HAPPY NEW YEAR OF THE ROOSTER!

On behalf of our GVJCI Board of Directors and Staff, I wish you all the best for the new year, and thank each and every one of you for the support you gave us in 2016. Entering 2017, there are many uncertainties and challenges ahead for all of us. It has reinforced the purpose and existence of our organization to continue to build bridges of awareness, understanding, and compassion for all people despite our differences as a diverse nation.

We hope to continue what the generations before us worked so hard to build. We strive to provide a safe gathering place where people of all ages and backgrounds can come to learn, cultivate, and celebrate the rich Japanese American cultural heritage that exists today. After 50 years since its formal incorporation, GVJCI Board and Staff went through an in-depth process to reflect on our historical roots, our growth and development, and our plans to further enhance our impact in the South Bay community. With this, we decided to update our mission, vision, and logo to reflect what GVJCI is today and will continue to strive for in the future.

Thank you for your support!
Alison Kochiyama, Executive Director

Our deepest gratitude to the following 2016 monetary and non-monetary donations for recipients received by December 31, 2016. We apologize if we inadvertently left anyone off this list. Please let us know by contacting the GVJCI Office.
**MAPFRE/Commerce West**

MAPFRE/Commerce West Insurance Company, formerly Pioneer Western, 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 annual donations are made to Japanese American non-profit organizations that can purchase automobile insurance at discounted rates. In addition, annual donations are given to non-profit organizations that have the most members joining this program. Please ask your agent about this program. Below is a partial list of participating agencies.

**What's Important to You**

Union Bank understands the importance of preserving and promoting the rich heritage and culture of Japanese Americans. We are deeply committed to supporting organizations that work towards the betterment of our community.

**Continued on Pg.9**

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

**CULVER CITY**
Trust Insurance (310) 839-3127

**GARDENA**
AHKY Insurance (310) 516-0110

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

**LOS ANGELES**
Buna Insurance (213) 626-1547

**HUNTINGTON BEACH**
Mizu Insurance (714) 964-7277

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

**TERRANCE**
Kagawa Ins. (213) 628-1800

**Tatsumo Insurance** (213) 626-1954

**MONTEBELLO**
Ogino-Azumi, 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

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GVJCI Seeking Gifts to Ensure Its Future

Nothing lasts forever...

That's why the GVJCI Board of Directors has decided to embark on an ambitious campaign to ensure that the GVJCI capital assets (buildings and fixtures) last for many, many more years.

The Capital Assets Naming program provides targeted gift opportunities for individuals, organizations, or companies to "name" specific spaces at the GVJCI with major gifts that will pay for future capital repair and replacement costs. Starting with individual classrooms in the JCI Building to the JCI Hall and the JCI Building itself, gifts or pledges can range from $30,000 to $500,000. The amounts are determined by the amount of money required to maintain and replace the specific asset. Generous gifts of these amounts can be paid over a period of 3 years as a pledge.

For more information about making such a gift, please contact Alison Kochiyama, GVJCI Executive Director at akochiyama@jci-gardena.org or 310-324-6611.

Board of Directors Updates

GVJCI Board of Directors and Staff thank Robert Horii for dedicating 40 years to the GVJCI Board, in which he was integral to GVJCI's establishment, growth, and leadership. Bob was appointed to a prominent position as City Engineer of the City of Los Angeles in 1985, but Bob still remained active with GVJCI, which included many terms as President, Vice President, served on numerous board committees and projects, and he also served as President of the GVJCI Housing Project Board. Bob has seen the GVJCI through its ups and down, and countless JCI Carnivals-Matsuri. Before each Carnival-Matsuri, you would see him quietly setting up booth structures and equipment, setting up the electrical connections and lighting, and then during the Matsuri weekend, taking care of the accounting. Bob said that he still wants to continue helping with the Maturi! Bob, we can't express our gratitude enough for all you have given to this organization and the community...thank you!

With Nicole's involvement, we are looking to developing more bilingual programs and services as the needs have increased in the South Bay. Welcome Nicole!

Staff Updates

After two years, in October, we sadly said goodbye to Michelle Yamashiro. She began in 2014 as a part-time Program Assistant, then soon became our full-time Program Manager working on program development, policies and procedures. Michelle was instrumental in expanding our youth program, which included Homework Help, Fuyu Fun Camp, Obake Night, and now our annual Hina-matsuri (Girl's Day) and Kodomo No Hi (Children's Day) family cultural programs. She managed our first night market Yatai Food Festival with Japan Alliance bringing in many new people to the GVJCI. However, her contributions reached beyond programs, greatly contributing to the development of our new mission and vision of GVJCI. Michelle is now Kizuna's Program Director, where we continue to work with her through collaborations, and she also remains a GVJCI volunteer...thank you, Michelle!

On the Tokonoma...

If you've ever been up to the Bridge (that's where all the classrooms are!), you'd probably seen our Tokonoma - it's pretty hard to miss, after all. Featuring different Japanese events such as hinamatsuri or tango no sekku or show-casing our programs, every couple of months, the Tokonoma is changing.

The man behind it, Alvin Takamori, will be changing up our Tokonoma again, this time to feature the 75th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 and also the theme of our annual Day of Remembrance this year, Tule Lake Segregation Center. He will be showcasing the history of the incarceration camp, and about the loyalty questions that sent thousands to Tule Lake from other incarceration camps. Later, in March, he will be switching out the Tokonoma to feature our upcoming Art Exhibit that's happening on April 15th!
As our community becomes more diverse, we would like to use the term Nikkei to welcome and embrace folks of varied walks of life to participate in our programs, events, and most commonly used pronunciation is Nihon. The first character *Nikkei* is most commonly used pronunciation is Nihon. The first character is *Nikkei* is most commonly used pronunciation is Nihon. The first character is...
Happy New Year from GVJCI Tomo No Kai (TNK)! 2017 Membership dues of $10 will be collected in either the TNK class in which you attend or in the GVJCI Office.

Thank yous
A joyous celebration was held with 300 friends, good food, and entertainment at the Tomo No Kai Christmas Party on December 3, 2016. Thank you to our emcees Chika Nagata and Sachiko Uchizono, and to all of the talented TNK classes who performed—karaoke, line dance, hula, and ukulele. Thank you to Tomo No Kai and GEO for the donation of the Christmas tree and to King’s Ha’a’ula and ‘ukulele. Thank you to Tomo No Kai and GEO for the donation of the Christmas tree and to King’s Ha’ula, and ‘ukulele. Thank you to Tomo No Kai and GEO for the donation of the Christmas tree and to King’s Ha’ula, and ‘ukulele. Thank you to Tomo No Kai and GEO for the donation of the Christmas tree and to King’s Ha’ula, and ‘ukulele. Thank you to Tomo No Kai and GEO for the donation of the Christmas tree and to King’s Ha’ula, and ‘ukulele.

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**FEBRUARY**

**MICHITSKU**
SAT, FEB 4, 11-12:30 PM
Outside the GVJCI Main Hall
Join in on the fun and come pound some mochi! Not only will you learn all about the tradition and history of mochitsuki but you will get to experience the pounding of the rice and mold- ing of it as well. Open to the public and cost of participation will be $5 and will include all activities. Register online by 1/31 at: https://gvjci.wufoo.com/forms/mochitsuki-registration/

**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP**
SAT, MAR 11, 2-4:30 PM
GVJCI Classroom #208
Are you ready for when the “big one” hits? Are you prepared for other disasters? Come to our popular disaster preparedness workshop and learn how to be prepared for anything. Space is limited so please call the GVJCI office at (310) 324-6611 or email info@jci-gardena.org to reserve a spot.

**APRIL**

**WRI TER’S SALON**
SAT, APR 1, 2-4PM
GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall
Writer’s Salon is back! Come join author Genie Nakano, graphic designer Alvin Takamori, and author Joyce Nako for a fun literacy and craft workshop. You will read from their work, share their stories, and have a Q&A with the audience afterwards. Books can be purchased afterwards, upon availability. This will be a pay-what-you-wish event.

**COMPLEMENTARY ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE FORUM: PART II**
SUN, APR 2, 1:30-4:30PM
GVJCI Main Hall
This is a follow-up to the February 4th Complementary Alternative Medicine (CAM) Forum. ATSC will feature three practitioners: Certified Shiatsu-Anma Therapist and Certified Massage Therapist; Emmy Akiyama, a licensed practitioner: Alan Saruwatari, a Certified Shiatsu-Anma Therapist; and Patty Tahara Rassouli, a Reiki master. Reservations are requested. Email info@jci-gardena.org and please note that not all events will need volunteers.

**NEW CLASSES!**

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**DAY OF REMEMBRANCE ART EXHIBIT**
SAT, APR 15, 10-4PM
GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall
Join us as we remember the incarceration of the Japanese Americans through art. The GVJCI will have a Day of Remembrance Art Exhibit featuring the works of the Japanese American Incarceration 1942-2017. The all-day art exhibit will feature multiple artist’s works as well as an artist demonstration at 11:30AM, artist raffle, and an open mic in the afternoon from 2:30PM.