

ESGVJCC

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NEXT ISSUE: MAY 2026

ESGVJCC

CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL RETURNS ON APRIL 25!



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ESGVJCC

Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator

Our most anticipated event of the year is back and it's bigger, brighter, and more exciting than ever! Join us at Plaza West Covina on Saturday, April 25 from 1pm to 6pm as we celebrate the return of the Cherry Blossom Festival!

Year after year, we're blown away by how this festival continues to grow—drawing crowds who show up rain or shine to celebrate with us. There's nothing more inspiring than seeing our community come together with such enthusiasm to experience the beauty and richness of our Japanese and Japanese American heritage.

One of our favorite parts of the day is seeing all the familiar faces from the ESGVJCC and Plaza West Covina community who come out to cheer on our performers, enjoy delicious food and drinks from our booths, and support the small and local businesses that join us each year. Your energy is what makes this festival so special!

Beyond the music, culture, and celebration, the Cherry Blossom Festival is also our first major fundraiser of the year and this year is extra meaningful as we celebrate our 75th anniversary. Simply showing up is already powerful support, but if you're feeling inspired to make an even greater impact, we invite you to explore our sponsorship opportunities, donate to our silent auction, or take part in our super raffle. Every contribution helps us reach our fundraising goal and continue serving our community for generations to come.

Interested in becoming a sponsor or making a donation? Visit esgvjcc.org/2026-cherry-blossom-festival or reach out to our Events and Programs Coordinator Bryce Middo at brycem@esgvjcc.org for more information. We'll be accepting donations and sponsorships through April 20.

Let's make this year's Cherry Blossom Festival our most unforgettable celebration yet. Mark your calendars, bring your friends and family! ■

2026 ESGVJCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Events/Programs Coordinator

Kazumi Boone

MESSAGE FROM THE ESGVJCC TIM ITATANI, 2025 ESGVJCC PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

In 2026, we proudly celebrate our 75th Anniversary. The celebration will culminate in a grand Anniversary Party at the Center on Saturday, June 20, and we hope you will mark your calendar now. We look forward to bringing together as many of our members, program participants, and sponsors as possible to honor our shared history and vibrant community.



After the war, the Center was revived and reopened in 1946 through the vision, hard work, and sacrifice of leaders such as Kimio Hatekeyama, Frank Konno, Yosh Togioka, and Ted Hamachi. Their efforts undoubtedly faced obstacles in the difficult postwar climate, but their perseverance ensured the Center's rebirth.

As part of this anniversary year, I've spent time researching the rich history of our wonderful ESGVJCC while preparing my 2026 Installation speech this past February. I'd like to conclude this month's message with an excerpt from that speech.

In 1951, the Center incorporated as a nonprofit organization, and we officially recognize that year as our founding anniversary. However, our story began long before that. Our true beginnings trace back to 1936, when Eijiro Machida generously donated one acre of farmland to establish a Japanese language school, a judo dojo, and a gathering place for Japanese social and cultural events. This parcel of land was located at the corner of Sunset Avenue and Service Avenue—where West Covina City Hall and Plaza West Covina stand today.

In the late 1930s, we were known as the East San Gabriel Gardeners Association. Shortly thereafter, it became the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese American Association. Under the leadership of its first president, Frank Yamashita, the Association thrived. While construction of the new center was underway on Mr. Machida's donated land, the group rented space at the Women's Club of West Covina.

At the start of World War II, Japanese and Japanese American citizens were forcibly relocated to internment camps, and the Center was forced to close. While we are familiar with the history of the community's relocation, fewer people know what happened to the Center itself.

That is where Ted Roberts and Hazel Roberts enter our story. Neighbors of Mr. Yamashita, the Roberts pledged to safeguard the Center while members were interned. They took possession of the keys and the deed, carefully watching over the facility. They even rented it to West Covina schools to help defray expenses. Their loyalty, however, came at a cost—they endured discrimination and name-calling from neighbors. Yet the Roberts kept their word. When the war ended and members returned, the Roberts transferred the property back. For this reason, their name will forever be part of our legacy, memorialized with a plaque on one of our buildings.

After the war, the Center was revived and reopened in 1946 through the vision, hard work, and sacrifice of leaders such as Kimio Hatekeyama, Frank Konno, Yosh Togioka, and Ted Hamachi. Their efforts undoubtedly faced obstacles in the difficult postwar climate, but their perseverance ensured the Center's rebirth.

In 1951, we incorporated as a nonprofit organization and officially became the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center. Then, in 1964, the City of West Covina acquired the original property through eminent domain. We rebuilt and moved to our current location at 1203 W. Puente Avenue—where we continue to grow and prosper today.

This is just a glimpse into the early chapters of our first 75 years—stories of generosity, resilience, courage, and community spirit that continue to define who we are.

Please be sure to save the date: Saturday, June 20, 2026 for our 75th Anniversary Party!



Tim T. Itatani
President, ESGVJCC Board of Directors

ESGVJCC STAFF

WELCOME TO THE TEAM, KAZUMI!



Submitted by Kazumi Boone, Events and Programs Coordinator

Greetings everyone! My name is Kazumi Boone and I am the new Events and Programs Coordinator for the ESGVJCC. I'm based in OC. In the past, I worked in the corporate realm specifically in video games, e-commerce, social media, and advertising. It was time for a change of careers and I am excited to work with all of you here! I hope my skills from my previous line of work will help contribute to the ESGVJCC community. Thank you for having me! ■

ESGVJCC

SAKURA TREES AT THE ESGVJCC



Submitted by Melissa Kozono, Program Director

The sakura (cherry blossom) tree is truly a sight to behold, especially when it is in full bloom!

The significance of the sakura goes back hundreds of years and represents the fragility and the beauty of life. Sakura trees bloom for a short time each year with such brilliant force, that they serve as a visual reminder of how precious life is.

The Reiko Moreno Cherry Blossom Courtyard provides the members of the ESGVJCC an opportunity to enjoy that beauty each and every year. The ESGVJCC was very fortunate to receive a donation of 10 sakura trees from the Consulate General of Japan in 2011. Of those 10, the two biggest and most flourishing trees are in the Reiko Moreno Cherry Blossom Courtyard.



The ESGVJCC works very hard to preserve the beauty these trees offer year after year. It is imperative not to pick the flowers or cut/tear off branches from the trees because it will permanently damage and eventually kill the tree. The sakura trees are meant to be enjoyed and appreciated by all.

In Japan, there is a tradition called hanami (flower viewing) where people gather where the flowering trees are. It is a time to celebrate and be with family and friends and take in the beauty and impermanence of life surrounding them. Here at the ESGVJCC, our sakura trees usually bloom at the end of February or beginning of March, depending on the weather. When the sakura trees begin to bloom, we invite you all to come to the Reiko Moreno Cherry Blossom Courtyard with your friends and family to take in the sights and the beauty of these magnificent trees. ■

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 TBD

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 8

VETERANS DAY SERVICE

A day where we honor and pay tribute to the veterans who protect our country and freedom.



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. ■



UNDERSTANDING BACKUP GENERATION

Reliable electric service is important to our customers, and we make every effort to prevent power outages. However, events beyond our control, such as natural disasters and high fire danger conditions, can sometimes cause outages. Backup electric generators can be a part of any continuity plan.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT GENERATOR

There are two main types of backup generators you can consider. Each has its own characteristics, benefits and disadvantages which should be researched before purchasing.



Permanent standby generators are permanently connected to a building's electrical system. When a power outage occurs, these generators can either automatically or manually restore power to the building. Standby generators are typically powered by diesel or natural gas and are more expensive.



Portable generators run on gasoline or diesel and must be manually installed once a power outage occurs and are less expensive.

Most backup systems are designed to operate independently from SCE's electric system by using an automatic transfer switch to sense the loss of power from SCE and initiate power use from the generator. Once SCE's electric service is restored, the generator's automatic transfer switch will shift the customer's usage back to SCE and will signal the backup generator to shut off. Only operate these generators in well-ventilated outside areas, never indoors.

Updated: 09/05/2024

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 PROGRAMS

MESSAGE FROM THE 2025 ESGVJCC QUEEN

Submitted by Mia Miyoko Takatsuka, 2025 ESGVJCC Queen



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 ■

ESGVJCC PROGRAMS

REGISTER FOR KOKORO SUMMER FUN CLUB

ESGVJCC KOKORO SUMMER FUN CLUB

K-5TH GRADE | 9AM-5PM

Fun activities, field trips, Japanese lessons, outdoor play, arts/crafts, music & more!

WEEKS AVAILABLE:

June 8-12
June 15-18
June 22-26
June 29-July 2
July 27-31
August 3-7



FEE:

ESGVJCC Member Price

- \$230/week
- \$1260/6 weeks
- \$20/extra shirt

Non-Member Price

- \$295/week
- \$1400/6 weeks
- \$20/extra shirt

REGISTER AT [TINYURL.COM/2026KOKOROSUMMERFUNCLUB](https://tinyurl.com/2026KOKOROSUMMERFUNCLUB)
CONTACT PROGRAM DIRECTOR MELISSA KOZONO AT [MKOZONO@ESGVJCC.ORG](mailto:mkozono@esgvjcc.org) FOR QUESTIONS

Submitted by *Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator*

Much love to everyone who joined us for the 2026 Installation Ban! We're excited to share that the summer youth program we launched last year was a great success and it's coming back this summer!

Kokoro Summer Fun Club is designed for students entering Kindergarten through 5th grade and runs from June through early August. Join us for six weeks of hands-on activities, exciting field trips, outdoor play, Japanese language learning, and other enriching experiences.

Families may enroll for all six weeks or select the weeks that work best for their schedule. Fun Club meets Monday through Friday, 9am to 5pm. Participants should bring their own lunch and snacks, but we'll also enjoy special cooking activities and themed treats throughout the summer.

Spots are filling quickly! Summer may feel far away, but now is the perfect time to plan ahead and reserve your child's place.

Register today at tinyurl.com/2026summerfunclub or contact Program Director Melissa Kozono at mkozono@esgvjcc.org with any questions. ■

ESGVJCC PROGRAMS

2026 NIKKEI YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

2026 ESGVJCC NIKKEI YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,000!

Scholarships are available for high school seniors & college undergraduates/graduates!

Eligibility

- Must be current ESGVJCC Members for the calendar year
- Each applicant can apply for up to 3 scholarships
- See applications for specific requirements

High School Application

tinyurl.com/2026highschoolapp

College Application

tinyurl.com/2026collegeapp

Important Dates

- February 11 & March 18 at 7pm - Zoom Workshops
- March 31 - Early Review Period Deadline
- April 13 at 5pm - Applications Due
- May 17 at 1pm - Scholarship Luncheon

Contact Program Director, Melissa Kozono at mkozono@esgvjcc.org for any questions.

Submitted by *Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator*

Attention high school seniors and college undergraduate and graduate students!

Applications for our 2026 Nikkei Youth Scholarships are now open. Don't miss this opportunity to highlight your personal achievements, academic success, leadership, and community involvement.

The application deadline is Monday, April 13 at 5pm. We strongly encourage students to apply early and take advantage of our Early Review Period. During this time, applicants can receive feedback and revise or resubmit materials before Tuesday, March 31.

Although our first Zoom workshop has already taken place, we will be hosting another session on Wednesday, March 18 at 7pm for anyone with questions about the application process. To receive the Zoom link, please email Program Director Melissa Kozono at mkozono@esgvjcc.org.

If you're ready to apply, the high school application can be found at tinyurl.com/2026highschoolapp and the college application is available at tinyurl.com/2026collegeapp. We look forward to receiving your application! ■

STAY CONNECTED WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA! @ESGVJCC



ESGVJCC EVENTS

2026 INSTALLATION BANQUET RECAP

Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator



THANK YOU TO OUR 2026 TABLE SPONSORS!

Athens Services

Bob Amano

ESGVJCC Leisure Club

Fukui Mortuary

Hamachi Family

Tim & Sandy Itatani

Kamimura/Schultz Family

Kishin Daiko

Sabers Youth Basketball

Barbara Shirota

James Toma

West Covina Buddhist Temple

Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator

Much love to everyone who joined us for the 2026 Installation Banquet in February! The evening opened with a special celebration honoring Tina Asano's 15-year anniversary with the ESGVJCC. Beginning her journey as Office Manager and now serving as Executive Assistant, Tina has become an essential part of the Center, and we truly could not do this work without her.

We were also proud to honor this year's Distinguished Member, Jim Friesen, a longtime Board Member, dedicated supporter of the ESGVJCC, and talented member of our taiko group, Kishin Daiko. Reverend Miyoshi of the West Covina Buddhist Temple offered a heartfelt invocation, followed by a lovely toast from our 2025 ESGVJCC Queen Mia Takatsuka.

Guests enjoyed an exceptional three-course meal and dessert prepared by Chef Sato and his amazing team. Although he was unable to attend in person, we were honored to induct Ted Hamachi as the newest member of the ESGVJCC Council of Governors. Ted and his family are founding members of the ESGVJCC, and he previously served as President. We also thank our Council Members from the City of West Covina and a representative from Congressman Gilbert R. Cisneros' office for presenting special certificates to the Center and the evening's honorees.

The evening concluded with former ESGVJCC President Aya Kamimura swearing in the 2026 Board of Directors, followed by President Tim Itatani's sentimental remarks reflecting on the Center's 75-year history and future goals.

Special thanks to Sabers Teams Sakura and Swish for serving our guests, former staff members Dai Davila and Tony Tang for bartending, Aki Kamimura for generously providing beautiful plant and succulent centerpieces, and the entire ESGVJCC staff for making the evening possible. Our 2026 events are off to a fantastic start!

Be sure to check out photo highlights on our Facebook page and our Year End Review slideshows on our YouTube channel. ■

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

2026 Camp Chibikko



Annual | ESGVJCC

This year, camp will be held July 6-10 and July 13-17! Camp Chibikko is a fun day camp for kids ages 5-14 that introduces them to Japanese American culture. Register on esgvjcc.org/youth-programs. ESGVJCC Members and Non-Members are both encouraged to register early!

2026 Basketball Camp



Annual | ESGVJCC

Reminder that our third week of Camp Chibikko has now been transformed into Basketball Camp! This year, camp will take place from July 20-24. A morning snack and lunch will be included. Learn more or sign up on esgvjcc.org/youthprograms.

Kime Komi Doll Class



Monthly | Room 5

Kime komi 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 Office Manager Scott Kawachi at skawachi@esgvjcc.org to sign up!

Continued from Page 4.

SAFETY, ABOVE ALL ELSE

Regardless of the type of generator you use, always consult with a licensed electric contractor for proper installation and setup. If you install or use your generator incorrectly, you risk damaging your property and endangering lives.

Backup generators must meet electrical codes and have a transfer switch to prevent dangerous backfeed of electricity onto SCE's power lines. Backfeed onto power lines can endanger the lives of SCE crews who may be working on downed power line.

For Portable Generators:

- During a power outage, plug appliances directly into a portable generator.
- Never attempt to connect directly to household circuits as this creates backfeed and is dangerous.
- Do not plug directly into the electrical panel, connect to a portable generator using a properly sized extension cord.

SCE REQUIREMENTS

Prior to installing a backup generator that will be connected to your home or business electrical system, you must notify SCE of the location of the generator by completing and submitting an application for interconnection to SCE pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 119085 (b).



For questions and to apply, visit sce.com/backupsystems
You can also email InterconnectionQA@sce.com or call 626-302-3688.

ESGVJCC EVENTS

2026 QUEEN CORONATION

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE 2026 QUEEN CORONATION OF

Jacqueline Naito

ON SUNDAY, MARCH 22 AT 2PM
IN THE SUGIMOTO FAMILY SOCIAL HALL

Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator

We're excited to announce that Jacqueline Naito will be crowned as the 2026 ESGVJCC Queen! Please join us in her coronation at the ESGVJCC on Sunday, March 22 at 2pm in the Sugimoto Family Social Hall. For any questions, please email Program Director Melissa Kozono at mkozono@esgvjcc.org.

ESGVJCC EVENTS

2026 SPRING CLEAN-UP/ MATSU TREE TRIMMING

Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator

Have some free time on Sunday, April 12? Need community service hours? Join us for our annual Spring Clean-Up and Matsu Tree Trimming!



We need your help getting the ESGVJCC ready for the rest of the year, especially for our upcoming 75th Anniversary Party in June! This year we'll be focusing on cleaning and organizing our facilities and doing some painting and other various maintenance around the Center. As always, our beautiful matsu trees in front of the Center will also be getting trimmed and we will need help picking up all the trimmings.

If you're interested in volunteering for a few hours, please meet us at the ESGVJCC on April 12 from 8am to noon! ■

ESGVJCC PROGRAMS

PICKLEBALL AT THE ESGVJCC

Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator

Play pickleball at the ESGVJCC! Our weekly pickleball group has been going strong and players of all skill levels are welcome to come and play.



The group meets every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon in the ESGVJCC Gymnasium from 12pm to 1:30pm. The class fee is \$25 per month or \$10 per class. No experience needed, just bring a paddle and some friendly competition. They even have a pickleball machine to improve your skills, practice solo, and run drills!

If you have any questions, please reach out to pickleball group leader Glen Waki at glenwaki@outlook.com or call the ESGVJCC Office at (626) 960-2566. ■

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	\$150
Anonymous	\$100
Susan Aarii	\$500
Nancy Ayers	\$10
Marlene Berry	\$100
Cheryl Iwashita Chang	\$100
Naomi Chang	\$100
Frances Ching	\$50
FIA Insurance Services, Inc.	\$100
Regina Furumoto	\$250
Kathleen & Gene Hashiguchi	\$100
Mary Hatae	\$300
George & Ruth Hiyane	\$100
Russell & Nancy Hombo	\$200
Fumiko & Huey Hong	\$50
Setsuko & Randall Houston	\$100
Hideko Ikehara	\$100
Daryl & Cynthia Itatani	\$5,000
Danny Mitsuo Iwama	\$100
Shoye Iwo	\$200
Setsuko & Randall Houston	\$100
Daryl & Cynthia Itatani	\$5,000
Mitsuo Danny Iwama	\$100
Shoye Iwo	\$200
Kay Kanayama	\$500
Janet Kanemoto	\$200
Glenn & Yumiko Kasai	\$25
Elsie Kawato	\$100
Elaine Kimura	\$500
Nancy Kodama	\$100
Mickey Komai	\$250
Ralph Komai	\$100
Russell & Marlys Kuruma	\$100
Aileen Maruki	\$150
Neil & June Murakami	\$100
Susan Mita	\$100
Ken Mitsunaga	\$500
Hatsue Miyashiro	\$150
Myrtle & Charles Nakamura	\$200
Taka Nakamura	\$200
Robert & Kathie Nishida	\$200

Masako & Richard Murakami	
Ujinobu Niwa	\$200
Wesley & Karen Nobuta	\$250
Laraine H Oda	\$200
Glenn & Jean Ogura	\$1,000
Beverly Oki	\$200
Yasuo & Mimi Michi Onogawa	\$500
Nora Oshima	\$50
Juily Phun	\$100
John Puchalski	\$25
David Schildt & Lynn Moyers	\$20
Kathy Shibata	\$100
Bruce & Diane Shimano	\$200
Barbara Shiota	\$500
Nathan & Christine Sugimoto	\$4,000
Bert & Ailene Tanaka	\$100
Masaru Tanaka	\$1,500
Michael & Linda Tanaka	\$1,000
Marie Thomas	\$50
Thomas Umemoto	\$1,000
Emiko Wexler	\$200
Kazumi Williams	\$100
Jennifer Lee & Danny Woo	\$100
Jane Yamamoto	\$100
Jack & Elaine Yanabu	\$200
Eiko Yasutake	\$50

In Memory of George Sugimoto

Tim & Sandy Itatani	\$500
Sam & Susie Kozono	\$30
June Kuramoto	\$100
Roger & Frances Nakano	\$100
Alex Sario & Pearl Omiya	\$50

Senior Wellness Program & Leisure Club

Nathan & Christine Sugimoto	\$2,000
Glenn & Jean Ogura	\$1,000

In Honor of Glenn & Jean Nakatani

Tina Asano	\$50
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In Honor of Tim & Sandy Itatani

Masako & Richard Murakami	\$500
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2026

KIBOU LEGACY CIRCLE



Tim & Sandy Itatani

Daryl & Cynthia Itatani

Mae & Ken Kimura

Phillip Komai

Glenn & Jean Nakatani

Grace Richardson

Barbara Shiota

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. ■

Caregiver Conference

WEST LOS ANGELES

Sunday, April 19, 2026

11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Venice Japanese Community Center

Guided by the theme "Cultivating a Community of Care," Keiro's first Caregiver Conference of 2026 will connect caregivers with resources to strengthen their support network.

Registration Closes:

Friday, April 3, 2026

(or when capacity is reached)

Livestream option available.



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

**FIND OUR FULL
ALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2026 ON
[ESGVJCC.ORG/CALENDAR-OF-EVENTS](https://esgvjcc.org/calendar-of-events)**

Keiro 



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

1203 West Puente Avenue | West Covina, CA 91790
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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.

ESGVJCC Office

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