



1964 West 162nd Street
 Gardena, CA 90247
 Phone: 310-324-6611
 Fax: 310-324-3223
 Email: info@jci-gardena.org
 Website: jci-gardena.org

@GVJCI
 @gardenavalleyjci

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

Alan Kita, *President*
 Richard Ames, *Vice President*
 Ray Shibata, *Treasurer*
 Juan Hernandez, *Secretary*
 Miles Akiyama
 Gail Doi
 Lawrence Hada
 Michelle Hirano
 Bryce Ikemura
 Grant Nakaoka
 Alvin Takamori
 Airi Takashima Oye
 Marilyn Tsuge

Emeritus Board of Directors

Dan Ashimine
 Paul Koshi
 Helen Nakano
 Charles Oyagi
 Glenn Tachibana
 Terry Terauchi

Staff

Administration

Alison Kochiyama, *Executive Director*
 Cathy Lee, *Director of Development and Marketing*
 Debbie Oba, *Administrative Manager*

Programs

Stephanie Mayeda, *Program Manager*
 Chikako Roper, *Bilingual Programs Coordinator*

Facilities

Dayton Lee, *Facility Operations Manager*
 Brian Hoshiko, *Maintenance Custodian*
 Bob Seki, *Maintenance Custodian*
 Gerald Mayewaki, *Facility Assistant*

Japanese Language School

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

Non-Profit Org
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Gardena, CA 90247
 PERMIT NO. 75



SPRING BLOSSOMS

Spring greetings to all of you! Spring represents a blossoming of new things, new hope. Now, with Los Angeles County progressing in its pandemic reopening tiers, new change is coming again.

March marked one year since GVJCI's temporary closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although our empty halls, classrooms, and parking lot was evidence of the loss and suffering that the community and the world had endured over the year, it also made us even more appreciative of all the people who gave life to our center. We miss everyone so much, and our hearts go out to all who have experienced loss or are recovering from illness.

During our temporary closure, we are extremely grateful for the support that the community has given us. Thank you for being a Friend of the GVJCI, supporting our year-end raffle, car donations, restaurant fundraisers, program and general donations, and more! Thank you for your continued participation in our online Japanese Language School, Tomo No Kai senior classes, and public programs. All of this enabled GVJCI to continue the work that we do, providing support to the community.

As we navigate to another stage of the pandemic and vaccination process, GVJCI is following the guidelines of the LA County and City of Gardena very carefully and has developed reopening plans with caution for everyone's continued safety. As part of our reopening strategy, we are upgrading all of our HVAC (heating, ventilation & air conditioning) systems in both buildings with ultraviolet light units to sterilize the air as it recirculates. So with running the units on fan mode, the air will be sterilized as it recirculates through the ventilation system. We are also taking other protective and safety measures to prepare for when we open our doors once again.

When we have news of our reopening date, we will announce it on our newsletter, website, email and social media. In the meanwhile, thank you again for your continued support and stay safe and well!

With kansha,
 Alison Kochiyama
 Executive Director

In This Newsletter...

- GVJCI News.....3
- GVJCI Calendar.....6
- Tomo No Kai Corner.....8
- Community News.....10

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!

2021 GVJCI VIRTUAL MATSURI FUNDRAISER



The Annual GVJCI Matsuri Fundraiser has always been a festive time where families and friends get together to enjoy food, entertainment, games and so much more, all while raising funds to support the GVJCI. It is always the highlight of the year that we looked forward to each June. Unfortunately, as we've all been living through it, the pandemic has changed our lives and forced us to handle last year's Matsuri differently. Not being able to do things the way we have for so many years and then having to conduct it virtually was challenging to say the least. It was uncharted waters that we had to navigate.

The Matsuri is the largest fundraiser for the GVJCI and we typically raise over \$100k+. The revenue gained from this event goes to fund our senior programs, kid's camps, facility operations, etc.—quite simply, it's essential to the success of our organization. Our goal for last year's Virtual Matsuri was to achieve 40% of what we normally raise. We had no idea what to expect, but due to the overwhelming love and support from all of the GVJCI family, friends and sponsors, we well exceeded our objective. These are unprecedented times and many have experienced hardship, but to see the unwavering support and how everyone opened their hearts with their donations surpassed all of our expectations. So, for that... we all at the GVJCI say, "THANK YOU!"

It appears things may be getting better, but the future still remains uncertain. Of course, we'd like to go back to the way things used to be, but your safety is paramount. As a precautionary measure, we have decided that this year's Matsuri will again be virtual. Similar to last year, we'll have dedicated content for the Virtual Matsuri where we'll feature videos, photos and stories aimed at creating a Matsuri atmosphere on the GVJCI website, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube channels. This year's Matsuri will be throughout the week of June 21-25. Please visit our website for updates.

We'll again be offering a commemorative t-shirt celebrating the Virtual Matsuri. This year's design will feature the theme of "Community Strong". This theme embodies the connective tissue we all share and how it binds us together through adversity. For every \$50 donation, you can receive one of these beautiful t-shirts (please see page 11). Your donations will help the GVJCI manage through these challenging times and allow us to continue to support our community. Our goal is to exceed what we raised last year and we can only do that with the love and support from our GVJCI family and friends. Thank you in advance for your continued support!



The GVJCI would also like to thank all of our sponsors—Gold: King's Hawaiian, Silver: JINS, and Bronze: FIA Insurance, Luther Burbank Savings, and Kaji & Associates for their ongoing support of Matsuri. We are all partners in building a better community!

GVJCI VIRTUAL MATSURI FUNDRAISER T-SHIRT GIFT ORDER FORM



Those who donate a minimum of \$50 have the option of receiving a 2021 commemorative t-shirt gift! Each additional \$50 donation qualifies for another t-shirt.

T-shirt gifts available for qualified donations received through June 30, 2021. T-shirt pickup at the GVJCI is scheduled for the week of July 19, 2021 and is subject to change. Please be sure to check our website for updates.

T-shirts are available in Men's, Women's and Youth sizes and are only available in white. 2021 GVJCI Virtual Matsuri graphic is full color and printed on the back of the t-shirt. The GVJCI logo will be on the front, left chest. T-shirt is 100% cotton.

Please make checks payable to GVJCI, note Matsuri on your check, complete the form below and send your check and completed form to 2021 GVJCI Matsuri, 1964 W 162nd St., Gardena, CA 90247. You can also donate online by visiting our website on the Matsuri tab. Your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Have any questions about your order? Please call our office at (310) 324-6611 or email Cathy Lee (clee@jci-gardena.org). Thank you for your generous support!

Men's					Women's				Youth				Total Virtual Matsuri Commemorative T-shirt gifts	Total Donation
S	M	L	XL	2X	S	M	L	XL	S	M	L	XL		

ADVENTURERS CLUB NEWS

By: Tim Toyama

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness . . .” A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens.

With much regret, I had to cancel the 2021 Spring Okinawa tour; a difficult decision, but the uncertainty caused by the coronavirus (quarantines, travel restrictions, and another possibility of a worldwide surge caused by coronavirus variants) make touring untenable, or at the very least, not enjoyable. As you know, Japan is not allowing foreign visitors into the country for the Olympics and is currently seeing a rise in infections. We’re keeping an eye out for an opportunity to tour Japan, but today’s news isn’t good. Thanks to those of you who expressed an interest in a tour this Spring.

There is the possibility of a 2022 Spring Japan tour, but that’s on a “wait and see” mode. Please check for updates in the next newsletter, or you can contact me at timtoyama@gmail.com or 310-848-9890 phone and text. Please stay safe and healthy!

Gardena Memorial Nisei Post 1961

By: Steve Moriyama, Commander

To all of the members of the Gardena Memorial Nisei Post 1961, the Women’s Club, all of our families, extended families and friends, we hope you are all well and staying safe during these trying times.

The pandemic has done a lot of damage to our community, however, now that the “numbers” are coming down your Nisei Post is planning to hold a drive by Memorial Day Observance in honor of all our fallen comrades. Please join us on Sunday, May 30, 2021 starting at 2:00 pm., ending at 4:00 pm. You will be driving slowly past our “memorial”, pay your respects and leave through the Gramercy gate.

Due to strict COVID guidelines that are currently in effect, we ask that you remain in your vehicle during the drive thru. Your cooperation and participation will be greatly appreciated.

Once again, Thank You to the Post 1961 Women’s Club, the Members of Nisei Post 1961, the Staff of GVJCI and all of our friends and family for your continuing support of our Post as we continue to work towards making our VFW Post an integral part of our community.

Contact information for Post 1961:
Steve Moriyama, 1127 W 213th Street, Torrance, CA 90502,
Tel: 213-700-0364,
Email: moriyamaohana@sbcglobal.net

The Trusted Choice for In-Home Care



Home Care Assistance is proud to have partnered with Millennia Personal Care Services to bring customized home care to the Japanese Community.

Our exclusive approach to wellness for older adults, the **Balanced Care Method™**, is based on the scientifically studied lifestyles of the long-living elders of Okinawa, Japan. This approach is focused on nutrition, physical activity, social engagement and purpose and aims to enhance your loved one’s overall health and quality of life.

Call us today! 日本語どうぞ! ケアギバー募集! 未経験者歓迎!
各医療保険、年金など福利厚生が充実
888-285-4913 | [HomeCareAssistance.com/Millennia](https://www.HomeCareAssistance.com/Millennia)
The Japanese Community’s Premier Provider of In-Home Senior Care

REMEMBERING ROBERT HORII

The GVJCI Board, Staff, and community is deeply saddened by the loss of Robert Horii on January 25, 2021. Bob served at the President of the GVJCI Board of Directors 1977-1987, as well as serving many years as the President of the GVJCI Housing Project Board of Directors. Bob was active on the two boards until his retirement in December 2016, and continued as a Emeritus Board of Director. However, Bob’s involvement in the GVJCI began way back as he remembered helping to construct the early JCI Carnival booths as a young man. Bob was always there lending a hand with whatever GVJCI needed. He always found time for the GVJCI alongside his prominent 43-year career in the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering. Bob proudly served as the first Asian American to be appointed as the City of Los Angeles City Engineer from 1985 to 1996.



The JCI Carnival, later known as the GVJCI Matsuri, held a special place in his heart, as well as his family’s. Bob helped with the planning details months in advance, then with the weeklong set-up of the booths, equipment, and lighting/ electrical needs. He and his family also managed the Matsuri accounting. Bob would perform the cash and coupon pickups from each booth throughout the weekend, then he and his wife Mary, his son Brian, an accountant, and other family members would meticulously account for all the monies raised. And then, of course, Bob was there till the very last tear down of the booths, and then back at it again for the next year!

Bob’s contributions and years of dedication to the GVJCI will never be forgotten. Our condolences and gratitude goes out to the Horii family.

2021 FRIENDS OF THE GVJCI CAMPAIGN



What is a Community without Friends? The Gardena Valley JCI is a space to engage, share and embrace the Nikkei experience and culture. Over the years, thousands of people in our community of all ethnicities have participated in our programs, scholarships, classes and fundraisers.

This past year brought on new challenges with COVID-19 and turmoil to the people, GVJCI Member Organizations and Small Businesses in our community. Like a good Friend, the GVJCI was there for them. Through our Community Outreach and Social Media platforms, we brought awareness and education. And for our Seniors, we have held numerous food drives and more...

It is our nature and in our culture that brings us together and drives us to do more. This will be my 4th year serving on the Board and my 1st year as Board Vice President. The Gardena Valley JCI plays an important role in the community, and my family has been fortunate to benefit from its services and teachings. I am proud to represent such an amazing organization that truly cares.

Often my friends ask how they can help. Many of them have volunteered during our activities and fundraisers. Others became Friends of the Gardena Valley JCI. Your annual contributions will support the continued growth of the GVJCI and its Vision: 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. I invite you to help keep our Community Center alive by becoming a Friend of the GVJCI today!

Sincerely,
Richard Ames
Board Vice President GVJCI

GVJCI 2021 RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations 2021 Raffle Winners!

- 1st Prize \$1,000: Spencer S.
- 2nd Prize \$500: Ted W.
- 3rd Prize \$500: Janice M.
- 4th Prize \$250: Jean O.
- 5th Prize \$250: Jane W.

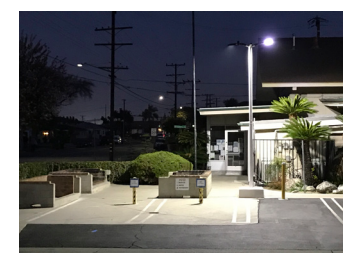
Thanks to all who participated, we raised \$54,450 and concluded another successful raffle fundraiser!! Thank you for your support throughout the year. We couldn’t do all that we do without you!

We plan to refurbish the main hall’s wood floors for our GVJCI member organizations and community members to enjoy! And we

installed new outdoor lighting in our parking lot and near our front entrance. We had more items on our facilities to-do list, which we postponed due to our temporary closure and loss of revenue. As you can imagine, closing our doors in March has stopped our facility usage and outside event rentals. In addition, our programs transitioned to only online classes and workshops with a significant decrease in participation.



We depend on both of these areas to help defray some of our daily operational expenses. To recover some of this



many of you. We asked for your help with our 2021 Year-End Raffle & Donation Appeal and you delivered!

Thank you again for your generous support that allows us to continue our important work! We look forward to when we can all be together again!

loss, we have increased our fundraising efforts and grant-writing, and have received generous donations from

Anti-Asian Americans Hate Crimes and Incidents

By: Tim Toyama

Since the start of the pandemic last spring, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) have faced constant and deadly racist violence. "Stop AAPI Hate," a reporting database, received 3,795 reports of anti-Asian incidents between March 19, 2020, and Feb. 28, 2021. For more than two centuries, AAPI have been subject to hatred and racism, from the killing of 18 Chinese men and boys in 1871 in Los Angeles' Chinatown, to the 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans placed in incarceration camps during WWII, to the 1983 murder of Vincent Chin, to the current surge in anti-Asian hate crimes spurred on by the xenophobic rhetoric of former President Trump, who referred to COVID-19 as the "China Virus," "Kung Flu," and "China Plague."

AAPI Women and Seniors

In January, in Oakland's Chinatown, a 52-year-old Asian American woman was shot in the head with a flare gun, sustaining serious injuries.

On January 28, 84-year-old Vicha Ratanapakdee was violently shoved to the ground, and died shortly after arrival in the hospital.

On March 16, a white man opened fire at three spas around Atlanta, killing eight people including six women of Asian descent.

Of the 3,800 hate incidents reported by Stop AAPI Hate, women make up a far higher share at 69%, compared to men at 29%. This disparity is due to the mixture of racism and sexism towards AAPI women, including the stereotype that Asian women are meek and subservient, making them easy targets. Bullies attack people who they think are vulnerable, including the elderly, and who they believe will not report incidents. Between March 19, 2020 and December 31, 2020, Stop AAPI Hate received 126 accounts of anti-Asian hate involving AAPI over 60 years old, however, it's believed that there are significantly more incidents because many are not reported. Attacks on female and elderly AAPI leave these people traumatized, feeling unsafe, and afraid to venture out.

"Hate Crime" and "Hate Incident"

There are two categories of hate crime laws:

A "Hate Crime" involves a crime such as assault or vandalism, and is committed against victims based on a particular group, such as race, nationality, religion.

A "Hate Incident" involves acts of prejudice that do not involve violence, threats, or property damage. The most common examples are racial slurs, and name calling.

It's important to know the difference between a Hate Crime and a Hate Incident because many law enforcement agencies, and intake (reporting) forms, ask if the offense is a Hate Crime or Hate Incident.

Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents must be reported!

By reporting Hate Crimes and Incidents, you are protecting yourself and others. When Hate Crimes and Incidents are reported, law enforcement agencies have a record of it, which could lead to an arrest when there's more information about this crime or incident. Also, if there are Hate Crimes and Incidents reported in a certain area, the police will assign more officers to that area.

Reporting Hate Crimes and Incidents to Law Enforcement

Any individual who's in immediate danger, or has been a victim of a hate crime, or has witnessed a hate crime, should call 911. If not in immediate danger, call your local police department:

Gardena Police Department : 310-323-7911; Torrance Police Department: 310-618-5641

Incidents should also be reported to the local FBI office, the Attorney General's office, or the US Department of Justice. FBI Los Angeles Office (310) 477-6565; Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office (213) 974-3512; United States Department of Justice <https://www.justice.gov/hatecrimes>

Reporting Hate Crimes & Incidents to Community Organizations

These Asian American organizations track and record hate crimes and hate incidents:

"How To Report a Hate Crime" <https://www.hatecrimebook.com/>; "Asian Americans Advancing Justice" <https://www.standagain-thatred.org/>; "Stop AAPI Hate" <https://stopaapihate.org/>; "Hate Is A Virus" <https://hateisavirus.org/>.

JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL

We've now endured the effects of this horrible pandemic for over one year and I sincerely hope that you have all weathered this ordeal safely and in good health. I know that some of you have been personally affected by the pandemic and my heart, thoughts, and concerns go out to you with the hope that each of your situations have improved and you are now doing well.

When the announcement regarding the surge of the COVID virus was made in March 2020, the GVJCI Japanese Language School was forced to go to an online format. The transition to this online format was only possible through the dedication and commitment of all our Sensei and the strong support of the GVJCI. I'd like to thank and recognize our Sensei who are Naoko Tran (Nyumon), Shizuka Marinakis (Primary), Masumi Sasaki (Vice Principal and Intermediate 1), Asaka Morita (Intermediate 2), Chiaki Suzuki (Advance 1 & 2), Mayumi Fuchino (Graduation Prep), and Aki Izumi (Adult) for all their contributions. My deepest gratitude also goes out to all our students for electing to conscientiously attend and their parents for their support of our language program.

Though we are starting to see the light at the end of this dark tunnel with optimism, we are still facing a certain amount of uncertainty about what is still in front of us and maintaining safety, in a responsible manner, is our primary concern. With this in mind, we decided on conducting our Summer Session online from July 10th to July 31st. More information regarding registration will be posted on the GVJCI website soon.

I truly miss seeing all the students and parents and look forward to the day that the language school can reopen for in person instruction safely soon. You are all always in my thoughts and I hope you will continue to stay safe and well. Once again, I thank you for always providing your continued support.

I humbly express my deepest regards,

Lawrence Hada
GVJCI Japanese Language School Principal

FALL 2020 INTERNSHIP REFLECTIONS

By: Mika Matsumura, *GVJCI Marketing & Social Media Intern*

My name is Mika Matsumura and I am a second-year at the California State University of Fullerton. My major is Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing. 2020 was pretty crazy and unpredictable, but I would definitely say that interning at Gardena Valley JCI was the highlight of my year. I met so many amazing and humble people in the community while volunteering at the food distributions. In addition, I had the opportunity to be alongside the hardworking GVJCI staff and the other intern Taylor, my new friend. Writing the blogs and talking to new people allowed me to learn more about Japanese culture as well as the Nikkei community. I have made so many unforgettable memories as an intern. Some of my favorite memories were when Taylor and I went to the actual site of GVJCI for either food box distributions or the restaurant drive-through fundraiser. Of course, our weekly zoom meetings were great, but I loved seeing everyone in person even if we were wearing masks. Those interactions where I got to see people smiling with their eyes were the best. It was exciting to meet new people while volunteering! I enjoyed listening to their story of how they first heard about GVJCI, as well as their love for the community. The staff here are the friendliest people and they really treated me like family. Even though my internship is over, you will surely still see me volunteering! Thank you GVJCI for an incredible experience.



Pictured: Mika and Taylor volunteering at the TNK Holiday Food Drive!

By: Taylor Ingman, *GVJCI Marketing & Social Media Intern*



Pictured: Mika and Taylor pose for a cute picture to help promote the 2021 GVJCI Raffle Drawing while also volunteering at the monthly senior food box distribution that sam day!

Hello! My name is Taylor Ingman and I am a senior at Oberlin College in Ohio, majoring in Psychology with a minor in East Asian Studies. Over the past few months, I have had the wonderful opportunity of being a Marketing & Social Media Intern for the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute. While I did not grow up in the South Bay, I knew about GVJCI from my family members who did-- my mom has told me about attending the GVJCI Annual Matsuri while she was growing up, and my uncle has talked about playing in the Sansei League at GVJCI as a kid. Having heard about their fond memories, I was very excited to learn more about GVJCI through this internship. I have met so many lovely people through GVJCI, both staff and volunteers, and I have really enjoyed being more involved in the South Bay Nikkei community. I loved working with and becoming friends with Mika, who was also a Marketing & Social Media Intern-- it was a lot of fun to collaborate on social media posts and attend the monthly food distributions together! The GVJCI is such an important part of the South Bay, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to intern at such a great organization. Interning at GVJCI has allowed me to play a part in preserving Japanese and Japanese-American traditions and culture, which is very important to me. I am really going to miss interning with GVJCI, but I look forward to staying involved in other ways and would love to attend future events and programs. Thank you GVJCI!

Special thanks to  for supporting our internship program!



Tomo No Kai Corner

Try the GVJCI Online Classes!

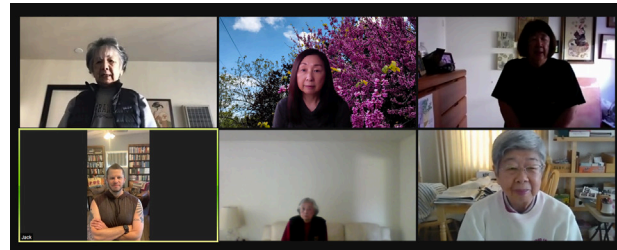
By: Christine Chuman

My name is Christine Chuman and I have been a Tomo No Kai (TNK) member since 2014. I have been a regular participant in the Yoga and Aerobics classes such as Move and Groove. Since the pandemic, I have continued my participation in these classes via the TNK Zoom on-line classes!

As we all await the easing of COVID restrictions and the re-opening of the JCI community center, we just want to remind you of the many TNK classes that are available on-line via Zoom. Many of us are getting our exercise by walking, but our TNK classes can supplement our exercise routine. There are classes for cardiac fitness and classes for increasing flexibility and strength and balance. There are classes for Meditation and Dance as well as classes in Creative Writing and Watercolor Painting.

For a \$30 monthly fee, you can sign-up for an unlimited number of classes. As a participant in the on-line classes, I have been able to maintain my fitness level while having fun exercising at home.

So just go to the GVJCI website (jci-gardena.org), click on the Senior and TNK page, and you will find the entire TNK class schedule. After completion of the registration form, you will be sent a link which provides access to all of the classes on-line. It's so much fun, and we hope to see you there! The more, the merrier!



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, bus excursions and annual Christmas parties. Your membership dues, class participation fees, and donations support the senior programs and GVJCI facility operations. Thank you very much for your participation and support.

Safety Tips for Going Out

- Be aware of your surroundings, avoid isolated areas, choose busy and well-lit streets
- Conduct errands in pairs or with others
- Carry a whistle and flashlight
- Limit distractions such as phone or headphones
- Stay vigilant

What To Do When Attacked (physical or verbal)

- Walk away, get out of the situation, go where there are other people
- Don't participate in arguments
- Engage bystanders
- Use your phone to take pictures or video (if safe)
- Call 911 if attacked
- Scream for help or blow whistle
- If you are physically attacked, protect yourself

Volunteer Appreciation Parade

Normally, GVJCI holds an annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon to thank the many volunteers that support the organization. With the pandemic, our staff decided to get creative; in lieu of the luncheon, we organized a parade in the parking lot where our staff and board gave out special gift bags while cheering on and thanking the volunteers as they drove past. We'd like to give special thanks to Dr. Jason Yamada, D.D.S. for his generous donation and support of this event every year, Ding Dong Ditch for their wonderful balloon decorations, Morinaga, Torrance Bakery, and King's Hawaiian for donating foods for the volunteer gift bags! Thank you again to our amazing 2020 volunteers!



Pictured: GVJCI staff (left to right) Alison Kochiyama, Cathy Lee, and Stephanie Mayeda get the volunteer gifts ready for the parade.



Pictured: Longtime volunteer Shirley Okazaki drives through the parade to excited cheers!



Pictured: Bilingual Programs Coordinator, Chikako Roper, greets Tomo Cafe volunteer Yoko Maruta with special gifts!



Pictured: Facility Operations Manager, Dayton Lee, and Administrative Manager, Debbie Oba, having a blast!



Pictured: GVJCI board members Larry Hada and Marilyn Tsuge greet volunteers with colorful balloon pom-poms.



Pictured: GVJCI board members (left to right) Bryce Ikemura, Alvin Takamori, and Alan Kita hanging out between cheers.



Pictured: GVJCI volunteers Chika and Harriet Nagata pick up their gifts. Chika was one of 10 lucky winners of a cute succulent!



Pictured: GVJCI staff and board (left to right) Airi Takashima Oye, Debbie Oba, Chikako Roper, Stephanie Mayeda, Dayton Lee, Alison Kochiyama, Marilyn Tsuge, Cathy Lee, Alvin Takamori, Bryce Ikemura, Alan Kita, Lawrence Hada.

YOUR JAPANESE HOME CARE PROVIDER



carelife

Caregivers can assist with:

- Cooking
- Driving
- Light Housekeeping
- Home Exercise & more

Doctor of Physical Therapy(DPT) on staff

310.373.6030 carelifeinc.com
facebook.com/CarelifeHomeCare

Protect Your Assets

Medi-Cal | Living Trust | Probate

- Medi-Cal Planning
- Estate Planning
- Trust Administration
- Probate



ES Judd Matsunaga's
 ELDER LAW SERVICES OF CALIFORNIA
 A Professional Law Corporation

310-348-2995
elderlawcalifornia.com

Multiple locations throughout California



Judd Matsunaga
 Attorney at Law



Gardena Valley JCI CALENDAR

MAY

SENIOR FOOD BOX DISTRIBUTION フードバンクによるシニア 無料フードボックス配布サービス

WEDS, MAY 5, JUNE 2, JULY 7, AUG 4, 9-10AM
GVJCI Parking Lot

Food distribution takes place regularly on the first Wednesday of the month. 10-12 lb boxes of shelf stable items for seniors 60 years and older. 1st come, 1st served. 1 box per car. NO RSVPs. To maintain social distancing, this distribution is drive-thru only; no walk-ins please. As a courtesy to our staff and volunteers, please put on a face mask before you enter the lot. Please do NOT line up your cars prior to 9AM. All cars must enter coming east through the W 162nd Street entrance. 恒例の無料食品配布は毎月第一水曜日です。60歳以上のシニアの方々に10-12ポンドの常温保存食品を順番に1台につき1箱、お配りします。予約不可。社会的距離を保つためにドライブスルーのみ、歩いて立ち寄ることはできません。ボランティアやスタッフの安全確保のため、駐



車場に入る際はマスク使用をお願いします。また、9時前に並ばないようお願いいたします。162番街を東から並んで入場してください。

KODOMO NO HI SAT, MAY 8, 2-3PM

Online

Kodomo No Hi, or Children's Day, is coming up soon! Join us as we make a kabuto helmet craft, a combat helmet worn by the samurai class back in feudal Japan! We'll also be making a koinobori paper banner and learning the traditions behind this beloved Japanese holiday! Registration is \$5 per child. Sign-up on our website!



SHIATSU CHAIR MASSAGE WORKSHOP SERIES

WEDS, MAY 5, 12, & 19, 6-7PM
Online

Learn the art and techniques of shiatsu massage in this 3-part online workshop series taught by Hideki Obayashi. Whether you are a caregiver or someone who just wants to explore the mental and physical benefits of shiatsu massage, anyone is welcome! To register and for more information, please visit the GVJCI website.

MANZANAR IMMERSIVE SAT, MAY 15, 12PM, 2PM, & 4PM

Online

Manzanar Immersive is an educational, live "empathy" experience in which people collaborate to solve puzzles, complete activities, and interact with character actors as they proceed through the narrative of a Japanese American family living through the wartime experience. Manzanar Immersive will help people learn about Japanese American history, culture, and values along with other learning skills, such as collaboration, communication, and empathy.

6 participants per show. Each show lasts approximately one hour, including a short, debriefing session at the end of each experience. Admission is FREE but donations are appreciated. Visit our website to view the trailer and register!

GVJCI FUNDRAISER AT KING'S HAWAIIAN RESTAURANT & THE LOCAL PLACE

TUES, MAY 18 & WED, MAY 19
King's Hawaiian Restaurant

The Local Place

Show your support for the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute while enjoying super ono food and baked goods. Can't make it? Donations are also welcome! All GVJCI Fundraiser proceeds benefit the GVJCI. Please visit our website, follow us on Instagram and Facebook and sign up for emails to get the latest updates! Contact: Dayton Lee at dlee@jci-gardena.org or 310-324-6611

友カフェ

MONS, MAY 24, JUNE 28, & JULY 26, 2:30-3:30PM

オンライン

友カフェZoom親睦会に参加しませんか? 毎月第4月曜日の午後2時30分からいろいろな情報や近況を語り合しましょう。参加費、無料。ホームページから参加希望登録をお願いします。ご質問はチカコ宛てEメール: chatamoto@jci-gardena.orgまでご連絡ください。

JUNE

HAIKU & SENRYU WORKSHOP SERIES

WEDS, JUNE 2, 9, & 16, 6-7PM
Online

Learn how to write your own Haiku and Senryu - two popular forms of Japanese poetry! This 3-part online workshop series is taught by author and writer Genie Nakano. Fee is \$10 per workshop. To register and for more information, please visit the GVJCI website!

害虫/害獣ペストコントロール相談セミナー

SUN, JUNE 6, 10-11AM
Online

家やコンド、アパートなどお住いの物件で、虫や小さな動物などの被害に悩まされていませんか? 南カリフォルニアの暮らして、そういったことでお悩みの方に佐久間さんがどのような害虫や動物をよく見かけるのか、見かけた時にどう対処すれば良いのかを教えてください。危害が及ぶ危険性や生態など、プロの知識を学んで快適で安全な生活を手に入れましょう。セミナーの後半では、質疑応答の時間があります。参加ご希望の方は登録をお願いします。

2021 GVJCI VIRTUAL MATSURI FUNDRAISER MON-FRI, JUNE 21-25 GVJCI Website

Be sure to check out our weeklong Matsuri festivities on our website! See page 2 of this newsletter for more details.



Gardena Valley JCI CALENDAR

JULY

TANOSHII FUN CAMP MON-FRI, JULY 12-23, 10AM-12PM

Online

Join us for our online TANOSHII Fun Camp for kids 7-10 years old! Camp will be conducted on Zoom where campers will participate in fun, educational activities that highlight the Nikkei experience and culture. Registration ends May 28th, 2021, so sign up today by visiting our website!



ADULTING WORKSHOP: ESTATE PLANNING

SAT, JULY 24, 2-4PM

Online

To most young adults, the most common misconception about Estate Planning (which is the process of creating legal documents like a Will and a Trust) is that you have to be wealthy or elderly to get your affairs in order. But that's simply not the case. This complimentary Estate Planning 101 workshop addresses when you should start this process and how it can be utilized to protect your loved ones and your future.

This workshop is taught by Staci (Yamashita-Iida) Toji, an Estate Planning attorney dedicated to helping families of all generations plan for their future. She opened the firm Toji Law in 2018 after holding a junior partner position at an Estate Planning firm in Los Angeles. To register for this FREE workshop, visit the GVJCI website.

AMAZAKE MAKING WORKSHOP WED, JULY 28, 10-11AM

Online

Looking for some sugar substitutes for healthier eating? Learn how to make amazake (sweet, low-alcohol sake) with koji, (Japanese traditional fermented food). Certified KOJI Creator, Haruna Deasy, will explain the health benefits of amazake, show you how to make your own amazake, and how to incorporate it in baking with a delicious zucchini muffin cooking demo. The workshop also includes 5 additional recipes using amazake. \$15 fee, materials not included. To register, please visit our website!



甘酒作りワークショップ THURS, JULY 29, 10-11AM

Online

日本伝統発酵食、麴を使って甘酒を作りましょう。麴クリエーターのハルナさんが甘酒の座学、作り方、砂糖の代わりに甘酒を使ったレシピを紹介します。ワークショップでは、甘酒と一緒に仕込みます。その後、ズッキーニカップケーキを焼くまでのデモをします。参加費お一人\$15、料費別。7月29日は日本語で、7月28日は英語で行います。どちらも1時間ワークショップ、午前10時開始です。

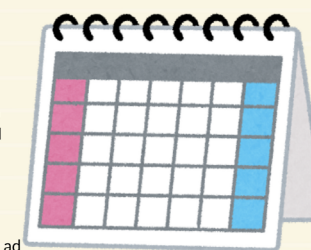
GVJCI 2022 CALENDAR FUNDRAISER

Please help us by placing an ad in our 2022 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! You can see the current calendar on our website.

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 or call (310) 324-6611

SAVE THE DATE...

GVJCI 2021 SIGNATURE EVENT:

TABE-DORAIBU
AUG 16-SEPT 1, ALL DAY

Various Restaurants

Do you enjoy delicious food in the South Bay? Do you like supporting the GVJCI? If you answered yes, please stay tuned for more details regarding this new, fun event! Please visit our website, follow us on Instagram and Facebook and sign up for emails to get the latest updates! Itadakimasu!



GVJCI ONLINE ART SHOW SAT, SEPT 18 - THURS, SEPT 30, ALL DAY Online



The theme of this year's exhibit is "Cultural Heritage." Cultural heritage can encompass many different parts of one's identity; it can be defined as one's ethnic or national identity, or it can include values that have been passed on, such as a strong work ethic or a passion for advocacy. The artwork can be in any media: paintings, photos, sculptures, etc.

The show is open to all artists. There is no fee to enter. However, artwork submitted needs to be approved. Acceptance into the show is at the discretion of the GVJCI. Please send one photo of each artwork (preferably in PNG format) and the submission form in order to participate in the event. Email it to smayed@jci-gardena.org, or deliver or mail it to Stephanie Mayeda c/o Gardena Valley JCI, 1964 W. 162nd St., Gardena, CA 90247 by July 31, 2021. Notification of the acceptance of artwork will be given by August 16, 2021. Visit our website for more info!