



Adventurer's Club News

"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've canceled the 2020 November Okinawa tour, and the 2021 Spring Okinawa tour; a difficult decision, but the uncertainty caused by the coronavirus (quarantines, travel restrictions, and the possibility of a worldwide surge in the fall and winter) make these tours untenable, or at the very least, not enjoyable.

There is the possibility of a 2021 Fall Okinawa 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!
Tim Toyama

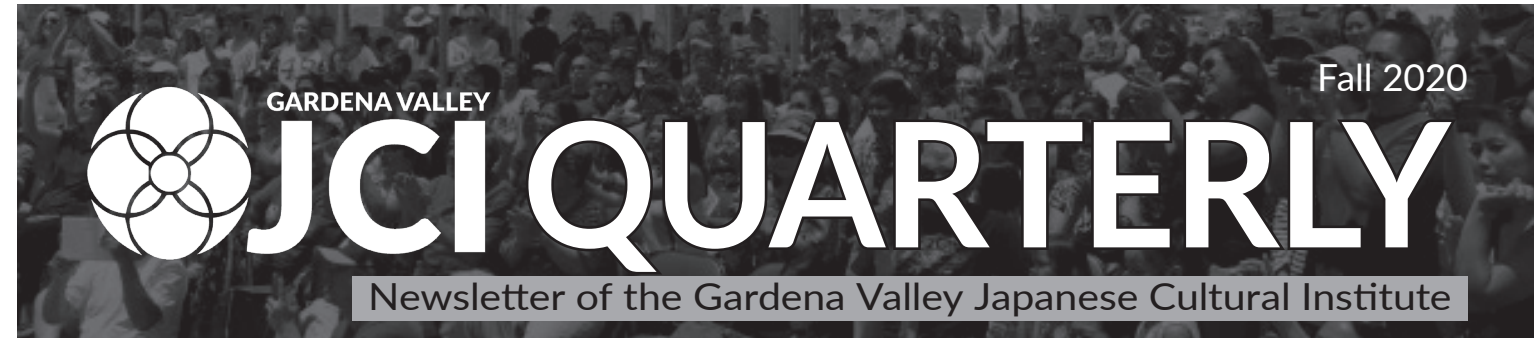


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GVJCI UPDATE

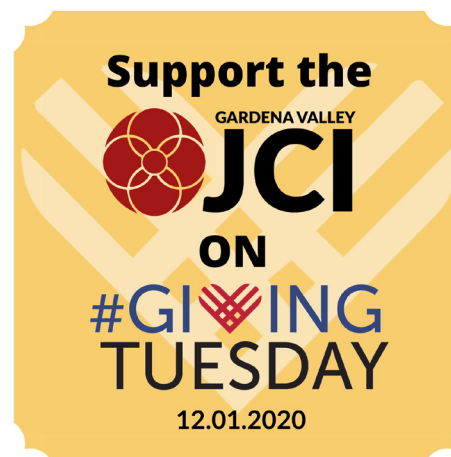
Fall has come and six months have passed since the GVJCI's temporary closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We're happy to have kept connected with you through our online classes and workshops, Senior Food Drive pick ups, restaurant fundraiser drive-thrus, social media news, and the letters, emails, and phone calls that we receive from you. Our GVJCI Japanese Language School began its new school year online in September and even has some new students outside of the local area! But we miss being together in-person with all of you, and look forward to when GVJCI is allowed to open safely once again. With Thanksgiving and the holiday season approaching soon, we wish all of you and your families continued wellness, joy, and fulfillment. Thank you for the generous support you give to GVJCI always.

With sincere kansha,

Alison Kochiyama
Executive Director



Save the Date! 2020 GVJCI Giving Tuesday Campaign: December 1, 2020



This year, participate in a Global Day of Giving, recognized the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving, by supporting the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute (GVJCI)! We invite you and your loved ones to support the programs and events that enable us to continue creating a space to engage, share, and embrace Nikkei culture! Please learn more or consider making an online donation, by visiting our website at <https://www.jci-gardena.org/donate.html> or donate via our Facebook page.

Thank you for your support!

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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 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.

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Mayumi Fuchino, *Teacher*
Shizuka Marinakis, *Teacher*
Asaka Morita, *Teacher*
Chiaki Suzuki, *Teacher*
Naoko Tran, *Teacher*
Eriko Yamamoto, *Adult Class & Conversation Class Teacher*



Gardena Valley JCI CALENDAR

NOV & DEC

ESL CONVERSATION CLASS

TUES, NOV 3-DEC 15 (6 WKS), 10-11AM
ONLINE

Join us for a fun English conversation class for high beginner to intermediate speakers! Practice casual English through listening to songs, reading about current events, and more. To register, please visit the Programs/Classes page of our website.

LA FOOD BANK DISTRIBUTION

WED, NOV 4, 9-10AM
GVJCI PARKING LOT

10-12 lb boxes of shelf stable items for seniors 60 years and older. 1st come, 1st served. 1 box per car. NO RSVP. To maintain social distancing, this distribution is drive-thru only; no walk-ins. Please do NOT line up your cars prior to 9AM. All cars must enter coming east through the 162nd street entrance.

ALZHEIMER'S LOS ANGELES HOLIDAY TIPS FOR CAREGIVERS

FRI, NOV 6, 10-11:30AM
ONLINE

The holidays or other family events can be a stressful time when a family member has dementia. This talk reviews several tips that can help make family gatherings more enjoyable for all. To register, please email Chikako (chatamoto@jci-gardena.org) or call (310) 324-6611.

TOMODACHI ONLINE BAKING WORKSHOP SERIES

SAT, NOV 7 & DEC 12, 2-4PM
ONLINE

Bake with a buddy and join us for a fun online baking workshop for kids aged 8-12! Learn how to make trendy Japanese desserts like Dorayaki (pancake with sweet red bean filling) on 11/7 and mochi donuts on 12/12, all taught by Kenzie Tokuchi. Fee is \$5 per participant. Please check our website for ingredient list. To register, visit the "Events" page on our website.

ONLINE SMARTPHONE CLASS

MON, NOV 9-DEC 12 (6 WKS), 10-11AM
ONLINE

Android and iPhone. Each class is a mix of prerecorded video and live instruction via Zoom. Students will be given videos to watch on their own each week and then attend a weekly Zoom class with the instructor. For registration, please visit the "Seniors" section of our website and click on "Senior Tech Classes." Fee is \$10 per class or \$50 for whole series.

こんまりメソッドワークショップ登録

SAT, NOV 14 & DEC 5, 11-12PM
ONLINE

物がたくさん溜まってどうにもならないと感じていませんか? どうすればすっきりさせられるのか分からない。そんな方に近藤麻理恵さんのこんまりメソッド認定コンサルタントのアヤノ・エレンさんに物の手放し方、片付け方を学びシンプルに生活をエンジョイできる空間を作りましょう。整理整頓はもちろんのこと、大切なのは気持ちも前向きにできることです。物を片づけて、心も整理整頓しましょう! ご質問はチカコ宛Eメール chatamoto@jci-gardena.org または電話310-324-6611 にお願ひします。

麴作りワークショップ

SUN, NOV 15, 2-3PM
ONLINE

日本の食文化に欠かせない伝統発酵食、麴を手作りしましょう。麴クリエイターのハルナさんが麴とは何か? どのように体に有効なのか教えます。そして手作り塩麴を仕込みます。こちらは1時間のワークショップで一人 \$30。材料費別です。材料は、麴、塩、水です。日程は11/15/2020 日本語で、1/10/2021英語で行われます。ご質問はチカコ宛Eメール chatamoto@jci-gardena.org または電話310-324-6611 にお願ひします。

6TH ANNUAL GVJCI ELEMENTAL FUNK CONCERT FUNDRAISER

SAT, NOV 21, 7-9:30PM
GVJCI Website Free Livestream

This year we're going virtual and bringing the concert to you! Join us for a night of fun and music enjoyment. Crank it up as loud as you like! (or as loud as your neighbors will tolerate) This will be a free live-stream concert, but we'll be asking viewers to open their hearts and their wallets to donate and help support the GVJCI. Hosting the event will be Helen Ota and Mike Palma from the improv group, "Cold Tofu". Please visit our website to donate and for future updates. Thank you for your support. All GVJCI Fundraiser proceeds benefit the GVJCI. Contact: Dayton Lee at dlee@jci-gardena.org or 310-324-6611

VIRTUAL TOMO CAFE

バーチャル友カフェ
MON, NOV 30, 2020 & JAN 25, 2021
10AM - 11AM
ONLINE

Join us for Virtual Tomo Cafe! This is a free Zoom social hour for seniors to get together with friends and learn how to use Zoom. If you are interested in using Zoom to take online Tomo No Kai classes, this is the perfect place to learn how! This meeting is held once a month on the last Monday of the month. To sign up, please email Chikako Roper (chatamoto@jci-gardena.org) or call (310) 324-6611.

バーチャル友カフェに参加しませんか! この無料Zoomシニアの集いで友達と語り合っ、Zoomの使い方を経験してみましよう。友の会オンラインクラスに興味がありましたら、この機会にZoomに挑戦できますよ! この集いは毎月最終月曜日に行います。



Tomo No Kai Corner

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Judd Matsunaga
Attorney at Law

TNK membership is currently at 613!

TNK Zoom Classes

Yes, at first I hesitated about teaching Zoom classes; I was not familiar with Zoom and I dread new technology, but now I enjoy it. Zoom is very user-friendly, and after the initial reservations, it's become so much fun, and connecting with people is a joy, and exercising is good.

If you are concerned with what you look like on Zoom, guess what, you can turn off the camera, and still participate (you can also mute yourself so that no one can hear anything from your end).

So look at the schedule and give it a try!

Stay healthy!

Tim Toyama

TNK Teacher and Executive Board Member

We are now accepting weekly sign ups for online TNK classes. For more information, please contact Chikako Roper (chatamoto@jci-gardena.org) or call (310) 324-6611.

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Raymond Kinjo, MBA, CFP®
Certified Financial Planner™
CA Insurance License #0D40783
rkinjo@ft.newyorklife.com



Yoshio Kinjo, MBA
CA Insurance License #0465264
ykinjo@ft.newyorklife.com

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Raymond Kinjo is a Financial Adviser offering investment advisory services through Eagle Strategies LLC, a Registered Investment Adviser.



DEC

GVJCI RESTAURANT DRIVE THRU FUNDRAISER SERIES

SAT, DEC 12 & SUN, DEC 13
TIME: TBD
LOCATION: Cherrystone's Restaurant & Catering Co.

Thank you for your support of our recent restaurant fundraisers. Our hope is to continue to help our local businesses and to bring to you "contactless" delicious food. With each meal you purchase, a percentage of the proceeds go to support the GVJCI. Please mark your calendars for an upcoming restaurant fundraiser with Cherrystone's Restaurant & Catering Co. on December 12-13. Visit our website at www.jci-gardena.org and go to the Event section for future updates

JAN

OSHOUGATSU

SAT, JAN 9, 2-3PM
ONLINE
 Celebrate the new year with us as we come together for Oshougatsu! This year, we'll be having special guest Paul Matsushima doing a reading of his children's book *Thank You Very Mochi* as well as a mochi making demo that families can participate in together! A short presentation on the traditions and history of Oshougatsu will precede the program activities. Visit the "Events" page on our website to register!



KOJI MAKING WORKSHOP (English)

SUN, JAN 10, 10-11AM
ONLINE
 Learn how to make KOJI with the certified KOJI creator, Haruna Deasy. This workshop will cover: What is KOJI, what are the benefits of using KOJI in cooking, how to make salted KOJI and how to use it in your cooking. This is 1 hour workshop with a fee of \$30 per participant. The materials are not included. Materials necessary for this workshop are KOJI, salt and water.

For more information and to register, please visit the "Events" section on our website or email Chikako at chatamoto@jci-gardena.org or call 310-324-6611.

KONMARI WORKSHOP (English)

SAT, JAN 16 & JAN 30, 11AM-12PM
ONLINE
 Do you feel overwhelmed by the amount of belongings you have? Not sure how to clean up your space and keep it that way? Learn how to declutter and get organized with certified KonMari Consultant Ayano Eren to create an environment where you can simply enjoy your best life. Clear up the clutter

in your space and, most importantly, your mind. It's time to uncover the life you were meant to live! This is a 1-hour workshop that will cover: What is KonMari Method? How to use KonMari Method to declutter and organize your house. This is a free workshop but donations are greatly appreciated. To register, please visit the "Events" page on our website.

For more information or questions, please email Chikako at chatamoto@jci-gardena.org or call 310-324-6611.

ADULTING WORKSHOP: FIRST HOME BUYING

SAT, JAN 23, 2-4PM
ONLINE
 Looking to buy a home or thinking about starting? But what's a mortgage? How do I work with a realtor? What's a good house for me? Come to our first home buying workshop to learn about the process as well as common mistakes to avoid and MUCH MORE! Please join us to gain valuable insight from our amazing speakers: realtor, Derek Hirano, and mortgage advisor, Mina Yasuda! This is a FREE event but donations are welcome! Visit the "Events" page on our website to register!

GVJCI 2021 RAFFLE DRAWING

FRI, JAN 29, 10AM
 Join us for our annual raffle drawing! Raffle tickets can be purchased through 1/28/21. Additional tickets can be mailed to you, please contact our office. Each book comes with 20 tickets and is \$40 per book! (That's just \$2 per ticket!) Oh, and did we mention first prize is \$1000?! Please call (310) 324-6611 for more information.

FEB

ADULTING WORKSHOP: FINANCIAL LITERACY

SAT, FEB 6, 2-4PM
ONLINE
 Looking to get your finances in order? How do I start planning for retirement? Join us for this free financial literacy workshop where we'll cover everything from how to build a budget and eliminate debt efficiently to how to invest for retirement and other financial goals. In this workshop, you'll learn how to create and implement a proper financial plan that will set you up for success.

This workshop will be presented by Jared Tanimoto, a Certified Financial Planner™ practitioner and founder of Ascent Wealth Advisors. Jared is the President of the Financial Planning Association of Orange County, a non-profit with over 500 of the top financial planners in the OC area. Join us and be on your way to reaching your financial goals! This is a FREE event but donations are welcome! Visit the "Events" page on our website to register!

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE AT GVJCI

By: Audrey Kono, GVJCI Marketing & Social Media Intern

Hi everyone! My name is Audrey Kono and I just finished my time serving as the GVJCI's Social Media & Marketing Intern for the summer. I am a rising junior at the University of Southern California majoring in Communication and minoring in Environmental Studies.

Because of the pandemic, this experience is not what I expected when I was imagining myself in an internship last winter; I did not do as much hands-on work as interns usually do (and as I had hoped to do), and I can't deny I'm sad that I wasn't able to help prepare for an in-person Matsuri or experience life at the GVJCI in full swing, among the staff and community members who rely on it. Nonetheless, it has been great to meet and work with everyone virtually. I have gained a better understanding of the hard work that they contribute daily to serve the community.

At the beginning of the summer, I was excited to learn more about the local Japanese American community and learn about non-profit work. Now at the end of this internship, I appreciate that I learned more about Japanese American culture and heritage, but I am most grateful that I witnessed the GVJCI's impact on the South Bay. And it has been inspiring to see how generously the community supports the GVJCI. Though this organization faces great disadvantages in being forced to operate virtually, it is amazing how the staff has met these challenges through the Virtual Matsuri, the Drive Through Restaurant Fundraiser Series, on-line classes, and much more to continue serving and pursuing the GVJCI mission. This team is the definition of small but mighty.

I am glad I was able to help the GVJCI grow its online presence and contribute to planning some of its first virtual fundraiser events. Through learning about the GVJCI's current challenges and goals, I have come to understand first-hand the importance of online communication and having an online presence for non-profits—it is perhaps more vital now than ever before. Thank you to everyone who has supported the GVJCI! Please continue to aid this pillar in our community. I am grateful I had the opportunity to be here virtually and learn from everyone!






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.

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