

ESGVJCC

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NEXT ISSUE: JANUARY 2026

ESGVJCC

2026 INSTALLATION BANQUET



Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator

We are excited to announce that our 2026 Installation Banquet will take place on Saturday, February 7, 2026! This year's theme is Kakehashi—Building Bridges is a tribute to the ESGVJCC bridging culture, family, and community for 75 years. The Installation Banquet is our opportunity to celebrate how the ESGVJCC has served as a bridge through partnerships and collaborations such as with the City of West Covina and its sister city in Japan as well as many companies and organizations such as Southern California Edison, LA County Department of Health, Keiro and Little Tokyo Service Center. We also continue to bridge culture, family and community each and every day through each and every one of our programs and classes. The Installation Banquet is our opportunity to celebrate all of that we do and everyone we serve.

Please join us at 5pm in the ESGVJCC Gymnasium as we welcome our 2026 Board of Directors and reflect on a fulfilling 2025—highlighted by memorable events, impactful programs, and the dedication of our members, volunteers, and staff.

Guests will enjoy a delicious three-course dinner and dessert prepared by the talented Chef Ryo Sato. A full bar will be available, and we are offering sake pre-orders for your entire table.

Tickets are \$50 per person or \$375 for a table of eight. Reserve your seats, pre-order sake, or make a donation by visiting tinyurl.com/2026-installation by January 16.

If you have any questions, please contact Events & Programs Coordinator Bryce Middo at brycem@esgvjcc.org or call the office at (626) 960-2566.

We look forward to celebrating 75 incredible years of the ESGVJCC with you! ■

IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 75TH ANNIVERSARY
- 5 LEARN KENDO
- 7 2026 QUEENS PROGRAM
- 8 KONDO WEALTH ADVISORS

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MESSAGE FROM THE ESGVJCC

TIM ITATANI, 2025 ESGVJCC PRESIDENT

Dear Members:

Happy Holidays! On behalf of the ESGVJCC Board of Directors and Staff, as well as all employees of the Kokoro no Sato Child Care Center and the ClubGenki Senior Adult Day Program, we would like to extend our warmest wishes to all our members, their families, and our generous sponsors and supporters. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

May you enjoy a wonderful season filled with family, friends, joy, and most importantly, good health and safety.



On behalf of the ESGVJCC Board of Directors and Staff...we would like to extend our warmest wishes to all our members, their families, and our generous sponsors and supporters.

With heartfelt love and gratitude this holiday season,

Tim T. Itatani

Tim T. Itatani

President, ESGVJCC Board of Directors

ESGVJCC

\$1,000 DONATION TO THE ESGVJCC



Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator

The ESGVJCC is honored and grateful to be the recipient of a \$1,000 donation from American Income Life. Thank you to the Japanese American Community Credit Union for nominating the ESGVJCC! Thank you to Scott Umemoto from JACom and Alicia Kirk from American Income Life for stopping by in November to deliver the check! ■

ESGVJCC EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator

The ESGVJCC is thrilled to celebrate 75 years of culture, family, and community in 2026!

Join us for an afternoon of commemorating this major milestone together on June 20 from 3pm to 7pm in the ESGVJCC Gym. Enjoy delicious food, reconnect with friends and family, and engage with your fellow ESGVJCC members. Throughout the celebration, our Programs will also take the stage with special performances.



Plus, don't miss your chance to see, and relax in, our brand new patio! If you haven't seen it yet, this is the perfect time to experience it in action.

Come celebrate with us as we showcase our programs through special performances and as we highlight 75 years of the ESGVJCC's history, programs and milestones. More details are on the way! Keep an eye on our weekly email blast, digital newsletter, and social media for updates and opportunities to support this significant celebration ■

ESGVJCC EVENTS

OCO'S MOCHITSUKI TRADITION AT TANAKA FARMS

Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator

Between Christmas and New Years, people all over Japan take part in a tradition, known as mochitsuki, where rice is pounded into mochi. It's our annual tradition to wrap up the year at OCO's Mochitsuki Taikai at Tanaka Farms, and we need YOUR help to pound mochi for the Kagami Mochi Contest!



We've won 1st place before, and with your help we're determined to do it again! Win or not, Mochitsuki is always one of our favorite traditions to welcome the New Year. Check out some of our Kagami Mochi displays over the years.



Call time is 8am at Tanaka Farms. If you're free on the morning of Sunday, December 28, join our team and be part of the fun! RSVP with Marketing Coordinator, Mary Nagakawa at magakawa@esgvjcc.org. ■

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

The California wildfire threat is real and growing. One of the ways SCE is reducing wildfire risks is Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS). During these events, we may need to proactively shut off power because of elevated weather conditions — such as strong winds, high temperatures and dry vegetation — that can cause a power line to fall and spark, possibly creating a wildfire.

SCE
SOUTH CALIFORNIA
EDISON
CITY OF TERRITORY



PSPS events are temporary and meant to keep you and your community safe. Customers who live in high fire risk areas, as defined by the California Public Utilities Commission, are more likely to experience a PSPS. However, customers who do not live in these high fire risk areas may also be impacted because of how the electrical grid is interconnected.

We intend to notify affected customers approximately two days before a potential power shutoff. This notification will be via email, text or phone call. We may also send another notice to customers about one day before a potential power shutoff. We will keep customers updated regularly on our website and social media channels. We will also notify affected customers when power has been restored.



Californians need to be prepared with a plan and have an emergency kit.

Learn more and sign up for PSPS alerts at:

[sce.com/PSPS](https://www.sce.com/PSPS)

Updated: 8/22/2019

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](https://www.esgvjcc.org) and fill out the Recurring Credit Card Payment Authorization form.

ESGVJCC PARTNERSHIPS

SCE'S BASE SERVICES CHARGE

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 customers 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.

This month, we're here to remind you that as of November 2025, SCE energy bills have been restructured for residential customers, including those with solar. This bill restructuring is due to California Assembly Bill 205, which requires electric utilities to adjust the way residential customers are billed.

ESGVJCC PROGRAMS

LEARN KENDO AT THE ESGVJCC

Submitted by Philip Okamoto, Covina Kendo Dojo

Ever wanted to learn how to use the Samurai Sword? Kendo, meaning "Way of the Sword," is a modern Japanese martial art based on traditional swordsmanship techniques practiced by samurai warriors. We grow mental and physical strength through disciplined training.



Covina Kendo is currently taking new members for the new year. Everyone is welcome to train with us. Youth through Adults (ages 6 and up) Our practices are on Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:30pm to 9pm. Tuesday evenings are located in the Social Hall and Thursdays are in the gym.



For more information go to: <https://www.covinakendo.org>. Please email us if you would like to come watch a practice session. ■

Will Your Bill Change?

Beginning in November 2025, electric bills will be restructured for residential customers. The electric delivery section of the bill will include a Base Services Charge as a separate line item, replacing the current Basic Charge. Customers may also see total electricity prices lowered per kilowatt-hour (kWh).¹

Your bill may go up, down, or stay the same, depending on your usage. The chart below shows how your bill may change.

Customer Type	Likely Bill Change	Why
Low Energy User	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	May stay the same	The lower cost per kilowatt-hour may balance the Base Services Charge.
High Energy User	May decrease	The lower cost per kilowatt-hour may help cover the Base Services Charge, resulting in savings.
CARE/PERA and Deed-Restricted Affordable Housing Customers	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/PERA will receive a discounted Base Services Charge.

¹ Estimate is based on current electricity rates as of June 1, 2025, and does not assume future rate changes.

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 agencies to residents who have incomes at or below 80 percent of the Area Median Income. For more information, visit dhs.ca.gov

請求書は変わるの？

2025年11月から、家庭用のお客様の電気料金の構成が変更されます。請求書の「電力配給」セクションには、現在の「基本料金(Basic Charge)」に代わり、「基本サービス料金(Base Services Charge)」が新たな項目として表示されます。また、1キロワット時(kWh)あたりの電気料金が引き下げられる可能性もあります。¹

お客様の使用状況によって、請求額が増える場合も減る場合も、変わらない場合もあります。以下の表は、請求額がどのように変化するかを示しています。

お客様のタイプ	請求額の変化	理由
電力使用量が少ない方	増加する可能性あり	1キロワット時あたりの料金が下がっても、「基本サービス料金(Base Services Charge)」が追加されるため、請求額が増加する可能性があります。
電力使用量が中程度の方	変わらない可能性あり	1キロワット時あたりの料金の引き下げによって、「基本サービス料金」のプラスに覆れる可能性があります。
電力使用量が多い方	減少する可能性あり	引き下げた「基本サービス料金」と1キロワット時あたりの料金引き下げによって、請求額が減少する可能性があります。
CARE/PERA または 価格制限付き住宅のお客様	減少する可能性あり	引き下げた「基本サービス料金」と1キロワット時あたりの料金引き下げによって、請求額が減少する可能性があります。
太陽光発電もご利用のお客様	ネット使用量による	太陽光発電の発電量も「基本サービス料金」を支払う必要がりますが、発電していない時間帯に適用される電気料金が安くなることで、節約につながる可能性があります。CARE/PERAに参加している場合は、引き下げた「基本サービス料金」が適用されます。

¹ 2025年6月1日現在の電気料金に基づいた概算です。将来的な料金変更は含まれていません。

² 価格制限付き住宅の定義は、カリフォルニア州住宅パートナーシップ(California Housing Partnership)によって設定されており、州または連邦政府の規制に基づき、地域の平均所得(AMI)の80%以下の個人を居住者とする住宅です。家賃が制限された賃貸住宅を指します。詳細は以下のウェブサイトをご覧ください。

Depending on some factors, your bill may go up, down, or stay the same. The goal of this change is to make it more affordable to use electric technologies and more clean, sustainable energy, and SCE does not earn more profit because of this change.

Learn more about the change and find the Japanese version of this infographic online at esgvjcc.org/southern-california-edison-base-services-charge/ ■

ESGVJCC YOUTH PROGRAMS

2026 NIKKEI YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



Submitted by Melissa Kozono, Program Director

Attention all ESGVJCC high school seniors and college undergrad or graduate students! Before school gets any busier, take some time to check out the Nikkei Youth Scholarship Program!

You can apply for up to 3 scholarships and there are scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2000! Check out all the available scholarships below and visit the esgvjcc.org/youth-programs to access the Google Form applications and view all the requirements!

We will also be having 2 virtual workshops where we will go over the application process with you and answer any questions you may have. The workshops will take place on Wednesday, February 11 at 7pm and Wednesday, March 18 at 7pm via Zoom.

For the second year, we will be offering an Early Review Period. All applications submitted by March 31 will be reviewed and given feedback and allowed to re-submit any changes/missing documents. Any applications received after March 31 will not be reviewed until after the deadline.

High School Scholarships

JACL - San Gabriel Valley Chapter - \$1,000
 Reiko & Edward Moreno Memorial Scholarship - \$1,000
 Harold & Elizabeth Itatani Family Scholarship - \$2,000
 ESGVJCC Board of Directors Scholarship - \$1,000
 Sabers/Saberettes Michael T. Miyamoto Memorial Scholarship - one \$1,000 and one \$500
 Myose/Nakatani Memorial Scholarship - \$2,000

College Scholarships

Jon Shirota Memorial Scholarship - \$1,500
 Kusuda Memorial Scholarship - \$700
 Myose/Nakatani Memorial Scholarship - \$2,000

Applications are due on Monday, April 13 and winners will be notified in early May. Winners will then be awarded at the Scholarship Luncheon on Sunday, May 17 at 1pm at the ESGVJCC.

If you have any questions regarding any of the scholarships, application process or workshops, please email Program Director Melissa Kozono at mkozono@esgvjcc.org. ■

ESGVJCC PROGRAMS

KARATE OCTOBER 2025 TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Submitted by Jody Hamabata, Eibu Kan Goju Ryu Karate-Do

Eibu Kan Goju Ryu Karate-Do held their Youth Promotions on October 22, 2025. Here are the results from October's promotion.

Youth Promotions - October 22, 2025

Kyu Level 2, Brown Belt

Raiden Reed
 Kailana Reed
 Nobu Uehara

Kyu Level 4, Purple Belt

Juston Yang
 Vera Wei
 Kaden Yu
 Adam Ochi
 Viktoriia Angarkhaeva

Kyu Level 5, Blue Belt

Hans Zhou
 Ethan Aguirre
 Riley Grantham
 Maksim Angarkhaev

Kyu Level 6, Green Belt

Melany Gonzalez

Kyu Level 8, Orange Belt

Tekumseh Romero

Kyu Level 9, Yellow Belt

Efrain Gonzalez



Interested in learning Karate in the new year? Visit eibukangojuryu.com to learn more about the dojo and how to sign up! ■

ESGVJCC PROGRAMS

THE ESGVJCC IS LOOKING FOR CANDIDATES TO APPLY TO BECOME THE 2026 ESGVJCC QUEEN!

Melissa Kozono, Program Director

Why should I apply for the ESGVJCC Queen Program?

It is an amazing and unique opportunity. Some of our past Queens have described it as a “once in a lifetime opportunity.” You will improve your interpersonal and social skills and after a year you will notice how your confidence and self perception have become more mature and thoughtful. If chosen ESGVJCC Queen, you will get to represent your greater community, the ESGVJCC, and your family and friends as our Nisei Week candidate.

Is this a typical “beauty pageant”?

No. Being selected as ESGVJCC Queen and Nisei Week candidate is not like your typical beauty pageant. Candidates are chosen based on their poise, speaking ability, community service and desire to learn more about their Japanese heritage. The ESGVJCC Queen acts as a cultural ambassador representing the greater San Gabriel Valley community as well as ESGVJCC and its many programs.

If chosen Queen, what should I expect?

If you are chosen ESGVJCC Queen and our Nisei Week Candidate you will be invited to travel to Japan, Hawaii, and San Francisco as a representative of the Southern California Japanese American community.

You will meet influential people both locally and abroad such as community and political leaders and even celebrities and public figures.

You will continue to see growth in your public speaking abilities as you meet and converse with people from all walks of life at different events. You will witness the selfless giving of many community members as they work to make your year as memorable as possible as they “roll out the red carpet” for you and the court members.

Our hope is that you gain a greater sense of your heritage and involvement in the Southern California Japanese American community as a result of your participation in the Nisei Week Court, and that after your year is over, you continue to give back to the both the greater Southern California JA community, and more importantly, to the ESGVJCC.

Okay I'm interested. What's next?

The ESGVJCC Queens Committee will be hosting a virtual informational session to answer any questions on Monday, December 8 at 7pm. The application deadline is Friday, January 9, 2026.

Even if you're slightly interested, please come to the informational session to learn more about this special and unique opportunity that only a small group of women get to experience.

For more information, Zoom link for the informational sessions, or an application packet and application, please email Melissa Kozono, Program Director at mkozono@esgvjcc.org.

We look forward to working with you and being a part of what I know from personal experience will be a phenomenal year! ■



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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.

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!

Kime Komi Doll Class



Monthly | Room 5
Kimekomi is the Japanese art of doll making. Class meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month in Room 5 from 9am to 11:30am. Call the office at (626) 960-2566 or email us at info@esgvjcc.org to sign up and learn more!

KONDO WEALTH ADVISORS

CHARITABLE GIFTING STRATEGIES THAT PAY OFF

Submitted by Akemi Dalvi, CPA/PFS, CFP

As we close 2025, many are looking to make charitable gifts or donations to organizations that we care about. With some tax planning, these gifts may help the donor save money, too!

The 2025 standard deduction is generous at \$15,750 for tax filers claiming single, and \$31,500 for married filing jointly tax filing status. The existing tax code allows for an extra deduction for taxpayers aged 65+ of \$2,000 for single filers, and \$3,200 for married filing jointly. Additionally, under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) enacted July 2025, taxpayers who are age 65 or older can deduct an extra \$6,000 if single, or \$12,000 if married filing jointly tax status.¹ As such, many taxpayers will take the standard deduction in lieu of itemizing tax deductions, and therefore may not benefit from a tax deduction for charitable gifts.



Filing Status	Base Standard Deduction (2025)	Existing Extra Deduction for 65+	New OBBBA Deduction	Total Possible Deduction (Age 65+)
Single	\$15,750	\$2,000	\$6,000	\$23,750
Married Filing Jointly (both 65+)	\$31,500	\$3,200	\$12,000	\$46,700



One powerful strategy to gift and save taxes (even if you take the standard deduction) is to utilize the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) option. When utilizing a QCD, IRA owners who are age 70 ½ or older may gift pre-tax dollars directly from their IRA to a qualified non-profit organization. When done correctly, the distribution will not trigger income tax to the donor upon distribution, and the receiving organization will not pay tax on the gift either. Even better, for those required to fulfill an annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), your RMD may be fulfilled through QCD gifting.

For those of any age, donating appreciated investments, such as stocks, to a non-profit organization also provides great tax benefits. The gifter is able to deduct the full fair market value of the investment as a charitable deduction, without being forced to recognize the capital gain on the appreciated value of the investment. However, the appreciated asset must have been held for at least 12 months, as the charitable deduction on short-term gain is limited to just the cost-basis of the investment.

Another valuable strategy for 2025 is bunching charitable gifts. Under the OBBBA, effective in 2026, charitable contributions must exceed 0.5% of the taxpayer's Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) to qualify for a tax deduction. Therefore, those planning to itemize deductions may want to bunch charitable gifts into one year to meet that tax deduction qualification.²

A similar strategy may be to initiate a Donor Advised Fund (DAF). A DAF allows a gift giver to accelerate the tax deduction of future gifts into the current year. That can be a powerful tool to offset high income or capital gains in a particular year.

If you feel you could benefit from the help of a financial professional this gift giving season, please reach out to your Certified Financial Planner™ or CPA Personal Financial Specialist. Whether you are exploring cash flow management, charitable gifting strategies, preparing for retirement, or navigating new tax policy changes, we're here to help you make sense of it all.

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.

Source: Bob Veres Insider Information

¹ <https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/how-to-update-withholding-to-account-for-tax-law-changes-for-2025>

² Kitces: Weekend Reading for Financial Planners (October 18-19) 2025

ESGVJCC PROGRAMS

2025 BASKETBALL CLINIC



Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator

A huge thank you to everyone who spent part of their Thanksgiving breaks with us at our TK-3rd Grade Basketball Clinic on November 25! And a special shoutout to Coaches Danny, Melissa, Bryce & Daisuke for giving our youngest players an amazing experience, and to the ESGVJCC team for cooking up a tasty lunch for everyone! ■

ESGVJCC EVENTS

2025 VETERANS DAY SERVICE



Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Veterans Day Bento Luncheon back in November. It was our first in-person Veterans Day celebration in quite some time, and it was truly special to gather with veterans, their families, and community members who came together to honor their service and sacrifice. Check out our Facebook page to see all photos!

We extend our deepest appreciation to our guest speakers, Hwal Lee, Programs and Education Manager at Go For Broke, and Kimi Look, 2025 Nisei Week Queen and Go For Broke Torchbearer Fellow. Special thanks also go to Meri and Tina Asano for crafting beautiful boutonnieres for each veteran; pianist Harmony Ogino; Venturing Crew 333; the classical Japanese dance group Kyō no Kai; bugler Karl Wegner; and the ESGVJCC staff for their support and contributions that made the day so meaningful.

To all veterans, thank you for your service. We are forever grateful for your courage, dedication, and sacrifice! ■

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 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	\$50
June Kuramoto Russell & Marlys Kuruma	\$500
Russell & Marlys Kuruma	\$100
The Kuruma Family	\$1,500
Dennis & Janet Sugita	\$300
Taka Nakamura	\$100
Glen & Rosemary Waki	\$1,000

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





Free Energy-Efficient Appliances That Could Lower Your Bills

Help lower your energy costs by replacing your current household refrigerator, cooling system, lighting, and more with energy-efficient models through the Energy Savings Assistance Program.



The Energy Savings Assistance Program — Easy as 1-2-3

Step 1: Qualification and Assessment
To be eligible, you must meet specific household income guidelines. After income qualification, our approved contractor will do a walk-through of your home to collect information to help us determine the potential for installation of one or more appliances or services.

Step 2: Service Delivery
Our approved contractors will install the appliances and may provide services such as weatherization.

Step 3: Inspection
We may perform an inspection in your home to make sure our approved contractor completed the work according to our quality standards. If the work was not done properly, it will be redone at no cost to you.

Available Appliances and Services

Qualified SCE customers may be eligible for several appliance upgrades or energy saving services. Our SCE-approved contractor will collect information to help us determine what you may be qualified to receive. Whether you own or rent, you may be eligible to receive these upgrades for free:

- Lighting
- Smart Power Strip
- Refrigerator Replacement
- Smart Thermostat
- Thermostatic Shower Valve/Showerhead
- Clothes Washer Replacement
- Dishwasher Replacement
- Freezer Replacement
- Heat Pump Water Heater Replacement
- Pool Pump Replacement
- Ceiling†
- Refrigeration Cooler
- Evaporative Cooler Maintenance
- Window or Wall AC Replacement
- Central AC or Central Heat Pump Replacement
- Portable AC
- HVAC Filter
- Weatherization Services

† These services may not be available in all areas. Certain restrictions may apply for all products and services.

To apply for the Energy Savings Assistance Program, or for further information:

1-800-736-4777 | sce.com/esap



Open your mobile phone camera to scan code



*The Energy Savings Assistance Program is funded by California utility ratepayers and administered by Southern California Edison under the oversight of the California Public Utilities Commission. Program and services are available to customers who meet specific household income guidelines and who participate in certain Public Assistance Programs. Services may not be available in all areas. Certain restrictions, such as age, size, and condition of the system or appliance to be replaced, may apply. All replacement refrigerators meet ENERGY STAR® standards and are top-freezer models without extra features, such as ice makers. Services are offered on a first-come, first-served basis until funding is exhausted or the program is discontinued. A commitment may be required for some services. Program may be modified or terminated without prior notice. California consumers are not obligated to purchase any of the services or other services not funded by this program. This program is available to both homeowners and renters who meet qualifications. Renters may be required to obtain the property owner's written permission before services are delivered.

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GENKI LIVING WORKSHOPS

GARDENING JANUARY 31, 2026 Tanaka Farms

Plant and grow your horticulture knowledge with this hands-on gardening workshop at Tanaka Farms!

For more information or to register for the workshop, scan the QR code or go to kumiro.org/agtur.



Registration Closes: **Friday, January 16, 2026**
(for when capacity is reached)

2026 INSTALLATION BANQUET

MEAL PREPARED BY CHEF RYO SATO

SAT, FEB 7 | **\$50 PER SEAT**
AT 5PM | OR \$375 FOR TABLE OF 8

ESGVJCC GYMNASIUM
1203 W PUENTE AVE, WEST COVINA, CA 91790

PLEASE RSVP BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026
TINYURL.COM/2026-INSTALLATION

FOR ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT EVENTS/PROGRAMS COORDINATOR
BRYCE MIDDO AT BRYCEM@ESGVJCC.ORG



EAST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY
JAPANESE COMMUNITY CENTER

2026 HEALTH FAIR



Access to free health & wellness screenings and resources for all-ages!

WHEN
March 21, 2026
11am-2pm

WHERE
Plaza West Covina
112 Plaza Dr, West Covina, CA 91790

HOSTED BY
ESGVJCC PLAZA WEST COVINA

Interested in participating in or sponsoring the event? Visit esgvjcc.org/2026-health-fair/

BRIDGING CULTURE, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY
1203 W PUENTE AVE, WEST COVINA, CA 91790
@ESGVJCC | ESGVJCC.ORG | (626) 960-2566
ESGVJCC is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization.





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
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT No. 38
Covina, CA 91722

Address Service Requested
DATED MATERIAL

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.

ESGVJCC Office

P 626 960 2566
F 626 960 0866
W esgvjcc.org
E info@esgvjcc.org
H M-F 9 am - 5 pm

Pearl Omiya

Executive Director
E pomiya@esgvjcc.org

Tina Asano

Executive Assistant
E tasano@esgvjcc.org

Scott Kawachi

Office Manager
E skawachi@esgvjcc.org

Melissa Kozono

Program Director
E mkozono@esgvjcc.org

Mary Nagakawa

Marketing Coordinator
E mnagakawa@esgvjcc.org

Katrina Que

Events/Programs
Coordinator
E katrinaq@esgvjcc.org

Bryce Middo

Events/Programs
Coordinator
E brycem@esgvjcc.org