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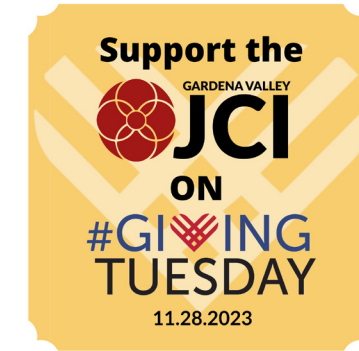
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SAVE-THE-DATE! 2023 GVJCI GIVING TUESDAY CAMPAIGN IS NOVEMBER 28, 2023



Join us in this Global Day of Giving by supporting the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute (GVJCI). We invite you to support the programs and events that enable us to continue creating a space to engage, share, and embrace Nikkei culture! No amount is too little. Last year, we raised over \$3,800 (Thank you donors!) and hope to match or exceed that amount this year.

Donate to GVJCI's Giving Tuesday Campaign via GVJCI's website JCI-Gardena.org

Thank you for your support!

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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

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Bob Seki, *Maintenance Custodian*
Bryan Tamura, *Maintenance Custodian*
Gary Fujikawa, *Facility Assistant*
Alvin Takamori, *Facility Assistant*

Japanese Language School

Lawrence Hada, *Principal*
Masumi Sasaki, *Vice Principal & Teacher*
Mayumi Fuchino, *Teacher*
Noboru Mishima, *Teacher*
Asaka Morita, *Teacher*
Chiaki Suzuki, *Teacher*
Naoko Tran, *Teacher*
Aki Izumi, *Adult Class & Conversation Class Teacher*

2024 GVJCI Matsuri Fundraiser

Save-the-Date!

Saturday, June 29, 2024

10:00am - 7:00pm

At the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute

Delicious food, fun games, bingo, entertainment, beer garden, plant sale, white elephant, craft booth and more!

Did you know our annual GVJCI Matsuri is 100% volunteer run by our wonderful Member Organizations, 100% of the proceeds go directly to the GVJCI!



FACILITY UPDATE



After the GVJCI Matsuri, it was time to get back on track. As we move forward and focus on freshening up the GVJCI campus, this summer we were able to make progress on the Bridge Library and Classrooms. I would like to thank our intern from Japan, **Yuma Ori**, who helped change all the door hardware to be ADA-compliant. I would also like to thank those who volunteered to paint all the classroom doors: **Glenn and Donna Sanada, Dan Morimizu, Ken Yanai, and Yuma Ori**—thank you for your commitment, dedication, and hard work in making the GVJCI more inviting. I appreciate and applaud you all. I would like to thank all the local interns this summer—**Haruka Ishii, Ryan Hino, Darren Kawazoe, Sammy Williams, and Stephanie Ajifu**—for all their hard work in assisting me in reorganizing our storage rooms. We were able to return the Issei Room back to the Nisei VFW Post 1961 men and women for their meetings and social gatherings. Also, I would like to thank **BSA 683 Kyle Yamazaki** for completing his Eagle Scout project. He designed and built two new table stackers for the NVM hall with the support of his troop and family. We appreciate all the support from our volunteers, donors, and member organizations.

Have a great holiday, be safe, and stay healthy.

Lyndon B. Meighan
Community Engagement
and Facility Manager

JCI Car Donation Program

Thinking of donating your car to charity? Now you can, and at the same time, support GVJCI! We have teamed up with Harold's Car Donation Service.

HOW IT WORKS:

1. Call or email us to arrange pickup at (310) 324-6611 or cars@jci-gardena.org.
2. Harold's Car Donation Service (HCDS) will arrange towing, always free of charge to you. (Disabled Vehicles, Junk Cars, Scrap Cars and Wrecks also accepted.)
3. HCDS handles all DMV paperwork at time of pickup, including Release of Liability.
4. After the car is sold, your acknowledgement and tax forms will arrive by mail.
5. You get rid of an unwanted car and get the satisfaction of helping others. You also get an IRS approved tax deduction. Yay!



Gardena Valley JCI CALENDAR

NOV

SANSEI STORIES WORKSHOP SERIES

MON, NOV. 1, 8, 15, & 29, 7-9PM
GVJCI Upstairs Classroom 205
Write and tell your story. Write about yourself, your family, your friends. Add a story to your legacy. This workshop series is designed to help new and experienced writers develop an idea, character or story. Participation fee is \$15 for each workshop or \$90 for the entire series. Writer Tim Toyama will conduct this workshop.

SELF DEFENSE WORKSHOPS | セルフ デ ィフェンスワークショップ

TUES, NOV 14, 7-9PM
GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall | ガーデナバレー二世ベテランズホール
FREE
The theme of these workshops is Self Defense and Situational Awareness Workshop. The first 30 minutes will focus on Situational Awareness and general considerations of preparedness. The remaining 90 minutes consists of introduction of practical self defense techniques including striking, kicking, and blocking as methods to minimize any attack and injury and to facilitate escape. Each workshop is taught by 6th degree black belt instructor Art Ishii from the Matsubayashi-Ryu Karate-Do of Little Tokyo. This program is made possible by the Asian Pacific Community Fund COVID-19 Recovery Fund.

このワークショップのテーマは自己防衛と状況把握意識です。前半30分はどのような状況かを認識する事と日常の備えにフォーカスします。後半90分は攻撃を最小限にとどめ脱出を容易にするために実践的なあらゆる手段の自己防衛テクニック方法を紹介いたします。各ワークショップはリトル東京松林流空手道黒帯六段のアーティスト先生にご教授いただきます。無料、ご寄付いただけると幸いです。このプログラム提供はアジアパシフィックコミュニティコロナ19ファンドにより可能になりました。

HOW TO STAY SAFE & PROTECT YOURSELF ONLINE

FRI, NOV 17, 1:30-3:00PM
GVJCI Upstairs Classroom 207/208
In a world that keeps evolving around technology, it feels overwhelming to be at constant risk of losing what you have to scammers. However, when you learn about the risks that you face online, you can learn the fastest, beginner-friendly ways to protect yourself, and let knowledge be your frontline defense. Don't be afraid of scammers; Be prepared, in this free 90 minute presentation.

DEC ADULTING WORKSHOP: RESUME WRITING FOR HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE STUDENTS

SAT, DEC 2, 2-3:30PM
ONLINE
This free online resume-building workshop will help you be excited to apply new ideas with greater confidence in taking the next steps toward preparing a resume that engages reviewers and leads to more interviews. This workshop will cover what a resume is and why you need one. We will review the six sections of a resume: heading, objective, education, work experience, special skills, and references. ABOUT OUR SPEAKER: DR. CARRIE LEW
Dr. Carrie Lew retired in 2019 from 26 years in leadership roles at the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work as director, assistant dean and associate dean. She was involved in several start-up programs such as the Global (International) MSW, Virtual Academic Center, Professional and Career Development, Continuing Education, Alumni Relations, and Employment Development (Non-Traditional) social work opportunities and DSW@USC. Post "retirement," she worked at the USC Career Center advising students from all disciplines on resume writing, internship/job search, interviewing,

salary negotiation, etc. She continues to enjoy assisting others find their career path.

KAMI BAND WORKSHOP: NEW YEAR'S WREATH SHIMENAWA

MON, DEC 4, 10AM-12:00PM, 12:30PM-2:30PM, 3:00PM-5:00PM
GVJCI UPSTAIRS CLASSROOM 207/208
Taught by instructor Maggie Meza, participants will make a New Year's wreath. Fee is \$20 per participant (all supplies included). Same instruction offered 3 different times. Student can only take one of the 3 class times. Limited to 10 people per class. This is a very popular workshop--please register early!

紙バンドワークショップ：お正月のしめなわを作ります

12月4日(月) 午前10時-午後12時, 10名/午後12:30-2:30, 10名/午後3:00-5:00, 10名(おひとりクラスのみ、3クラス開催) GVJCI2階クラスルーム 207/208
講師マギーさんによるワークショップ。今回はお正月のリースを制作します。参加費\$20(材料費込み)、各クラス10名限定。大人気のワークショップですのでお早めにお申し込みください。

TEA WITH A COP

FRI, DEC 8, 1-3PM
GVJCI Upstairs Classroom 207/208
In collaboration with the Gardena Police Department and Little Tokyo Service Center, GVJCI will be hosting a presentation by Gardena Police Officer, Vicente Osorio, who will give a presentation on how to identify crimes and non-crimes, how to report to the police, and more. A Q&A session will follow the presentation along with a meet and greet with officers. This program is free to attend. No registration required.



Tomo No Kai Corner

Time to renew your annual Tomo No Kai (TNK) membership for 2024! Starting on Wednesday, November 1st, you can sign up or renew your membership at the GVJCI office or online on our website at www.jci-gardena.org/tnk-classes. Membership costs \$12 and you can also use it for the remainder of 2023! If you're new to TNK, be sure to check out our extensive class schedule by picking up a flyer at our office or visiting our website. Here are some more highlights of TNK membership:



- Senior Bento Program - Members who are 60 years or older can purchase freshly-made Japanese bento lunches for a subsidized cost of \$7.
- Tomo Cafe - Members can drop in the GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall Monday through Friday, 9-11am, for hot coffee and free pastries, and get together to chat with friends!
- A variety of different TNK classes including, physical fitness, ballroom dance, hula, yoga, oil and watercolor painting, and more! Most classes are only \$6 to participate.

2024年度友の会(TNK)メンバーシップ更新の時期になりました。11月1日水曜日より、GVJCIオフィスまたはオンラインのウェブサイト www.jci-gardena.org/tnk-classes にてメンバーシップの登録または更新ができるようになります。会員料金は12ドルで2023年の残り期間もご利用いただけます。友の会(TNK)を初めてご利用になる場合はオフィスでチラシを入手するか、ウェブサイトにアクセスして豊富なクラススケジュールをご確認ください。友の会(TNK)メンバーシップのその他のハイライトは次の通りです。

- シニア弁当プログラム - 60歳以上の会員は、7ドルの補助金で作った日本のスタイルの弁当を購入できます。
- 友カフェ - メンバーは月曜から金曜の午前9時から11時までGVJCI二世ベテランズメモリアルホールにてカフェを提供しています。ホットコーヒーや緑茶などの温かい飲み物と無料のペストリーと共に楽しいおしゃべりに花を咲かせましょう
- フィジカルフィットネス、社交ダンス、フラダンス、ヨガ、油絵、水彩画など多彩なクラスをご用意してます。ほとんどのクラスの参加料は6ドルです!



Insurance program for members of Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute. Our partnership with MAPFRE Insurance offers important auto coverages like comprehensive and collision deductible options and of course a multitude of discounts including multi-policy discounts up to 20%. As part of your MAPFRE Insurance auto policy you also receive a complimentary membership to Road America's Roadside Assistance service.

Please contact one of the agencies below to get your auto quote today!

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GARDENA AHTKY Insurance Agency (310) 516-0110 Nakamura Insurance Agency (310) 327-0717	LONG BEACH Noriyuki Marumoto (562) 595-4403	MONTEREY PARK Quality Ins. Service Inc. (323) 727-7755	VAN NUYS Panorama Insurance Agency Inc. (818) 781-6630
HUNTINGTON BEACH Mizuno Insurance Agency (714) 964-7227	LOS ANGELES Buna Insurance Agency (213) 626-1547 FIA Insurance Services, Inc. (626) 795-7059 Tatsuno Business Service, Inc. (213) 626-1954		

** Insert any legal disclosures i.e. underwritten by CWIC etc.

警官とお茶する
 12月8日金曜日、午後1時から3時まで
GVJCI 2階教室 207/208
 GVJCIはガーデナ警察署およびリトル東京サービスセンターと協力して、ガーデナ警察のビセンテ・オソリオ氏によるプレゼンテーションを主催し、犯罪と非犯罪を見分ける方法、警察への通報方法、および犯罪についてのプレゼンテーションを行います。もっと。プレゼンテーション後には質疑応答が行われ、ビセンテ氏との交流も行われます。このプログラムは参加無料です。申し込みは必要ありません。

JAN
LET'S TALK STORY - SENIOR MEMORY COLLECTION WORKSHOP
SAT, JAN 13, 2-5PM
GVJCI NISEI VETERANS MEMORIAL HALL
 Designed to combat loneliness, and reduce cognitive decline and memory loss, this workshop welcomes all seniors and their families to share and record their stories in their very own memory book (all supplies provided). This is a free program for all ages. Registration required in order to participate. Please call (310) 324-6611 or visit our website to register.

2023 GVJCI ELEMENTAL FUNK CONCERT FUNDRAISER & HALLOWEEN PARTY

Benefiting the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute (GVJCI)
DATE: Saturday, October 28, 2023
TIME: 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
LOCATION: GVJCI, Main Hall, 1964 W. 162nd St., Gardena, CA 90247
NOTE: All attendees must be age 21 or over. Please bring valid Identification.

As always, Sapporo beer, wine and super tasty appetizers are on our menu and available for purchase! Credit card payments only please.



TICKETS:
 Early Bird Ticket Price: \$40.00 through October 20, 2023
 General Admission Ticket Price: \$50.00 at the door (while supplies last)

Come join us for the BEST live band in the South Bay...
Elemental Funk!!

While you are being entertained with the smooth songs of Earth Wind & Fire, or with the upbeat pop songs of Bruno Mars, you are supporting the GVJCI and our community! Costumes are optional!

Two ways to purchase tickets:
 1. [Please visit our website to purchase tickets by 10/27/23](#)
 2. Complete the following Ticket Form and return to our office by Oct 20th. Please make checks payable to GVJCI and note Elemental Funk.

Sat, Oct 28 2023 GVJCI Elemental Funk Concert Fundraiser Ticket Form

Please return with payment no later than October 20 for Early Bird Price \$40

Send form & payment to:
 GVJCI
 1964 W 162nd St,
 Gardena, CA 90247

[Or visit our website to purchase tickets online!](#)



Name	
Email	
Phone #	
Number of Tickets	
Total Ticket Amount	\$
Optional Additional Donation Amount	\$
Total Amount Enclosed	\$
I'd like to reserve a table for 10 people. Names are listed here, or I will send/email names to Cathy Lee, cleee@jci-gardena.org by 10/20/23	
Additional Comments	

Here's how it works:

1. A senior and their family, or a senior and a volunteer, will receive a memory book to fill out together.
2. The family member or volunteer will ask questions listed in the memory book, and the senior will answer them. Family or volunteers will fill out the book.
3. Once the memory book is completed, the senior will be given the memory book as a keepsake.

2024 RAFFLE DRAWING THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 10:00AM

Visit our office to purchase raffle tickets. Winner need not be present to win.

GVJCI See's Candies ONLINE Fundraiser

Oct 1 - Dec 1, 2023

Visit the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute online storefront

Treat yourself to the yummiest candy on earth and support GVJCI at the same time! We'll receive all profits from any items you purchase. Last year our fundraiser was a success because of you! Please help us reach our fundraising goal of \$2,500 this year! Great for holiday parties & gifts!



This is an online fundraiser, orders can only be placed online. Winter items are available to ship 11/10/23
****FREE SHIPPING ON ORDERS \$70+ ****

How to order:

1. Visit the [GVJCI online See's Candies storefront](#)
 - a. You can also access our storefront from our website or instagram link in bio. Choose your candies for purchase
2. Pay online. Note Ground shipping is free with \$70+ orders!
3. Orders will be shipped beginning 11/10/23
4. Thank you for supporting our fundraising efforts!

Join Keiro's Quality of Life Classes!

Keiro hosts monthly virtual and in-person Quality of Life Classes focusing on and promoting lifestyle changes that enhance the quality of life for older adults.

Join us virtually on October 17, 2 - 3 p.m., for **How to Prepare for an ER Visit** welcoming an ER doctor. To register for FREE, visit [keiro.org/qol](#).

Keiro

THANK YOU, INTERNS!

As we do every summer, we welcome a new cohort of interns that provide vital support to GVJCI. This year, we had (pictured from left to right) Ryan Hino, Darren Kawazoe, Haruka Ishii, Stephanie Ajifu, and Sammy Williams join our team! Ryan, Darren, and Sammy provided support as Programs & Events Interns, Haruka joined as Marketing & Social Media Intern, and Stephanie was our Nikkei Community Internship Intern from Kizuna. You might be wondering what our interns do for our organization. Well, the simple answer is they wear many different hats, as do our staff! From TikTok videos, Instagram posts, and email campaigns, to making flyers, event setup, and helping in our technology classes for seniors, they work in a variety of different areas. We have such tremendous gratitude and kancha for Ryan, Darren, Sammy, Haruka, and Stephanie for all of their dedication and hard work helping in our Matsuri Fundraiser, TANOSHII Fun Camp, and many other programs throughout the summer. Truly, we could not do all that we do during our busiest time of year with their support! We wish them all the best of luck as they continue their education and look forward to seeing what they do in the future.



South Bay FOR The GVJCI Internship Program is made possible through grant funding from South Bay F.O.R.

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