



Gardena Valley

JCI QUARTERLY

Newsletter of the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute

2016 GVJCI Matsuri-Carnival

Bring the family for a fun-filled day at the 2016 GVJCI Matsuri-Carnival!
Come see what **NEW** booths & activities we have in store for you!

June 25 & 26, 2016
Saturday, noon to 9:00 pm
Sunday, noon to 7:00 pm

- FOOD
- GAMES
- OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT
- MARTIAL ARTS DEMOS
- RAFFLE DRAWINGS
- CULTURAL ARTS DISPLAYS
- NURSERY & PRODUCE SALE
- CRAFTS & WHITE ELEPHANT SALE
- BINGO
- ONDO DANCING

Please come out and support one of our most popular fundraising events.....

NEW! Ondo Dancing –
SATURDAY, June 25th at 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Take out your happi coats, yukatas, kimonos, or just participate as you are, and get ready to have some FUN as

we start off the Ondo (dancing) season! This is a NEW addition for us & we hope that you are just as excited as we are to offer this popular event to the community! Hope you can join in!

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GVJCI Introduces Friends Campaign This Spring

For more than a century, Japanese Americans in the South Bay have pooled their resources to maintain a community gathering place and to celebrate their shared cultural heritage first as Moneta Gakuen (founded in 1912), followed by the Gardena Valley Japanese Community Center (chartered in 1951) and later, as the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute (GVJCI) which we commonly call JCI.

As stewards of these resources, the GVJCI has flourished by providing space for community activities and cultural programs, ranging from the martial to performing arts and civic and community services.

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Matsuri

(continued from front page)

Food Booths —Get your taste buds ready! Mouthwatering dishes will be sold from hot and cold udon, cold somen, chicken teriyaki & teri burgers, imagawayaki, chili hot dogs & rice, tamales, chirashi, spam musubi, to Okinawa andagi, lau lau, and inari. Keep your eyes peeled for new food items at the matsuri.

Game Booths – Where the FUN begins! Community organizations and classes that are housed at GVJCI lend their volunteer support to run a variety of booths, which includes fun games for the young and old.

Performances—Grab some food, relax and be entertained by the many classes and programs held at the GVJCI! Taiko, hula, 'ukulele, line dancing, as well as, guest performers will perform throughout the weekend. Come see what these performers learn throughout the year, and maybe you can join them at their weekly classes!

Martial Arts Demonstrations— Come and observe the various martial artists in action! GVJCI's martial arts classes will be featured each day: Shotokan Karate, Naginata, Gardena Judo, Gardena Kendo, Shorinji Kempo, Kyudo Renmei, and Gardena JCI Kendo. Ever wonder what these various martial art disciplines entail? This is the perfect time to catch a glimpse and see if one of these are for you or the family!

Outdoor Nursery and Produce Sale— Visit GVJCI's own Farmer's Market! Supporting nurseries and produce businesses generously donate fresh vegetables, fruits, and beautiful plants for our Matsuri-Carnival sale. Come and see what we have!

Holding Station – Do you ever get tired from holding all of your plants, produce, food items, or your white elephant treasures? Well, fear no more.....take all of your belongings to our holding station. You may check everything in and the Boy Scouts will

keep a watchful eye on your items while you are able to stroll our Matsuri-Carnival "hands free".

Cultural Arts—Japanese Language School students' display, seniors' art and crafts, and childrens' art will be displayed in the upstairs classrooms. Come and visit the origami hands-on activities creating fun and innovative shapes by folding paper.

The Bridge: JCI Heritage Center—Pay a visit and come see what we have upstairs! Visit our Japanese cultural heritage library and our special tokonoma display. Once again, the Tri-City CERT community organization will be hosting a booth upstairs. Come learn about disaster preparedness & basic first aid. They will have FREE giveaways too!

Table Tennis—New upstairs activity! Bring some friends & compete to see who will be the reigning table tennis champion!

Bingo—Try your luck at Bingo! Games begin at 4pm on Saturday, and 4pm on Sunday with chances to win cash prizes or gift cards!

Prize Drawings—Don't forget to turn in your raffle stubs! The raffle is held on both days of the Matsuri-Carnival, with prizes being donated by various businesses and individuals throughout the community. Drawing winners need not be present to win.

Presale-Matsuri coupon books—Come by & purchase your tickets! Tickets are currently being sold by GVJCI programs and supporting organizations, as well as, the GVJCI office for \$10 per book prior to the Matsuri-Carnival. The ten \$1.00 coupons can be used as scrip at all carnival booths, as well as raffle drawings eligibility.

For information and coupon books purchase, call GVJCI office at 310-324-6611 or email s_sawai@jci-gardena.org.



RAFFLE DONATIONS NEEDED

GVJCI is looking for a variety of prize donations from individuals and businesses for the GVJCI Matsuri-Carnival raffle drawings. Prize donors will be identified at the time of prize drawings or remain anonymous upon request. Please contact the GVJCI Office, if you would like to donate prizes for these drawings.

Also needed are handcraft items for our Crafts booth, and new, UNUSED items for the White Elephants booth. We will begin to take such donations in May. Please bring all items by Friday, June 10th to the GVJCI Office.

Matsuri - Carnival

JUNE 25th NOON to 9 PM
JUNE 26th NOON to 7 PM



Friends

(continued from front page)

As times change and the community evolves, the GVJCI has expanded to meet the needs for cultural education and civic engagement. For example, over the past decade, the GVJCI has developed programs like the TANOSHII Fun Camp (in collaboration with the South Bay JAACL) for elementary-aged children, the Bridge: JCI Heritage Center (library and public programs), and the South Bay's Day of Remembrance program (commemorating the executive order that incarcerated tens of thousands of Nikkei during WWII). The GVJCI has also sought to produce programs relevant to the ever-changing Nikkei community, including outreach to post-WWII Nikkei.

The continued growth of the GVJCI requires your support!

The GVJCI Board of Directors has decided to ask the community for its continued commitment and to support our work in expanding our programs and outreach to the broad Nikkei community.

Please consider demonstrating your support of the GVJCI in gratitude of its historic role in the Nikkei community of the South Bay and investing in the future generation of leaders, by joining the Friends of the Gardena Valley JCI with an annual pledge of \$100 or more. By joining the Friends, you will demonstrate your commitment to the GVJCI and its continued growth.

Will you be one of our first Friends (and be recognized as a Charter Member)?

Enclosed within this newsletter is a return envelope and attached response device for your use. Please consider making the commitment to annually support the work of the GVJCI by being a Friend.

For more information about the Friends or other ways you can support the GVJCI, please contact Alison Kochiyama at akochiyama@jci-gardena.org or 310-324-6611.

Three generations of giving back...



"My father, Ken Nakaoka, believed that developing a continued knowledge of Japanese culture was important to give younger generations better identity to become better individuals. Japanese culture and values gave him a strong foundation in his core beliefs to make a better community. Personal values, family values and business values are all interrelated... Dad was involved at a time when moving forward and growing was the most important item for the JCI..."

"For me, in these times of seeing the Japanese American culture assimilate more and more into standard American culture, it is terrific to see continued sharing and teaching of aspects of the Japanese culture in activities, values and ethics... The GVJCI helps create a bond, an ethnic bond, between those who experience activities at the GVJCI. The many various activities have ties to the Japanese heritage. In addition to family ties, it is important for participants to share family values with friends and other participants of JCI activities or any group involved with activities at the JCI. It is my belief that this makes for better individuals and a better community."

~Grant Nakaoka

"I believe the JCI plays an important role in keeping Japanese/Japanese-American culture alive in the community by helping spread culture to the younger generations. Growing up in the Japanese-American community, I have come to realize how the heritage and culture has played an essential role in shaping my values and who I am. By volunteering as a camp counselor, and most recently a senior camp counselor as part of TANOSHII Fun Camp—a week-long summer program held at the JCI—I have been able to help teach the culture."

~Audrey Nakaoka

COMMUNITY NEWS

Gardena Nisei Memorial Post 1961

By Steve Moriyama, Commander

Aloha to all VFW Members, Women's Club, Families, and Friends of Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute! On behalf of the officers and members of the Gardena Nisei Memorial Post 1961, we congratulate C/LTC Taylor Hanes of Verdugo Hills High School AJROTC for placing second in the school year 2015-2016 Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program competition in Sacramento, California. C/LTC Hanes' written and oral essay on "My Vision for America" represented the Gardena Nisei Memorial Post 1961 and the 4th District and was chosen from among the hundreds of entries submitted by the 32 VFW posts. The festivities began with a dinner hosted by the Nisei VFW Post 8985, commanded by Andy Rosenau. The time-honored welcoming dinner was started many years ago when Comrade Jim Suzuki, Department of California Voice of Democracy Chairman and Comrade Shig Shimazu, Nisei VFW Post 8985's Voice of Democracy Chairman, began having the Sacramento Nisei VFW Post host the dinner for the Department of California's Voice of Democracy Contestants. After a fun-

filled day, she attended the Voice of Democracy Banquet, where she was escorted by 4th District Commander, Dave Loera and 4th District Auxiliary President, Sharonda Lewis. At the awards ceremony, C/LTC Hanes learned that the judges were so impressed and inspired by her presentation, she was named first runner up for the State of California. Congratulations C/LTC Hanes, thank you for so graciously representing us. We salute and wish you much success in all you set out to do. You and your fellow cadets make us so proud to be Americans.

I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Ladies of the VFW Women's Club. All of you have played such a crucial part in helping us continue on with the mission of our Post. Also, to the staff of the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute, thank you again and again for all your support and patience.

Contact information for Post 1961: Steve Moriyama,

1127 W 213th Street, Torrance, CA 90502, Tel: 310-533-8987,

Email: moriyamaohana@sbcglobal.net



リトル東京サービスセンターはガーデナバレー日本文化会館内2階に「サウスベイ事務所」を開設しました。2月19日オープン当日は、120人を超える人がお祝いに駆けつけてくださいました。LTSCはこれまで20年以上にわたり、サウスベイ地区でも高齢者、介護者、小さな子供を持つ家庭に対し、主に日本語・英語のバイリンガルサービスを提供してきましたが、事務所開設により、より身近に、そしてより積極的に対応することができます。これからスタッフやボランティアがサービスを提供していくと同時に、多様化したサウスベイ日系社会のニーズ調査も行います。営業時間は月・火・木の午前10時から正午で、要望に応じて時間外の対応も可能です。まずはお問い合わせください。番号は310-819-8659です。

Little Tokyo Service Center has opened a South Bay office on the second floor of the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute. Over 120 community members attended the Open House on February 19th to welcome this new initiative. LTSC has provided bilingual services to seniors, caregivers and families with young children in the South Bay for more than 20 years. The new South Bay office will expand accessibility to better serve the needs of the large South Bay Nikkei community. To support its new outreach effort, LTSC will also conduct a needs assessment to have a better understanding of what kind of social services would be appropriate for South Bay residents. General office hours are 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Appointments are highly encouraged and additional appointment hours may be available by request. Please call 310-819-8659 if you have questions or to make an appointment with a social worker.

Congratulations to the Gardena Judo Club on their successful 65th Anniversary Tournament on March 13, 2016!

Pictured are the Gardena Judo Club Board of Advisors (l-r) Sam Akioka, Dr. Tamotsu Ikeda, Ray Sugahara, Dr. Tom Maeda with Miyako Wada.



Tomo No Kai Corner

Thank you to all of the new or renewed 2016 Tomo No Kai (TNK) members totaling 523 members so far! The annual \$10 TNK membership covers the period of January through December, but you can join at any time during the year. Age requirement is 50 and above.

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, the monthly senior birthday luncheon, and the annual Christmas party. 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! For more information and class listing, see GVJCI's website: <http://jci-gardena.org/cc5/prog/seniors/tomo-no-kai/>



Bollywood Comes To The GVJCI

A new dance class has started at the GVJCI! Bollywood, the dance craze from India that's now sweeping the world, is being taught on Wednesdays from 12:15pm to 1:00pm. Everyone moves like dancers, whether they like it or not, but they can't help it. Genie Nakano teaches this class for beginners that is great for exercise as well as artistic expression. Men are encouraged to join the in on the fun as well! For information, contact the GVJCI office at 310-324-6611.



JCI Hall

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.



Classroom



MAY

Bon Odori Class

Tuesdays, Now- June 14, 2-3 PM

Main Hall

Get in line and learn the steps to the dances for this summer's Obon and Ondo dances. Have a great time learning the dances and getting in a little exercise while you are at it! Fees for the class are \$3 per meeting, Tomo No Kai members are \$2 per meeting.

Sansei Stories Slam

Saturday April 16, 4-6 PM

Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

You may have heard of the exciting Sansei Stories workshop that has been ongoing since February of last year. Stories from the workshop have appeared in the *Rafu Shimpo* and *Pacific Citizen*. Now come see and hear what the buzz is all about! On Saturday, April 16, the first Sansei Stories Slam will take place; this will be an open mic for all Sansei Writers. Admission is pay what you wish! The stories will be funny and informative. You'll be delighted and moved. You'll be able to speak personally to these writers before, during, and after the Slam. You'll have fun! For more information call (310) 324-6611.

Matter of Balance- Keiro Lifelong Learning Course

Wednesdays, Apr. 20-Jun 8, 10 AM-12 PM

Classroom #207-208

Are you concerned about falling? In this course developed by Boston University and Maine Health, you will improve your attitude toward falls, learn to prevent falls in practical ways, "fall-proof" your environment, and learn exercises to improve your balance, strength and flexibility. This is a free course, but registration is required. Please contact Kanako Fukuyama at (213) 873-5709 to register and for questions.

Basic Video Editing for Seniors

Wednesdays, May 4 - May 25, 1-3 PM

Computer Lab

The GVJCI Lab will be offering a special video editing class for seniors. John Powers will return to teach this popular class. You will learn to work with the equipment you currently have: video camera; still camera with video option; or even a cellphone. You will learn to transfer your videos to your computer and use the tools that commonly come with it to edit your videos. You will also hear about different ways to share your works with others. Register for this course at the GVJCI Office. Class fees are \$40, \$30 for Tomo No Kai members.

Memory Kai- Keiro Lifelong Learning Course

Thursdays May 5 - May 26, 9-11 AM

Classroom #207 - 208

Do you want to improve your memory? Remember faces and names better? Recall numbers and facts? Consider enrolling in the Memory Kai class led by Keiro trained facilitators. Developed by the UCLA Longevity Center and based on research by Dr. Gary Small, Memory Kai is an innovative education program that teaches adults, primarily 50 and older, practical techniques for enhancing memory. It is not for people with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia. The course is free, but registration is required. Please contact Kanako Fukuyama at (213) 873-5709 to register or for more information.

Kansha Choir

Fridays May 6- June 24 7-9 PM

Classroom # 202/203

The GVJCI announces a new workshop: The Kansha Choir. Now's your chance to sing, stretch your vocal chords, and exercise your lungs, while getting to know kindred spirits. The Kansha Choir will begin on May 6th and run for eight weeks, meeting Friday nights. The workshop will culminate with singing at the GVJCI Matsuri-Carnival in June. The repertoire will range from folk songs to Motown. Everyone is welcome from beginners to opera singers. The Kansha Choir will be led by Lisa Joe, accomplished performer and teacher, and long-time Gardena resident. Lisa has worked with the Grateful Crane Ensemble, East West Players, Brentwood Theater Company, Los Angeles Children's Museum, and the Happy Hour

Chorale. She's a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing. The workshop fee is \$80, or \$70 for Tomo No Kai members; \$65 Early Bird registration by April 29th. So now's your chance to cross out "Sing in a Choir" from your bucket list! The workshop needs a minimum of 10 people.

Kodomo no Hi (Children's Day)

Saturday, May 7th, 1-3 PM

Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Celebrate the health and happiness of children at our annual children's day event. This year we will be making our own udon! We will be making udon noodle FROM SCRATCH! The cost of this event is only \$5 and includes all materials! In addition to making udon noodles and soup, we will also have a traditional Kodomo no Hi (Children's Day) doll display featuring samurai and samurai helmets. You can also call the GVJCI Office or email us at info@jci-gardena.org for more information.

Disaster Preparedness Workshop

Friday, May 13th, 2-3:30 PM

Classroom #206

Earthquakes, rains and floods will happen. Are you prepared for the next disaster? Join us at this workshop to find out how to plan, prepare and react before, during and after a disaster. This is a free workshop open to the public. Space is limited, so please call the GVJCI office to reserve your spot.

Heiwa no Kakehashi Remembering Sadako Sasaki

Saturday May 14th, 1-3 PM

Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Come and learn about Sadako Sasaki and her powerful and amazing story, and participate in this exchange project with children in Japan. Children at Nobori Cho elementary (in Japan) made crane paper boxes with messages of peace on them, wanting to spread this message to the rest of the world.

Children that participate will receive a paper crane box that they will fold and decorate. Children songs in Japanese and English will also be sung and the recording will be sent to the Nobori Cho students. Our hope is to make this an on-going exchange between children in America and children in Japan. Contact Michelle Yamashiro at myamashiro@jci-gardena.org or call the GVJCI Office to register for this event .

Nikkei Peruvian Cooking Class

Thursday May 18, Jun 15, Jul 20, 6-8 PM

Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Back by popular demand our Nikkei Peruvian cooking workshop! Join us this summer for a special series including Nikkei Peruvian fusion drinks! Our first workshop will be on May 18th and will include a section on sangria (and you will get to try it too!). The workshops will include a variety of Peruvian dishes and ingredients from pisco, ceviche, rocoto, and causa—all with a Nikkei twist! Call us if you have questions about these ingredients and dishes! This workshop will be taught by Paulo Asato of Persuasions, and costs \$30.00 for all ingredients, recipes, and test tastings! This workshop is open to 30 people only (per workshop), and spots fill up quickly, so make sure to sign up today via email (info@jci-gardena.org) or call us at (310) 324-6611.

Protecting Yourself From Mail and Consumer Fraud

Friday, May 20, 11 AM - 12 PM

Classroom #202

Mail and consumer fraud happen all the time. Seniors are looked at as easy targets for these scammers. This workshop, presented by the United States Postal Inspection Service, will give you the information you need to put the odds of being a victim in your favor. Learn to recognize and avoid scams, and what to do if you become a victim. This is a free workshop open to the public. No registration is required. For more information, please contact the GVJCI Office.

What is Alzheimer's?

Saturday, May 21, 2-4 PM

Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Alzheimer's Greater LA will facilitate this free workshop. If you have questions about Alzheimer's disease, this workshop will give

an overview of the disease and its effects, including symptoms, diagnosis and treatment options. This program is free and no reservations are required. For more information, please call the GVJCI Office.

Dip + Sip

Thursday May 26, 6-8:30 PM

Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Join us for our first ever Dip and Sip! The amazing MaeJean Ku will be bringing her expertise to GVJCI for a night of painting and fun! This class is great for beginners who are looking to learn a bit more about painting, in a fun and laid back atmosphere. All supplies (paint, brushes, aprons, canvases, and easels) are included in the low price of \$35.00! Included in your purchase is a complimentary glass of wine (for those 21 years of age and over!). For more information email info@jci-gardena.org or call (310) 324-6611.

JUNE

Long Term Care in Relation to Retirement Planning

Saturday, Jun 4, 2-3:30 PM

Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Are you thinking about life after retirement and considering purchasing a Long Term Care Insurance plan? A representative from Union Bank Investment Services will help to assist you and address your concerns in choosing the perfect Long Term Health Care plan for you. Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC) will present this free workshop. Registration before the program is requested. Please call the LTSC to pre-register at (213) 473-3030. The program will be presented in English with simultaneous interpretation in Japanese.

Mixed Plate Jams

Saturday, June 11, 6-8 PM

Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Are you ready for Mixed Plate Jams, June edition?! We will be having another mixed plate jams, our open mic night. There will be a dinner + show option for only \$10, or for just the show, ticket price is \$5. Performers get in free, and their dinner price is only \$5! Come join us for a beautiful night filled with food, drinks, music and all sorts of entertainment. You must register and pay by June 3rd for the \$10 dinner + show price. You can contact us at info@jci-gardena.org or (310) 324-6611. All art forms are welcome!

Navigating the New Retirement

Saturday, Jun 18, 2-3:30 PM

Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

The Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC) along with Merrill Lynch will present this free program. Are you retired, or do you plan to retire soon? We understand that retirement today versus twenty years ago has changed dramatically, and we would like to help you address these concerns. A representative from Merrill Lynch will help address your questions regarding health care and financial planning for the retirees of today. They will also cover different health care options after retirement including Medicare, Medical, Long Term Care insurance, and more. While this is a free program, registration is required. Please call the LTSC reserve a seat for this workshop at (213) 473-3035. The program will be presented in English with simultaneous interpretation in Japanese.

JULY

Diabetes in the JA

Community-

Keiro Vitality Forum

Saturday, Jul 16, 2-4 PM

Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

We will be teaming with Keiro to present this Vitality Forum covering diabetes in the JA community. Thomas Yoshikawa, M.D., Deputy Chief of Staff for Geriatrics, Extended Care and Special Projects, VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System will lend his expertise on this subject. Diabetes is growing rapidly in Asian communities. Learn about the risks and what you can do to prevent this deadly disease. This is a free program, but registration is requested. Please contact Kanako Fukuyama at (213) 873-5709 to register or for more information.

Roots CSA program

July-Sept.

Sign up for the summer season! \$60.00 for 3 months of groceries from July-September 2016. Roots CSA, in a nutshell, is a grassroots program in which we partner with small local Asian American farmers to bring fresh Asian produce to local communities throughout Los Angeles. To sign up, contact Kyle Tsukahira (APIOPA Program Coordinator) by email at ktsukahira@apiopa.org or by phone (626)-872-4801.

GARDENA VALLEY GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

By Tim Toyama

In the spirit of generosity that has characterized the Gardena Valley Gardeners Association ("GVGA") since its inception in 1955, the GVGA gave a substantial donation to the Gardena Valley JCI to establish a perpetual GVJCI Legacy Scholarship. The proceeds from the donation will contribute to an annual Gardena Valley Gardeners Association Scholarship awarded to a deserving high school graduating senior.

The GVGA disbanded at the end of 2015 due to the diminishing number of members. During its distinguished lifetime, the GVGA helped beautify the landscape of Gardena and surrounding South Bay communities. At its height, the association had more than 465 members. In addition to tending to the gardens of local residents, the GVGA generously donated time and materials to beautify city-owned facilities, and constructed Japanese gardens at libraries and hospitals. They made Gardena their home and they wanted their home to be a place of beauty.

The GVJCI and GVGA relationship began in 1955 when the gardeners held their first association meeting at the GVJCI (then known as the Gardena Valley Japanese Community Center). The GVJCI is honored that the GVGA will live on through the GVJCI Legacy Scholarship.

Throughout its 60 years, the GVGA volunteered its time on many projects, including the creation of the Japanese Garden located on 162nd across from the Nakaoka Center; re-landscaping the Carson Library; landscaping the JCI Gardens Apartments; re-landscaping the Shibusa Garden at Peary Middle School; landscaping the Gardena-Carson Family YMCA; and providing regular maintenance landscaping to the South Bay Keiro facility and Gardena Buddhist Church.

Notable projects include:

Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Show

In 1961, GVGA created the Miniature Landscape Show, later renamed the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Show, a major event and cultural highlight in Gardena. The GVGA sponsored the show until 1996, after which it was discontinued due to the declining age of the gardeners. The gardeners built a temporary Japanese garden on a parking lot that included, at times, ponds with koi, bamboo pipes, rocks, a stone lantern, and black pine trees. A portion of the proceeds from the show went to the Gardena Beautification Fund, which bought trees for the community's streets, among other projects. The show raised about \$45,000 during its lifetime.

Gardena Mayme Dear Library

In 1964, the GVGA constructed the Japanese Garden in the

courtyard of the Gardena Mayme Dear Library. The landscape materials consist of 35 tons of ornamental rocks, a water basin, raked sand, bamboo fencing, and a seven-foot tall stone lantern. 2,620 volunteer hours were given by GVGA members. The garden was awarded the Blue Ribbon of Excellence in Design by the Society of American Registered Architects.

Cal State University Dominguez Hills

The Shinwa-En Japanese Garden at Cal State University Dominguez Hills was built in 1978 by the GVGA along with other gardeners, landscapers, and nurserymen; it took eight months to complete. The boulders were dug up and brought to the site from Fillmore, CA (Ventura County). The gardeners worked on Sundays, their only day off.

The GVJCI is grateful for the GVGA's generous donation that will create the Gardena Valley Gardeners Association Legacy Scholarship, and is honored to continue the good work of the GVGA.

"The Gardena Valley Gardeners Association was one of the stalwart groups under the Southern California Gardeners' Federation. Its dedicated members, many of them skilled landscapers, transformed both the physical appearance and the community infrastructure of the South Bay region. Their gardens still remain to this day. Even more importantly, the community foundation that they built provides the next generation with more possibilities to make life more culturally enriched for not only our own families but the larger area." Naomi Hirahara, editor, "Green Makers: Japanese American Gardeners in Southern California."



GVGA Founding Member Bil Nishimura (l) and Associate Member Joe Watari (r).



MAY DEADLINE FOR 2016 GVJCI SCHOLARSHIPS

The GVJCI will be awarding scholarships to 2016 high school seniors, and GVJCI Japanese Language School graduates (may live outside of the South Bay area). Emphasis will be placed upon GVJCI and other community involvement, volunteerism, and future goals. High school students must have a minimum of a 2.5 GPA and have post-secondary educational plans. Applications will be available on our website: jci-gardena.org. Submission deadline is May 16, 2016, and award announcements will be made in June 2016 at the GVJCI Matsuri- Carnival.

Scholarships available: Gary Hori Memorial Scholarship \$1,000, Gardena Valley JACL Scholarship \$1,000, and the Gardena Valley Gardeners Association Legacy Scholarship \$500, and other GVJCI scholarships.



TANOSHII FUN CAMP

2016 Camper's Information

TANOSHII Fun Camp's mission is to "Promote the Legacy of the Japanese American Culture and Heritage to our Youth." Now in its eighth year, the TANOSHII Fun Camp sponsored by the South Bay JACL and the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute (GVJCI) will be held on July 11 to July 15, 2016 at the GVJCI.

Camp hours are from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Enrollment is open to all students 7 to 10 years old at the start of camp, and limited to 50 campers. Camp enrollment fee: \$200.00 per camper.

SPACE IS LIMITED, REGISTER NOW at: www.tanoshiifuncamp.org

Camp Counselor's Information

What are the Requirements to be a Camp Counselor?

- Must be a college student or high school student entering his or her junior or senior year in the fall of 2016.
- Should have a strong interest and knowledge/experience with Japanese American culture, heri-

tage, and community.

Upon acceptance of your application, interviews will be scheduled. Must attend 12 hours of training a week prior to the start of camp.

What will you gain as a camp counselor?

Leadership skills- through training workshops, and leading camp projects, presentations, and activities

New friendships and a stronger bond to the community
A valuable experience impacting and molding the younger generations

How Do You Apply?

Application for Camp Counselors is posted on our web now at: www.tanoshiifuncamp.org

For questions, please visit the TANOSHII Fun Camp website at www.tanoshiifuncamp.org or contact the TANOSHII Camp Director, Ray Shibata by email at Tanoshiifuncamp@gmail.com or inquire at the JCI Office.

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YATAI

FOOD FESTIVAL

South Bay Street Food

Asian Bowls • Japanese Food • Noodles • and more...

DATE Saturday, August 27, 2016

TIME 5pm - 10pm

TICKETS \$10/adult; \$5/kids; under 5: free

Friends of GVJCI, preserving our stories for generations to come...



"I originally decided to get involved as a teacher of a martial art, Naginata, at GVJCI in 1974. First and foremost, I teach the values of Naginata of honor, discipline, respect, etiquette and humility. Learning the skills of Naginata is a process to develop these values. The GVJCI provides the facility for all the different Japanese American activities and programs to promote and maintain the important aspects of Japanese culture."
~Helen Nakano



"The purpose/function of GVJCI is important to me because it promotes that opportunity and growth of the Japanese/Japanese American/Japanese-speaking community to collaborate culturally and also intergenerationally...I see the potential and ongoing growth of GVJCI, which I find it very important and meaningful to not only on a personal level but as a community member in the South Bay."
~Mei Kameda



Save the Date!

Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute

Kansha Craft Show

Sunday, September 25, 2016

Looking for new craft vendors to join us at this fun, community oriented show!

Call Sharon Sawai @ (310) 324-6611 or
Email S_Sawai@jci-gardena.org

GVJCI CAR DONATION PROGRAM



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

Here's the Easy Steps:

1. Call or email us to arrange pickup at (310) 324-6611 or cars@jci-gardena.org.
2. HCDS will arrange towing, always free 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 car is sold, your acknowledgement and tax forms will arrive by mail.
5. You get rid of an unwanted car and the satisfaction of helping others, and you receive an IRS-approved tax deduction!

MAPFRE/Commerce West Insurance

MAPFRE/Commerce West Insurance Company, formerly Western Pioneer, was formed in 1948 with the help of many Nisei insurance agents to provide Japanese Americans affordable automobile insurance. MAPFRE/Commerce West Insurance Company continues the "Western Pioneer Group Program" today, in which members of Japanese American non-profit organizations can purchase automobile insurance at discounted rates. In addition, annual donations are given to non-profit organizations that have the most members joining this plan. This special discount program benefits the drivers and the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute (GVJCI). Please ask your agent about this program. Below is a partial list of participating agencies.

COSTA MESA

Miyazaki Ins. Svcs.
(714) 979-8700

HUNTINGTON BEACH

Mizuno Insurance
(714) 964-7227

Kagawa Ins.
(213) 628-1800

PASADENA

FIA Ins. Svcs., Inc.
(626) 795-7059

CULVER CITY

Trust Insurance
(310) 839-3127

LA PALMA

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

Tatsuno Insurance
(213) 626-1954

SANTA MONICA

Autoline
(800) 770-7978

GARDENA

AHTKY Insurance
(310) 516-0110

LONG BEACH

Nori Marumoto Inc.
(562) 595-4403

MONTEBELLO

Ogino-Aizumi, Inc.
(323) 728-7488

TORRANCE

Kamiya Ins. Agency
(310) 781-2066

Nakamura Agency
(310) 327-0717

LOS ANGELES

Buna Insurance
(213) 626-1547

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Quality Ins. Service
(323) 727-7755

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(310) 533-8877

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Union Bank is proud to support the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute.

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949-225-4320

Palos Verdes Center
310-541-2571

South Gardena
310-532-5522

Torrance
310-373-8411

West Los Angeles
310-391-0678



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 Gardena, CA 90247
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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:

The Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute serves the needs of the Japanese American community of the South Bay area through educational, cultural and social programs by:

- Providing programs and activities, sensitive and relevant, to the needs of our senior citizens and youth;
- Offering use of facilities and support to community organizations which foster the best interests and welfare of the community
- Striving to create an environment for better inter-generational understanding, for perpetuating the ethnic heritage of Americans of Japanese ancestry, and for promoting cultural pride and respect for all humanity.

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GVJCI Quarterly Newsletter

Michelle Yamashiro
 Layout