

ESGVJCC

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NEXT ISSUE: NOVEMBER 2025

ESGVJCC

2025 AKIMATSURI GOLF TOURNAMENT & FALL FESTIVAL - REGISTER TODAY!

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

2025 AKIMATSURI GOLF TOURNAMENT

FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY EVENTS AND YOUTH, SENIOR, & CULTURAL PROGRAMS

MONDAY OCTOBER 6
9AM AT VIA VERDE COUNTRY CLUB IN SAN DIMAS

REGISTER ON [ESGVJCC.ORG/2025-AKIMATSURI-GOLF-TOURNAMENT](https://esgvjcc.org/2025-akimatsuri-golf-tournament)

EAST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY JAPANESE COMMUNITY CENTER'S
2025 AKIMATSURI FALL FESTIVAL

FOOD/DRINKS
VENDORS
CULTURAL PERFORMANCES
FAMILY FUN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11 | 12PM-6PM
1203 W PUENTE AVE
WEST COVINA, CA 91790

Learn more & apply to become a vendor at esgvjcc.org/2025-akimatsuri-fall-festival

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Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator

We can't believe how quickly this year has flown by! Before we know it, we'll be celebrating our 75th anniversary in a couple months. Before 2025 ends, we have a few more major events for you to save the date for!

The **27th Annual Akimatsuri Golf Tournament** will take place on Monday, October 6 at Via Verde Country Club. Whether you're a seasoned player or just out for a good time, this tournament promises a full day of enjoyment. Participants can look forward to tasty snacks and beverages on the course, engaging games and prizes at select holes, and a celebratory banquet to wrap up the day. If you're not a golfer, you can still be part of the excitement by participating in our virtual silent auction! Bid on items generously donated by ESGVJCC board members, staff, and community partners—all from the comfort of your home.

Then, on Saturday, October 11, head to the ESGVJCC for our annual **Akimatsuri Fall Festival!** This festive gathering celebrates Japanese American heritage, the arrival of fall, and the strength of our community. Bring the whole family and enjoy delicious food, performances from ESGVJCC programs, hands-on activities, and access to local community resources.

Your involvement in these events directly supports our mission, allowing us to continue providing more than 40 cultural, educational, and recreational programs that serve over 3,000 individuals each year. Visit esgvjcc.org/2025-akimatsuri-golf-tournament and esgvjcc.org/2025-akimatsuri-fall-festival to get involved today! ■

2025 ESGVJCC

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Events/Programs Coordinator

Bryce Middo

MESSAGE FROM THE ESGVJCC

TIM ITATANI, 2025 ESGVJCC PRESIDENT

Dear Members:

It's already September and we are in the final stretch of 2025. As we move from the grind of the summer months into the slower pace of fall, it's worth noting that at the ESGVJCC, there really is no such thing as a "slow" season when it comes to activities.

Coming up in October, we have a full calendar with our annual Akimatsuri Golf Tournament, the Akimatsuri Fall Festival, and Trunk or Treat—three major events happening in one month. It will be another busy and exciting time at the Center.



Reaching 75 years is an incredible milestone. Few organizations can say they've served their communities for so long. What excites me most, though, is that even after 75 years, we are still growing and laying the foundation for many more successful years to come.

We are also hopeful to complete our proposed new ESGVJCC patio, which will be constructed in the area where we currently store our BBQ equipment. This new patio will be large in scale and serve as a welcoming space for seating, resting, or waiting. It will feature new tables, chairs, fans, and lighting for the convenience of all our members. This project reflects our ongoing vision of maximizing every inch of space at the Center to better serve our growing membership and expanding programs.

As fall approaches, the ESGVJCC Board and staff are also preparing for our 75th Anniversary Celebration in 2026. Planning is already underway, including the creation of a special 75th Anniversary logo and preparations for a very special celebration event in June 2026. Details to come.

Reaching 75 years is an incredible milestone. Few organizations can say they've served their communities for so long. What excites me most, though, is that even after 75 years, we are still growing and laying the foundation for many more successful years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim T. Itatani".

Tim T. Itatani
President, ESGVJCC Board of Directors

ESGVJCC EVENTS

2025 TRUNK OR TREAT

Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator

Our final event of the year—and my personal favorite—is Trunk or Treat! Every year, I'm amazed by the creativity and community spirit that shines through in each decorated car.



TRUNK OR TREAT
Friday, October 17 | 4pm-7pm

ESGVJCC Parking Lot
1203 W Puente Ave
West Covina CA 91790

Free Admission & Candy
Games & Crafts
Scholastic Book Fair

For more info, visit esgvjcc.org/2025-trunk-or-treat or contact Events/Programs Coordinator Bryce Middo at brycem@esgvjcc.org

This year, Trunk or Treat will be held on Friday, October 17 from 4pm to 7pm in the ESGVJCC parking lot. There will be free trick-or-treating, fun Halloween activities, and a great selection of books for readers of all ages from the Scholastic Book Fair. It's a wonderful way to come together as a community and support literacy while having a spooky good time!



If you're interested in decorating your car and being part of the fun, please email Events/Programs Coordinator Bryce Middo at brycem@esgvjcc.org or call the ESGVJCC Office at (626) 960-2566. ■

ESGVJCC EVENTS

KIKU CRAFT & FOOD FAIR



Submitted by Hisako Koga, West Covina Buddhist Temple

Kiku Craft and Food Fair will return on Sunday, November 2, 2025 from 10am-3pm at the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center.

This annual event will present Asian-inspired crafts, jewelry, ceramics, clothing, and gifts as well as a variety of delicious WCBT foods. There will be returning vendors with your favorite selections as well as a few new vendors offering some new unique items. Please join us for a fun day of shopping, raffle prizes and great food!

This fundraiser is sponsored by the West Covina Buddhist Temple. ■

ESGVJCC STAFF

WELCOME TO THE TEAM,
KATRINA & BRYCE!

Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator

In August, two awesome individuals joined our team! We're excited to announce that Katrina Que and Bryce Middo are the ESGVJCC's new Events/Programs Coordinators. They'll be working together to bring our events to life, while also providing support to our youth and senior programs.

If you run into them at an event or around the Center, please give them a warm ESGVJCC welcome! ■

2025 EVENTS

FEBRUARY 8

INSTALLATION BANQUET

Celebrate all of our accomplishments of 2024 and as we install the 2025 Board of Directors.

APRIL 6

SPRING CLEAN-UP

Join us for painting, cleaning our facilities, and other various maintenance around the ESGVJCC!

APRIL 26

CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

ESGVJCC showcases and promotes the Japanese culture with cultural performances.

MAY 31

HEALTH FAIR

A free, public health fair for the community—screenings, resource fair, and more.

JUNE 28

WCBT OBON

West Covina Buddhist Temple's annual festival honoring the spirits of our ancestors and loved ones.

JULY 14-18

MEMBER APPRECIATION WEEK

A week to recognize and celebrate ESGVJCC Members.

SEPTEMBER 14

KEIRO NO HI

A celebratory day for our seniors who continue to be the foundation of the ESGVJCC.

OCTOBER 6

AKIMATSURI GOLF TOURNAMENT

Fundraiser event: Golfers! Come support the ESGVJCC!

OCTOBER 11

AKIMATSURI FESTIVAL

ESGVJCC showcases its organizations with vivid exhibits, exciting performances, and delicious food!

OCTOBER 17

TRUNK OR TREAT/BOOK FAIR

Family fun event with trick or treating, crafts, games, and food!



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON SUPPORTS ESGVJCC

The ESGVJCC was awarded \$5,000 to distribute information to our membership on wildfire safety. Throughout the year, you will see SCE articles, social media posts, and various information distributed at events. ■



PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF

HELPFUL RESOURCES DURING PSPS OUTAGES

Your safety is our top priority. When fire weather conditions are present, we may temporarily shut off power to reduce the risk of a fire caused by utility equipment. This is known as a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS), and it saves lives.

SUPPORT AND RESOURCES DURING PSPS OUTAGES



LOCATE A COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

- Get up-to-date information
- Charge your device or medical equipment
- Access snacks, water, Wi-Fi and other supplies



FIND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION AND LODGING

For more local support

DIAL 211

TEXT "PSPS" TO [211-211](tel:211-211) OR VISIT 211.org

All these resources and more can be located on our outage map:

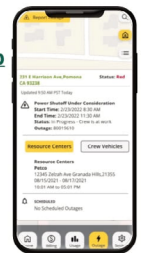
sce.com/outage-map or

download the [MYSCE APP](#) at

sce.com/mobile-app



Download Now



NOTIFICATIONS TO KEEP YOU INFORMED

Receive notifications up to three days before a potential PSPS, stay updated during the outage and when power is restored.

If you're enrolled in the Medical Baseline Allowance program, and PSPS notifications are misdelivered or bounce back, we will follow up with you via phone or visit your home to make sure you are aware of a potential shutoff. Check your eligibility for our Medical Baseline Allowance program by visiting sce.com/mba.

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION AT

sce.com/preference-center



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PSPS, VISIT sce.com/psps.

Updated: 8/14/2025

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.

ESGVJCC PARTNERSHIPS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON - HOW YOUR ELECTRIC BILL WILL BE CHANGING IN NOVEMBER

Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator






As one of Southern California Edison's community outreach partners, the ESGVJCC helps share important information regarding billing updates and programs to help save money. The information and resources that we share will not only be available in English, but also translated into Japanese to reach more people in the community, especially ours! Resources in English and Japanese can be found on our website at esgvjcc.org/partnerships.

SCE customers should be aware that beginning in November 2025, electricity bills will be restructured for residential customers, including those with solar. California Assembly Bill 205 requires electric utilities to adjust the way residential customers are billed. The goal of the change is to make it more affordable to use electric technologies and more clean, sustainable energy. SCE does not earn more profit because of this change.

Check out the fact sheet below to learn more about what's changing on your bill, how bills will change, and how to maximize your saving potential.

How Bills Will Change

Use the chart below to see how your bill could change with the Base Services Charge.

Customer Type	Likely Bill Change	Why?
 Low Energy User	Bill may increase	The lower cost per kilowatt-hour may not decrease your cost enough to cover the Base Services Charge, resulting in an increase.
 Medium Energy User	Bill may stay the same	The lower cost per kilowatt-hour may balance the Base Services Charge.
 High Energy User	Bill may decrease	The lower cost per kilowatt-hour may help cover the Base Services Charge, resulting in savings.
 CARE/FERA Customers and Deed-Restricted Affordable Housing Customers?	Bill may decrease	The discounted Base Services Charge and lower cost per kilowatt-hour may result in savings.
 Solar Customers	Depends on net usage	Solar customers are still required to pay the Base Services Charge, but may benefit from lower electricity usage rates when they aren't generating power. Solar customers participating in CARE/FERA will receive a discounted Base Services Charge.

Maximize Saving Potential

Explore Rate Plans

It's good to know your options. Use our Rate Plan Comparison tool at sce.com/rateplantool¹ to get a personalized rate comparison based on your energy usage. You can also explore other available rate plan options and easily switch plans if you find one that better fits your needs.

Bill Discount Programs

Visit sce.com/assistance to see if you qualify for a discounted Base Services Charge and a monthly bill discount through one of our income-based programs, such as California Alternate Rate Energy (CARE) or Family Energy Rate Assistance (FERA).



Learn more at
sce.com/BaseServicesCharge



¹ Your exact Base Services Charge amount will vary based on the number of days in your billing cycle.
² Deed-restricted affordable housing properties are identified by the California Housing Partnership and defined as an affordable rental home that is restricted by the rules of state or federal subsidies to residents who have incomes at or below 80 percent of the Area Media Income. For more information, visit chpc.net.
³ Estimate is based on current electricity rates as of June 1, 2025, and does not assume future rate changes.
⁴ Customers on the Solar Billing Plan, operating on a master meter, or with less than five months of continuous usage are not eligible to use the Rate Plan Comparison Tool.

Find the Japanese version of this flyer online at esgvjcc.org/southern-california-edison-base-services-charge. ■

ESGVJCC PROGRAMS

2025 NISEI WEEK CORONATION



Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator

The 83rd Nisei Week Japanese Festival took place this past August! Much like our own ESGVJCC Queens Program, the Nisei Week Queen and Court Program provides young Japanese American women with a unique opportunity to explore their heritage, develop both personal and professional skills, and engage meaningfully with the community.

This year, we were honored to have Mia Miyoko Takatsuka represent the ESGVJCC. We are proud to share that Mia was crowned a princess alongside her fellow candidates! Each candidate represents a vital part of the Japanese American community in Southern California. We are incredibly proud of their dedication to preserving and promoting our culture and heritage and look forward to seeing all that Mia and these outstanding young women will accomplish during their one-year reign! ■

ESGVJCC PROGRAMS

2025 KARATE IN-DOJO TOURNAMENTS RESULTS

Submitted by Eibu Kan Goju Ryu Karate-Do

A kumite tournament was held on June 18 and a kata tournament on July 9. Each of the students were placed and competed with their fellow students. The students enjoyed snacks and drinks after the tournament. The next tournament will be on August 13. Thanks to all that helped! ■

Tournament Results:

Kumite

Div: Beginner

Riley T. - 1st
Efrain G. - 2nd
Tekumseh R. - 3rd

Div: Intermediate Female

Trang D. - 1st
Melany G. - 2nd

Div: Intermediate Male

Adam O. - 1st
Ethan A. - 2nd
Bailey T. - 3rd

Div: Advanced

Halona L. - 1st
Mikayla L. - 2nd
Tevin B. - 3rd

Kata

Div: Beginner

Riley T. - 1st
Connor U. - 2nd
Genny J. - 3rd

Div: Intermediate

Afra W. - 1st
Adam O. - 2nd
Trang D. - 3rd
Viktoriia A. - 3rd

Div: Advanced

Rebecca U. - 1st
Selene U. - 2nd
Kailani R. - 3rd
Bailey T. - 3rd

ESGVJCC STAFF

ALOHA AND THANK YOU



Submitted by Dai Davila, former Events Coordinator

It is bittersweet to share that I will have left the ESGVJCC team in early August. After two and a half incredible years, I want to express my deepest thanks to the ESGVJCC Staff, Teachers, Board of Directors, and Members who have welcomed me with open arms. This community has truly become a second home, and I have made friendships and memories here that will last a lifetime.

I will be spending the next couple of months between Hawaii and Japan to be with family and friends. It is not goodbye, just see you later. While I may be stepping away from the team, I will always be a part of the ESGVJCC community.

Thank you again for everything, and I look forward to seeing you all again when I return! ■

ESGVJCC SENIOR PROGRAMS

LEISURE CLUB

Submitted by Kazumi Williams, Leisure Club Secretary

On August 13, by watching the documentary film “Chez Sateau,” we learned all about Chef Ryo Sato’s life and his rise to stardom as an award-winning chef. As a young culinary student, Chef Sato traveled to Europe—Switzerland, Paris, and London—to study the fine art of European cuisine. He was becoming a successful chef by the time he decided to come to the U.S. to apply his culinary skills. His fame as a well-known chef grew as he worked in many famous hotel restaurants in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles. In 1981 Chef Sato opened his own restaurant, Chez Sateau, in Arcadia, California, serving gourmet French-Japanese cuisine. The restaurant was very popular and had many famous clients and stayed in business for a long time. Chef Sato has received many awards and recognition during his long, successful career, and he is one of the most admired chefs in the nation.

Leisure Club members celebrated Chef Sato’s Birthday with a beautiful, delicious cake baked by Chef Sato himself. The birthday cake included the names of our Leisure Club members who also have August birthdays. What a treat it was!

We’re excited to announce our first casino trip in six years! The Leisure Club is planning a fun-filled outing to Yaamava Casino on Wednesday, September 24. So far, 32 members have signed up, and the excitement is building! A private bus will take us to the casino, departing from the Community Center parking lot at 9:30am, and returning around 4:30pm-5pm. The cost is \$20 for Leisure Club members and \$25 for non-members. If you’re interested in joining us, please contact Phillip Komai at (626) 279-1272. The sign-up deadline is September 15. ■

ESGVJCC STAFF

GOODBYE TONY AND JORDAN

Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator

We have a few more staff changes to share! As we continue to navigate changes at the ESGVJCC, we’d like to take a moment to recognize and thank two incredible team members who also moved on this summer.

In July and August, we said goodbye to our long-time Program Director of Senior Services, Tony Tang, and one of our teachers, Jordan Pomeroy.



Tony’s career at the ESGVJCC began as an intern. From there, he became a Programs Associate, and eventually rose to lead as Program Director of Senior Services. Over the years, Tony wore many hats—he was not only a leader in our senior programming, but also our go-to handyman, IT support, and uncle to the students of Kokoro no Sato Infant Center and Preschool. After many years of service to our community, Tony has taken an exciting new role with the State of California. We are so proud of his continued growth and grateful for all he brought to our organization.



Jordan first joined the ESGVJCC as our Office Manager before becoming a teacher in both the After School Program and Saturday Japanese Preschool. While supporting our students with care and creativity, she has also been pursuing her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology. Her passion for education and commitment to our mission have definitely made a lasting impact on our team and families!

Words can’t fully express how thankful we are to have had Tony, Jordan, and Dai as part of the ESGVJCC family. Their contributions have been invaluable, and while their presence will be missed, we’re excited for the new journeys ahead of them. ■

ESGVJCC YOUTH PROGRAMS

2025 CAMP CHIBIKKO | 3 WEEKS OF FUN!

Submitted by Melissa Kozono, Program Director of Youth Services



July at the ESGVJCC means Camp Chibikko! This year we were excited to be able to offer 2 weeks of Camp Chibikko cultural camp and 1 week of Camp Chibikko Basketball Camp! Camp Chibikko is always a highlight of the summer!

Each week of Camp Chibikko had a different theme and Japanese value that they learned through the various activities. The first week of Camp Chibikko was the Japanese value of Wa (Harmony). For the second week, the theme was the history of Japanese American sports and focused on the Japanese value of Kyocho (Cooperation). For the third and final week, we hosted our third ever Basketball Camp!

During Week 1, the campers made their Hapa Zome (leafdye) art, chalk art, made their own tenugui, learned Japanese songs from Grateful Crane Ensemble and worked on teamwork with Cold Tofu Improv Group! Campers also got to make their own mochi and spam musubis. Our field trip in Week 1 was to visit the Earl Burns Miller Japanese Gardens at Cal State Long Beach. We are so grateful to all the people and organizations who partnered with us during Week 1. Thank you to Kishin Daiko for a fun taiko workshop, Bando Ryu Kyo no Kai for an interactive nihon buyo workshop, and Eibukan Goju Ryu Karate Do for the high energy karate workshop! Thank you to Cold Tofu Improv Group & Grateful Crane Ensemble for partnering with us.

During Week 2, the campers learned all about Kyocho and Japanese American sports. We were able to share the documentary, Home Court which is the story of Ashley Chea and her journey in chase of a basketball scholarship. We then went to visit the Terasaki Budokan to play basketball! We also made tie-dye hachimakis, practiced kyocho by doing fun teamwork activities such as building a tower out of marshmallows, made origami flowers, and participated in camp favorite, suikawari (watermelon smash). Campers also learned to make their own breakfast onigiris! In addition, we still were able to partner with a

few groups to come do special activities for the campers! Thank you so much to ESGVJCC Aikido for the fun aikido workshop and Ayaka Hula Studio for the relaxing hula demonstration!

For Week 3 of Camp Chibikko, we transitioned to a fun basketball camp for children ages 5-12 years old where we focused on fundamental basketball skills and gave the players opportunities to practice what they learned that day with fun scrimmages and games. Each and every day, we acknowledged 2 players who showed the most hustle, spirit, and go-getter attitude by awarding them the Ganbatta Player of the Day! We also had special coaches come in every day to work with the players. Thank you to Coach Danny Woo (Mark Keppel Basketball Coach) for all of your support and guiding the campers on their basketball journeys!

Camp Chibikko would not have been successful without all of the hard work from our Camp Chibikko Counselors, Coaches, and the Kitchen Crew. The counselors helped lead all the activities and provided a fun learning environment for the campers. The coaches helped lead fun and challenging basketball drills and games for the campers. The Kitchen Crew helped to create delicious lunches for everyone such as soy garlic fried chicken, curry rice, mazemen, kushikatsu, and chili rice to name a few. According to the parent survey, the food is always a highlight for the campers! Thank you to the ESGVJCC Staff for their tireless efforts and support to make sure that everything is in order for Camp Chibikko! Finally, a huge thank you to all of the parents who continue to bring their campers here and support our program. We look forward to sharing more Japanese and Japanese American culture with your campers soon!

We will be having our 5th Winter Camp Chibikko on December 29-30 so be on the lookout for registration information in October! ■

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

2025 Winter Camp Chibikko



Annual | ESGVJCC

Our fifth Winter Camp Chibikko returns to the ESGVJCC on December 29-30! Enjoy your winter vacation and start the new year off right with us at camp! Learn more and register online at esgvjcc.org/youth-programs. For any questions, please contact Program Director Melissa Kozono at mkozono@esgvjcc.org!

Ikebana Class



Bi-Monthly | Social Hall

Join us every first and third Friday or the month to learn Japanese floral arrangement! Class meets at 9am in the Sugimoto Family Social Hall. The fee is \$30 for Members and \$40 for Non-Members, including flowers. Contact our Office Manager Scott Kawachi at skawachi@esgvjcc.org to register!

ESGVJCC Queens Program



Annually | ESGVJCC

Think you have what it takes to become the next ESGVJCC Queen? Applications for the 2026 Queens Program will become available soon! To learn more or get an application packet, contact Program Director Melissa Kozono at mkozono@esgvjcc.org!

KONDO WEALTH ADVISORS

TRUMP ACCOUNTS EXPLAINED

Submitted by Akemi Dalvi, CPA/PFS, CFP



The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), also known as H.R. 1, was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Trump on July 4, 2025. The Act had many provisions, including a new type of tax-advantaged savings account for minors, known as the Trump account.

Trump accounts are designed to help kids save early. Parents or any adult can make a contribution for a minor beneficiary, and the child does not need to have earned income to be eligible for a savings contribution. For beneficiaries under the age of 18, contributions to Trump accounts can start as early as July 2026, with an initial annual maximum of \$5,000 per year that will be indexed for inflation thereafter. Contributions to the minor beneficiary are considered tax-free gifts.

Trump accounts mirror the rules of a few different savings vehicles already in existence. Similar to the Roth IRA, the accounts allow contributions of after-tax dollars to a savings account with the benefit of tax-deferred growth. Contributions are not tax-deductible and distributions of the original contributions are tax-free. As such, future distributions will be a pro-rata mix of the tax-free original contribution and taxable gains, and the beneficiary cannot elect to distribute all of the tax-free contribution first.

No distributions are allowed from a Trump account prior to age 18, with few exceptions. After age 18, funds can be withdrawn for any purpose. However, similar to traditional IRA rules, distributions before age 59 ½ would be subject to a 10% early withdrawal penalty. Distributions from a Trump account after age 59 ½ are taxed as ordinary income, but are excused from the 10% penalty.

Prior to age 18, Trump accounts must be invested in low-cost mutual funds or exchange-traded funds that track the S&P 500 stock index, or similar index comprised of primarily U.S. companies. After age 18, the Trump accounts can be invested in any investment option other than collectibles, life insurance and S-corporation stock, similar to current IRA rules.¹

For children born between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2028, the government will contribute \$1,000 seed money to jump-start the savings program. Some wonder if the new Trump accounts could be the first step in a broader plan to move towards privatization of Social Security benefits. Trump accounts closely resemble George W. Bush's 2005 proposed personal retirement accounts, aimed at 'privatizing' Social Security, but never instituted due to poor public support.² If Trump's privately owned savings accounts for children prove to be successful, some wonder if future Social Security payroll taxes might also be deposited into the same Trump accounts, effectively shifting the responsibility of government retirement savings to the individual. Only time will tell.

Consider reaching out to your Certified Financial Planner™ or CPA Personal Financial Specialist (PFS) to determine if the new Trump account may benefit your child, or if a College Savings 529, traditional IRA, or Roth IRA is a better fit. There are so many savings options in the market to consider, and it's great to have an advocate in your corner.

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.

Sources:

¹ <https://irahelp.com/how-trump-accounts-work/>

² Breaking Down The "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" (OBBBA) Kites

ESGVJCC YOUTH PROGRAMS

2025 KOKORO NO SATO PRESCHOOL GRADUATION

Submitted by Melissa Kozono, Program Director of Youth Services



On Friday, August 1, the ESGVJCC's Kokoro no Sato Preschool held its fourth Preschool Graduation Ceremony! The Ceremony took place in the Sugimoto Family Social Hall at 4pm. Our graduates were Winry Bronsert, Augustus Colin, Amelia Kiedpool, Emily Loyd, and James Schultz. 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 and Kokoro no Sato 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! Three of our graduates, Augustus, Amelia & Emily have been with Kokoro no Sato since they were infants; Auggie joining us as a 2 month old, Amelia as a 3 month old, and Emi as a 9 month old, while our friends Winry joined our school as a 2 year old and James as a 3 year old.

Following our welcome, the Eurythmics Class performed 2 songs, "Tondetta Banana" and "Sayonara Bokutachino Hoikuen" (Goodbye to our Preschool). 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 composed of 6 children came up and performed the 3 songs they had been practicing for the past month: "Little Snowflake", "Musunde Hiraite" (Open Shut Them), and "Thank You" song. 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 Melody (Preschool 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 (Pre-K Class Lead Teacher) who reminisced about the graduating class's many amazing accomplishments and reminded them that she will always be cheering them on. The final message was from ESGVJCC Executive Director and Kokoro no Sato Director, Pearl Omiya who gave an emotional and touching speech and wished our graduates all the best as well as thanked the staff for helping her to create this amazing program for families, and thanked all of our families for trusting us to help be a part of their child's lives.

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 five 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! ■

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 VenmoApp. Just search for the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese C 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 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	\$10
Russell & Marlys Kuruma	\$200
Taka Nakamura	\$200

2025

KIBOU LEGACY CIRCLE



Tim & Sandy Itatani

Mae & Ken Kimura

Phillip Komai

Glenn & Jean Nakatani

Grace Richardson

Barbara Shirota

George Sugimoto

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. ■



STAY CONNECTED WITH US! @ESGVJCC



REGISTER TODAY



Caregiver Conference

SOUTH BAY

Saturday, October 25, 2025
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute
 1964 W 162nd St, Gardena, CA 90247

Registration

Register for FREE by scanning the QR code or by visiting keiro.org/CC25.
 Registration is required and closes on **Friday, October 10, 2025**.



YOUR ELECTRIC BILL IS CHANGING

Learn What's New



Beginning in November 2025, electricity bills will be restructured for residential customers, including those with solar.

California Assembly Bill 205 requires electric utilities to adjust the way residential customers are billed. The goal of the change is to make it more affordable to use electric technologies and more clean, sustainable energy. SCE does not earn more profit because of this change.

What's Changing

The electric delivery section of the bill will include a Base Services Charge as a separate line item, replacing the current Basic Charge. Current rate plans and participation in programs like California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE), Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA), and Medical Baseline will not be affected. The following changes will be applied to the bill:

1 Base Services Charge

This charge will cover essential costs to maintain the infrastructure which keeps homes connected to the electric grid. The monthly Base Services Charge will be approximately:

\$24 Customers not enrolled in income-qualified discount programs	\$12 Customers enrolled in FERA or customers who live in qualifying, deed-restricted affordable housing*	\$6 Customers enrolled in CARE
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------

2 Lower Electricity Costs for Energy Delivery

Customers may see total electricity prices lowered by approximately 10% per kWh¹.



COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE



Your Best Advantage Is Knowing Your Options

If you're facing difficulties balancing your energy needs and household costs, SCE provides assistance and resources that can help. Explore the various programs and eligibility requirements at sce.com/residential.



Scan this QR Code to visit the SCE Residential Resource page



Help Managing Your Bill

See all of your options for managing difficult bills, including payment arrangements, public assistance, free energy efficient appliances and more.

- California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE)
- Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA)
- Energy Savings Assistance Program (ESA)
- Arrearage Management Plan (AMP)
- Medical Baseline Allowance Program (MBL)
- Budget Billing Plan
- Energy Assistance Fund (EAF)
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)



Scan this QR Code to manage your SCE bill



Residential Rate Plans

Your home, the size of your family, your schedule, and your lifestyle all play a part in determining your electrical needs. Our plans are designed so you can find the right fit for your household.

- Time-of-Use Rate Plans
- Compare Rate Plans
- Electrical Vehicle and Solar Customer Rate Plans



Scan this QR Code to browse SCE residential resources



Demand Response

Find out how you can get bill credits, reduced rates, or other compensation when you participate in a Demand Response program.

- Summer Discount Plan
- Smart Energy Program
- Power Saver Rewards Program



Scan this QR Code to browse



Rebates and Incentives

Energy-saving rebates and incentives, that can help you conserve energy and save money.

- SCE Marketplace
- Energy Management Center
- Current Rebates and Incentives
- Electric Vehicle Rebates and Incentives
- California Statewide Residential



Scan this QR Code to

SAVE the DATE!

Kishin Daiko's Friends and Family Concert

October 26, 2025

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Fullerton College, Campus Theater

General admission \$25





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

1203 West Puente Avenue | West Covina, CA 91790
PO Box 282 | West Covina, CA 91793-0282

Non-Profit Organization
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PERMIT No. 38
Covina, CA 91722

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BRIDGING CULTURE, FAMILY, & COMMUNITY

ESGVJCC

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.

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