

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

# **44<sup>th</sup> ESGVJCC Queen Coronation**

**Sunday, March 22, 2026 | 1pm  
The Sugimoto Family Social Hall**





## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**TIM ITATANI** | ESGVJCC PRESIDENT

On behalf of the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center, its Board of Directors, staff, and many volunteers, welcome to our 2026 ESGVJCC Queen Coronation.

We are honored to introduce Jacqueline Fujiko Naito as our ESGVJCC 2026 Queen. Jacqueline will be representing ESGVJCC and all of our organizations, programs, and members at community and cultural events and public appearances throughout the

upcoming year. In August, she will also serve as our representative at the upcoming 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Nisei Week Festival.

Jacqueline is the daughter of Jerry and Paula Naito and has one sister, Jessica, and one brother, Justin. She graduated from Cal State Fullerton with a bachelor's degree in Kinesiology and is currently applying for her MBA while working as an Administrative Assistant for the Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation.

I would also like to thank our outgoing 2025 Queen, Mia Takatsuka, for representing ESGVJCC so well this past year. We hope that you have grown and gained valuable experience from being part of our Queens Program. Good luck to you, and please continue to volunteer your time and energy with the Center.

And to the ESGVJCC Queen Committee—Melissa Kozono, Michi Lew, Kiyomi Takemoto, Amanda Hiraishi, Sara Kubo, Amy Kubo, Kelly Kohler, Susie Kozono, Grace Richardson, and Sandy Itatani—you have all been given the great responsibility of ensuring that Jacqueline is prepared to embark on this tremendous experience and opportunity. Thank you very much for the time and commitment you have made to ensure that Jacqueline is well prepared to represent our Center.

We look forward to a great 2026 for Jacqueline, who I know will represent ESGVJCC proudly.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim T. Itatani". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line above the first name.

Regards,  
Tim T. Itatani  
President, ESGVJCC Board of Directors



## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE** **PEARL OMIYA** | ESGVJCC PRESIDENT

The tradition of the ESGVJCC Queen's Pageant is both long and rich. In 1968, Dawn Shinmoto was named as the Citrus Valley Optimist Club Queen. Thirteen girls followed her footsteps, with three becoming the Nisei Week Queen - Cheryl Kawakami (1973), Elisa Akemi Cuthbert (1974) and Loris Kurashige (1977).

In 1982, the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center became the official sponsor of these past queens and a new title was born. Janet Midori Barnes became the first ESGVJCC Queen in 1982 and was crowned Nisei Week Queen as well. Since then, many of the girls have gone to become Nisei Week Queen - Karen Mieko Uchizono (1988), Mutsuko Suzanne Sata (1991), Naomi Ono (1993), Joann Yumi Shin (1996), Tricia Sumiko Tanaka (2000), and Nicole Miyako Cherry (2003), representing not only East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center but also the Japanese American community.

To the past 43 women to represent the Community Center, thank you. We look forward to continuing this tradition for many more years. We have been so lucky to have such talented and accomplished young women represent our Community Center year after year. Though I am no longer on the Queens committee, I enjoy helping out with interviews and speech evaluations. To see the potential that each candidate brings and the effort they put forth to make today a wonderful celebration of themselves, their family and their community is truly amazing!

I am excited to see our 2026 Queen, Jacqueline Naito, blossom into her reign as she takes what she learned from us to her training with Nisei Week. We will be cheering her on through her journey and are excited to see her involvement with the ESGVJCC grow and deepen. Thank you to all those who attended today to support her in her journey and for all those who continue to support the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center.

## **CORONATION PROGRAM**

### **QUEENS COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Melissa Kozono

### **WELCOME**

Tim Itatani | 2026 ESGVJCC President

### **SPEECH PRESENTATION**

Jacqueline Fujiko Naito | 2026 ESGVJCC Queen

### **CROWNING**

Jacqueline Fujiko Naito | 2026 ESGVJCC Queen

## **CORONATION PLANNING COMMITTEE**

### **CORONATION CONTRIBUTION**

Queens Committee, Joy Kitaura, Lonin Lew, Holly Kubo, Tina Asano, Carolyn Hiraishi, Margi Takemoto, Sharon Fujimoto, Kiko Cheng, David & Helen Yamahata

### **ESGVJCC QUEENS INSTRUCTORS**

Melissa Kozono, Sara Kubo, Amanda Hiraishi, Kelly Kohler, Sandy Itatani

### **ESGVJCC QUEENS COMMITTEE**

Melissa Kozono, Amanda Hiraishi, Sandy Itatani, Kelly Kohler, Susie Kozono, Amy Kubo, Sara Kubo, Michi Lew, Grace Richardson, and Kiyomi Takemoto

## **ESGVJCC QUEENS LEGACY PROGRAM**

### **CROWN**

Melissa Kozono - 2014 Queen

### **SASH**

Sarah Mercado - 2012 Queen

### **ESGVJCC POLO**

Michi Lew - 2011 Queen

### **FLOWERS**

Joann Cordeiro - 1996 Queen

## **ESGVJCC QUEENS TREASURE CHEST**

### **AIRFARE TO 2027 HAWAII CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL**

Sandy Itatani

### **MONETARY GIFT**

East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center



## **PASSING THE CROWN**

**MIYA MIYOKO TAKATSUKA** | 2025 ESGVJCC  
QUEEN & NISEI WEEK PRINCESS

It's been one of the greatest honors and most amazing opportunities of my life to represent the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center as the 2025 ESGVJCC Queen and as a 2025 Nisei Week Princess.

My biggest goal in representing the ESGVJCC as its Queen and being a Nisei Week Court member was finding my community. I feel safe to say that I have definitely found it! Not just with the incredibly kind people at the ESGVJCC who I've gotten to know at our festivals and events, but in the entire Southern

California Japanese American community. I've been so enveloped in culture, family, and community. One of my favorite things has just been seeing so many familiar faces at so many events all over the place. You can see someone at a dance in Little Tokyo one evening and then see them grinning bright and early in the morning at Tanaka Farms the next day. These are the people who make up this community, and I truly do feel so grateful to get the chance to know them and serve them by being the 2025 ESGVJCC Queen and Nisei Week Princess. These are the people who make me feel proud to be a Japanese American.

I've also had the best luck in meeting the six most amazing people, the rest of the 2025 Nisei Week court. They are so kind, intelligent, and driven, I feel honored to be included in such an incredible group. We've done everything together and gone on the most amazing adventures this past year. I couldn't have asked for a better group of people to serve the community with. I've made friendships that I know will last a lifetime with them.

Representing the ESGVJCC and being on the 2025 Nisei Week Court has been a dream come true. I'd like to thank all of the people who helped my dream become a reality: Tim and Sandy Itatani, Pearl Omiya, Melissa Kozono, Joann Shin-Cordeiro, Kelly Kohler, Michi Lew, Kiyomi Takemoto, Amanda Hiraishi, and the rest of the Queen's Committee. I'd like to give a special shoutout to Amy and Sara Kubo for their advice and support. I feel like having two sisters as my predecessors has been such amazing luck for my experience because they kind of form one super-advice giver. I'd like to thank my parents, Josie and Rudy Cambero and the rest of the Takatsuka family for supporting me so much. I'd also like to especially thank Brandon Tingey for being the most amazing, patient, and understanding partner I could ask for throughout everything.

This year has been one of the most incredible experiences that I will cherish and remember forever. I feel so honored that I was chosen to represent this community and have these experiences. I am so excited to pass the torch to our new Queen candidate, Jackie Naito. I know she will grow and learn so much throughout the next year and represent the community well. Congratulations and good luck!

With gratitude and love,  
Mia Miyoko Takatsuka



## **2026 ESGVJCC QUEEN**

**JACQUELINE FUJIKO NAITO** | 2026 ESGVJCC  
QUEEN & NISEI WEEK CANDIDATE

Jacqueline Fujiko Naito is 24 years old and graduated from California State University Fullerton with a Bachelor's in Kinesiology. She is currently applying to pursue her Master of Business Administration. She currently works as an Administrative Assistant for the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks where she helps sustain the local parks and programs. She enjoys staying active through swimming, running, water polo, and volleyball and also loves expressing her creativity through painting. She also enjoys trying new things and staying spontaneous.

She is excited to represent the ESGVJCC and get back involved with the Japanese American community to give back to the next generation. She is youngest daughter of Jerry & Paula Naito.

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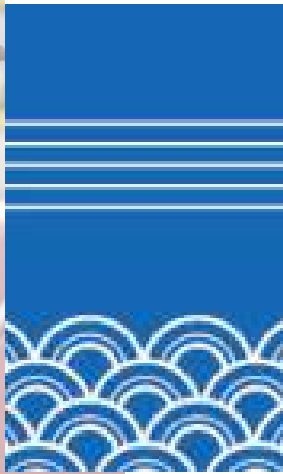


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ESGVJCC



CONGRATULATIONS

Jacqueline Nieto



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<https://runmtsac.com>





# Happy Coronation

May your coronation mark the beginning of exciting opportunities and unforgettable moments. Congratulations, Jackie!

Love Naito Family 🌸

# Congratulations Jackie!



Love Aimi & Sammy



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## Congratulations Jackie

Celebrating your amazing achievements and milestones today!

*Congrats*



*Jackie*



**WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU JACKIE!  
CONGRATULATIONS AND WE LOVE YA!!!!**



PIC-COLLAGE



**JACKIE NAITO,**

**GOOD LUCK ON THIS JOURNEY**

**& I'M SO PROUD OF YOU!**

**ROOTING FOR YOU ALWAYS**

**UNTIL THE END!!!**

**WITH LOVE,  
CLAUDIA V.**



**I AM SO PROUD  
OF YOU  
JACKIE!!!**

**I AM  
CONSTANTLY  
INSPIRED BY  
YOUR  
COURAGE TO  
ALWAYS TRY  
NEW THINGS!!!  
LOVE,  
VALEREY**



GO JACKIE!!!!  
SO PROUD  
OF YOU! 🥳💪

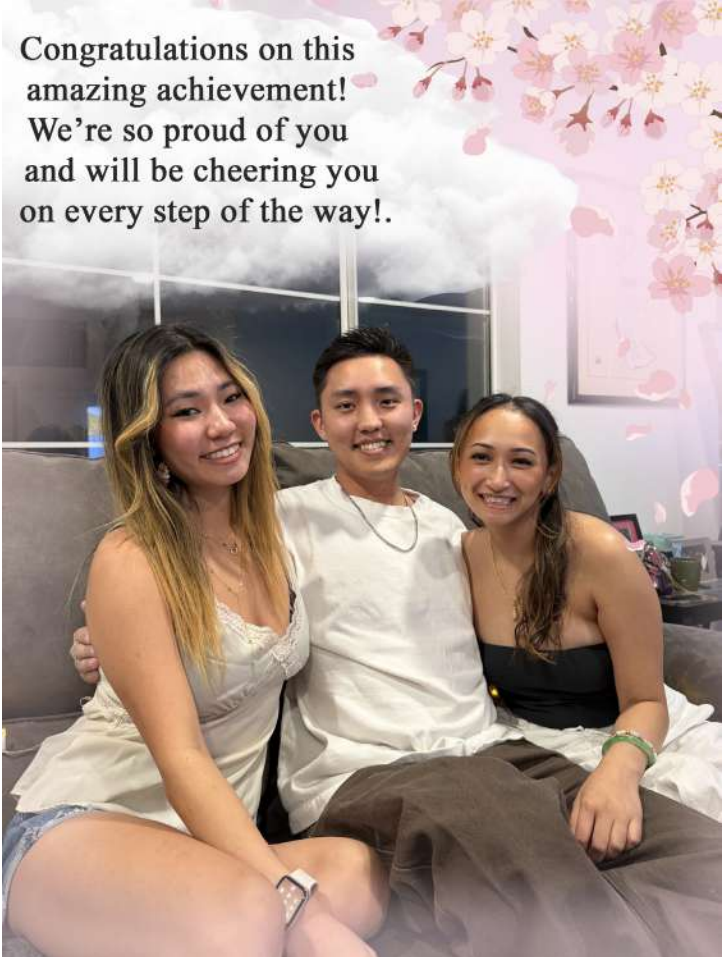


Friends since day one



Congratulations

Congratulations on this  
amazing achievement!  
We're so proud of you  
and will be cheering you  
on every step of the way!.



LA'S  
Finest!



Our  
pride  
and  
Joy!



# THE LEGACY



Janet Midori Barnes  
1982  
Nisei Week Queen



Elva Tamashiro  
1983  
Nisei Week 1st Princess



Shelly Mizuhara  
1984



Miyoko Chatel  
1985  
Nisei Week 1st Princess



Karen Kakuta  
1986  
Nisei Week Miss Tomodachi



Julie Emiko Tsuneishi  
1987



Karen Mieko Uchizono  
1988  
Nisei Week Queen



Jacqueline Michiko Borja  
1989



Kathy Lyn Oshima  
1990



Mutsuko Suzanne Sata  
1991  
Nisei Week Queen



Satomi Fukudome  
1992  
Nisei Week Miss Tomodachi



Naomi Ono  
1993  
Nisei Week Queen



Lisa Kinoshita-Chee  
1994  
Nisei Week Miss Tomodachi



Aileen Sato  
1995  
Nisei Week Miss Tomodachi



Joann Yumi Shin  
1996  
Nisei Week Queen



Catherine Emiko Nakano  
1997



Jennifer Okamura  
1998



Alissa Hana Hiraga  
1999



Tricia Sumiko Tanaka  
2000  
Nisei Week Queen



Silvia Masami Yoshimizu  
2001  
Nisei Week 1st Princess

# THE LEGACY



Dawn Kiko Mizuhara  
2002



Nicole Miyako Cherry  
2003  
Nisei Week Queen



Jill Hiromi Igarashi  
2004



Doreen Kimi Ogata  
2005



Callen Harue Kitaura  
2006



Mandy Kusumoto  
2007



Kimberly Midori Kitaura  
2008  
Nisei Week 1<sup>st</sup> Princess



Jennifer Yoko Akamine  
2009



Kelli Toshiye Teragawa  
2010  
Nisei Week 1<sup>st</sup> Princess



Michi Renee Lew  
2011



Sarah Michelle Fujimoto  
2012



Jamie Tomiko Teragawa  
2013



Melissa Sayuri Kozono  
2014



Tamara Mieko Teragawa  
2015



Heather Yoneko Iwata  
2016



Kelly Akiko Sera  
2017  
Nisei Week Miss Tomodachi



Lauren Rei Miyamoto  
2018



Emily Yuiko Ishida  
2019



Kiyomi Arimitsu Takemoto  
2020-2021  
Nisei Week Miss Tomodachi



Amanda Akiko Hiraishi  
2022

# THE LEGACY



Sara Emiko Kubo  
2023  
Nisei Week 1<sup>st</sup> Princess



Amy Ryoko Kubo  
2024  
Nisei Week Miss Tomodachi



Mia Miyoko Takatsuka  
2025

**Thank you  
for attending!**

