



2014

ANNUAL REPORT

**THEIR LEGACY,
OUR DESTINY**



EAST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY JAPANESE COMMUNITY CENTER **ESGVJCC**



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MISSION:

The East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center (ESGVJCC) is a not for profit organization dedicated 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.



WELCOME

2014 was year to remember as we embarked on a new journey, one that would help the ESGVCC become more sustainable while continuing to offer new programs and strengthen existing ones.

We look back on this year with great pride and joy. The many events and programs that continue to serve our community is truly our pride and joy. It is only possible with the dedication and commitment of all our senseis, volunteers, leaders and staff.

Thank you for continuing this journey with us and for supporting our growth and celebrating our success.



Phillip Komai
President, Board of Directors



Pearl Omiya
Executive Director

2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Phillip Komai, President
Tim Itatani, Vice President
Denise Akune, Secretary
Wesley Nobuta, Treasurer
Aya Kamimura, Parliamentarian

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Nicole Cherry-Yu
Jim Friesen
Sarah Fujimoto
Shauna Hiranaka
Danny Iwama
Brandon Leong
Susie Kozono
Lindsay Miyamoto
Iso Nakasato
Joy Kitaura
Kay Sakaue
Grace Richardson
Barbara Shirota
Gary Takamatsu





HIGHLIGHT

The history of the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center began on January 17, 1936 when Eijiro Machida donated one of his 40 acres of prime farmland in the eastern San Gabriel Valley to the Japanese community of West Covina. Prior to World War II and the subsequent relocation of Japanese and Japanese-American citizens to internment camps, the property served as a Japanese social and cultural community center. After World War II ended and the internment camps were closed, Japanese Americans were able to return to West Covina. Our founders Yosh Sogioka, Kimio Hatakeyama, and Frank Konno revived our cultural activities and created a central location for the growing post-war Japanese American community. In 1964, the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center faced a crisis due to the phenomenal growth of the City of West Covina. The Japanese Community Center was asked to move in order to create roads and a shopping center. Despite all these changes, the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center has stood strong as an institution integral to the community. Today, the Japanese Community Center focuses on preserving the Japanese culture and exposing its beauty with the surrounding community. As a result, our membership base is becoming more diverse with an increase in interethnic, interracial, Latino, Anglo, and African-Americans.



Fast forward to 2014, Linda Matsumoto, Mr. Machida's grandfather, came to visit the ESGVJCC for the first time. We shared our history, our programs and our story. She was so impressed by that tour, she requested to hold her family reunion at the ESGVJCC. Her siblings and their families all descended onto the ESGVJCC grounds for a time of fellowship and friendship. Their family beamed with pride as they saw their grandfather's and great grandfather's dream of a thriving community center come to life.



REVIVAL OF CULTURAL PROGRAMS

When Eijiro Machida donated one acre of his farmland to create a Japanese community center, he did so to preserve his culture and his heritage. He wanted to create a bridge between his generation and the next. He wanted to create a bridge between his former country with his new one. He wanted to create a bridge for families to connect, and create a community. He wanted the ESGVJCC.

In recent years, many of our cultural programs vanished due to a lack of instructors. With the support of the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA), we were able to revive cultural programming to the ESGVJCC by providing koto, shamisen, ikebana, bonsai, tea ceremony, and calligraphy classes and workshops.

The \$10,000 NEA grant enabled us to give honorarium to our instructors, subsidize classes and provide the staffing needed to support these classes and workshops.

The NEA grant was only for one year, but the need to provide these classes is stronger than ever. Because we revived interest, we increased demand. To fulfill that demand, we need your support. These cultural programs are the few remaining connections that we have to our ancestral culture. They are a part of our identity. They are a part of who we are. We need to keep these connections alive and always in the present. Without them, our children and their children may become culturally blind. We need you to carry the torch that Mr. Machida lit.

Please give to let our culture and heritage live.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT OF THE ARTS:

Because of the generosity of the National Endowment of the Arts, we were able to conduct workshops and seminars to increase Japanese cultural programs.



IN ACTION

2001

FIRST CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL HELD AT
WEST COVINA CIVIC CENTER



On March 29, the 2014 West Covina Cherry Blossom Festival was held at the South Hills Plaza for the very first time.

Through the tremendous support of Property Owner Chris Renard, Property Manager Pamela Ozell, City of West Covina, and Marukai Corporation, the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center welcomed an unprecedented 3,000 people to the festival. With over 35 food, crafts, and game booths and spectacular entertainment by various ESGVJCC organizations, the 2014 Cherry Blossom Festival was a tremendous success.



June Kuramoto and Kimo Cornwell of the Grammy-nominated jazz fusion band Hiroshima joined the festival for a very special koto and keyboard performance.

This was a huge move for the ESGVJCC and the Cherry Blossom Festival. In years past, the festival was held at the West Covina Civic Center and then back to the ESGVCC. There were many costs associated with the move to South Hills Plaza, but due to the generosity of Marukai Corporation, Sierra Produce, and Tim & Sandy Itatani, many of those costs were covered.



The production of moving this festival to South Hills Plaza would not have been possible without our volunteers who graciously assisted with set-up, clean up and everything in between. The success of this event would not have been possible without you!



CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL
PLANNING COMMITTEE:

TINA ASANO
PHILLIP KOMAI
MELISSA KOZONO
LINDSAY MIYAMOTO
PEARL OMIYA
GRACE RICHARDSON
GARY TAKAMATSU



900
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP
& ENROLLMENT IN
2014

5 STAFF
ON-SITE SUPPORTING
THE ESGVJCC

PEARL OMIYA
Executive Director
TINA ASANO
Office Manager
MELISSA KOZONO
Programs Associate
MICHELLE OKAWA
Events Coordinator
ARTHUR GUSMAN
Custodian



100
NUMBER OF
VOLUNTEERS



NUMBER OF
YEAR-ROUND
EVENTS
13

400
TOTAL
FAMILIES
SERVED



Nisei Week Foundation
Keiro Institute for Healthy Aging
California Japanese America
Community Leadership Council
San Gabriel Valley Chapter -
Japanese American Citizens
League
City of West Covina/Ohtawara
Japanese Sister Cities
Little Tokyo Service Center
State Sen. Dr. Ed Hernandez
Nikkei Federation
Kizuna
JA Living Legacy

10
COMMUNITY
PARTNERS




100
INDIVIDUALS TAKING
JAPANESE LANGUAGE
COURSES



23 
INDIVIDUALS SERVING ON
THE ESGVJCC BOARD

250 NUMBER OF YOUTH ENROLLED
IN ESGVJCC PROGRAMS



TRUNK OR TREAT:

In 2015, the ESGVJCC hosted its first Trunk or Treat on Halloween night. We had 13 different trunks that were all uniquely decorated by ESGVJCC Programs, Board of Directors, Staff, and friends. Some of the different themed trunks included Disney, Hawaiian and Wizard of Oz.

In addition, at each trunk, there was also an activity or game for the trick or treaters to participate in. Some of these activities and games included decorating Halloween masks, making trick or treat bags, a pumpkin toss,

Despite the threat of rain, there were many trick or treaters who came to get candy, play games, and learn about the ESGVJCC. We had a wide range of trick or treaters from toddlers to high school students, ESGVJCC members and members from the surrounding community, who all participated in the various activities the ESGVJCC had to offer.





FINANCE

EAST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY JAPANESE COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

DECEMBER 31, 2014

ASSETS	TOTAL
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 424,844
Investments (Note C)	128,194
Pledges Receivable (Net - Note D)	-
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	553,038
PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT	
Building	906,266
Improvements	855,894
Land	46,000
Equipment	70,719
Furniture & Fixtures	70,373
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(976,444)
NET PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT	1,002,808
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,555,846
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ -
LIABILITIES	
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted Net Assets	1,362,800
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets (Note E)	147,046
Permanently Restricted Net Assets (Note F)	46,000
TOTAL NET ASSETS	1,555,846
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 1,555,846

EAST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY JAPANESE COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 31, 2014

	Unrestricted Operating Fund	Temporarily Restricted Fund	Permanently Restricted Fund	TOTAL
REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT				
Program Income	\$ 243,124	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 243,124
Grants	22,667	-	-	22,667
Fundraising	75,677	-	-	75,677
Donations	61,737	-	-	61,737
Dues	33,072	-	-	33,072
Rent Income	26,422	-	-	26,422
Interest Income	706	107	-	813
Miscellaneous Income	366	-	-	366
Transfers To/From	2,647	(2,647)	-	-
TOTAL REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT	466,418	(2,540)	-	463,878
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Program Expenses	\$ 300,620	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300,620
General & Administrative	59,710	-	-	59,710
Fundraising Expenses	91,385	-	-	91,385
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 451,715			\$ 451,715
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	14,703	(2,540)		12,163
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 1,348,097	\$ 149,586	\$ 46,000	\$ 1,543,683
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$ 1,362,800	\$ 147,046	\$ 46,000	\$ 1,555,846

DONORS

\$500-\$999

Denise Akune
Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation
Phillip Komai
Russ & Marlys Kuruma
June Kuramoto
Mataro Nakamura
Larry Oshima
Jim & Marion Yamashita

\$1,000-\$4,999

David Jung
Microsoft Matching Gifts Fund
Hatakeyama Families
Kuniko Higaki
Aya & Aki Kamimura
Mataro Nakamura
Grace Richardson
Ron Sakamoto
Rae A. Takai
Ed & Kiyo Yamaguchi

\$5000-\$9,999

Microsoft Matching Gifts Program - David Jung

\$10,000+

Anonymous
George & Ruri Sugimoto

SPONSORSHIPS (\$500+)

AGA, Inc..
Comerica Bank
ESGVJCC Kishin Daiko
Fuji Natural Foods
Foothill Transit
George & Ruri Sugimoto
Glenn Nakatani, A Professional Law Corporation
Hatakeyama Family
PCSC
Kaiser Permanente
Phillip Komai & Kathy Shibata
Sabers/Saberettes Youth Basketball
Seki, Nishimura, & Watase, LLP
Shirota-Arnheim-Yanase Families
Union Bank
Tim & Sandy Itatani

GRANTS

Boeing - Employee Contribution Fund
Edison International
Capital Group Companies
National Endowment for the Arts
Southern California Gas Company





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BUILDING CULTURE, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY
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