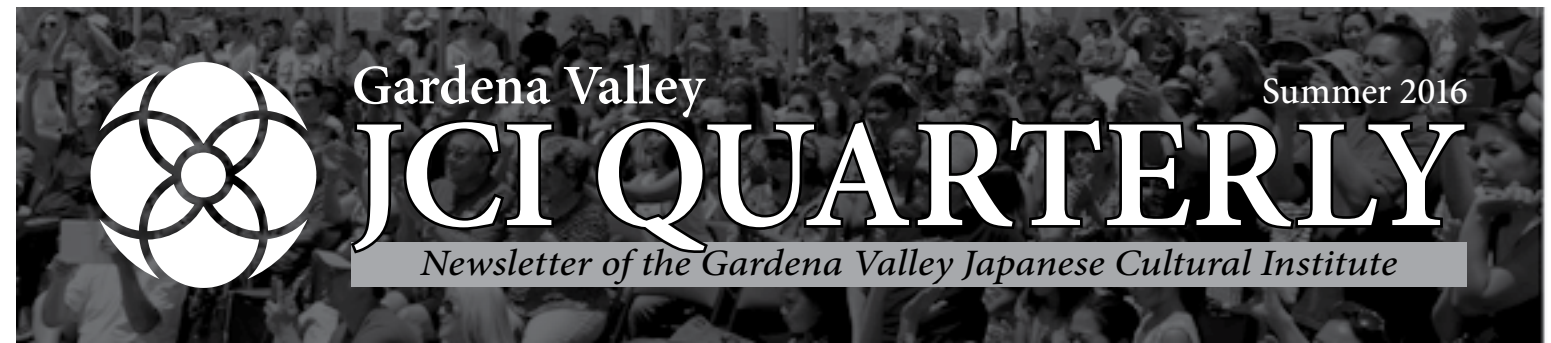




1964 West 162nd Street
 Gardena, CA 90247
 Phone: 310-324-6611
 Fax: 310-324-3223
 Email: info@jci-gardena.org
 Website: jci-gardena.org
 Like & Connect:
 www.facebook.com/GVJCI

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



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:

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.

Board of Directors

Charlie Oyagi, *President*
 Bob Horii, *Vice President*
 Marilyn Tsuge, *Secretary*
 Miles Akiyama, *Treasurer*
 Richard Ames
 Steven Awakuni
 Gail Doi
 Larry Hada
 Alan Kita
 Teri Kuwahara
 Helen Nakano
 Grant Nakaoka
 Cheryl Nakata
 Ray Shibata

Emeritus Board of Directors

George Ajioka
 Dan Ashimine
 Helen Kawagoe
 Paul Koshi
 Glenn Tachibana
 Terry Terauchi

Staff

Administration & Programs
 Alison Kochiyama, *Executive Director*
 Dale Inafuku, *Office Manager/Programs & Technology Specialist*
 Michelle Yamashiro, *Program Manager*
 Sharon Sawai, *Events & Fundraising Coordinator*

Facilities
 Debbie Oba, *Facility Operations Manager*
 Brian Hoshiko, *Maintenance Custodian*
 Bob Seki, *Maintenance Custodian*
 Gerald Mayewaki, *Facility Assistant*
 Eddie Motonaga, *Facility Assistant*

Japanese Language School

Larry Hada, *Principal*
 Atsuko Vorreiter, *Vice Principal & Teacher*
 Satoru Kawakita, *Teacher*
 Yukikazu Nagashima, *Teacher*
 Aimi Nakajima, *Teacher*
 Naoko Okamoto, *Teacher*
 Eriko Yamamoto, *Adult Class & Conversation Class Teacher*
 Tomiko Akamine, *Clerical*

GVJCI Quarterly Newsletter

Alvin Takamori,
Layout & Design

2016 GVJCI Matsuri- Carnival Thank You!

By: Sharon Sawai, Events & Fundraising Coordinator

Another successful Matsuri-Carnival has come and gone...and what a fun-filled weekend it was!

Every year as a child, I would come to the GVJCI Matsuri-Carnival to hang out with my friends, eat some delicious food, play some fun games, and embrace the Japanese culture the Matsuri- Carnival had to offer. Now as a parent and coordinator of the Matsuri-Carnival, I still enjoy the festivities and try to keep the family-oriented, cultural vibe intact for our younger (and older) generations to enjoy.

There's no better way to start off a Matsuri than with the heart pumping, "grab your attention" sound of taiko! As a child, taiko would always make me stop in my tracks and listen. I still enjoy the beat of the chudaiko. This year, I was grateful that periodically I was able to be a spectator and watch the various martial arts, hula, line dancing, and ukulele performances. They were all entertaining and I am hopeful that when time permits, I too, can start taking lessons in one of these art forms. You too, can join in on the fun here at the GVJCI!

One of my all-time favorite childhood memories is dancing ondo at the various festivals during the summer months. I still eagerly await this time of the year as my kids participate in the dancing now. So when the Matsuri committee was brainstorming for new ideas and activities to bring to our Matsuri, ondo was a popular vote indeed! This year we started off small, and we are hopeful in time, as the word gets out, it will grow into something amazing!

I hope the food continues to be of your liking and is somewhat reminiscent of the Matsuri of the past. We are always striving to improve our food booths, and we hope that you are able to enjoy what we have to offer every year.

This Matsuri would not be able to exist without the support, hard work, and dedication from the various community organizations, volunteers, GVJCI Board, Staff and their families before, during, and after the Matsuri. MANY hours were put forth into making this a successful fundraiser for the GVJCI, and we are truly fortunate to have such dedicated supporters! Thank you to the local businesses, nurseries, and individuals who generously donated raffle prizes, plants, rummage sale items, craft items, and monetary donations. You have all played an integral part of our success! A special thank you to our Matsuri Chairperson Ray Shibata for his continued guidance, insight, and leadership. Thank you to our Matsuri Committee members for their input, suggestions, and hard work. Without the combined effort and support from all those involved, our Matsuri would not be here today.

In This Newsletter...

GVJCI News.....4

GVJCI Calendar.....6

Tomo No Kai Corner.....9

Friends of the GVJCI.....10



continued on next page

Corporate Sponsors
King's Hawaiian Bakery & Restaurant
Union Bank Foundation

Monetary Donations
Gardena Nissan, Inc.
Terao, DDS, Ernest F.K. Nursery
Kawahara, Myrna Kuwae, Kevin Oyagi, Charlie & Carol
Yamada, Dr. Jason

Raffle Donors
Advanced Chiro Café
Anonymous Awakuni, Donna Awakuni, Dorothy Azuma Restaurant
Back Home in Lahaina
Benson, Charlie & Laura
Bob's Hawaiian Style Restaurant
Boy Scout Troop 683
Country Touch
Del Taco - Gardena
Elder Law Services of California
Gardena Bowl Coffee Shop
Happa Restaurant
Jamba Juice

Kotohira Restaurant
Leilani's Jewelry
Lomeli's Italian Restaurant
Marie Callender's Restaurant & Bakery
Mizuba, Dorothy
Natural Imitations
Nijiya Market
Oyagi, Charles & Carol
O'Reilly Auto Parts (Gardena)
Park, Wayne D.D.S.
Phiten Torrance Shop
Sanrio Surprise Sakae Sushi
Sea Empress Seafood Restaurant
Shimabuku, Hazel
Shinsengumi Restaurant
Sprouts Farmers Market
Starbucks (Gardena)
Tahata, Erma & Willie
Tanouye, Mary
Terao, DDS, Ernest
Townsend Appliances
Uwahori, Sadae
Vons/Pavilions Market (Gardena)
Yamamoto, A.

Nursery Donors
ABC Nursery
Centeno's Nursery

Certified Plant Growers
C-Stars Nursery
Dave Yogi & the 186th Street Area Homeowner's Association
Elwood Nursery
Garibaldo's Nursery
H&H Nursery
I.T. Nursery, Inc.
Javier's Nursery
Kawahara, Larry
Matsumoto, Kenneth & Nora
Moneta Nursery
Nozaki Nursery
Sunflower Farms
S.Y. Nursery
Toro Nursery
TY Nursery
Unique Plant Rentals

Food/Supply Donors & Discounts
Cal Fresco Company
Coca Cola Bottling Co.
Martin Container, Inc.
Mutual Trading Co., Inc.
Universal Waste Systems, Inc.

In-Kind Donations
Ezaki Glico USA
Kita, Dawn
Rascal's Teriyaki Grill

Volunteer Organizations Including Performers
6th Grade Girls
Hollywood Dodgers
Shooting Stars
7th Grade Boys
Hollywood Dodgers Dragons
ABC Nursery
Aloha Picking - Mel Ogata's Ukulele Class
Bando Hidesomi
Nihon Buyo Class
Bob Horii & Family
Boy Scout Troop #242
Boy Scout Troop #683
Boy Scout Troop #719
CSU Dominguez Hills Circle K
Faith United Methodist Church
Gardena Buddhist Church
Gardena Evening Optimist
Gardena JCI Kendo Club
Gardena Judo Club
Gardena Kendo Club
Gardena Pioneer Project
Gardena Valley Baptist Church
Gardena Valley Nisei Club
Girl Scout Troop

#15715
Girl Scout Troop #17195
Girl Scout Troop #3635
Girl Scout Troop #4345/7th & 8th Grade
Girl Scout Troop #7165
GVJCI Board of Directors
GVJCI Gardens
Apartment Staff
GVJCI Japanese Language School & Parent Group
Halau Ke'Ala O Na Lei Milo
Islander's Rod & Gun Club
JACLPSW
Kaizen Dojo
Kanani Kalama
Hula Studio
Na Pua O' Lanaki
Narbonne Key Club
Nisei VFW Post 1961 & Ladies Club
North Torrance Lions
Okinawan Association of America
Sam Matsushita & Friends
Sansei Baseball League
Shotokan Karate
South Bay FOR
South Bay JACL
South Bay Kyudo
Renmei
South Bay Shorinji

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

CULVER CITY

Trust Insurance
(310) 839-3127

GARDENA

AHTKY Insurance
(310) 516-0110

Nakamura Agency
(310) 327-0717

HUNTINGTON BEACH

Mizuno Insurance
(714) 964-7227

LA PALMA

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

LONG BEACH

Nori Marumoto Inc.
(562) 595-4403

LOS ANGELES

Buna Insurance
(213) 626-1547

PASADENA

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

SANTA MONICA

Autoline
(800) 770-7978

Kagawa Ins.
(213) 628-1800

Tatsuno Insurance
(213) 626-1954

MONTEBELLO

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

MONTEREY PARK

Quality Ins. Service
(323) 727-7755

TORRANCE

Kamiya Ins. Agency
(310) 781-2066

Isu Tsuneishi Ins.
(310) 533-8877

WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU IS IMPORTANT TO US.

Union Bank® understands the importance of community. We are deeply grateful for the personal and professional ties we have developed throughout the years. And with our proven history of solid financial performance, we will continue to put our strength to work for you. Together with you, we look forward to building a successful future for generations to come.

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

unionbank.com   



A member of MUFG, a global financial group

Gardena
310-354-4700

Irvine
949-250-0580

Little Tokyo
213-972-5500

Los Angeles Main
213-236-7700

Montebello
323-726-0081

Orange County Airport
949-225-4320

Palos Verdes Center
310-541-2571

South Gardena
310-532-5522

Torrance
310-373-8411

West Los Angeles
310-391-0678

DON DON DON! TAIKO AT GVJCI!

Taiko is making its way back to GVJCI! Join YUJOU Taiko, a community taiko (or Japanese drumming) group that was formed through friendship and a shared passion for taiko. This group has been playing for 4 years at various events like Walk the Farm, Monterey Park Cherry Blossom Festival, Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific Autumn Festival, LA Clippers Japanese American Community Night, and so much more! Classes begin Sunday September 4th, and are only \$95 for 8 weeks! For more information contact Michelle Yamashiro at myamashiro@jci-gardena.org or visit yuujou-daiko.com.

Friends of GVJCI

Be a Friend of the Gardena Valley JCI

The Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute is an integral part of the South Bay community. Japanese American clubs/organizations are here and have been a part of many Japanese American lives. Today, clubs/organizations are continuing to use the GVJCI as a place to hold meetings and classes. And, the GVJCI is creating programs that enrich all aspects of the Nikkei communities in the South Bay from the descendants of the farming communities of Gardena, Moneta and Lawndale, to the families of post-war immigration from Japan; from Japanese Americans from Hawai'i to Japanese descendants from Central and South America.

The area is home to one of the largest population of Nikkei in the U.S. and the GVJCI is a foundation of the community. Please join as a Friend of GVJCI to help support the center and its programs such as Day of Remembrance observation and the TANOSHII Fun Camp for children to discover their heritage. GVJCI is more than a place but a space for which all of South Bay can explore Japanese heritage the contributions to the culture and communities in the South Bay.

Joining this first year will make you a "Charter Friend" and a legacy for subsequent years. So far, GVJCI is on board to make its modest goal. 78 Charter Friends have joined and raised \$15,415 60% of our first year goal. But why stop there? There is room for more Charter Friends. Please complete the "Friends of Gardena Valley JCI" form at www.jci-gardena.org/friends or visit our office, and be part of this South Bay treasure.

Below are our Charter Friends so far who have pledged support. Thank you Friends!

Bronze (\$100 - \$249)

Anonymous
Keith & Shoko Agee
Miles Akiyama

Dorothy Awakuni
Kimie Colditz
Jeffrey & Lorraine Dohzen
Richard & Teri-Lynn Gekko
Richard Hamada
Chizuko Hara
Icy & Janey Hasama
Eleanor Igawa
Tamotsu Ikeda
Dale Inafuku
Myrna Kawahara
Richard & Alice Kimura
Iku Kiriyama
Victor & Lillian Kitagawa
Alison & Jimmy Kochiyama
Yvonne Koga
Jean Kohama
Harry Kondo
Mr. & Mrs. S.K. & J.H. Kuniyoshi
Susie Kuwahara
Teresa Matsushima
Melvin & Christine Mayeda
Florence Mayeda
Mayewaki Family
Matsuko McKellar
Toshi & Alexa Mihara
Dorothy Mizuba
Hideo & Miyoko Mura
Aiko & Aki Muranaka
Mae Nakakihara
Emma Nakaoki
David & Lily Nakatani
Alice Noda
Warren and Juliet Oda
Shirley Okazaki
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Okazaki
Betty Oshiro
Masanobu Oshiro

Ed & Irene Russ
Louise Sakamoto
Yoshiko Sasahara
Jane Shimatsu
Joseph & Lilly Shiroma
Hiroyuki Taga
Ivy & James Toma
Hannah Uemura
Sadae Uwahori
Asa Wakinaka
Sue Watanabe
Donald & Karen Watanabe
Pat Watanabe

Silver (\$250 - \$499)

Anonymous
Donald Hata
Bob & Taeko Nakata
Alan & Yvonne Nishio
Hazel Shimabuku
Lynn Tabata
Harry Yonemura, ABC Nursery

Gold (\$500 - \$999)

Mildred Kawano
Yoshiko Kita
Sadao & Ruby Mochidome
Helen & George Nakano
Grant & Tracy Nakaoka
Michi Oki
Marilyn Sunahara

Platinum (\$1,000 and above)

Steve Awakuni, Law Office of Steven Awakuni
May Cambra
Jeff & Christine Murakami
Ray & Sharon Shibata




YATAI FOOD FESTIVAL

South Bay Street Food

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

BEER GARDEN PROVIDED BY



DATE Saturday, August 27, 2016

TIME 5pm - 10pm

LOCATION Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute
1964 W. 162nd St, Gardena, CA 90247
<https://goo.gl/maps/VAqY2ojsEPx>

TICKETS ~~\$15/adult~~; \$5/kids; under 5: free



For more information and ticket sales, please email us at info@jci-gardena.org or call us at 310-324-6611





Hello, interns!

Meet the amazing young team that's growing our community! Starting in June, we've had four interns at GVJCI. These interns have been working on programs, the Matsuri-Carnival, marketing, and many other projects. We are thankful to the South Bay F.O.R for their monetary support, it ensures we can continue to have development and leadership programs for young leaders!

Nicole Kanemitsu

My name is Niki Kanemitsu and I am an intern at GVJCI through the Nikkei Community Internship. I am a rising junior at Syracuse University, where I am studying Public Relations in the Newhouse School of Public Communications. Through this internship, I hope to gain more knowledge about my Japanese heritage and learn about what it means to identify as a young Japanese American woman. At GVJCI, I hope to gain insight into the non-profit work environment by working closely with the staff and volunteers, and I also hope to meet the many influential leaders within the Japanese American community that are involved with the organization.

Stephanie Mayeda

My name is Stephanie Mayeda and I am a proud 2016 graduate of California State University, Long Beach! As a Torrance native, I have deep roots in the South Bay area and hope to bring my knowledge and enthusiasm for the community to my job as a GVJCI social media and community outreach intern. What I largely hope to accomplish during my time here is to educate members of the community with fun and enriching programs, exposing them to various notions unknown to them before. I fervently believe that learning new ideas and acquiring new skills are incredibly powerful and instill confidence in people of all ages. In order to do this, I hope to learn more about fundraising, grant writing, and the most efficient ways to utilize resources. All in all, I hope that my internship will allow me to give back to the community I have lived in my whole life as well as help me to discover new things about myself.

Leah Ishii

Hello, my name is Leah Ishii. I am currently a senior at California State University Long Beach majoring in Asian American Studies and will graduate spring of 2017.

I was given the chance to work with Gardena Valley JCI through the CSULB Asian and Asian American Studies Alum scholarship which allows me to work with a community organization. By interning at GVJCI, I hope to have a better connection with the Japanese American community. Career-wise, I hope my time here will give me the tools and knowledge needed to continue working with the community and nonprofit organizations in the future. While everything I am learning here is new and exciting, it is also quite intimidating and is out of my comfort zone. I want to be able to expand or even break down my wall of comfort to experience much more that will benefit me long-term.

Stephanie Munson

My name is Stephanie Munson and I am serving as one of the Social Media and Community Outreach interns here at GVJCI. I graduated from California State University Northridge Fall of 2015 with a B.A. in Communication Studies. I grew up with a deep passion for serving the community that only strengthened during my studies and involvement in non-profit organizations. During my time here I would like to continue to provide services that enrich the community by creating opportunities for them to participate in educational events. I believe that hands on learning is the best way we can enlighten the community as well as get them more involved. Already, this internship has proven to be extremely helpful in teaching me how to find and use resources available to us to provide such opportunities. I'm excited to continue to learn more about being involved in non-profit organizations and hopefully gain new skills that will enrich my life and passions.



Pictured left to right: Stephanie Munson, Stephanie Mayeda, Niki Kanemitsu, and Leah Ishii.

Alex Fukunaga, Eagle Scout Project

Alex Fukunaga of Boy Scout Troop #378 successfully completed his project over the weekend of August 29th, 2015. We were fortunate to have Alex choose our facility to help us in two areas that needed some attention. Alex and his troop helped to make our second floor janitorial closet into an organized work area. Paint, shelving, new wash basin and a storage cabinet gave the once dingy and cluttered room a bright facelift. In addition to the janitorial closet transformation, Alex built a rack for our Main Hall stage railings. With the new rack, the railings are now off the ground and easily maneuvered onto the hall floor for easier assembly. A huge thank you to Alex and the members of his Boy Scout Troop and parents who graciously gave so much of their time to help our facility.



Got Crafts?

Craft vendors (circuit crafters or hobby crafters) wanted for our GVJCI Kansha Craft Show on Sunday, September 25th from 9:00am-2:00pm. For more information, visit our website at jci-gardena.org, call (310) 324-6611, or email Sharon at s_sawai@jci-gardena.org.

Tomo No Kai Corner

Thank you to all of the Tomo No Kai (TNK) classes and members for their support given to the 2016 GVJCI Matsuri-Carnival through presale coupon sales, donations, and volunteerism. TNK volunteers worked hard in the following areas: Food Preparation, Spam Musubi, Senior Crafts, White Elephant Sale, and the Volunteers Hospitality Room. Thank you as well to the TNK classes for their wonderful performances throughout the weekend. We couldn't have done it without your support! TNK's 2nd Quarter 2016 Contribution: \$14,709 from TNK class participation fees, membership dues, and donations.

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 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!



August

DIABETES EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM (DEEP) – KEIRO LIFELONG LEARNING COURSE

WEDNESDAYS, AUG 3 – SEP 21, 9 AM - 11 AM
GVJCI Classroom #206

Are you living with diabetes? This course is designed to help people with diabetes manage their conditions and reduce complications by leading healthier, longer lives. This course will be on eight consecutive Wednesdays from August 20th through September 21st. All class sessions will be from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Keiro facilitators will walk you through the program step by step. This is a free course, but registration is required. Please contact Kanako Fukuyama at (213) 873-5709 to register and for questions.

THE ART OF TOKOYAMA: THE JAPANESE TRADITIONAL DANCE WIG LECTURE AND DEMONSTRATION

SATURDAY, AUG 6, 4-6 PM

Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

An exciting and informative lecture and demonstration at the GVJCI featuring a Japanese wig stylist, Tokuo Toyotani, and his protégé, son Kazuo Toyotani. During event, Toyotani, of the renowned Gekidan Shinpa Theatrical Group in Japan, will discuss the art of combing Japanese dance wigs used in Kabuki and classical dance. He has been invited to present this educational forum by the Nihon Buyo Kai of California, a nonprofit organization established by a group of Bando School students to promote and perpetuate the art of Japanese traditional and classical dance. Following the demonstration and lecture, a Japanese traditional dance will be performed by a Bando student wearing the wig. Admission will be \$5 per person. Seating is limited and interested attendees are encouraged to reserve online at <http://goo.gl/forms/CZq4QmuqE7ZLSqIn1>. For more information, call (310) 324-6611 or email info@jci-gardena.org. For Japanese language, call (310) 800-0118. "The Art of Tokoyama" is co-sponsored by the Nihon Buyo Kai of California and the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute.

WRITERS' SALON

SATURDAY, AUG 13, 1-3 PM

Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

In August, the GVJCI begins a program called the "Writers' Salon." This informal event is an opportunity for writers to read selections from their published books or works in progress, followed by a discussion about the writing process, of present and future projects, of the trials and tribulations of writing. After

the discussion, the audience will be able to talk with the writers, and to purchase books if available.

The first Writers' Salon will feature Nick Nagatani, Gary Yano, Akemi Kikumura Yano, and Janet Mitsui Brown.

For more information, please contact Tim Toyama at timothy-toyama@aol.com, (310) 848-9890, or Michelle Yamashiro at myamashiro@jci-gardena.org, (310) 324-6611. spot.ro@jci-gardena.org. Reserve by February 2.

Fandango Obon

Saturday, AUG 20, 11:30 AM-2:00 PM

GVJCI Breezeway

Interested in growing your own foods and learning about what you can do to help the environment? Join us in this multi-cultural experience to learn about Fandango (a participatory music and dance tradition from Veracruz, Mexico), gardening, and healthy cooking! This event is FREE and open to the public!

SEPTEMBER

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP

FRIDAY, SEP 9, 1:30-3:30 PM

GVJCI 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. Space is limited, so please call the GVJCI office to reserve your spot.

MIXED PLATE JAMS

SATURDAY, SEP 10, 6-8 PM

Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Are you ready for Mixed Plate jams, September edition?! We will be having another mixed plate jams, our open mic night in the fall. We will be having a dinner + show option for only \$13, just the show ticket price is \$5. Performers get in free, and their dinner price is only \$8! Come join us for a beautiful night filled with food, drinks, music and all sorts of entertainment. You must register and pay by September 2nd for the \$13 dinner + show price. Dinner will be a sushi, inari, and salmon bento! You can contact us at info@jci-gardena.org or (310) 324-6611. All art forms are welcome!

ARTHRITIS VITALITY FORUM

SATURDAY, SEP 10, 2-4 PM

Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Arthritis can be a painful disease to live with. Discover the basics of arthritis at this Keiro Vitality Forum. Learn about the effects of this disease, and preventive measures you can take. Kanako Fukuyama, MSW, Health Promotion Specialist from

Keiro will facilitate this free forum. Registration is required. Please contact Kanako Fukuyama at (213) 873-5709 to register and for questions.

LETTERS TO EVE WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, SEP 17, 6-8 PM

Main Hall

Letters To Eve (written by Daniel Sugimoto) is a classic story of love, friendship, family, and honor. This epic WWII musical follows a Japanese American family and their plight through forced internment, an African American jazz musician captured during Germany's occupation of France, and the powerful spirit of music and literature. This breathtaking new work will uncover the lost letters of history and paint a pure picture of a fascinating era. Discover the power as these characters decide to stand up for what's right, and create a legacy for the ages! You may purchase tickets for this exclusive showing for \$10 at sugimotion.com under "Current Works." Join us for a night of music and storytelling!

OCTOBER

CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE 2

SUNDAY, OCT 9, 1-3 PM

Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Iku Kiriya and Dr. Dean Kujubu, Kaiser Permanente nephrologist, will discuss Chronic Kidney Disease and the risk factors of diabetes and hypertension in a question & answer format with audience participation interspersed during their discussion. For the past 10 years, Iku Kiriya has shared her experiences related to her husband George's death in 2005, which segued to her personal health issues. She believes people can be proactive for their own lives if they gain knowledge through professional information and personal experiences early on.

Chronic Kidney Disease II is a sequel to a program presented last year. Since that program, Iku discovered many people with diabetes and hypertension who did not know about their conditions as they related to kidney disease until it was too late. Dr. Dean Kujubu, who presented with Iku at the forum last year, will again offer his professional expertise. This program is free and open to the public, but you must rsvp to info@jci-gardena.org.

OTSUKIMI

FRIDAY, OCT 14, 6-10 PM

South Coast Botanic Garden

26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes

Join the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute (GVJCI) and the South Coast Botanic Garden (SCBG) for our first ever tsukimi, or moon viewing. On Friday October 14th, we will be at the SCBG gazing at the night sky, and appreciating the beauty of the moon. A Japanese tradition, Otsukimi, is usually celebrated outdoors with delicious seasonal foods, poetry, and beautiful surroundings. People would celebrate the harvest season by gaz-

ing at the moon at its brightest.

We will be celebrating this full moon event with drinks and food for all ages. We will also be featuring local artists who will perform music, poetry, and traditional Japanese arts. Come by Friday the 14th with your family and friends, and enjoy an evening outdoors! To purchase tickets please email Michelle Yamashiro at myamashiro@jci-gardena.org

SHAKEOUT

SATURDAY, OCT 15, 9AM-12PM

GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Are you ready for a natural disaster?! Learn more about how to prep for an earthquake in a fun and interactive way! The GVJCI will be partnering with Tri-City CERT for an earthquake simulation and rescue. In addition to participating in this event, there will be freebies and food to enjoy with the community! Be prepared and join us on Oct. 15th! RSVP to info@jci-gardena.org.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

SATURDAY, OCT 22, 9 am – 3pm

GVJCI

Join the GVJCI for its second annual GVJCI volunteer day! We are participating in a nationwide campaign called Make a Difference day, where community members volunteer and give back! This volunteer day is open to any volunteers of all ages. We will be cleaning, organizing, and revamping the GVJCI so it can stay a community space for generations to come. RSVP to info@jci-gardena.org.

OBAKE NIGHT

FRIDAY, OCT 28, 5pm-7pm

GVJCI

Celebrate Halloween early with GVJCI by attending Obake night! We will have games and treats for an early Halloween party, come dressed up and join in on the fun! Great for ages 5-15 years! Please RSVP to info@jci-gardena.org. Price is \$5 per child!

NOVEMBER

HEART HEALTH/HANDS-ONLY CPR FORUM

SATURDAY, NOV 5, 2-4 PM

Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Having a healthy heart is vital to having a healthy life. In the first part of this forum, you will learn about the steps you can take to increase your odds of having a healthy heart. The second part of the forum will be an interactive session for learning how to do the hands-only CPR technique. This is a free program, but registration is required. Please contact Kanako Fukuyama at (213) 873-5709 to register or for more information.

NISEI WEEK SPECIAL!!!

FREE ELDER LAW SEMINARS



Luke Mabunga
Attorney at Law

- How to avoid Joint Tenancy "Pitfalls"
- Is my Living Trust and POA's updated?
- Estate Planning: Tips, tricks, and Traps
- Save hundreds of thousands in Probate Fees
- Get Medi-Cal to pay for long-term care
- How to protect the family home
- Have peace of mind!!!



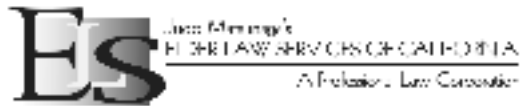
Suee Yamashita-Ida
Attorney at Law

WIN AN IPAD!
*1 method of each seminar. Winner must be present!

Sunday, Aug. 14th
3pm - 3:30pm
JCI Gardens
1964 W. 162nd St.
Gardena, CA 90247

Wednesday, Aug. 17th
3pm - 4:30pm
EMKVJCC
1201 West Pacific Ave.
West Covina, CA 91790

Saturday, Aug. 27th
10am - 11:00am
San Fernando Valley JACC
12953 Emerald St.
Pasadena, CA 91331



Seating is LIMITED
Call 1-800-411-0546 for reservations

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!

2016 GVJCI Scholarship Recipients



Pictured from l-r: Scholarship Committee member and President, GVJCI Board of Directors Charlie Oyagi, GVJCI Scholarship recipients Justin Hino, Kyle Nagao, Justin Akioka, Alyssa Ishimoto, GVJCI Executive Director Alison Kochiyama. (Photo courtesy of JK Yamamoto)

Congratulations to the following graduating seniors who received 2016 scholarship awards on June 25, 2016 at the GVJCI Matsuri. The high academic achievements and goals of all of the recipients, as well as the many dedicated hours of community volunteerism were very impressive and inspirational. These youth had also been affiliated with GVJCI over the years through various associations, projects and activities. CONGRATULATIONS to the award recipients—GVJCI wishes you the best for your bright future ahead! Here's a little information about each of the recipients and what this award means to them:

Gary Hori Memorial Scholarship
Justin Akioka, North High School graduate, will be attending Otis College of Art & Design.

It is truly an honor to receive this award. As an incoming Freshman, I plan to study Product Design at Otis College of Art & Design. Your generosity will help with any supplemental costs associated with art school as art supplies can prove to be costly. Thank you again for your generosity and support and for investing in my education and future. ~Justin Akioka

GV JACL Scholarship
Alyssa Ishimoto, Palos Verdes Peninsula High School graduate, will be

attending University of California, Los Angeles.

Thank you so much for selecting me as the recipient of the Gardena Valley Japanese American Citizens League Scholarship. I was so surprised and very honored and thankful to receive this scholarship! Over the years, the GVJCI has given me plenty of associations to give back to the Japanese American community and I am truly grateful for these opportunities. I really appreciate this scholarship because not only will it help pay for college expenses, it gives me a platform to remain active with the Asian American community, promote volunteerism and involvement within the Japanese community, and continue advocating for the culture that I am so proud of. ~Alyssa Ishimoto

Gardena Valley Gardeners Association Legacy Scholarship
Kyle Nagao, Torrance High School graduate, will be attending California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo.

As the grandson and son of gardeners, I am honored and extremely grateful to be the recipient of the 2016 Gardena Valley Gardeners Association Legacy Scholarship. ~Kyle Nagao

GVJCI Scholarships
Justin Hino, Torrance High School

graduate, will be attending California State University, Fullerton.

It is an honor to receive this scholarship. Money is very tight for my family at this time and it is truly a blessing. This has made me realize that hard work really does pay off. ~Justin Hino
Christina Mark, Marina High School graduate, will be attending California State University, Long Beach.

Erica Taddiken, Mira Costa High School graduate, will be attending University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

I'm am very happy to have received this scholarship from GVJCI. I've dedicated a lot of time to JCI and I am honored that the board decided to help support me and my future. Thank you again for this scholarship. ~Erica Taddiken

=====
The GVJCI awards annual scholarships to high school seniors, and GVJCI Japanese Language School graduates. Applicants must have been directly involved with the GVJCI or its member organizations that hold regular activity at the GVJCI. Emphasis is 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.



Want to advertise for your business while supporting the GVJCI?

Every year, the GVJCI creates a calendar that showcase the various organizations, volunteers, classes, and programs that call the GVJCI their home. Included throughout the calendar are business ads & well wishes from various businesses and supporters. These one-of-a-kind calendars are a "hot commodity" and reach 2,000 households throughout the South Bay annually. If this sounds ideal and you would like more information, please visit our website at jci-gardena.org or call (310) 324-6611.

2016-2017 School Year

Japanese Language School at Gardena Valley JCI
A fun and trendy place to learn Japanese language and culture.

Pre-Registration for Year 2016
At Orientation on August 20, 2016, 10am - 11:15 am
In the JCI Nisei Vets Hall
School Begins September 3, 2016

Where: Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute (2nd floor)
When: Saturday Mornings (Children & Adult Classes)
Monday Nights (Conversation, Only Adult)
Who: 5 years to Adult
Tuition: \$60 per month (for Saturday Classes)
\$5 per class (for Monday Night Classes)
One time new student registration fee will apply

Classes are taught in the format of Japanese as a foreign and heritage language. This school is great for anyone who wants to learn Japanese for the first time. Students are expected to learn both oral and written Japanese.

Gardena Valley JCI
Japanese Language School
1964 W. 162nd Street, Gardena, CA 90247
(310) 324-6611 jls@jci-gardena.org
Website: www.jci-gardena.org