ESGVJCC newsette

VOL #15 | ISSUE #5 | SEPTEMBER 2026

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ESGVJCC EVENTS

AKIMATSURI FALL FESTIVAL RETURNS ON OCTOBER 10







Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator

We're bringing ondo dancing back to the Akimatsuri Fall Festival on October 10!

Come grab some yummy Japanese food, watch your favorite ESGVJCC programs showcase their talents, support local vendors, and enjoy the festivities from 12pm to 6pm in front of the ESGVJCC. Then, after our lineup of performances concludes around 5:15pm, stick around to dance with us! We know this part of the festival has been missed by many, so we're truly excited to bring it back this year.

This year, we're also excited to participate in National Drive Electric Month, September 11 through October 12, with generous support from Edison International and Plug In America. Curious about EVs? Come experience an electric vehicle for yourself and learn more about the cost savings and other benefits of EV ownership.

We're also looking for ESGVJCC members and community members who own an EV and are willing to volunteer their time and vehicle at the event. Share your experience, answer questions, and help others learn what it's like to drive electric.

Whether you're interested in learning about EVs, sharing your experience as an EV driver, showcasing your electric vehicle, or representing an EV dealer, we'd love to have you join us!

Whatever brings you to the Akimatsuri Fall Festival, we're excited to see everyone this October!

Want to help us make this year's festival even better? Please consider supporting the festival as a sponsor at esgvjcc.org/2026-akimatsuri-fall-festival. ■

2026 ESGVJCC

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MESSAGE FROM THE ESGVJCC

TIM ITATANI, 2026 ESGVJCC PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

As we round the corner and enter September, summer is almost over, the kids are back to school, and we are slowly returning to normalcy in our lives.

Our ESGVJCC George Sugimoto Golf Tournament is happening this month. This will be the first tournament named in honor of our Center icon, George Sugimoto, who was always so instrumental in making sure this tournament was the best it could be. It is a fitting tribute to someone who gave so much of himself to the tournament and to our Center.

On a personal note, last month Sandy and I hosted three students from the Student Exchange Program between the ESGVJCC, City of West Covina, and our sister city of Ohtawara, Japan. They stayed with us for about eight days.



By the end of their stay, we had a wonderful experience and truly felt that they had become part of our family. We can honestly say that they will always be family to us, now and in the future.

At first, we were a little apprehensive about welcoming three strangers, ages 14-15, into our home. Fortunately, we were able to communicate with them and their parents before their visit. We learned about the things they liked, what they wanted to do while they were here, and that helped put us somewhat at ease.

Once they arrived, however, our concerns quickly disappeared. We found them to be very nice, considerate, well-mannered, and an absolute joy to have in our home.

During their stay, they taught us how to make origami, while Sandy taught them how to bake American brownies and cheesecake. We also took them to places like In-N-Out, Chili's, The Hat, Casa Alvarez, Town Sent, and others, introducing them to American foods they would not normally get in Japan.

By the end of their stay, we had a wonderful experience and truly felt that they had become part of our family. We can honestly say that they will always be family to us, now and in the future. If they ever return, they will always have a place to stay in our home. So, dōmo arigatō to Tomo-chan, Ryo-chan, and Yuzuki-chan, for such a wonderful experience!

I think all of our ESGVJCC families should have the opportunity to experience a homestay with students from Japan. The students not only learn something about our American culture, but we also have the opportunity to learn about Japanese culture and traditions. It truly is a wonderful exchange that brings people and cultures closer together.

Well, that's it for this edition. See you in the next one!

Tim T. Itatani
President, ESGVJCC Board of Directors

ESGVJCC EVENTS

FREE HALLOWEEN EVENT AT THE ESGVJCC ON OCTOBER 16



Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator

Boo! Halloween is almost here, and so is our annual Trunk or Treat/Scholastic Book Fair event at the ESGVJCC!

Get your costumes ready for Trunk or Treat on Friday, October 16. From 4pm to 7pm, our parking lot will be open to the entire community for free trick-or-treating, a Scholastic Book Fair, and food!



Interested in participating in the event and decorating your trunk? Each year, we're amazed by everyone's creativity and look forward to seeing what everyone comes up with. Please reach out to our Events/Programs Coordinator Bryce Middo at brycem@esgvjcc.org to learn more and share your trunk idea! ■

ESGVJCC EVENTS

WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE'S 2026 KIKU CRAFTS & FOOD FAIR



Submitted by West Covina Buddhist Temple

Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 1 for a fun day of shopping and dining at WCBT's annual Kiku Crafts & Food Fair 2026.

Join us as we welcome back many of our favorite vendors and meet some new ones as they offer Asian inspired crafts and clothing, Japanese artwork and textiles, tech and pop culture inspired t-shirts, an assortment of edible goodies, some amazing jewelry and so much more. We will also have WCBT's menu of delicious food to enjoy here or take home.

The event will be between 10am-3pm and admission is free. Come for some holiday shopping, Stay for the fun and food!

Check out the West Covina Buddhist Temple's website at livingdharma.org to view the full list of vendors. ■

AUTOMATIC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If you would like to have your ESGVJCC Membership automatically renewed, please contact Pearl Omiya at pomiya@esgvjcc.org or visit esgvjcc.org and fill out the Recurring Credit Card Payment Authorization form.

2026 EVENTS

FEBRUARY 7
INSTALLATION BANQUET
Celebrate all of our accomplishments of 2025 and as we install the 2026 Board of Directors.

MARCH 21
HEALTH FAIR
A free, public health fair for the community at Plaza West Covina—screenings, resource fair, and more.

APRIL 12
SPRING CLEAN-UP
Join us for painting, cleaning our facilities, and other various maintenance around the ESGVJCC!

APRIL 25
CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL
ESGVJCC showcases and promotes the Japanese culture with cultural performances at Plaza West Covina.

JUNE 1-6
MEMBER APPRECIATION WEEK
A week to recognize and celebrate ESGVJCC Members.

SEPTEMBER 13
KEIRO NO HI
A celebratory day for our seniors who continue to be the foundation of the ESGVJCC.

OCTOBER 3
AKIMATSURI FESTIVAL
ESGVJCC showcases its organizations with vivid exhibits, exciting performances, and delicious food!

OCTOBER 10
AKIMATSURI GOLF TOURNAMENT
Fundraiser event: Golfers! Come support the ESGVJCC!

OCTOBER 16
TRUNK OR TREAT/BOOK FAIR
Family fun event with trick or treating, crafts, games, and food!

NOVEMBER 15
VETERANS DAY SERVICE
A day where we honor and pay tribute to the veterans who protect our country and freedom.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON SUPPORTS THE ESGVJCC

The ESGVJCC is a community partner of Southern California Edison, helping distribute information to our membership on Wildfire Safety and other SCE Programs. Throughout the year, you will see SCE articles, social media posts, and various information distributed at events. ■

Updated: 8/13/2026

2026-2028 WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN FACT SHEET

Southern California Edison's 2026-28 Wildfire Mitigation Plan outlines a clear path forward to enhance grid resilience and reduce wildfire risks. With approximately a quarter of the company's service area in high fire risk areas, SCE is further hardening its infrastructure, bolstering situational awareness capabilities, enhancing operational practices and harnessing the power of data and technology to tackle and find solutions to those risks.

SINCE 2018 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026

- **~7,170+ CIRCUIT MILES** OF COVERED CONDUCTOR, OR APPROXIMATELY THREE TIMES THE DISTANCE OF FLYING FROM LA TO DC
- **2.3 MILLION+** TRIMS AND REMOVALS
- **1.9 MILLION +** HFRA INSPECTIONS
- **~2,000** WEATHER STATIONS
- **~200** HD CAMERAS

GRID DESIGN & SYSTEM HARDENING

As the number of acres burned in wildfires has steadily increased over the past 40 years in California, SCE continuously looks for ways to enhance our operational practices to reduce wildfire risk and increase public safety.

- Covered conductor is one of the most effective measures to prevent potential sparking.
- A key benefit of covered conductor is the speed at which it can be installed to achieve immediate wildfire risk reduction.
- Undergrounding overhead powerlines is part of our grid hardening efforts. It is not always necessary or feasible to underground all communities.
- SCE prioritizes the measures that deliver the strongest risk reduction and customer protection, while balancing the need for affordability.
- SCE is exploring undergrounding alternatives, such as ground level distribution system, for quicker deployment and reduced environmental impact and costs.



SCE is undergrounding overhead power lines to preserve the safety of our communities.

OPERATIONAL PRACTICES

HIGH FIRE RISK ASSET INSPECTIONS

We annually inspect transmission, distribution and generation equipment in 99% of high fire risk areas to identify safety hazards, prioritizing the highest-risk structures based on advanced wildfire risk models and emergency fire weather conditions like dry fuels and wind. SCE is increasing the use of remote sensing and piloting AI models to identify potential issues near overhead lines.



2026 PROGRESS THROUGH Q2/ TARGET
143,584/206,000 distribution inspections
21,036/27,700 transmission inspections

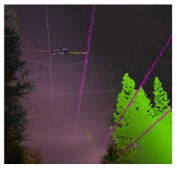
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

SCE continues to inspect, trim and remove trees to prevent vegetation from coming into contact with electrical equipment. SCE is at the forefront of the industry using remote sensing technology to help inform vegetation management personnel on required mitigations.

- SCE inspects 1.6 million trees across the 50,000-square-mile service area annually. More than half are in high fire risk areas.
- Vegetation management work also includes vegetation removal at the poles and around power lines as well as LiDAR surveying.
- Field crews conduct single-visit 360 inspections, combining ground and aerial checks, using drones and helicopters to obtain a 360-degree view of our equipment for any needed maintenance, repair or replacement. These 360 inspections are done for both distribution and transmission assets.
- The **Hazard Tree Management Program**, for both green trees and dead and dying trees, is a core wildfire mitigation activity and only applies in high fire risk areas.
- Structure/pole brushing ensures that specific clearance zones are maintained from our equipment and removes flammable vegetation that can cause fire to spread.



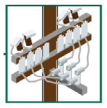
2026 PROGRESS THROUGH Q2/TARGET
59,685/135,000 cleared brush from structures



EXAMPLE OF LIDAR SURVEYING

TECHNOLOGY

SCE's foundational work involves grid hardening, inspection and maintenance. Simultaneously, we collaborate with utilities, academia and others to enhance community safety. We are committed to studying and developing cutting-edge technologies that complement our wildfire mitigations.



Rapid Earth Fault Current Limiter (REFCL) detects when a single power line has fallen to the ground and almost instantly reduces energy released. SCE is deploying REFCL technology more widely in our service area.



Open Phase Detection (OPD) can sense when a power line breaks or separates and turns off the power before it even falls to the ground to prevent potential ignitions.



Early Fault Detection (EFD) Expansion increases this grid "health monitoring" system to 200 new locations, helping SCE detect equipment failures early – like a wearable fitness tracker for the grid.



AI and Machine Learning Detection using advanced models to improve asset inspections and identify maintenance needs, with faster, more accurate diagnostics and enhanced quality control.

ESGVJCC EVENTS

2026 VETERANS DAY SERVICE & GO FOR BROKE PHOTO EXHIBIT AT THE ESGVJCC





Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator

Save the date for our Veterans Day Service at the ESGVJCC! Please join us on Sunday, November 15 at 1pm to celebrate and honor our country's veterans.

We're delighted to be joined by photographer Shane Sato, who will present The Go for Broke Spirit: Legacy in Portraits, a photo exhibit featuring powerful portraits of Japanese American veterans of World War II. The exhibit explores the selfless service, profound patriotism, and enduring legacy of Japanese American men and women who persevered in the face of prejudice and incarceration and risked their lives to advance the Allied effort. The photo exhibit will be showcased in the Sugimoto Family Social Hall for one week following the service.

In addition to the special photo exhibition, we'll be serving bento from Tozai Foods Market for lunch, screening the documentary The Volunteer, and presenting boutonnieres to veterans in attendance.

If you're interested in attending the service or supporting the event in any way, please reach out to Events/Programs Coordinator Bryce Middo at brycem@esgvjcc.org. ■

ESGVJCC EVENTS

2026 KEIRO NO HI (RESPECT FOR THE AGED DAY) CELEBRATION



Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator

Did you reserve a bento for our Keiro no Hi event on September 13? Don't forget to stop by the ESGVJCC between 12pm and 1pm to pick up your bento from the comfort of your car!

Please **enter our parking lot through the driveway closest to the gym by N Walnut Haven Dr**. Once you're in the parking lot, our staff will be ready to greet you and bring your bento to your window or trunk.

KONDO
wealth advisors

This year, we're incredibly grateful to have **Kondo Wealth Advisors** as our **$1,000 Title Sponsor**. Kondo Wealth Advisors has been a longtime supporter and collaborator of the ESGVJCC. If they sound familiar, it's because they contribute thoughtful articles to each issue of the Newsette with the goal of educating and helping our members. Thank you, Kondo Wealth Advisors, for your generous sponsorship and for sharing your knowledge with our community!

Lastly, thank you to our ESGVJCC members aged 75 and older for all the generational wisdom you have contributed to our community, and to all our other members for supporting this event by purchasing a bento or making a donation.

We look forward to seeing everyone soon! ■

ESGVJCC COMMUNITY

2026 NISEI WEEK CORONATION & FESTIVAL



Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator

On August 15, the 2026 Nisei Week Festival Queen Coronation took place at the Tom Bradley Theatre in Los Angeles.

Our 2026 ESGVJCC Queen, Jacqueline Fujiko Naito, was one of seven candidates in this year's Nisei Week Court. Throughout 2026, Jacqueline's enthusiasm, positivity, and personality have shined through her participation in emceeing and volunteering at several ESGVJCC events. Seeing Jacqueline named Miss Tomodachi was such a wonderful and proud moment for all of us!

"I've been involved in the Japanese American community for my whole life, volunteering, playing basketball, and these organizations actively raise me," Jacqueline says. "And so, I'm hoping to give back to those organizations and share what all of their events are like with the community."

We'd also like to congratulate Kara Kimiko Chu, who was crowned this year's Nisei Week Queen, and Ai Grace Kusayanagi, who was named First Princess. We also want to celebrate the four other talented candidates on this year's court. All of us from the ESGVJCC and the ESGVJCC Queens Program congratulate the 2026 Nisei Week Court!

Thank you to our 2025 ESGVJCC Queen, Mia Miyoko Takatsuka, for representing the ESGVJCC with such grace and for all she has done for the Japanese American community throughout the past year. We are so proud to see Mia pass the crown to Jacqueline and are excited to watch Jacqueline begin this next chapter representing both the ESGVJCC and Nisei Week. ■

ESGVJCC EVENTS

2026 ESGVJCC GEORGE SUGIMOTO GOLF TOURNAMENT





Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator

The day after Keiro no Hi, we'll be jumping right into our 2026 ESGVJCC George Sugimoto Golf Tournament at Via Verde Country Club!

We're honored to continue the tradition of holding one of our major fundraisers at Via Verde. It is especially meaningful this year as we honor the memory and legacy of George Sugimoto. As Board President Tim Itatani mentioned in this issue's President's Message, George was an instrumental figure not only to the ESGVJCC but also to the greater Japanese and Japanese American community. Via Verde was one of George's favorite golf courses, so it only feels right to play there.

We're so excited to see many of our seasoned golfers who have supported this fundraiser for years, while also welcoming new golfers and supporters this year. We'll have goodie bags and snacks, along with drinks and other refreshments throughout the course to keep everyone fueled until the banquet.

If you signed up to play this year, we can't wait to see you on the green! If you're supporting the fundraiser from afar, keep an eye on our Virtual Silent Auction page on esgvjcc.org/2026-esgvjcc-george-sugimoto-golf-tournament to bid on some great prizes. The auction will close during the banquet on September 14, so be sure to check our Instagram for updates! ■

ESGVJCC PROGRAMS

2026 KOKORO NO SATO PRESCHOOL CLASS GRADUATION CEREMONY

Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator







On Friday, July 31 the ESGVJCC's Kokoro no Sato Preschool held its fifth Preschool Graduation Ceremony—our biggest graduating class yet! The Ceremony took place in the Sugimoto Family Social Hall at 4pm. Our graduates were Eleanor Cho, Gemma Aris, Kamryn Matsuura, Kira Nakano, Osias Angel, Rory Wong, and Satsuki Hamada. In attendance were the families of the graduates, as well as families of the other students in the Infant, Toddler, Preschool, & Pre-K Rooms and the Kokoro no Sato Aunties and Uncles!

The program began with an emotional and heartwarming welcome address by ESGVJCC Executive Director, Pearl Omiya, thanking the families for trusting us to be a part of their village and be a part of their child's educational journey. To see how much each of them has grown since first joining Kokoro no Sato really made everyone so incredibly proud!

Following our welcome, the Eurythmics Class performed 2 songs, "Sayonara Bokutachi no Hoikuen" (Goodbye to our Preschool) and "Tsubame". Kokoro no Sato Preschool Class and Toddler Class went on stage to perform a song for our graduates, "We Wish You Well". After the Toddler/Preschool Class performance, the Pre-K Class came up and performed the 2 songs they had been practicing for the past month: "Thank You - Graduation Song" and "Mata Ne". Everyone did an AMAZING job and made everyone so proud!

We then got to stroll down Memory Lane as the Graduate Photo Presentation played for our families. It is so heartwarming to see the growth and development of all of our graduates.

The event culminated with the graduation ceremony where our graduates walked down the aisle and received their diplomas and were presented gifts from their friends and their Aunties & Uncles. Following the Graduation Ceremony, Auntie Harmony (Toddler Lead Teacher) gave a speech on behalf of all the teachers and spoke about each of our graduates and gave her best wishes to them all followed by a message from Auntie Melissa (our new Director of Kokoro no Sato!) who reminisced about the graduating class's many amazing accomplishments and reminded them that she will always be cheering them on.

After the graduation, the families were invited to a reception in the Social Hall with light refreshments and got to spend quality time with their friends and family.

We are so so so proud of our seven graduates and know they will go on to do wonderful and amazing things in Transitional Kindergarten/Kindergarten and beyond! We're fortunate again this year to have four of our graduates return to Kokoro no Sato as students of our After School Program! We look forward to having them come back and join our various programs and events! Arigato Gozaimashita for letting us be a part of your village and wishing you all the best! ■

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

ESGVJCC Queens Program



Annually | ESGVJCC

Think you have what it takes to become the next ESGVJCC Queen? Applications for the 2027 Queens Program will becoe available in the next few months! To learn more or get an application packet when it becomes available, please contact Program Director Melissa Kozono at mkozono@esgvjcc.org.

Judo



Weekly | ESGVJCC Gym

The West Covina Judo Dojo's mission is to teach Kodokan Judo and develop Judokas to be champions on the mat as well in life. Practice is held at the Gym on Tuesday & Friday, 7pm-9:30pm. Email WestCovinaJudoDojo@gmail.com to sign up or visit westcovinajudodojo.org to learn more!

West Covina Buddhist Temple



Weekly | Sugimoto Family Social Hall

Interested in learning about Buddhism? West Covina Buddhist Temple offers Sunday services, Shōtsuki services, and Howakai services on Thursdays at the ESGVJCC. If you have any question or would like to visit our temple, check out our website at livingdharma.org.

KONDO WEALTH ADVISORS

THINKING BEYOND TODAY



Submitted by Akemi Dalvi, CPA/PFS, CFP

Often, we don't like to talk about death or money. Warning: this article talks about both! It's important to discuss this difficult subject because by planning today, we might be able to extend our love, care and generosity to family and friends beyond our lifetime. If you are charitably inclined, future gifting is also a tax-efficient way to support the organizations you care about.

Outlining how you want your assets to be gifted after you are gone can be achieved through drafting a will. After you are gone, a will goes through public probate court with an executor, which can be expensive and take about a year to complete. However, if you complete both a will and a trust in combination, assets held in trust titling can pass directly to beneficiaries privately, bypassing court involvement. Together, these estate planning documents can help you achieve the following:

- Names the executor or personal representative of your estate
- Gives your property to those you choose, including gifts to nonprofit organizations
- Saves on taxes if assets are left to qualified charitable organizations
- Provides financial management through a trustee
- Names a guardian for minor children, or caregivers for pets
- Ensures financial security for a child with a disability
- Sets guidelines for distributions if you and your spouse die at the same time

You can also leave assets to nonprofit organizations after you are gone. Charitable gifting in your estate plan can accomplish these goals:

- Estate Tax Reduction – Donations are fully deductible from your taxable estate
- Income Tax Relief – Donating taxable items like IRAs or 401k's allows you to fulfill your charitable intent and the gift goes tax-free to qualified nonprofit organizations. If such assets went to your heirs, they would pay income tax.
- Legacy – You can retain these assets during your lifetime but leave a lasting legacy after you are gone.

If you die without a will and trust, your estate will be considered intestate, meaning state law will decide who inherits your assets. The settlement of your estate could be long and expensive, and your personal wishes might not be followed. A better solution might be to reach out to an estate planning attorney to ensure the people you care about receive the gifts you intend.

Be sure to give your Certified Financial Planner™ or CPA Personal Financial Specialist a copy of your will and trust when you complete it, so this can be integrated into your financial plan and

investment account titling. We're here to support you today, and for the next generation to come.

The opinions expressed above are solely those of Kondo Wealth Advisors, Inc., (626-449-7783 info@kondowealthadvisors.com) a Registered Investment Advisor in the state of California. Neither Kondo Wealth Advisors, Inc. nor its representatives provide legal, tax or accounting advice.

ESGVJCC EVENTS

3 WEEKS OF SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMS





Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator

Thank you for joining us for 3 amazing weeks of youth summer camp at the ESGVJCC! It's always a joy to see returning campers and counselors who come back year after year (a little taller each time) while also welcoming new campers into our ESGVJCC family.

Our first two weeks were dedicated to our cultural camp, Camp Chibikko. The theme of our first week was mottainai, or Don't waste, and we explored this theme through food, upcycling craft activities, and a fun field trip to Tanaka Farms. The theme of our second week was Kizuna and the Japanese American community and we did activities that centered all around culture, embracing cultural identity, and of course everyone's favorite field trip to Little Tokyo. Thank you to Kishin Daiko, Eibukan Goju Ryu Karate-Do, Kyo no Kai's sensei Bando Hirohichiro, ESGVJCC Aikido, and our friends from Cold Tofu improv group, Little Tokyo Community Council, and Terasaki Budokan for helping us make these first two weeks exciting for all.

Since 2023, we've transformed our third week of camp to Basketball Camp and it's been so amazing to see how much this program has evolved and grown! Special shout out to Coach Danny for helping us to organize and lead the majority of the drills, and to Coach Rob, Lucas, and Elliot from Hooper High for sharing special Basketball Trading Cards with our players and assisting with drills. Our third week ended on an extra sweet note thanks to Hapa Mama Cookies for generously donating delicious sugar and chocolate chip cookies to celebrate our campers' final day! Coach Danny's friend has been following our campers' journey throughout the week and wanted to reward all of their hard work and dedication with something extra special. We are so thankful for Hapa Mama Cookies' kindness!

We'd also like to recognize the rest of the ESGVJCC Office Staff and volunteers led by our Executive Director Pearl Omiya for manning the kitchen and preparing the amazing snacks and lunches for three entire weeks! We're truly grateful for all the behind-the-scenes support, the wonderful turnout each week, and the kind feedback we received throughout the month. ■

ESGVJCC PROGRAMS

2026 STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM





Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator

It was an extra-eventful summer! After an entire month of Camp Chibikko and Basketball Camp, we welcomed ten very special guests from Japan to the ESGVJCC and into some of our homes for our Student Exchange Program. This year's program brought eight students and two chaperones from the Ohtawara City Board of Education and middle schools to West Covina for a week-long visit.

This annual exchange, a partnership that brings together the City of Ohtawara, the ESGVJCC, and the City of West Covina, continues to strengthen the bonds between our communities. For years, students from West Covina have had the opportunity to immerse themselves in Japanese culture through homestays in Ohtawara. This reciprocal exchange gives students from Japan the opportunity to experience American culture and life in Southern California.

Our week began with a Welcome Party here at the ESGVJCC, where students and chaperones were warmly greeted by host families, West Covina city officials, and ESGVJCC staff and members. Throughout the rest of the week, our guests enjoyed an exciting itinerary that included trips to Knott's Berry Farm and the Orange County Fair, exploring West Covina, touring Hollywood, attending a Dodgers game, and more!

By the end of the week-long visit, it was especially touching to see the bonds that had formed between our students and host families at the Farewell Party.

An extra-special thank you goes to the host families who opened their homes and hearts to our visitors from Japan, as well as to our staff and other volunteers who helped make the week such an enjoyable experience. Your generosity and hospitality played a crucial role in making this year's exchange program memorable for everyone involved and help keep this wonderful tradition going strong! ■

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THE ESGVJCC?

Any and every donation is greatly appreciated. There are a variety of ways to continue supporting the ESGVJCC:

CELLPHONES

The ESGVJCC is part of a national program designed to remove used cell phones from the country's environment while directly benefiting our organization. So now you can donate your old cell phones and the ESGVJCC will receive $$.

OLD CAR

Your car doesn't even have to run! The towing company will come to you; plus, it can be a great tax-incentive for you. Call the ESGVJCC for more information.

WHILE YOU WORK

If your company is affiliated with United Way, you can choose to designate your donation to go to the ESGVJCC. The ESGVJCC's United Way Account # is 1745959. Don't forget to check with your company about matching donations - Some companies like Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies donate 2 to 1!

WHILE YOU USE EBAY

If you sell many items on eBay, you can choose to donate anywhere from 10% to 100% of your final sale to the ESGVJCC! Look for "eBay Giving Works" in the Sell Your Item form "Select a new nonprofit" type "East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center" in the "Nonprofit Name or Keyword" field Then select the percentage 10% - 100%!

VENMO

You can make donations to the ESGVJCC via the Venmo App. Just search for the EastSanGabrielValley-JapaneseC in the app! Download the Venmo app in the Apple App Store or Google Play. Set up your account, add your payment method and you are all ready to go!

UNITED WAY

If your company is affiliated with United Way, you can choose to designate your donation to go to the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center. Our United Way Account # is 1745959.

WISH LIST

By donating items from our Wish List, you help us reduce our expenses. This allows us to provide more much needed funding for our Programs! To see what office, maintenance, and other supplies you can donate, please visit esgvjcc.org/donate.

DONATIONS
OPERATING FUND

Denise Akune	$100
Sumiye & Bruce Arnheim	$30
Larry and Diane Jung	$70
Nancy Nakada	$1,250
Taka Nakamura	$200
Julie Nakano	$500
Mark Nakano	$500
Kazuo & Kary Yoshimizu	$100

2026
KIBOU LEGACY CIRCLE



Tim & Sandy Itatani
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Grace Richardson
Barbara Shirota

In Japanese, the word Kibou means Hope. If one man and his hopes for the community to build what the ESGVJCC is today, imagine what we as a community could do for future generations. The Kibou Legacy Circle includes donors who give $5,000 or more annually. These donors give back to help ensure that the Japanese American culture and traditions continue through the various ESGVJCC programs and classes offered here.

For more information on the Kibou Legacy Circle, contact Pearl Omiya at (626) 960-2566 or pomiya@esgvjcc.org. ■

FIND OUR FULL CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2026 ON ESGVJCC.ORG/CALENDAR-OF-EVENTS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON

WILDFIRE RECOVERY COMPENSATION PROGRAM

Available through Nov. 30, 2026

ABOUT THE WILDFIRE RECOVERY COMPENSATION PROGRAM

The program is a streamlined approach to quickly and fairly compensate eligible individuals and businesses directly impacted by the Eaton Fire. It focuses on recovery and avoids the delay, expense and uncertainty of lengthy litigation.

VOLUNTARY
- No fees or added costs
- Completely optional to participate
- No obligation to accept an offer — nothing binding before an agreement is signed

FAIR AND PROMPT
- Receive a settlement offer within 90 days of a substantially complete claims submission
- Payments will be made within 30 days after all conditions have been satisfied in the settlement agreement, including SCE's receipt of it — signed and notarized
- See offer valuation formulas online

STREAMLINED APPLICATION
- Securely submit claims and documentation through a dedicated website
- Save your progress as you go

WITH OR WITHOUT AN ATTORNEY
- Legal representation not required
- Claimants can work with an attorney to submit a claim on their behalf. In these cases, SCE will add 20% to the damages portion of an offer for legal costs

CLAIM TYPES
- Total and partial structure loss
- Commercial property loss
- Business interruption
- Smoke and ash
- Physical injury
- Loss of life

DIRECT CLAIM PREMIUM
- Receive additional compensation for settling through the program
- All claim types are eligible
- A flat premium up to $200,000 for destroyed properties is available
- Not available in litigation

WHO'S ELIGIBLE?
- Owners and tenants (except those who rented for less than 30 days) of eligible properties
- Individuals who sustained physical injuries within the fire perimeter and were treated between Jan. 7-15, 2025
- Personal representatives of estates for those who died due to the Eaton Fire
- Businesses that owned or occupied an eligible property

WHAT DOCUMENTS DO I NEED?
- At least one qualifying form of identification
- Proof of residency/ownership/tenancy
- Insurance information
- Financial records for business or rental claims
- Medical records for injury claims
- More details available online

FEINBERG AND BIROS



Kenneth R. Feinberg and **Camille S. Biros** — world leaders in compensation fund design and administration — consulted on the design of the Wildfire Recovery Compensation Program
- Over 35 years of experience in mediating and resolving thousands of complex disasters and advocating for those impacted
- Known for their work with the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 and the design of many similar programs

Visit sce.com/directclaims

Scan here

Phone: 888-912-8528
Email: wildfirerecoveryclaims@sce.com

Complete program details available online.
SCE reserves the right to modify the terms and conditions at any time.

02.17.26

Caregiver Conference

ORANGE COUNTY

Presented by Beverly Ito & Donna Ito Hallett
In Memory of Bill & Grace Ito

REGISTER TODAY!

Saturday, October 24, 2026
11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Orange County Buddhist Church (OCBC)
909 Dale Ave, Anaheim, CA, 92804

For more information, visit **keiro.org/ccoc26** or scan the QR code.

65 YEARS Keiro

Akimatsuri Fall Festival

Join us for a day of Japanese cuisine, unique vendors, family fun, cultural performances, & ondo dancing!

October 10 | 12-6pm
1203 W Puente Ave
West Covina, CA 91790

ESGVJCC 75 YEARS 1951-2026
EAST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY JAPANESE COMMUNITY CENTER

WEST COVINA

Vendor & Sponsorship info on esgvjcc.org/2026-akimatsuri fall-festival

TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Friday, October 16 | 4pm-7pm



ESGVJCC Parking Lot
1203 W Puente Ave
West Covina, CA 91790

Free Admission & Candy
Scholastic Book Fair
Food, games, crafts!

ESGVJCC 75 YEARS 1951-2026
EAST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY JAPANESE COMMUNITY CENTER

For more info, visit esgvjcc.org/2026-trunk-or-treat or contact Events/Programs Coordinator Bryce Middo at brycem@esgvjcc.org.

EAST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY
JAPANESE COMMUNITY CENTER

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Follow us!



Mission Statement | The East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center 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.