

ANNUAL REPORT | 2010



EAST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY
JAPANESE COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

The East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center has had a long history of great programming that stems from the commitment of our volunteers and reaches success through the dedication of our members.

In 2010, we celebrated wonderful milestones - our Japanese Language School celebrated 50 years of teaching the Japanese language and culture and our Student Exchange Program celebrated its 10th year of giving students the opportunity of a lifetime.

Since the Center was established in 1936, the Japanese Language School has stood by its side as its first program providing Japanese language classes to the children of the *Issei* farmers in the San Gabriel Valley. After World War II, the Japanese classes were one of the first classes to resume. It is out of the Japanese Language School that our involvement in the sister city Student Exchange Program emerged. We have sent numerous students to Ohtawara, Japan for an unique experience that they will treasure for a lifetime.

While we looked back at how far we have come, 2010 also gave us an opportunity to create new programs. Through our collaboration with the Little Tokyo Service Center, we were able to build the ESGV DISKovery Center, a computer lab dedicated to teaching seniors and older adults. In line with creating an engaging space for our seniors, one of our board members created the Senior Wellness Program. And lastly, by working with the California Japanese American Leadership Council, we were able to open our doors to young adults eager to learn more about the Center through the Nikkei Community Internship.

The emergence of the ESGV DISKovery Center and the Senior Wellness Program were rooted in the desire to do more for our seniors - to give them with a space for learning and enjoyment as they had done for us - to show them how much they mean to us. It was our hope that our Nikkei Community Internship participant would be able to be a part of that by teaching the computer classes and volunteering during the Wellness Program.

All of these programs stem from the Center's mission to foster and preserve the cultural heritage unique to Japanese American ancestry; and to serve the community through social services, artistic, recreational, and educational programs. As the Center continues to grow, we strive to be the foundation for which the community can learn about the Japanese culture. As the Center continues to grow, we strive to create a place for you and your families.

Sincerely,

Aya Kamimura

President, Board of Directors

Pearl Omiya

Executive Director



ABOUT

THE EAST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY JAPANESE COMMUNITY CENTER

POPULATION SERVED

Youth Membership/Enrollment

Japanese School	130
Youth Basketball	200
Martial Arts	70
Recreational Classes	50
Cultural Classes	50

Adult Membership/Enrollment

Martial Arts	70
Recreational Classes	50
Senior Citizens	150
Cultural Classes	75

Total Membership **845**

PARTNERS

San Gabriel Valley
Japanese American Citizens League
Established 1933
*Scholarships awarded, benefiting
over 300 students awarded*

Nisei Week Festival
Established 1981
*Sponsoring a candidate for the Nisei
Week Queen's Coronation*

Keiro Senior HealthCare
Established 2007
*Provided a Caregivers Conference,
Seminars, and workshops*

The mission of the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center is to foster and preserve the cultural heritage unique to Japanese American ancestry; and to serve the community through social services, artistic, recreational, and educational programs. Established in 1936, the Japanese Community Center serves over 3,000 people in the San Gabriel Valley, Inland Empire, Orange County, and the greater Los Angeles area through 25 different cultural, recreational, and educational programs and activities. Our programs are divided among:

Cultural Classes

Visual arts
Papermaking
Bonsai (pine tree trimming)
Ikebana (flower arranging)
Karaoke (Japanese singing)
Kime Komi Ningyo (doll making class)
Taiko (Japanese drumming)
Odori (classical dancing)

Martial Arts Courses

Aikido
Judo
Karate
Kendo (Japanese fencing)
Shinkendo (Japanese swordsmanship)

Recreational Classes

Line dancing
Ballroom dancing
Hula dancing
Golf
Yoga
Zumba

Educational Programs

Japanese language school
Computer literacy courses

Youth Programs

Nikkei Youth Organization
Student exchange program
Youth basketball program

Senior Services

Senior Wellness Program



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

NIKKEI COMMUNITY INTERNSHIP

The Community Center partnered with the California Japanese American Community Leadership Council to host our first Nikkei Community Internship (NCI) Intern, Molly Serizawa. NCI is an eight-week summer internship program providing college students an opportunity to work at a Japanese American non-profit organization. Among the participating organizations are the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center, Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute, Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, Japanese American National Museum, Little Tokyo Service Center, Pacific Citizen, and Pacific Southwest Japanese



American Citizens League. One day per week, the interns participate in various training to include leadership presentations, cultural workshops, and community exposure. Together, all of interns visit each of the community organizations to learn more about them and how they operate. In addition to the weekly training meetings, interns also participate in three statewide retreats. Interns from Los Angeles' Little Tokyo, San Jose's Nihonmachi and San Francisco's Japantown are given the opportunity to visit and meet community leaders in both regions to further their discussions on Japantown preservation and community leadership.

Further their discussions on Japantown preservation and community leadership.

“Working intimately with the community members, I have learned how the magnanimous machine that is the Japanese Community Center functions and relates to those like it,” said Molly. “My original intent for applying to the NCI Program was to become reconnected with the Japanese American community and better understand its needs. Through this internship and my placement, I have not only reconnected and become more knowledgeable of my community’s needs, but also gained a newfound appreciation for non-profit organizations, especially Japanese Community Centers.”

The goal of NCI is to develop the next generation of community leaders by:

1. Giving young people greater exposure to opportunities and needs in the Japanese American community,
2. Promoting interaction and networking between existing Nikkei organizations and institutions,
3. Connecting interns with mentors in the Japanese American community who inspire and pique their interest in the work of our organizations, and
4. Providing a fun learning experience that creates energy and a desire to participate in the Japanese American community and other communities to which they belong.

“In my eyes, to be at ESGVJCC is to experience intergenerational community at its best.”

Molly Serizawa, 2010 NCI Intern at ESGVJCC



Molly Serizawa
2010 NCI Intern

Molly Serizawa, a nineteen year old college student at Scripps College in Claremont, made history by being the first Nikkei Community Internship program (NCI) participant to work at the Community Center. Through this program, interns are given an opportunity to work at a community organization to learn how a Japanese American non-profit organization functions.

While working at the Community Center, Molly was involved with several projects to include the Akimatsuri Golf Tournament, the business directory, computer classes, creating the tanabata, student exchange program, and senior wellness program.

Molly is a natural born leader and dedicated community volunteer. She has participated in community programs to include Rising Stars and Project Community. Her involvement in the Japanese American community and youthful energy made her a vital asset to the center, paving the way for future interns to call the Community Center “home.”

THIS YEAR'S ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



Vice President for Programs, Donna Kusumoto, a recently retired school teacher, created the Senior Wellness Program in 2010. She describes the program as “simply to celebrate life.”

Donna shared a story about one of the seniors, Nobue Puchalski:

“Nobue san tried her luck in bowling and made a strike on her first try. I remember seeing her face light up as she yelled ‘I DID IT’. In the excitement, she shared with me how 40 years ago, Nobue took her eight year old son to a birthday party at a bowling alley. She explained how she tried and tried, but her ball just would not hit any of the pins. This strike for her was a milestone and uplifted her spirits.”

“The Senior Wellness Program has not only enriched the lives of our members, but mine too,” said Donna. “I have so many ‘Kodak Moments’ engraved in my heart from this this program.”



ESGVJCC SENIOR WELLNESS PROGRAM

The Community Center launched a new Senior Wellness Program this year. This program was created by the Center’s Vice President of Programs, Donna Kusumoto, along with a core group of dedicated volunteers. It was created for seniors to celebrate life through exercises, games, and fun activities. Each week, the seniors participate in carnival-type games to include ring toss, basketball shooting, darts, and bowling. The program also features group exercises and a fitness corner. Seniors challenge themselves to improve their overall fitness each week through this program. To exercise everyone’s mental health, the seniors participate in memory games.

“Seniors are encouraged to move, laugh, and challenge themselves,” explained Donna. “I love watching the changes in attitude from doubt to self confidence and enjoyment.”

Throughout the summer, while students were on vacation from school, over a dozen high school and college students volunteered their time to participate in the Wellness Program. They played the games, led exercises, and brought joy to the seniors. During the holiday season, Donna and her group of hard working volunteers planned



a Christmas party for the seniors. They sang Christmas carols, played games, enjoyed a delicious potluck lunch, and even had a surprise visit from Santa Claus.

Many of the seniors that participate in this program are the original pioneers of the Community Center and have devoted most of their lives to ensure the Center thrives. This program is one way the Center can give back to them and show our appreciation for their dedication and sacrifice.

The Senior Wellness Program welcomes anyone, age 55 and older, to join, challenge themselves, have fun, and celebrate life.

Wellness Program Key Focus

To promote balance and coordination, to provide opportunities for socialization, to promote muscle strength, to provide opportunities for movement, to improve memory, to create an environment for fun and laughter.



ESGVJCC COMPUTER LITERACY COURSES

This year, the Community Center partnered with Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC) and its DISKovery Center programs to launch a new computer lab. LTSC donated 10 desktop personal computers to the Japanese Community Center as well as brought together a group of volunteers who installed and networked the entire mainframe. The ESGVJCC DISKovery Center opened in January offering courses aimed toward seniors who have little or no computer experience. Several seniors have been able to utilize the skills they learned through the ESGVJCC DISKovery Center to email friends, create flyers, type letters, create a family budget, manage

medication, and communicate with family members.

Each quarter, the DISKovery Center offers 3 five-week courses on various topics, beginning with Introduction to Computers, as it can be the first time for many seniors to even turn on a computer. The courses meet twice a week for five weeks. In addition, we provide one-day workshops on topics such as using flash drives, digital cameras, and social media websites such as Facebook. All classes and workshops are open to anyone interested and offered at an affordable and discounted rate. We also offer special scholarships for those who are unable to pay, but are still interested in taking the courses or workshops. When classes are not in session, the lab is open for those who would like to practice.

In addition to the computer literacy courses and workshops for seniors, the DISKovery Center is used for our Japanese school students studying for their AP Japanese language tests as well as classroom lectures and activities. It has been a great addition to the school, giving teachers an additional resource to actively engage their students while also providing a stimulating learning tool for students.

DISCOVERY CENTER COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

- Introduction to Computers
- Introduction to Internet and Email
- Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- Introduction to Digital Cameras
- Introduction to Facebook
- How to plan a vacation online
- How to edit photos using Picasa
- How to use Google and its features
- How to play computer games
- How to create a flyer
- How to create a newsletter
- How to create a slideshow
- How to burn a CD
- Introduction to Flashdrives



Tom Kawakami, an 85 year old DISKovery Student, began taking computer classes when the Community Center started offering courses. Prior to taking these classes, he had never used a computer. After taking a few classes, Tom became comfortable using Microsoft Windows.

"These classes have been great. I never knew there was so much you can do with the computer," Tom said.

Tom learned how to use the internet and is now able to email his friends and family members. Tom's children live in Northern California so he is unable to see them on a regular basis. After becoming more familiar with the computer, Tom began using Skype to communicate with his grandchildren and converses with them weekly. Tom is now able to also use the internet to pay his bills, read news, make travel arrangements, and play games. He constantly challenges himself to learn new exciting aspects of the internet each day.

"I feel like I spend half my day on the computer now," Tom mentioned.



The ESGVJCC Gakuen (Japanese Language School) celebrated its 50th Anniversary this year. This anniversary marked a milestone in the Gakuen's rich history of teaching Japanese language and culture.

"The world we live in has changed a great deal since our school was founded, but we believe that the Japanese Language School is still a relevant and important part of our children's lives," said Dan Kuriyama and Wendy Waggener, Gakuen Co-Presidents.

Originally with only 40 students, Gakuen now serves over 120 students annually from kindergarten through high school. Classes are conducted on Saturday morning where students learn writing, reading, and conversation. Gakuen also teaches cultural traditions to include *mochitsuki*, *undokai*, *hinamatsuri*, and *setsubun*.

Many of the Gakuen students have been able to use the skills they learned at Japanese school to communicate with relatives or travel around Japan.

SISTER CITY STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

For many years, Chef Ryo Sato and Yoshie Sato envisioned a student exchange program between the United States and their hometown in Japan, Kurobane. They dreamed of a cultural exchange between the two communities giving students an opportunity to stay with a host family building lasting friendships and memories. Their dream became a reality in 2000 when the City of Kurobane agreed to participate in the Satos' dream. In the early years, the Satos generously hosted all the students that came to the United States from Kurobane. In 2004, the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center and its Japanese Language School became involved. They sent a group of Japanese School students to Japan that summer. In turn, those families, and several others, hosted students from Kurobane the following month. Throughout the years, the program continued to grow involving more people. The City of West Covina came on board in 2005 and established the first Sister City agreement between West Covina and Kurobane. In 2007 after the merger of Kurobane and Ohtawara, the Sister City agreement was renewed. That same year, the Community Center took charge of the planning and organization of the Exchange Program.

This year marked the 10th anniversary of the Student Exchange Program. We sent seven students to Ohtawara to experience Japanese culture while staying with host families. In Ohtawara, they visited historic sites, attended a junior high school, and participated in numerous cultural activities. The students truly benefited from the experience, gaining a better



appreciation for their cultural ancestry. The group was led by President Aya Kamimura, Program Director Brandon Leong, and Exchange Program Co-Coordinator Tomoko Kwan. They were accompanied by Aki Kamimura, George Sugimoto, Ruri Sugimoto, and Lisa Sugimoto.

In August, 12 students from Ohtawara visited the United States and stayed with host families from the Community Center. The students visited Hollywood, went to Disneyland, toured West Covina, and got a taste of life in Southern California.

For ten years, this program has served as a bridge between the two cultures

giving students a chance of a lifetime opportunity.

Exchange Program Participant Nick Mejia describes it as "easily the most memorable and meaningful experience of my life."

The Community Center, West Covina, and Ohtawara are committed to sustaining the Satos' vision to provide youth the opportunity to experience this cultural exchange for years to come.

"I feel like I now have a whole other family across the ocean that I know I will forever stay in contact with."

Laurie Miho Goodman
2010 Exchange
Program Participant

"I loved the entire experience. I learned so much about my heritage."

Derek Sugimoto, 2010 Exchange Program Participant

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2009

	<u>TOTAL</u>
ASSETS	
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$454,212
Investments (Note C)	62,820
Pledges Receivable (Net- Note D)	<u>14,779</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	531,811
PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT	
Building	906,266
Improvements	758,226
Land	46,000
Equipment	63,411
Furniture	48,663
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(736,998)</u>
NET PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT	1,085,568
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$1,617,679</u>
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	
LIABILITIES	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	\$6,000
LONG TERM LIABILITIES	
Loan Payable (Note H)	<u>462,468</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	468,468
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted Net Assets	816,797
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets (Note E)	286,114
Permanently Restricted Net Assets (Note F)	<u>46,000</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>1,148,911</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	<u>\$1,617,379</u>

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

	Unrestricted Operating Fund	Temporarily Restricted Fund	Permanently Restricted Fund	Total
REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT				
Program Income	\$ 159,703	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 159,703
Grant	2,135	-	-	2,135
Fundraising	48,478	39,860	-	88,338
Donations-Cash	6,165	74,904	-	81,069
Donations-Noncash	2,400	-	-	2,400
Dues	56,221	-	-	56,221
Rent Income	22,012	-	-	22,012
Interest & Dividend Income	1,650	2,485	-	4,135
Miscellaneous Income	14,186	-	-	14,186
Net Assets Released From Restrictions	<u>323,769</u>	<u>(323,769)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT	636,719	(206,520)	-	430,199
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Program Expenses	\$ 156,477	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 156,477
Fundraising Expenses	93,148	-	-	93,148
Building Operations	116,245	-	-	116,245
General & Administrative	<u>74,751</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>74,751</u>
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>\$ 440,621</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 440,621</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	196,098	(206,520)	-	(10,422)
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>\$ 620,699</u>	<u>\$ 492,634</u>	<u>\$ 46,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,159,333</u>
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	<u><u>\$ 816,797</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 286,114</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 46,000</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,148,911</u></u>

DONORS

ORGANIZATIONS/CORPORATE

United Way
Los Angeles Lakers Youth
Foundation
Japan Foundation
Union Bank
Pacific Commerce Bank

\$10,000 +

George & Ruri Sugimoto

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Beans & Lucy Sogioka
Ed & Reiko Moreno
Henry Miyata



\$1,000 - \$4,999

Arthur Ogami
Ben & Rogee Kayashima
Covina Kendo Dojo
ESGVJCC Matsu Golf Club
Harry & Misako Honda
In memory of Kevin Kubomoto
Jeff & Carolyn Hiraishi
Jim & Wanda Oshiro
Jon & Barbara Shiota
Kuniko Higaki
Marilyn Matoi
Mataro Nakamura
Phillip Komai
Ron Sakamoto
Wesley & Margaret Ching

\$500 - \$999

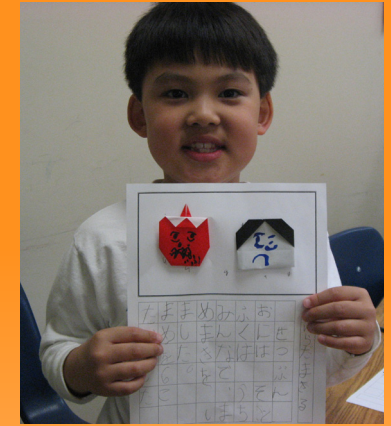
Bacon Sakatani
Daniel Kawahara
Denise Akune
ESGVJCC Nikkei Youth Organization
Henry & Sadako Mayeda
In memory of Dorothy Kayashima
Jo-Ann Shimizu
Katsuhide Kinjo
Kay Kanayama
Kenji & Dorothy Kinoshita
Lee & Karen Ezaki
Lori & Albert Magallanes
Makiko Nerio
May Sakoda
Roland & Lynn Mah
Stan Ishino

<\$500

A. Lorraine Brannen
Aki & Flora Yokoyama
Allan & Barbara Mizuhara
Amy Hsu
Arthur Ogami
Bruce & Diane Shimano
Bruce & Maria Whang
Chico & Say Masai
Chiye Taniguchi
Clara & Tom Furukawa
Cliff & Sharilyn Watanabe
Dan & Mary Oki
David Jung & Joanne Ishibashi
Dennis Chang
Derek Otoide
Doris Kato
Earl Hama
Eddie & Lisa Nakasone
Edward & Kiyo Yamaguchi
Emi Kuromiya
ESGVJCC Ayame-Kai
ESGVJCC Leisure Club
Fumiko Hong
Gakuen HS Level 1
Glenn & Jean Nakatani
Glenn & Mary Hatae
Harada Family
Harry & Natsuko Miyagi
Harry & Teruko Matsumoto
Henry & Lin Miyake
Henry Miyashiro
Hiromu & Utako Takemoto
Hsiao Chin & Tom Yu
In memory of Mrs. Hideko Tokeshi

James & Shirley Yamada
James & Susan Nakata
Jeffrey & Kathy Oura
Jennifer Sato & Alex Campbell
Jerome & Kathy Thibodeau
Jim & Hideko Ikehara
Jim & Naoye Yamashita
Joe & Karen Morin
Joey & May Kitayama
John & Pat Corral
Jon & Annette Kitayama
Juan & Lleny Kuniyoshi
Karen & Tad Okumoto
Kary Yoshimizu
Kelli Teragawa
Ken, Jane, Daryl, Derek, & Cariann Nagamine
Kiyoko S. Okada
Kiyoshi & Tomiko Fujimoto
Laurence Fujii
Lenora Hall
Lorin Lew
Louis Trammel
Mamoru Marugaki
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Mariko Kato
Mark & Denise Shiokari
Mark & Mae Horie
Marlene Berry
Michael & Lily Yanagita
Michiko Oku
Mitsuo & Marjorie Kunihiro
Miyo Takahashi
Naomi & Frank Chang
Neil & June Murakami
Norman Owashi
Pete & Chieko Namimatsu
Richard & Claudia Haraguchi

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Sachi Maehara
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Sam Tsubota
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Satoshi & Emiko Nishioka
Satoshi & Yukiko Saneto
Shirley Iriye
Sid & Yukie Okazaki
Silvia Yoshimizu-Yee & Steve Yee
Sumiyo Ogawa
Taka Nakamura
Tatsuya & Eriko Maemura
Ted & Wakako Maesaki
Ted Yamashita
Tetsu & Betty Hirayama
Thomas Pang
Tina Dang (Yun)
Tosh & Terry Asano
Toshiko Ito
Wayne & Lynn Masunaga
Wilfred Oshiro
Woo & Patti Kim
Yoshiko Maeda





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