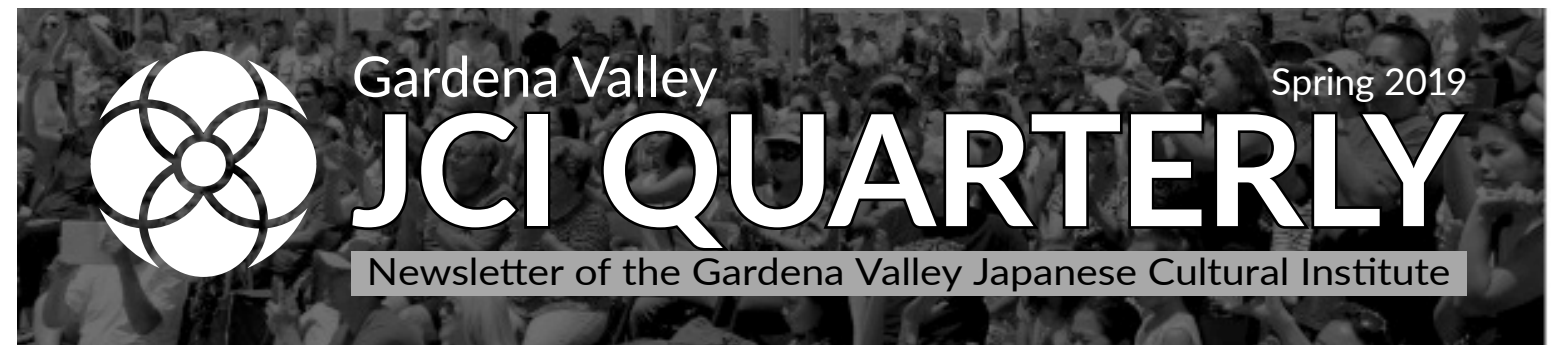




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Celebrate the Summer with the 2019 GVJCI Matsuri Fundraiser!

June 29 & 30, 2019
Saturday, 12:00pm to 8:00pm
Sunday, 12:00pm to 6:00pm

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

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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 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

- Ray Shibata, *President*
- Alan Kita, *Vice President*
- Marilyn Tsuge, *Secretary*
- Miles Akiyama, *Treasurer*
- Richard Ames
- Steven Awakuni
- Gail Doi
- Lawrence Hada
- Juan Hernandez
- Teri Kuwahara
- Grant Nakaoka
- Charles Oyagi
- 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*
- Cathy Lee, *Development and Events Manager*
- Nicole Sato, *Program Manager*
- Pam Momoko Yan, *Program Coordinator*

Facilities

- Dale Inafuku, *Facility Operations Manager*
- 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*
- Masumi Sasaki, *Teacher*
- Aimee Shimizu, *Teacher*
- Chiaki Suzuki, *Teacher*
- Eriko Yamamoto, *Adult Class & Conversation Class Teacher*

It's that time again to kick off the summer with our annual GVJCI Matsuri Fundraiser. We are celebrating over 60 years! The GVJCI Matsuri Fundraiser is a South Bay tradition that is enjoyed by many generations of South Bay residents. As the GVJCI's largest annual fundraiser, we invite you, your family and friends, to enjoy this fun weekend supporting the GVJCI. Everyone is welcome! We thank all of our volunteers, member organizations, board members, staff and attendees for the GVJCI Matsuri Fundraiser's continued success! Here's what we have in store this year:



Ondo Dancing - Saturday, June 29th at 5:00pm. Start off the Ondo dancing season with the GVJCI! We are excited to offer this fun, cultural experience once again. Please join us at this popular GVJCI Matsuri event!

Food & Game Booths - Community organizations and classes that are housed at the GVJCI lend their volunteer support to run all of our booths. Whether it's fun games such as Pachinko, or our ever popular Pitch 'Til U Win, or cooking/selling tasty food like chicken teriyaki, imagawayaki, spam musubi, teri burger, tamales, lau lau, Okinawa andagi, chicken bao sliders, chirashi & inari and yakisoba and more! Our community volunteers are the BEST---they help run all of the booths and 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, and line dancing, as well as, guest performances. Come see what these performers learn throughout the year, and maybe you'll be encouraged to join them at their weekly classes and perform next year!

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, Garden 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 and/or your family!

ALSO...

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 Station - 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". Then drive your car by the loading zone and pick up all of your goodies!

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 purchase raffle tickets and turn in your raffle stubs! Drawings are held hourly on Saturday & Sunday. Prizes are donated by various businesses and individuals throughout the community. Winners need not be present to win. **Mega Matsuri Raffle: New this year!** Enter for a chance to win prizes of unspeakable value! Purchase special tickets for the Mega Matsuri Raffle at the Matsuri throughout the weekend, drawings for this special raffle will be held on Sunday near closing.

Presale-GVJCI Matsuri Fundraiser 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 to purchase coupon books at \$10 per book prior to the Matsuri. The ten \$1.00 coupons can be used as scrip at all Matsuri booths, as well as for the bonus hourly raffle drawings.

HISTORICAL GVJCI MATSURI PHOTOS WANTED!
Do you have photographs from previous Carnivals or Matsuri? If you have photos from 10, 20 and even 50 years ago, please email them to info@jci-gardena.org or bring them in to be scanned! We'd love to incorporate them into this year's Matsuri! Thank you!

RAFFLE DONATIONS NEEDED!
The GVJCI is looking for a variety of prize donations from individuals and businesses for the GVJCI Matsuri Hourly Raffle (ie Gift cards, gift baskets & products from your business to name a few) and our new Mega Matsuri Raffle (Larger ticket items, new & in original packaging please). 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'd like to donate prizes for these drawings. Thank you for your consideration!

WHITE ELEPHANT & CRAFT BOOTH DONATIONS NEEDED!
Also needed are new UNUSED items for the White Elephant booth and handicraft items for our Craft Booth. We will begin to take these donations in May. Please bring all items by Friday, June 7th to the GVJCI Office. Thank you!

MATSURI SETUP/TEARDOWN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
We are seeking volunteers to help with the Matsuri setup and teardown. This is manual labor that requires climbing ladders, installing signage/banners etc. If you are available for any or all of the following dates, please contact the GVJCI Office at info@jci-gardena.org or 310-324-6611. Wed June 26, Thurs June 27, Fri June 28, Sun Jun 30, Mon Jul 1. Thank you!



Thank you again for your support!

PLEASE TEAR OFF PAGE AND BRING ON DAY-OF FUNDRAISER!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



www.thelofthawaii.com

NORTH ONLY:

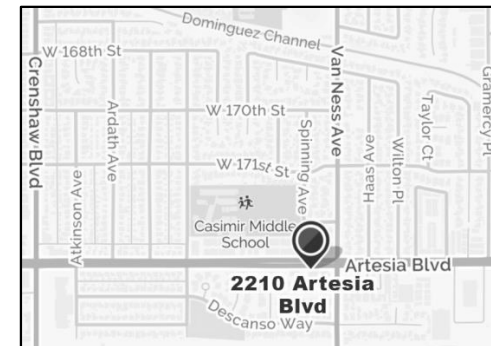
• **Tuesday, May 14, 2019**

NORTH & SOUTH:

• **Wednesday, May 15, 2019**

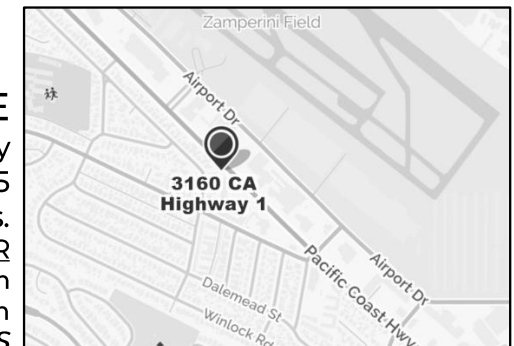
Present this flyer when ordering, complete and turn in the form below and we'll donate a percentage of qualifying sales to support the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute.

Distribution of this flyer on Loft property is prohibited.
Dine-In and To-Go orders only.



NORTH TORRANCE

2210 Artesia Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90504
Corner of Artesia Boulevard & Van Ness Avenue
LUNCH & DINNER
Sunday - Thursday 11:00 am - 8:00 pm
Friday/Saturday 11:00 am - 9:00 pm



SOUTH TORRANCE

3160 Pacific Coast Highway
Torrance, CA 90505
Between Hawthorne & Crenshaw Blvds.
LUNCH & DINNER
Sunday - Thursday 11:00 am - 8:00 pm
Friday - Saturday 11:00 - 8:30 pm
CLOSED ON TUESDAYS

Complete this form, tear off the bottom of this flyer and place in Fundraiser Box.
Fundraiser for: GVJCI

Date attended: _____ Guest Name: _____

Order Number: _____ Amount of Receipt: _____

E-mail Address (Optional): _____

ADVENTURERS CLUB NEWS

Tim Toyama

Upcoming Events:

“Farm-To-Table Cookout Tour” at Tanaka Farms

The Farm-To-Table Cookout Tour is a unique Tanaka Farms experience. You'll take a guided walking tour around the farm where you'll be able to pick your own seasonal veggies in the field. After harvesting your veggies, you'll go to the cook-out area where your lunch will consist of delicious, grilled seasonal vegetables, farm fresh salad, seasonal fruit and bottled water. This tour lasts 2 to 3 hours.

Cost: Adults (13 & up) \$30 each (Veggie Meal); or \$34 each (Chicken & Veggie Meal)

Children (4-12 years) \$18 each (Veggie

Meal); or \$20 each (Chicken & Veggie Meal)

Children (3 years & under) No Charge

Date: May 25th, Saturday, from 10am to 1pm.

Where: Tanaka Farms

5380 3/4 University Drive
Irvine, CA 92612

Deadline to sign up is May 10th.

“Mamma Mia” at East West Players

East West Players is presenting the smash musical, “Mamma Mia”. Join our group on June 8th, Saturday for the 2pm matinee.

The group discount price is \$49 per ticket (the regular price is \$65!)

Deadline to join is May 22nd.

Hokkaido Tours

The two Hokkaido Tours are sold out! However, there is a waiting list for both tours.

The first tour leaves on October 9th and ends on October 19th. The second tour will take place in February 2020. The budget for both tours is \$3,000 each (land costs only, not including airfare).

Next tour: Okinawa, fall 2020!

To sign up for any of the Adventurers Club events or for more information, please contact Tim Toyama at timtoyama@gmail.com or call 310-848-9890.

STAFF UPDATES

Please welcome **Pam Momoko Yan** to our staff as **Program Coordinator** for Senior and Bilingual Programs. Pam comes to us as a resident of Gardena and a participant of GVJCI classes and programs. When she's not at the GVJCI, she's writing short stories, going for long walks with her dog or eating her husband's delicious meals. Coming from a background in music and the arts, Pam hopes to be able to contribute to the wonderful Programs at the GVJCI moving forward.



GVJCI expresses much appreciation to **Yuko Howes**, former Staff Associate, who was instrumental in starting our bilingual senior activity, Tomo Café. Yuko left the staff in January, however she plans to continue as a volunteer and hopefully take some GVJCI classes again.

2019 FRIENDS OF THE GVJCI CAMPAIGN

My name is Ray Shibata and I'm the new president of the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute (GVJCI) Board of Directors. As the president, I asked myself, “What's the most important responsibility I have.” After searching through my thoughts, I came to the conclusion, “Upholding the Mission and Vision of the GVJCI.”

As the Mission states, the GVJCI is a place to engage, share and embrace the Nikkei experience and culture. However, this place does not exist without people who are the staff, the board, the member organizations and the many volunteers and friends who make it a successful, thriving Japanese cultural community center.

I grew up in the San Gabriel Valley when there were only a very few Japanese American families. But the few that were there, organized a community center where the families had a place to socialize and meet. My father was one of the community leaders and I grew up knowing the importance of what the community center meant to all of the families. Like our GVJCI mission statement, it was a place to engage, share and embrace. When I moved to the South Bay and discovered the GVJCI, it brought back the fond memories when I was growing up and I wanted to be part of it.

The staff runs the “place” and the volunteers contribute their own free time to make the GVJCI a place where the community can truly embrace the Nikkei experience. In 2016 we established the Friends of the GVJCI Campaign to reach out to our supporters and the community for their monetary support as Friends of the GVJCI. We know that many people are busy with family and work and can only support us with a monetary pledge. We sincerely want to thank those who have pledged their generous donations this year and invite others to support the GVJCI and our community by joining the Friends of GVJCI Campaign.

Your annual contribution will support the continued growth of the GVJCI and its programs, serving the increasingly diverse and dynamic Nikkei communities in the South Bay. From public programs celebrating Japanese American heritage to youth programs to continuing to serve our seniors, your pledge will help ensure the continued success of the GVJCI. To donate, please visit our website at <https://www.jci-gardena.org/friends.html> to make an on-line contribution via PayPal or send your donation directly to our office via the enclosed Friends of the GVJCI pledge envelope. Thank you for your consideration!

MAY DEADLINE FOR 2019 GVJCI SCHOLARSHIPS

The GVJCI will be awarding scholarships to 2019 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 13, 2019, and award presentations will be made on June 29, 2019 at the GVJCI Matsuri Fundraiser.

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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GVJCI MATSURI MEMORIES

Larry Hada, GVJCI Board of Director

My recollection of the JCI Carnival (now, the GVJCI Matsuri Fundraiser) as a youth was tagging along with my father after he finished his gardening route for the day and helping to setup the corn booth, which was run by the Gardener's Federation. Though late in the evening at times they would always assist others who needed help. On the morning of the carnival, one of the gardeners would journey to the produce market in Los Angeles before sunrise to try and select the sweetest corn available. On the day of the carnival, they were proud to offer the public the best product they could, but would always reflect and discuss how they could make it better. At that point I was allowed to enjoy and spend what I had saved all year at the carnival. I would enjoy the corn, watch samurai movies or Japanese musicals in the pink building, eat udon, play the dime pitch, and play bingo. I looked forward to eating the chicken udon, which was made by the original Gardena Kendo prior to the split. The dashi was made entirely from scratch, extremely flavorful, and it was served in real bowls. When I played bingo and the dime pitch, it was with the anticipation of proudly being able to present my parents with a small appliance, donated by Koby's Appliances, or a set of mismatched plates and cups. Looking back, they probably wished that someone else had won these prizes or that I purchased more food, however, they always smiled and thanked me.

The one thing that my parents would explain to me and my sister was the reason they felt the need to participate in the carnival. They felt that if we understood the reason, we would participate with the proper attitude and feeling. Our family tradition was to always labor together and enjoy the fruits of our labor together. My grandmother would use the term "giri" which translated means dutiful obligation, but she explained it more as a joyful responsibility we feel towards each other. The older generation believed the carnival represented a means of helping to rebuild and reunify the Japanese community after the war by bringing together all who survived the same experiences. I grew up being a confused Japanese American adolescent with an identity crisis. Watching Japanese stereotypes portrayed on TV and even my favorite cartoon character, Bugs Bunny, would battle a short, buck toothed, slant-eyed Tojo, who was also wearing thick horn-rimmed glasses. My feelings in seeing all this was confusion and thoughts that I was living in a country that I wasn't wanted. Being able to participate in all the Japanese American community activities during that time helped me deal with my identity crisis and made me feel that I wasn't alone, as well as, nurturing more pride in who I was and my heritage.

Next, in my role as a parent, we assisted with the Shaved Ice booth while my son attended the JCI Japanese School. One year while helping in the booth, I met Endo Sensei, who was my Principal at Compton Gakuen and later became the Principal at the JCI. I had the opportunity to apologize to him for being such a terrible student and thanked him for all his efforts to help us learn Japanese. I remember one experience with Endo Sensei, who had asked me and another student to lower the American flag that flew during every Japanese school session. When he saw that we didn't have a clue of what we were doing, he came out and told us that we should be more respectful since the flag was a symbol of America. He firmly told us that we should have

more pride in being born American, and patiently showed us how to fold the flag correctly. I found learning how to be a better American at a Japanese school very ironic.

My current stage of participation with the Carnival/Matsuri is as a member of Gardena JCI Kendo and as a GVJCI board member. After our separation from Gardena Kendo, the Dojo made chicken curry and then moved on to yakisoba. Our members really enjoy participating during the Matsuri and look forward to it every year. We participate as a partner organization with the JCI with great pride and joy. Our Sensei taught us to never be complacent and to always strive to improve whatever we do but never forget our foundation and the true reason and meaning that we participate. The goal may be to raise funds but each year gives me a chance to pay tribute to all the founding generations, my Dojo Sensei, my parents, my grandparents, and our community.

My family has enjoyed the Carnival/Matsuri for four generations. I feel that we should maintain the tradition not only to honor their past endeavors, but to remember where we came from and who brought us here. I feel that a key element of the Matsuri is that it continues to bring our community together and an opportunity to celebrate our heritage with pride together. Change is inevitable and some may see the Matsuri as old fashioned and perhaps out of date, however, what's wrong with being old fashioned. Many of us learned about Japan, our heritage, customs and traditions through our grandparents and we are somewhat time-locked in our understanding since the Japan they conveyed to us was from the late 1800's and this Japan no longer exists. I firmly believe we should utilize new concepts and technology, however, we should do so with the original feeling of the past.



GVJCI 2020 CALENDAR FUNDRAISER

Please help us by placing an ad in our 2020 GVJCI Calendar!
Your ad will promote your company/business and support the Gardena Valley JCI!

You can even place a Well Wisher ad to celebrate a birthday, graduation, milestone event or any special occasion!

The GVJCI Calendar is enjoyed by over 1,600 community members! Don't delay and reserve your ad space today!

For more information, please contact Cathy Lee
At clee@jci-gardena.org
310-324-6611

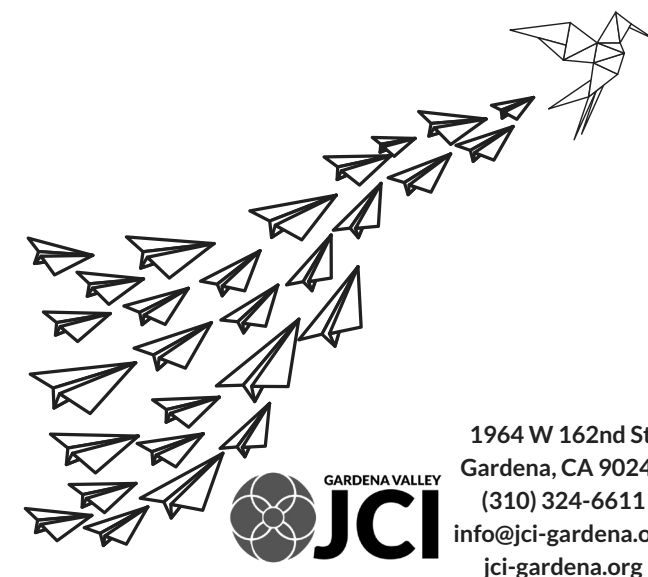
GVJCI 5th Annual Kansha Craft Show

Stay tuned for the date
announcement!

Looking for new craft
vendors to join us for this fun,
community oriented craft
show fundraiser!

For more information, please
contact Cathy Lee

At clee@jci-gardena.org
310-324-6611



1964 W 162nd St.
Gardena, CA 90247
(310) 324-6611
info@jci-gardena.org
jci-gardena.org

Come and join Tomo No Kai in 2019! Membership is \$12.00. New memberships and renewals must be paid at the first class attended. Participation will not be allowed without current membership. Minimum 50 years age requirement. Class fee is \$4/class.

TNK NEW CLASS Zumba Gold

Wednesdays from 2:45 - 3:45PM
Thursdays from 8:30 - 9:30AM
GVJCI Main Hall
Instructors Genie Nakano and Tim Toyama

There will be two Zumba Gold classes starting on May 1st! Zumba Gold is a total-body exercise program that uses dance movements and music for an energetic low-intensity aerobic workout; it builds strength and stamina; improves motion, flexibility and posture; burns a lot of calories and your brain gets a workout too...

and it's fun! Wear comfortable clothing and bring water.

TNK CLASS HIGHLIGHT Tai Chi with Misako Tsuchiya

Wednesdays from 1:30 - 2:30 PM in the GVJCI Main Hall

We are featuring Misako Tsuchiya who has been teaching Tai Chi at GVJCI since 2006. Tai chi is a martial art that has been refined into slow movements and exercise for good health. Tai Chi involves slow, gentle movements, natural breathing and mental focus. Benefits include relaxation, better circulation, improved balance, stability, and increase in energy level. Classes start with gentle warm ups, followed by the Yang Style 24-Form of Tai Chi. Everyone can balance their body, not only with Tai Chi, but also with daily activities such as walking. Please join the class and enjoy the movements!

Misako moved from Japan to the U.S. in 1981. She has studied Japanese healing arts, therapeutic exercise, Tai Chi and Qi Gong since 1975. She is interested in body, mind, and spirit connections for good health. Misako is an Alexander Technique teacher (certified in 1990) and one of the



first teachers of Japanese heritage of the Alexander Technique in the U.S. Misako loves Mother Earth and people, and wishes good health and happiness for everyone. Misako has organized the Manzanar Spirit Run for 28 years and does Native American ceremonies as a part of her spiritual practice.

TNK CHOIR/友の会コーラス

Mondays starting May 6th/月曜日5月6日より
3:15PM-4:30PM GVJCI Nisei Memorial Veterans Hall

Singing is fun! Singing is good for your health. If you can't read music, if you haven't sung for a long time and even if you've never sung in a group, don't worry! We'll start with songs that everyone knows and loves. Song list: Beautiful Dreamer, Home on the Range, Take Me Out to the Ballgame, 朧月夜、茶摘み.

Choir Director Profile: Hiroko Ogawa earned her Bachelors and Masters in Music at the Kobe University in Japan. She studied with pianist Jörg Demus in Salzburg, Austria and has been accompanying singers, instrumentalists and dancers for more than 20 years in the US. Ms. Ogawa is very active in accompanying, coaching, conducting, and managing concerts for choirs in the South Bay. She is now the president of the Nikkei Choral Federation of Southern California. Ms. Ogawa also writes a music column called "Ongaku no Sanpo Michi" (Music Promenade) for the Rafu Shimpo.

TNK MISCELLANEOUS

Qi Gong (Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall) is moving to Mondays 1:45PM-2:45PM starting Monday May 6th

Sumie (Rm #205) On break Apr 17th-May 29th, resumes Jun 5th Wednesday 1:30PM-3PM.

Have You Seen Our New The Bridge: GVJCI Heritage Center?

Nicole Sato, Program Manager

If you've ever been upstairs, you may have noticed we have an expansive collection of books! That's The Bridge: GVJCI Heritage Center, aka our library. Back in 2008, a group of volunteers and staff envisioned a center where people could bridge the generations and bridge their understanding and knowledge of the Japanese American cultural heritage so that its legacy will continue into the future. The majority of the books came from the Japanese American Culture and Community Center (JACCC) in Little Tokyo that had boxes of books from their closed library, and had heard about our library opening. We graciously accepted the donations and more books were generously donated by the community. From the Japanese Language School students to the parents that come with their children for the various classes and meetings we hold, The Bridge has been well utilized and loved over the many years. However, with the years of use, the furniture became old (and mismatched!), the books and shelves got dusty, the rug got too dirty, and a sprucing up was very much needed.

Last year, the GVJCI received a generous donation from Mitchell and Esther Kodama to fund a revamp of The Bridge, to spruce up the place and to increase visitors. The Kodama's saw the larger potential in our expansive, but a little hidden and sometimes not very well known library, and worked with staff to make it a reality. As staff, we envisioned a place where it was not only a space to peruse books when people come for other occasions, but a place where students can come and do their homework, children to hang out on our children's rug area, or to come look for Japanese-themed and Japanese language books that they may not be able to find in other libraries.

With the help of many volunteers at the end of March, we conducted The Bridge: GVJCI Heritage Center Revamp Day. We assembled furniture, rolled out a fresh, new rug, dusted off every shelf and book, and created a space just for the little ones. It was a day of community, with high school students, a Girl/Boy Scout family, Japanese Language School parents and students, a Tomo No Kai member, and staff working together to create a welcoming library environment for all to come and use.

But we're not done yet! We'll be putting fresh coats of paint and grooming our walls this summer. But in the meantime, please go check out our new, almost-revamped The Bridge: GVJCI Heritage Center. Grab a book, do your homework, or come kick back and relax in our new space.



