



Gardena Valley

JCI QUARTERLY

Winter 2016

Newsletter of the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016 — YEAR OF THE MONKEY!

On behalf of our GVJCI Board of Directors and Staff, I wish you all the best for the new year, and thank each and every one of you for the support you gave us in 2015. GVJCI is alive and well, and continues to grow because of your participation in our programs & services, your volunteerism, and your generous monetary and non-monetary donations. GVJCI continues to be a gathering place where people of all ages and backgrounds come together, learn, cultivate, and celebrate the rich Japanese American cultural heritage that exists today! We are truly fortunate for all of you who come through our doors day and night, seven days a week, giving our center its continued life and relevancy. Looking forward to more to come in 2016!

With *kansha*,
Alison Kochiyama, Executive Director

Our deepest gratitude to the following 2015 monetary and non-monetary donors for donations received by December 31, 2015. We apologize if we inadvertently left anyone off this list. Please let us know by contacting the GVJCI Office.

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Hayashi, Yoshiko

In Memory of Hisaye Kaneko
Hirokawa, Cathy

In Memory of
Agnes Kanemoto

Hayakawa, Franklin & Amy
In Memory of Rose Kobata

Ajioka, George & Masako
Hayashi, Yoshiko

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Nakamatsu, Maria

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明けまして
おめでと
うございます



Board of Directors Updates

With great sadness, we mourn the passing of **Eiji Inouye** on December 14, 2015. Eiji Inouye served on our Board of Directors from 1970, helping with the early building fund drive, and continued dedicating his time to the GVJCI for 40 years. Eiji later became a GVJCI Board of Director Emeritus in 2014. He also contributed 13 years compiling and writing “The Early History of the GVJCI: My Personal Recollections,” which serves as an instrumental documentation of the early development of GVJCI. Eiji was also a longtime advisor of the Gardena Judo Club. He will be dearly missed.



GVJCI Board of Directors and Staff thank **Jeff Murakami** who served six years on our Board, and was deeply involved in the inner-workings of the GVJCI. Not only had Jeff spent countless hours at GVJCI volunteering his time on setting up the Bridge library, chairing committees, implementing many programs, and assisting staff, he was instrumental in leading the Board through a two-year strategic planning process giving GVJCI direction and goals for the next decade. Jeff also spearheaded our 100th Year Legacy Celebration in 2012, which brought greater awareness to our long history and our significant roots connected to the three gakuen (Moneta, Gardena, and Compton). In establishing our Development Committee, Jeff launched several donor campaigns providing additional ways for GVJCI to create a sustainable future. Jeff’s contributions have been immense. Although Jeff has ended his term as Board of Director in 2015, he will continue as a dedicated volunteer. Thank you, Jeff!

We welcome two new members to the Board of Directors in 2016.



Gail Doi has spent most of her life in local government and community service. Early in her career, she taught Asian American Studies at CSULB and worked in Asian-Pacific service organizations. As Grants Administrator and Special Projects Manager for the City of Gardena and Deputy City Manager for the City of Camarillo, she specialized in integrating public, private and nonprofit resources to meet community needs. In 1975, Gail’s proposal for a 3-year Federal General

Revenue Sharing grant to GVJCI was approved, providing funding for the first staffing, operations and programs in the newly re-built GVJCI facilities. Gail most recently served as interim Director of Administration for the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, and is also a nonprofit consultant with the Executive Services Corps of So Cal. Her past work or board service include the Japanese American National Museum, Harbor Gateway Center, RAIN Homeless Housing of Ventura County, Camarillo Health Care District, Asian American Drug Abuse Program, LB Pioneer Project and LB Japanese Language School. Gail has an MPA from the USC School of Public Policy, where she continues to mentor graduate students, and a BA in English from UC Santa Barbara.

“Serving on the GVJCI Board is a way of coming full circle for me. The roots of my family and professional life are here in Gardena and GVJCI is a huge part of our community collective. I look forward to joining with friends and colleagues to support and sustain GVJCI.”



Alan Kita has experience in working for nonprofits and funding organizations. Alan was part of the committee to establish the Bridge: JCI Heritage Center and its programs, as well as, the first Day of Remembrance event at GVJCI. Alan has returned to Southern California as a consultant for nonprofit groups after a stint at the helm of the Buddhist Churches of

America in San Francisco, and also editor of the monthly publication, *The Wheel of Dharma*. Prior to that, Alan was working with the Trio Programs at the University of Southern California as a director of budgets and compliance, served on the USC Staff Assembly as parliamentarian, chair of the environment and transportation committees, member of the Campus Emergency Response Team, and on the board of the USC Staff Club. Alan also served as director of fund development at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, which led to a career as a program officer for the Japan Foundation and brief roles as a corporate and agency public relations practitioner. Alan is an alumnus of the USC Trojan Marching Band and continues to participate in Homecoming half time shows and a member of the Annenberg Alumni Association. Alan is a Governor Emeritus for the USC Alumni Association and a founding member of the San Francisco Bay Area Committee of the USC Asian Pacific Alumni Association. Alan continues his involvement at the Gardena Buddhist Church as an advisor and is a former chairman of the board. He is presently the chair of the Jodoshinshu Education and Culture Committee and chair of the Archives Committee. A former president of the Adult Buddhist Association, Alan also works with Hui Aikane, especially when they do music.

Thank you, Mei!

By Ray Shibata, GVJCI Board of Directors

GVJCI has partnered once again with Kizuna's Next Generation Leadership (NGL) program. The purpose of this program is to help build the skills and practical experience of participating on a board and to prepare the candidate for leadership at the highest level of an organization. Mei Kameda was our 2015 Next Generation Leadership (NGL) Fellow at the GVJCI. As her mentor, my responsibility was to help her understand how our board meetings operate and the responsibilities of the GVJCI Board of Directors. At the same time, I had the privilege to learn more about Mei.

Mei works full time for Keiro Healthcare Service, as Program Coordinator, Healthy Living. At the same time, Mei was attending CSULB during the evenings seeking her Master's degree in Social Work with an adult and aging concentration. With her busy schedule, it was difficult for her to attend all of our board meetings, but she made it a point to get together every month to go over the board meeting notes. Mei wanted to be involved and learn as much as she could by joining various GVJCI committees. Mei helped coordinate the GVJCI Annual Retreat, and

she joined the Development Committee and the Real Estate Planning Committee. With the end of her Kizuna NGL Program in December, Mei elected not to join the GVJCI Board due to her busy schedule with school and work, but is committed to staying on to work with some of the committees that she joined. Thank you, Mei, for your great contributions!



Thank you for supporting our 2016 GVJCI Raffle!

The proceeds of the raffle go towards our Building Fund, which pays for capital improvements and repairs. Each year, we experience an increase in the amounts of major repairs, replacements, and expenses for our facilities that are over 40 years old. In 2015, we were able to replace the roofing on the GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall and replace our security alarm system. In 2016, our goal is to raise \$50,000 to recondition the wood floors in the JCI Hall, and replace our fire alarm system. To date, we have raised \$16,828 in raffle income! There's still time to make a donation or purchase raffle tickets until January 28, 2016 at 5 pm.

In addition to our Building Fund (raffle), many supporters made a tax deductible, monetary donation. These donations will be used to help support our various cultural, educational, recreational, and social programs, classes, and services to the South Bay area. Our goal to continue to better serve the South Bay area is to raise an additional \$30,000. As of December 31, 2015, we have raised \$29,177!

None of this could be made possible without your support and generosity! The GVJCI Board and Staff would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to everyone who continuously supports our cause and vision!

Come join us on Friday, January 29, 2016 at 11:30am for the Raffle Drawing during our Senior Birthday Program. If you would like to enjoy the fun entertainment and order a bento, please call us Monday-Friday 9am to 12pm by January 26.

Let's Groove Tonight

In October, GVJCI held our first fundraising concert featuring the live band, Elemental Funk! It was a full house with patrons either dancing the night away, munching on appetizers, having a few drinks, or just simply relaxing and enjoying the live music of the 80's. Many people who had attended mentioned it was reminiscent of the days when live bands were the "talk of the town."

A special "THANK YOU" to Elemental Funk for sharing your musical talents, to Gardena Bowl Coffee Shop, The Loft, and Cherrystones for donating the delicious appetizers, and to everyone that had attended and supported this FUNdraiser! This

event could not have been made possible without your gracious support. We are hoping to do another concert in 2016! We hope you can join us!





Create a Legacy

GVJCI Legacy Scholarship

*one gift or pledge
can have
the impact of a lifetime*

"The Japanese American Community is so important to me, and Gardena Valley is the first place where I got introduced to it. The GV JCI has given me so much in the last two years and I am forever thankful for all the experiences and memories that I made there. Receiving a scholarships from the Institute is very humbling and I am truly honored. I can't wait for my time at Georgetown University to hopefully become even more involved with the Japanese American community. Thank you".

Risa Nakagawa, 2015 Gardena Valley JACL Scholarship Recipient, Palos Verdes Peninsula High School

The Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute is pleased to offer an opportunity for individuals, families or organizations to establish a perpetual GVJCI LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP named in honor of the donor or as a memorial or living tribute. The proceeds from each gift will contribute to an annual named scholarship awarded to a high school graduating senior who has demonstrated character, leadership, academic accomplishment, future aspirations, and active involvement in GVJCI or one of its member organizations.

"To establish a scholarship for Gary Hori, beloved brother, uncle, and friend, was a natural decision for his family. He was a man who accomplished much, but never stopped trying to better himself and help others. His words of encouragement helped and inspired numerous individuals. In establishing a memorial scholarship, we knew his legacy of assisting others in their educational pursuits would continue...what better way to acknowledge and continue his life priorities, especially with JCI, an organization he believed in and was devoted to."

- Arlene Kushida, Gary Hori Memorial Scholarship at the GVJCI



Gary Hori

Your gift or pledge* of \$5,000 to \$10,000 will establish an annual scholarship fund that will provide scholarship awards of \$500 to \$1,000. A limited number of Legacy Scholarship opportunities exist. For more information about making a GVJCI Legacy Scholarship gift or pledge, please contact Alison Kochiyama, Executive Director, at (310) 324-6611 or akochiyama@jci-gardena.org.

**One-time gift or pledge payable over 3 years.*



Gardena Valley JCI CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

BASIC VIDEO EDITING FOR SENIORS

THURSDAYS, FEB 4 – 25, 1-3 PM

GVJCI 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. Class fees are \$40 and \$30 for Tomo No Kai members. Call or come to the GVJCI Office to register.

ESTATE PLANNING WORKSHOP

SAT, FEB 6, 2-3:30 PM

GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

This free workshop will assist seniors and their adult children to begin a conversation on planning financially for the future. We all know the importance of getting your legal and financial documents in order, but do you know what will happen to your property and possessions after you are gone? Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC) will lead a discussion on the topic of Estate Planning as a tool to eliminate uncertainties and to maximize the value of the estate. The program will be presented in English with simultaneous interpretation in Japanese. Please call the LTSC to pre-register at (213) 473-3035.

MIXED PLATE JAMS

SAT, FEB 13, 6-8 PM

GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

Our former SSJAM is transforming to an evening of delicious mix of food and music in the Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall! We will have dinner available for sale, and LIVE music and entertainment. \$5 admission, \$10 dinner (includes admission). To make a reservation or if you'd like to perform, email myamashiro@jci-gardena.org. Reserve by February 2.



POWERFUL TOOLS FOR CAREGIVERS

TUESDAYS, FEB 16 – MAR 22, 7-8:30 PM

GVJCI Classroom #206

This free course presented by Keiro is designed to provide family caregivers the tools to increase their self-care and their confidence to handle difficult situations, emotions, and decisions. Some of the subjects that will be covered are:

- Reduction of personal stress
- Effective communications
- Caring for yourself
- Reducing of guilt, anger and depression
- Relaxation techniques
- Making tough decisions

There is limited space for this class, pre-registration is required. Please call Kanako Fukuyama at (213) 873- 5709, or email kfukuyama@keiro.org to reserve your place.

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE EVENT

SAT, FEB 27, 2-4 PM

GVJCI Hall

The Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute would like to invite you to our annual Day of Remembrance (DOR) event to commemorate the signing of Executive Order 9066, which caused the mass removal and imprisonment of Japanese Americans during World War II. This year's theme is about the power of words and their impact on people. We will be hearing from Sansei Stories writers and a spoken word artist. Karen Ishizuka will be speaking about euphemisms and some experiences she faced while trying to correctly identify the Japanese American experience. Karen Ishizuka is an independent writer and documentary producer. She served the Japanese American National Museum for fifteen years as senior curator, senior producer, and director of its Media Arts Center. In addition to our speakers, we will also be featuring works of art by Rodger Shimomura. We hope you can join us on Feb. 27th to honor and remember the past generations. Free to the public, no registrations required. For more information, please email us at info@jci-gardena.org.



MARCH

BON ODORI CLASS

TUESDAYS, MAR 1 – JUN 14, 2-3 PM

GVJCI 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. No registration required.

GIRL'S DAY CELEBRATION - HINAMATSURI

SAT, MAR 5, 1-3 PM

GVJCI Classrooms

Celebrate Hinamatsuri and learn more about this spring tradition that celebrates the health and happiness for young girls! We will be doing crafts, and learning about the various dolls and traditions about this day. We will also be making special mochi to take home and enjoy! Cost of participation is only \$5.00 and includes all materials! Register by 2/26 at <https://gvjci.wufoo.com/forms/gvjci-girls-day-celebration-2016/>

FINANCIAL PLANNING SESSIONS

SAT, MAR 5, 2-4:30 PM

GVJCI Classrooms

This is a follow-up to the February 6th Estate Planning workshop. The Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC) along with professionals from the Financial Planning Association will offer one-on-one financial planning sessions. The Individual Consultation session may cover a wide range of personal finance topics such as budgeting, credit & debt, retirement, taxes, estate planning, small business, and more. There will be a limited number of 30-minute sessions, so please call the LTSC in advance to reserve an appointment time at (213) 473-3035.

ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE FORUM

SUN, MAR 6, 1-4 PM

GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

For decades, too many of us have relied on Western medicine and prescribed medications and not felt better. The medical establishment long disdained centuries old Eastern medicine. Recently, minds have opened to the benefits of natural ways to treat health. You will hear personal experiences of successful treatment. This forum will include information about panelists' involvement with UCLA's work in integrating Eastern health methods with Western medicine.

Panelists include Cheryl Abe, MSW, LSCW, Clinical Social Worker, UCLA Oncology Center (Urban Zen Integrative Therapy); Michael Yanagita, D.C., L.Ac. in private chiropractic (also acupuncture & other modalities); Miyoshi Hirano, M.D., acupuncturist (many other therapies including herbal medicine, energetic healing); Lori Tagawa, Community Outreach Coordinator, National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Pacific Southwest Region, UCLA Louise M. Darling Medical Library. Facilitator: Iku Kiriya. Moderator: Elaine Takahashi. Free to the public. To register, email myamashiro@jci-gardena.org.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP

FRI, MAR 11, 2-3:30 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 during and after a disaster. Space is limited, so please call the GVJCI office at (310) 324-6611 to reserve your spot.

FREEWAY CITY SCREENING

SAT, MAR 26, 2-5 PM

GVJCI Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall

FREEWAY CITY, the story of Gardena, CA, is coming to GVJCI! The documentary was shot, edited and directed by Max Votolato, a native of London, England who was so seduced by the city of Gardena's eclectic past that he made a decade long commitment to bring it to the screen. The film features a rockin', all original soundtrack performed by Gardena High School alum Brian O'Neal ("48 HRS.," "Ghostbusters," "Devil in a Blue Dress") that recreates the many eras spanned in the 85 years since Gardena was incorporated. Don't miss GVJCI's community members who are also featured in this film: Paul Bannai, Grant Nakaoka, Ron Ikejiri, Bruce Kaji, and Gary Kohatsu. The film runs 83 minutes, screening is free and open to the public! For more information email info@jci-gardena.org or call the GVJCI Office.



APRIL

LEI-MAKING WORKSHOP

SAT, APRIL 9, 2-4 PM

GVJCI Classroom #207-208

Kerilyn Sato will be teaching her first lei workshop at the Gardena Valley JCI and will be teaching a couple different ribbon lei-making styles just in time for graduation! Come learn how to make simple, yet beautiful ribbon lei. This beginner/intermediate lei-making class will showcase classic styles. Cost is \$30 including supplies. Register by 3/30 at <https://gvjci.wufoo.com/forms/lei-making-workshop/>

MANZANAR PILGRIMAGE GVJCI BUS

SAT, April 30, 6:30 AM - 8:30 PM

Join the 47th annual community-wide Manzanar Pilgrimage at the Manzanar Historic Site. Manzanar was the site of an American WWII concentration camp that was used to forcibly house Americans of Japanese descent from 1942-1945. The Pilgrimage Program features speakers and performances. It will be followed by an interfaith religious ceremony and community ondo. The GVJCI Itinerary, however, allows for participants (particularly first-time visitors and families) to visit the Manzanar Interpretive Center (founded in 2004) as an option.

If you would like to reserve a seat on our bus, please email info@jci-gardena.org or call 310-324-6611. Space is limited!



COMMUNITY NEWS

Gardena Nisei Memorial Post 1961

By Steve Moriyama, Commander

Aloha to all VFW Members, Women's Club, Families, and Friends! We hope you had a Joyous Christmas and are looking forward to a Happy and Prosperous New Year. We Pulled It Off! A very successful first--a combined Halloween Bash with VFW Post 3261 with over a hundred attendees, including members from both VFW Posts, the Ladies Club members, and lots and lots of kiddies. WOW! Over a hundred fifty burgers, and over a hundred hot dogs along with salads, condiments, prizes, and lots of treat bags for the kiddies and young at heart. Thank you to all who helped put the event together, and especially to all of you who attended to make this a successful first, for both VFW Posts.

Onto 2016 with the upcoming Nisei VFW Reunion, support to the North Torrance High School AJROTC Big Bear, and Memorial Day Services. More to come as we get closer to these events.

Please note that we have been able to secure ABC News Personality David Ono for our guest speaker for the Nisei VFW Reunion. Be sure to save the dates and make plans to attend. (May 15, May 16, May 17, 2016) We are looking forward to a great reunion with our Northern Comrades in Arms. See you there?

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



JCI Hall



Classroom

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.

Tomo No Kai Corner

Happy New Year from GVJCI Tomo No Kai (TNK)! 2016 Membership dues of \$10 will be collected in either the TNK class in which you attend, or in the GVJCI Office.

Thank yous

Great food, entertainment, and friendship abounded at the Tomo No Kai Christmas Party on December 5, 2015 with a festive gathering of over 300 people. Thank you to our emcees Chika Nagata and Sachiko Uchizono, and to all of the talented TNK classes who performed---karaoke, line dance, Bollywood dance, tai chi demonstration, hula, and 'ukulele. Special thanks to guest performer Nobuko Fujimoto for her beautiful piano solo. Thank you to Tomo No Kai for the donation of the Christmas tree, Hosodo Brothers, Inc. for the Honey Norimaki treats, and GVJCI for the water donation! Our sincere thank you to all of the volunteers who made this event a success!

In December, Tomo No Kai's founding member, Dorothy Awakuni, retired from the TNK Executive Board after 37 years of service. Dorothy has provided steadfast leadership

and countless hours of volunteer time and support to TNK's classes, Advisory Board, and Executive Board, as well as, to GVJCI's operations and staff. "I rely heavily on Dorothy for her institutional knowledge and wisdom, as she's experienced a long history with TNK and GVJCI, and she will continue to be our much valued advisor," states Alison Kochiyama, GVJCI Executive Director. Thank you, Dorothy, for your years of dedicated service and support!



Senior Program Fund

4th Quarter '15: Senior Program Funds to GVJCI \$8,000. Total 2015 Senior Program Funds to GVJCI for class fees, membership dues, fundraising income, donations, Carnival presale coupons, Calendar ad: \$47,362.

Gardena Valley JCI Fundraiser



Lau Lau Anyone?

*Frozen, Pork Lau Lau

\$8.00/EA



Pre-Paid orders only; Orders must be received by Friday, February 19th.



**Pick up: Sunday, February 28th from 10:00am-2:00pm
Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall:
1964 W. 162nd Street, Gardena, 90247**



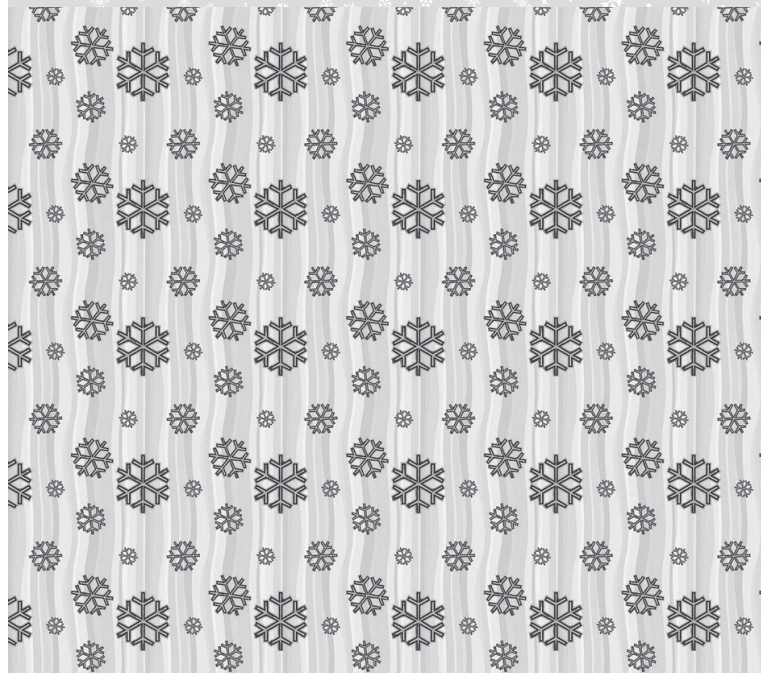
ORDER FORMS: Visit our website @ jci-gardena.org to download Order Form, or obtain in GVJCI's front office.



**Questions?: Sharon Sawai
(310) 324-6611 or s_sawai@jci-gardena.org**



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!





FUNDRAISING AT PANDA

JOIN GARDENA VALLEY JAPANESE CULTURAL INSTITUTE

When

Tuesday, February 23, 2016
10:00 AM - 10:00 PM

At This Panda Location

Artesia & Western Panda Express
1689 W Artesia Blvd.
Gardena, CA 90248
P:3105385377

Participating fundraiser guests are required to present a valid fundraiser flyer (hand copy or smartphone) with each order to receive credit for the fundraiser. Flyers may not be distributed inside or within vicinity of restaurant including, without limitation to, the restaurant parking lot before ordering your fundraiser. Panda Restaurant Group reserves the right to cancel any and all fundraiser events for any reason and/or withhold payment of associated donation funds if the Panda Restaurant Group Fundraiser Guidelines are not followed.

Itadakimasu!

Please mark your calendar for GVJCI's Itadakimasu Restaurant Fundraiser at Panda Express (on Western & Artesia) on Tuesday, February 23rd from 10:00am—10:00pm.

You can either "drive through" or dine in! Please present the flyer so the GVJCI will receive credit. The flyer can also be found on our website

Jci-gardena.org or in our front office.

THANK YOU for your ongoing support!



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!

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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

MONTEREY PARK

Quality Ins. Service
(323) 727-7755

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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



1964 West 162nd Street
 Gardena, CA 90247
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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.

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GVJCI Quarterly Newsletter

Alvin Takamori,
Layout & Design