The Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute (GVJCI) envisions a vibrant network and a welcoming space for all persons interested in Japanese heritage and culture where he/she/she can:

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

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 the South Bay area. We also provide affordable housing through the JCI Gardens Apartments, the adjacent senior housing property.

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.

Our deepest gratitude to the following 2017 monetary and non-monetary donors for donations received by December 31, 2017. We apologize if we inadvertently left anyone off this list. Please let us know by contacting the GVJCI Office.

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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 Gardena Valley Japanese Language School. The GVJCI has a very proud history spanning over 50 years.

Today, we continue to provide a variety of activities, programs, and services. It is our hope that you will continue to be an active and well-utilized center serving the South Bay area.

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

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.

In This Newsletter...

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Tomo No Kai Corner........8
GVCI Quarterly..................10

Happy 2018 Year of the Dog!

2017 was a busy year for us, filled with a large variety of public programs, as we shared Nikkei history, cultural traditions and their adaptations, as well as people’s personal stories, and thought-provoking perspectives. We presented a year-long series of programs for the 75th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, which included film screenings, art exhibition, a bus to the Manzanar Pilgrimage, panel discussions, readings of writers’ works published and unpublished, musical performances, and historical presentations. Our work becomes even more important as we provide the community with a safe space for cultural expression, personal validation, and fellowship.

Building repairs and renovations also began on our long-awaited GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall kitchen! We look forward to its completion so that we can house our senior bento program once again, provide cultural cooking programs, and much more! Thank you for everyone’s donations towards this project.

We sincerely thank all of you for the support you give the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute (GVJCI) as participants in our programs and services, as volunteers, as monetary and non-monetary donors, and as community collaborators. We could not do all that we do without you. We hope that you will be a part of us again in 2018. We have a lot of exciting activities in progress!

~Alison Kochiyama, Executive Director

General Fund Donors

$10,000+ E.G.K. Foundation
$1,000 - $5,000

Hamada, Paul
Harada, Kenji
Hoops For Friends
$500 - $999

Gardena Valley Nisei Club
Orange County Sansei
Singles

Yonemura, Harry
$100 - $499

24 HR Homecare LLC
Akiyama, Miles & Mika
Akune, Kenji & Alice
Awakuni, Dorothy Teruko
Boy Scout Troop #663
Chuman, Christine & Shunshuke
Hata, Grace
Hayashi, Yoshio
Higuchi, H. Mario
Kimimoto, Jodi
Hori, Bob & Mary
Henderson, Gloria
Higashino, Alice
Awakuni, Dorothy Teruko

Miranda, Steven
Akawake, Gary
Dai
Lawrence Hada
Alice

Terry Teruchi
Maeda, Steven
Mayeda, Glen & Janet

Mitani, Dave
Miyashita, Tom-Mitchell
Murakami, Alko & Aki
Nagata, Chiharu & Harriet
Ogaysi, Charlie & Carol
Sasako, Chizuko & Nancy
Tabata, Lynne
Taga, Chris & Janet
Takashima, Aki
Teshima, Dr. Kenneth
Tomoike, Yukata & Bruce
Yano, Steve & Shirlene
$10 - $99

Amed, Richard
ANONYMOUS
Arakaki, Janice
Bitum, Aileen
Imai, Jane
Kikuyama, Anthony & Florence
Kotake, Mamoru
Kozawa, Minori & Peggy
Matsuda, Tomo
Matsui, Ellen
Miyamoto, Alan & Joan
Nakagawa, Robert
Nakazawa, Michael
Ogaysi, Charlie & Carol
Sakai, Yoshie
Sakita, Kei
Storey, Gwendolyn
Takahashi, Lawrence Hada,
Principle
Atsuko Vorreiter, Vice Principal & Teacher
Mayumi Itohino, Teacher
Atsuko Fukushima, Teacher
Naoko Okimatsu, Teacher
Masumi Sasak, Teacher
Chikko Suzuki, Teacher
Eiko Yamamoto, Adult Class & Conversation Class Teacher

Japanese Language School

Lawrence Hada, Principal
Atsuko Vorreiter, Vice Principal & Teacher

Board of Directors

Charley Doi, President
Ray Shibata, Vice President
Marilyn Teague, Secretary
Niles Akimoto, Treasurer
Richard Amos
Steven Awakume
Grant Nakasone
Alvin Takamori

Emeritus Board of Directors

Dan Ashizuma
Bob Hori
Helen Kawagoe
Paul Koshi
Helen Nakano
Shin Tachibana
Terry Teruchi

Staff

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

Facilities

Dale Sato, Facility Operations Manager
Brian Hidaka, Maintenance Custodian
Bob Saki, Maintenance Custodian
Gerald Miyawaki, Facility Assistant

Japanese Language School

Lawrence Hada, Principal
Atsuko Vorreiter, Vice Principal & Teacher

Miyumi Itohino, Teacher
Atsuko Fukushima, Teacher
Naoko Okimatsu, Teacher
Masumi Sasak, Teacher
Chikko Suzuki, Teacher
Eiko Yamamoto, Adult Class & Conversation Class Teacher

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PERMIT NO. 75

Makoto, Katsuyuki
Nagata, Chiharu
Ogaysi, Charlie & Carol
Sasako, Chizuko
Tabata, Lynne
Takahashi, Aki
Teshima, Dr. Kenneth
Takase, Mamoru
Kozawa, Minori & Peggy
Matsuda, Tomo
Matsui, Ellen
Miyamoto, Alan & Joan
Nakagawa, Robert
Nakazawa, Michael
Ogaysi, Charlie & Carol
Sakai, Yoshie
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Gardena, CA 90247
PERMIT NO. 75
Board of Directors Updates
At the end of 2017, the GVJCI Board of Directors and staff expressed their deepest gratitude to Helen Nakano who retired from the Board in which she dedicated over 40 years to. Helen was also the first woman to serve as GVJCI’s Board President in 1990, and served on numerous Board committees throughout the years. Helen will continue to be an integral part of our community center through her leadership of the Naginata dojo at GVJCI in which she established in 1974. She also remains active as a founding member of the United States Naginata Federation and Southern California Naginata Federation. Thank you, Helen, for the tremendous contributions you’ve made to GVJCI and the community!

Staff Updates
Please welcome Yuko Howes, our new Staff Associate, who joined our staff in November 2017. Formerly our front office volunteer, Yuko, in her new part-time position, lends support to senior programs and provides administrative assistance. With her Japanese bilingual skills, she is able to provide services to our Japanese-speaking members. This position is partially funded through Keiro’s generous grant support.

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 $550,000. 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.

On the Tokonoma...
Go upstairs and see our Tokonoma! Our Tokonoma is maintained wonderfully by our longtime volunteer and our newest Board of Directors, Alvin Takamori. This quarter, our Tokonoma will feature the theme of PAAWWW, or the Pacific Asian American Women Writers West. PAAWWW began in 1976 as an informal gathering of writers, actresses, and artists, with the goal of providing support to Asian American women writers and other women writers of color.

PAAWWW evolved into a dynamic group of writers from a variety of backgrounds and life experiences. Its atmosphere of mutual respect attracted some of the most talented Asian American women writers in the Los Angeles area. PAAWWW, in addition to fostering and sustaining the artistic development of women writers of color, sought to promote, perpetuate, and preserve Pacific Asian American literature, history, and arts; and to develop larger audiences for the artistic endeavors of Pacific Asian American women writers.

Operations Manager, and is still handling our technology needs. Please direct your needs to these new staff placements. We thank Megumi Moinen who helped us out greatly with the Japanese Language School’s bookkeeping for an interim period. Megumi is now the Service Coordinator at the JCI Gardens Apartments and is working in the South Bay LTSC Office.
Continued from page 3

Masai, Norman & Amy
Matsushima, Paul & Monica
Mayeda, Florence
Mayeda, Melvin & Christine
M CIA, Matsuura, Hatsu
Morodomi, Leslie
Mura, Miyoiko & Hideo
Nagao, Masae
Nakakura, Maie
Nakakura, Kenneth & Doris
Nakao, Harumi & James
Nakasaki, Emma
Nakatani, David & Lily
Nishimura, Bill
Noda, Alice
Nomura, Jon & Kathy
Oda & Chang, Warren & Juliet
Okazaki, Joyce
Okazaki, Shirley
Oshiro, Masanobu
Oyama, Tom & Chiyoko
Oye, Derek
Rus, Edmond
Sakamoto, Louise
Sasaki, Chuck & Nancy
Shimatsu, Jane
Shimizu, Joseph & Lilly
Suda, Sadao & Yuriko
Sueda, Irene
Sugita, Chris
Taga, Chris & Jan
Tahata, William & Erma
Tanguchi, Nied & Lois
Toya, Tim
Uemura, Hannah
Ura, Maya & Sidney
Uwahori, Sadie
Wakina, Asa & Bernice
Watanabe, Donald & Sachiko
Watanabe, Haru
Watanabe, Pat
Watanabe, Sue
Yahara, Shirley
Yamane, Dick & Judy
Yamashita, Robert DDS
Yoshih, Edna
Yoshimura, Midori N.

 Tributes
$1,000 - $4,999
In Memory of George Ajiioka
Ajiioka, Horii, Nancy
In Memory of Paul Masumoto
Anonymous
In Memory of Masao & Sharon
Awakuni, Akiko
In Memory of Janet Chin
Chinen, Ernest
Chinen, Brad
In Memory of Dorothy Teruko
Tolle, Terry & Cheryl
In Memory of Alvin Takamori
Fukukawa, Atsuko
In Memory of Frank Fukukawa
Hayashi, Yoshiko
In Memory of Chiho Otani
Hayashi, Yoshiko
In Memory of Sumikichi Nozaki
Hayashi, Yoshiko
In Memory of Bruce Kay
Hayashi, Yoshiko
In Memory of Kazue Kudo
Hayashi, Yoshiko
In Honor of Shirley Mikami’s Birthday
Inaba, Meliko
Inaba, Douglas & Risa & Family
Oshiro, Gary & Laurie & Family
Frey, Peggy
Matsura, Julie
Mikami, Richard & Ann
In Memory of Myrna Kawahara’s Birthday
Kaneda, Joyce
In Memory of Myrna Kawahara
Kaneda, Rita
In Memory of Mitzi Kiyokane
Kato, Dan & Sharon
In Memory of Kazuo & Tomiko
Maeda, Akiko
In Memory of Masahiko Miyakoda
Miyakoda, Michiko
Miyakoda, Miko
In Memory of Mrs Terasaki
Sakai, Kei
In Memory of Michio Takade
Takade, Nancy
In Memory of Yoshio Terao
Terao, DDS, Ernest
In Memory of Alex Nobi Yoshio
Toyota Good, Jo Yoichi
In Memory of Frank M. & Sueko
Yonemura, Yone
In Memory of Tom M. Yonemura
Yonemura, Harry
$10 - $999
In Memory of Sumi Okuma
Ajiioka, Masako
In Memory of Stan Teruya
Awakuni, Dorothy Teruko
In Honor of Shirley Mikami’s Birthday
Champagne Taste
In Memory of George Ajiioka &
Paul Masumoto
In Memory of Reiko Yonemura
In Memory of Reiko Arai
Demarco, William
In Memory of Doris Hashimoto
Williams, Inouye, June
In Memory of Minoru Mizuba
Inouye, June K
In Memory of Roy Kato
Kato, Jeanne
In Memory of Masahiko Miyakoda
Kishimoto, Sammy & Chiyoko
Tanaka, Eunice
In Memory of Victoria
Yamashiro, Taeeko
In Memory of Avery Aki Hayashi
Yamashita, Maria
In Memory of Althea Aki
Yamashita, Roy

Vehicle Donations
Benen, Mori
Berry, Jeffrey
Brookman, Lillian
Hedda, Tamotsu
Iwamiya, Marc
Kambe, Ed
Kawahara, Myrna
Kiyo, Earl
Lee, Ryan
Mayeda, Florence
Mizuba, Dorothy
Nakamura, Hideko
Nakasima, Terry
Noda, Gene & Milho
Sayman, Eduardo
Takahashi, Ben
Taniguchi, Takuji
Uyeno, Ronald
Yamasaki, Dick &
Yamasaki, Jenny
Yano, Elaine
Yoshin, Yamura

In-Kind Donations of Items or Services
@Home Kitchen
20th Century Fox Film
Akiyama, Miles
Arlene Yamamoto
2004 Olympic Basketball
Back Home in Lahaina
Benson, Charles & Laura
Brew Yard
Coca Cola Co
Country Touch
Crenshaw Lumber
DFI
Gardena Bowl Coffee Shop
Gardena Buffet & Grill
Gardena Watch Co
Glico
Go For Broke National
Education Center

Fall Program Highlights
What a quarter for programs! We started off the fall with several workshops including our Ikebana Workshop with our guest teacher Sharon Tachibana, where she taught the participants how to practice the Japanese art of Ikebana with flowers they can find in their backyard. We had our Emergency Preparedness Fair featuring many community organizations that informed attendees what to do, what to prepare, and how to act in case of an emergency. We held two film screenings within the theme of our 75th anniversary of the signing of EO 9066. Right of Passage was a Japanese disaster film that has many important stories of those who worked to change what was wrong in the past. We also hosted Hold These Truths, a sold out solo-performance play written by Jeanne Sakata, about civil rights activist Gordon Hirabayashi. We invited Sakata to share how he worked to change what was wrong in the past, Derek has returned as an official TANOSHII counselor! Derek has been a great leader to this summer and has been a role model to our campers by making a difference in their summer fun!

WE'RE LOOKING FOR COUNSELORS!
Calling high school and college students! Come join us for TANOSHII Fun Camp 2018 as a camp counselor. Come have fun and be a great leader and role model to our campers by making a difference in their summer fun! For more information, camp registration, and counselor application, please go to our website at jci-gardena.org/tanoshii-fun-camp.

TANOSHII FUN CAMP 2018!
Come join us for our 11th Annual TANOSHII Fun Camp! From July 9th to 13th, have your kids experience and come join us for a fun field trip! This year’s theme will be Oshougatsu or New Years, and the camp will focus activities around Oshougatsu traditions. Register early before the limited spaces are filled!

Oshougatsu traditions. Register early before the limited spaces are filled!

This year, we had the honor of nominating Derek Hino for Gardena Evening Optimist’s Youth Achievement Award! For those of you who have children who attended the annual TANOSHII Fun Camp, Derek may be a familiar face. Derek is a senior at Peninsula High School in Palos Verdes and has been a longtime friend of the GVJCI. Derek started as a camper in our annual TANOSHII Fun Camp and spent many summers with us. Once reached the camper age limit, he still wanted to help out, specifically in the origami arena! We were very thankful for young Derek’s help running around the classroom assisting all of our confused high school and college student counselors with intricate crafts. Now, for the past couple of years, Derek has returned as an official TANOSHII counselor! Derek has been a great leader to both his peer counselors as well as the campers, always being helpful, encouraging, and serving as our origami expert. Derek plans to study engineering in college (his thoughts are coming into play!) and we wish him the best of luck. Congrats, Derek!

Derek receives his GEO Youth Achievement Award. From left to right: Parents Robert Hino & Nina Hino, Awardee Derek Hino, GEO Representative Ron Hayashida, GVJCI Representative Nicole Sato & Ray Shibata, GEO President Ron Ikejiri.

Glico
Gardena Buffet & Grill
Country Touch
Coca Cola Co
Benson, Charles & Laura
Brew Yard
Coca Cola Co
Crenshaw Lumber
DFI
Gardena Bowl Coffee Shop
Gardena Buffet & Grill
Gardena Watch Co
Glico
Go For Broke National Education Center

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Tomo No Kai Corner

Thanks to all of the Tomo No Kai (TNK) members who supported ALL of the TNK functions in 2017.

The TNK Christmas Party on December 2, 2017 was a success. Tomo No Kai would like to thank Gardena City Councilmember Dan Medina for the cakes he donated for the TNK Christmas party, and also for the Birthday cakes that he has provided throughout the year. Domo arigatou to Sachiko Uchizono and Chiaka Nagata for emceeing the Christmas party. Domo arigatou, Sachiko, and your Karaoke group for both the songs and dance that you performed—they were well-appreciated. Much aloha to Chiaka, a “natural emcee” and Harriet, and their groups for providing the island music and hula to everyone. Domo arigatou to the Line Dancers and their instructors for their performance, which is always appreciated. Much Aloha to Island Eats for catering the Christmas bento—it was well-received. ARIGATOU to all who attended the Christmas party, made donations, and bought 50/50 raffle tickets, making the 2017 TNK Christmas party a success!

NEW CLASSES COMING!

Phone calls, Text Messages, Email
Settings – display, volume/sound, etc.
Components, Symbols

Week 1 – February 8, 2018
Week 2 – February 15, 2018
Week 3 – February 22, 2018
Week 4 – March 1, 2018
Week 5 – March 8, 2018
Week 6 – March 15, 2018

Donation Reiki Clinic
Last Thurs of the Month, 10:30AM-12:30PM
Classroom 207/208
Donation Based

Have you ever wondered what Reiki energy healing is all about? Here is your chance to find out! At the Reiki donation clinic, practitioners will remove blockages which can help you to feel better emotionally, to think in a more uplifting manner and to help. Sometimes the shoes of those who came before us seem so large, and we feel inclined to turn around and run the other way. But if there is anything I learned this past year, it is not to fear. Instead, we are to appreciate and cherish being a part of something larger than ourselves and working together to write the next chapter of our story.

Airi Takashima

If there is one thing I learned from my year with the Gardena Valley JCI board, it is that the concept of fear is unknown to them. But how do they do it? In a time when cities are in disarray, crime rates increase and news of political unrest pollutes our ears, how do they fight fear? First, they talk. They delve into the minute details and are unfraid of confrontation and late nights. They face the doubt cast upon their opinions because they are standing up for a community and its needs. Second, they take chances. They take chances on the next generation and have conversations with them. They step over boundaries and sit across from one another, discussing the future of Comic Con and baseball over dinner. Finally, they celebrate together. They cook food, play bingo, tell stories and laugh together. They laugh through the good times and laugh with the great times. Years of hard work go into creating a safe space for a community, and the JCI had been doing that for years, with resilience and grace.

As the next generation, I am still searching for how I can help. Sometimes the shoes of those who came before us seem so large, and we feel inclined to turn around and run the other way. But if there is anything I learned this past year, it is not to fear. Instead, we are to appreciate and cherish being a part of something larger than ourselves and working together to write the next chapter of our story.

Bryan Yamada

I was always interested in joining a nonprofit organization and had the opportunity to join Kizuna earlier this year in which they placed me and another member, Airi, at the Gardens Valley Japanese Cultural Institute. Kizuna was a great learning experience because they educated and prepared us on several topics about nonprofit organizations like learning about board governance, determining if an organization is financially healthy, and networking skills to communicate to others through fundraising. Once I started attending the board meetings and being involved at GVJCI, I knew that I would love it. I gained a better understanding on the correlation and importance of nonprofit organizations and community outreach.

My overall experience exceeded my expectations because GVJCI provided so many different classes, programs, and services to the community. As a board member intern, I was mentored by the VP, Ray Shibata. He took the time to meet with me for dinner on several occasions to explain the board fellowship program and to personally get to know me. GVJCI offered many different committees to join, but unfortunately I was only available to join one which was the strategic planning committee. During my time there, they held regular board meetings once a month which was interesting to be a part of. I also volunteered at the GVJCI Matsuri fundraiser back in June, and attended their board retreat to discuss and generate different ideas for the future of GVJCI.

Thank you Ray and the rest of the board members for the great experience. I look forward to mentoring the younger generation like you have done for us.

Gardena Valley JCI News

Words from our 2017 Next Generation Leadership Fellows

2018 TNK membership: Membership fee is $12.00. New memberships and renewals must be paid at the first class attended. Students cannot participate in the classes without a current 2018 membership. Age is 50 years and above.

TNK Fundraisers: The next fundraiser trip (Casino) is scheduled for February 19, 2018.

TNK Bingo is every Monday and Wednesday 12:15-1:15 in the GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall.

Come to the GVJCI Office for all class schedules or visit our website at jci-gardena.org or call (310) 324-6611.

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February

Setsubun Sat, Feb 3, 11-12:30 PM
Breezeway

Setsubun is a Japanese holiday celebrated every February. Setsubun celebrates the welcoming of spring by bringing in good luck for the new year and getting rid of the old year’s bad luck! Come join us as we eat yummy Setsubun treats, practice the tradition of mamemaki (bean throwing/scattering), and make a cracked egg guess! A good luck event is geared towards children but all ages welcome!! Registration is $5. Please register online or at our office. https://gvjci.wufoo.com/forms/setsubun-2018/

South Bay Smash Bros.: Super Smash Bros. 4 Video Game Tournament Fundraiser
Sat, Feb 3, 12-8 PM
GVJCI Main Hall

Join us at the GVJCI as we host the South Bay Smash Bros. In our first ever video game tournament! Super Smash Bros., the popular Nintendo fighting game, has a large tournament community that spans the globe and SoCal has one of the most active tournament communities.

In an exciting revival of the South Bay Super Smash Bros. Community, we will be hosting the South Bay Smash Bros. for a local Super Smash Bros. for WiiU tournament for ALL AGES and ALL SKILL LEVELS!

We’ve got multiple events, including Singles (1v1) and Doubles (2v2) tournaments, with prizes for the top players in each category. All events are BYOC (Bring Your Own Controller). We will also have food, drinks, and snacks for everyone! Registration is $10 for player entry + $5 for Singles and/or $5 for Doubles. Please register online or at our office. Event is free to the public, no registrations required. For more information, please email us at info@jci-gardena.org or call us at (310) 324-6611.

March

Everything You Wanted to Know About Estate Planning But Were Afraid to Ask
Fri, Mar 2, 9:30-12:30 PM
GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

We all know the importance of getting your legal and financial documents in order, but what will happen to your property and possessions after you are gone? Join LTSC as we welcome Akemi Kondo Dalvi from Kondo Wealth Advisors who will help us to explain how Estate Plans will not only direct what will happen to your assets, but also ensure your final wishes are met and maximize the value of your estate. Event is free reservations are required. Please call the LTSC office at (213) 473-3035. Lunch will be provided.

Hinamatsuri
Sat, Mar 3, 11-12:30 PM
GVJCI Classrooms

Celebrate the health and happiness of girls at our annual Hinamatsuri, Girl’s Day! Come join us for fun Hinamatsuri themed crafts and delicious snacks as we celebrate our March holiday with our Japanese Language School students! Registration is $5. Please register online or at our event. Event is geared towards children but all ages welcome! https://gvjci.wufoo.com/forms/hinamatsuri-2018/

LTC Caregiver Training
Sat, Mar 4, 8:30-1 PM
GVJCI Classrooms 207/208

Interested in becoming a care provider or want to learn more about becoming a care provider? LTC will provide basic caregiving skills training to those who are interested in becoming a care provider. LTC is a Certified Care Provider Registry. Training is free but reservations are required. Please call Jun or Kiyoko at (213) 473-3035 to reserve a space. Hurry! Only 20 spots!

When Women Rule the Court: A Book Event
Sat, Mar 10, 7-9 PM
GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Basketball has been an important part of the Japanese American life for a century now. Basketball is not only a sport but also an essential element to the community. Women’s basketball holds a special place in the contemporary scene of highly organized and competitive Japanese American leagues in California. In part because these leagues have produced numerous talented female players. Join us as we invite author Nicole Willms to join us in a panel with Jamie Hagiy and Colleen Matsuhasha to talk about how women’s basketball explores the interplay of social registers and community dynamics that have shaped this unique context of female athletic empowerment. Free to the public, but donations are greatly appreciated. No reservations required.

Normal “Senior Moments” or Early Stage Alzheimer’s – Is It Preventable?
Sun, Mar 18, 2-4:30 PM
GVJCI Main Hall

Do you ever find yourself asking this question and want to know what you can do? Come find out if your forgetful moments are just common “senior moments” or if it’s an early stage of Alzheimer’s. Reservation required please call LTSC at (213) 473-3035 or register online at www.LTSC.org. English with Japanese simultaneous interpretation available.

Financial Planning for Younger Families
Sat, Mar 24, 9:30-12:30 PM
GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Being a responsible parent includes dealing with the day-to-day but also planning for any eventuality. What happens to your children if you unexpectedly pass away? What if your spouse gets remarried and has more children? When and how will wealth be transferred? Join us as we partner with LTC, Ryan Onishi, CFO, CRFP, and Brent, Esq., to clarify the complicated world of Wills and Trusts, Guardianship, and beyond. Registration is free but reservations are required. Please call the LTSC office at (223) 473-3035 to reserve a spot. Lunch will be provided.

April

Shibori Workshop
Sat, Apr 21, 1-3 PM
GVJCI Campus (Please check back for specific location)

Our shibori workshop is back! Join us as we welcome back textile artist Setsuko Hayashi for another one of our popular workshops. We will be making a color woodblock shibori 100% silk scarf, from the iajime method. Participants will be able to choose from two color combinations of dyes as they use the blocks to form a dimensional and dynamic design. Registration is required and the fee is $35. Register online or at our office. All materials will be provided but please an apron or a shirt you don’t mind getting dirty.

Manzanar Pilgrimage Bus Sat, Apr 28, 6:30 AM-8:30 PM
GVJCI Campus

Join us on a bus to the 49th annual community-wide Manzanar Pilgrimage at the Manzanar Historic Site. Manzanar was the site of an American WWII concentration camp that was used to forcibly house people of Japanese descent from 1942-1945. The Pilgrimage Program features speakers, performances, Interfaith religious ceremony, and community onds. The GVJCI itinerary, however, allows for participants (particularly first-time visitors and families) to visit the Manzanar Interpretive Center (founded in 2004) as an option. Cost is $40 for adults, $25 for students and seniors (65+), and free for former incarcerees. Middle school-aged students and younger must be accompanied by an adult. A signed permission slip is required for high school students under 18 traveling without an adult. If you would like to reserve a seat on our bus, please email info@jci-gardena.org or call (310) 324-6611. It will be a first come first serve basis and registration will end once spaces fill up. Payment will guarantee registration.

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. Please note that not all events will need volunteers.