit and receive all of the information you need to enroll in the upcoming fall session.

Prize Drawings – Don't forget to turn in your raffle stubs! Drawings are held on both days, throughout the Matsuri. Prizes are donated by various businesses and individuals throughout the community. Winners need not be present to win

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

THANK YOU!



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

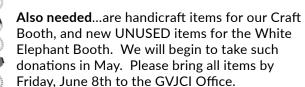


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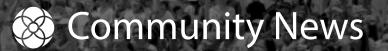
RAFFLE DONATIONS NEEDED!

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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.







Gardena Nisei Memorial Post 1961

Steve Moriyama, Commander

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 Cadets 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.

A mere "thank you" are just words and can't even convey the extent of our gratitude and appreciation. My wife Linda and I are so blessed to have friends and family who we can count on, especially when things get tough. Your caring and generous hearts are the reason Nisei VFW Post 1961 is still an active and a viable part of this great community.

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

CULVER CITY Trust Insurance (310) 839-3127

GARDENA AHTKY Insurance (310) 516-0110

Nakamura Agency (310) 327-0717

HUNTINGTON BEACH

Mizuno Insurance (714) 964-7227

LA PALMA The J. Morey Ins. Co. (714) 562-5910

LONG BEACH Nori Marumoto Inc. (562) 595-4403

LOS ANGELES Buna Insurance (213) 626-1547 Kagawa Ins. (213) 628-1800

Tatsuno Insurance (213) 626-1954

MONTEBELLO Ogino-Aizumi, Inc. (323) 728-7488

MONTEREY PARK Quality Ins. Service (323) 727-7755 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

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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 560. 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 9:00-11:30a; Bingo is every Monday and Wednesday 12:15-1:15p

New TNK Classes: Fumanet Exercise Class

Fridays, 11AM-12PM

GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

The word "fumanet" originated from the Japanese phrase "don't step on the net". A special net is spread out on the floor, and the participants join in by stepping through the net to the rhythm of the music. Studies have shown that Fumanet Exercise prevents dementia, improves stability (prevents falling), and helps depression and mood disorders.



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.



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 sen++ior programs and GVJCI facility operations. Thank you very much for your participation and support!



Gardena Valley JCI News

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



For new Friends support, please send back your contribution in the enclosed envelope. For our Friends who are renewing, you will be sent a reminder around a year later, but you can send in your 2018 contribution at this time too. Thank you!



Board Updates

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

Airi Takashima served as a board fellow with the GVJCI



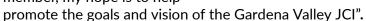
through Kizuna's Board Fellowship Program in 2017. Through the year-long program, she attended board meetings and volunteered at various events to learn how to best serve the needs of today's South Bay community. She was struck by the passion and dedication of each GVJCI board member, staff and

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".

Airi is a Los Angeles native, born and raised in Torrance, CA. She received her B.A. in Geography from the University of California, Berkeley and works in data analytics at SoCalGas. Airi enjoys playing the taiko drums in her free time and lives in Long Beach, CA.

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



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Building a Better GVJCI

Dale Inafuku, Facility Operations Manager

In October 2016, we experienced a fire in the kitchen of the Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall, which left us with fire damage and equipment loss in the kitchen. There was a lot of clean up from the smoke that had to be done in the entire hall as well. The decision was made that we would come through this disaster better and that we would upgrade the kitchen to be a fully functional commercial kitchen. Going through the design and approval phases took enormous amounts of energy and patience, but we got through it and started construction in December of 2017. The kitchen remodeling project is now in full force! We are only weeks away from having the project completed. It should be fully functional by the time Matsuri comes around!

Another big project that happened between Christmas and New Year's Day, was the refinishing of the GVJCI Hall floor. Since it's completion four months ago, some scuff marks can be seen, but the finish is still holding up! Please treat our floors gently so everyone can enjoy it for a long time.

We also converted some of our lighting to LED. This will save us a little on our power bill, and the brighter LED's will also increase safety. This is most evident with the external lighting on the GVJCI Building. There will be no problem with seeing in the parking lot during the evening hours!

These enhancements are possible only through your donations and participation in our programs. A huge thank you to all of you for making it possible for us to make these improvements! One of our goals is to make GVJCI a place you want to keep coming back to, like another home. So keep your eyes open as we build a better GVJCI.

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) or \$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, both iPads and Android tablets.

been directly involved with the GVJCI or its member organizations that hold regular activity at the GVJCI. placed upon GVJCI and other community involvement volunteerism and future goals. High school students a minimum of a 2.5 GPA and have post-secondary education.

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

Ouestions & Answers

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 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 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.

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 6 th.

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.



Gardena Valley JCI CALENDAR

MAY

KODOMO NO HI SAT, MAY 5, 11:30-12:30PM GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Got children? Or maybe you're still a kid at heart? Either way, come celebrate Kodomo No Hi, or Children's Day, with us! Kodomo No Hi is celebrated in Japan to celebrate the health and happiness of the children in the family. Come munch on some Kashiwa Mochi as we learn more about the history and culture of Kodomo No Hi, and finish off the morning with a Koinobori craft! \$5 per participating child. Sign-up on our website or at our office! Program is geared towards children 12 and under but all ages welcome!

MEDITATION WORKSHOP SAT, MAY 12, 2-4PM GVJCI Classroom 207/208

Why is meditation so good for us? In this workshop, you will first learn the why's and then the how's of a strong meditation practice. In addition to breathing exercises, we will do short and longer guided meditations—all to help develop peace and to provide a greater sense of well-being. \$10 per attendee. Sign-up on our website or at our office!

JUNE

YONSEI EYES/MY DOG TENY FILM SCREENING SAT, JUNE 9, 2-4PM GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Come see two great films by filmmaker Jon Osaki. Jon Osaki is an emerging filmmaker who has directed and produced promotional, educational, narrative, and short documentary films. His interest in film grew from his desire to share the stories of the Japanese Community Youth Council, where he has served as Executive Director since 1996. Over the past few years, he has produced or had

films screened by the Asian Pacific American Heritage Foundation, San Francisco Films of Remembrance, the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM), Ithaca Pan Asian American Film Festival, and Sacramento Asian Pacific Film Festival. As a filmmaker, Jon views this genre as the next step in his lifelong pursuit of social justice and equity.

Yonsei Eyes is a story of two fourth-generation Japanese Americans who embark on a pilgrimage to the place where their grandparents were once imprisoned during World War II. My Dog Teny is a true story of a boy, his dog and the outbreak of World War II.

Free admission but donations are appreciated. Please call or email the GVJCI to reserve a spot.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS SAT, JUNE 16, 2-4PM GVJCI Classroom 207/208

We all know that we live near the big San Andreas fault line and what a large earthquake can do to us. Earthquakes, fires, tsunamis, floods, storms are disasters to be worried about, but we can be prepared! Come to our Disaster Prep Workshop to learn all about what you need to prepare and what to do when you really need it. Free but donations are appreciated. RSVP is required. Sign-up online, call in, or come to our office!

JULY

UPCYCLERS WORKSHOP SUN, JULY 8, 2-4 PM GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

The *Upcyclers* is a new original musical for the whole family! A group of young friends band together for a super mission to make their resources go far to save their family's restaurant. The *Upcyclers* are inspirational young people who realize their true potential to harness the power of the planet to unlock super-skills

transforming their lives, their community and the world. These green heroes are coming to the GVJCI to lead a musical workshop to tell their story and make an exciting craft everyone can take home! Bring an old t-shirt to create your very own Upcycled reusable tote bag! T-shirts will be available to purchase at the event while supplies last. Great for all ages! Tickets are \$10 for admission only, and \$15 for admission and a T-Shirt. Please register online on our website or at our office!

SENIOR SCAM WORKSHOP SAT, JULY 14, 2-3:30PM GVJCI Classroom 207/208

Scams defraud millions of people every year. They continue to evolve while using the same tricks to convince people to give out their personal information. Learn how to recognize scams, prevent yourself from becoming a victim, and report the scams to the authorities.

Free but donations are appreciated. RSVP is required. Please call or email the GVJCI to reserve a spot.

IYASHI CARE SAT, JULY 28, 2-4PM GVJCI Classroom 207/208

Iyashi Care is a partnership program

between Keiro and Providence Health & Services Southern California.
Leveraging Providence's medical expertise and world-class palliative care program with Keiro's rich history and understanding of Japanese American and Japanese traditions, lyashi Care provides palliative care to Japanese American and Japanese older adults in Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura counties.
The Japanese word, lyashi 癒し, meaning "to bool" amphosizes our focus on

"to heal" emphasizes our focus on providing care to the whole person. To find out more about lyashi Care, please call (213) 873-5791, email info@keiro.org, or visit our website at keiro.org/iyashicare.

Free but donations are appreciated. RSVP is required. Please call or email the GVJCI to reserve a spot.

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