

ESGVJCC

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NEXT ISSUE: MAY 2025

ESGVJCC

2025 CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL



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Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator

The East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center is excited to partner once again with Plaza West Covina and the City of West Covina to present the 2025 Cherry Blossom Festival on Saturday, April 26 from 2pm to 7pm! This annual outdoor festival marks the beginning of spring; the newly emerging blossoms represent hope beauty and new life.

As this year's major fundraiser, please consider sponsoring this event to raise funds for the ESGVJCC! Our sponsor goal this year is \$23,000—every donation and sponsor counts and gets us closer to this goal! We will also have a silent auction and super raffle for the Cherry Blossom Festival!

Festivities will take place in the mall's main parking lot again, right in front of Lazy Dog and Red Robin. Come enjoy some yummy Japanese food, watch live performances from our ESGVJCC Programs, do some shopping, and meet some great community organizations. This year, we're excited to be joined by Shin-Sen-Gumi, Miister Potato, Kona Ice, Lumini Jewelry, Shoyu Drip, and Arwama—just to name a few vendors.

This event is free and family friendly, so bring the whole squad and celebrate the beginning of spring with us. More details to come soon! Stay tuned for more updates on our social media and esgvjcc.org/2025-cherry-blossom-festival. ■

2025 ESGVJCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MESSAGE FROM THE ESGVJCC TIM ITATANI, 2025 ESGVJCC PRESIDENT

Dear Members:

I can hardly believe that March is already here, and we're already 20% through the year. Time has flown by incredibly fast, and this, my 7th term as your president, has gone just as quickly. That said, I truly hope that the year so far has been good to each and every one of you.

The ESGVJCC has been thinking about how everyone is coping in the aftermath of the LA fires. Unfortunately, we know of three families who have been affected by these devastating fires. I hope you've all been able to return to your homes. If any of you still need assistance, please reach out to us. Our staff is ready to help and can connect you with resources or direct you to the support you need.



The ESGVJCC's 75th Anniversary is quickly approaching—a significant milestone for our community. It's an incredible accomplishment to have been able to serve our members and organizations for 75 years.

For years, I've felt that the Center lacked a central gathering space—a place where you can wait for loved ones to finish their activities, enjoy lunch or dinner, or simply socialize and relax. We're going to change that by building an open-air patio. This permanent structure will be made of steel, with retractable shade, lighting, and fans, as well as as many picnic-style tables as we can fit. It will be located in the area where we've previously stored and used our BBQ equipment. Once completed this year, it will provide a great space for members, seniors, kids, and families to gather, socialize, and enjoy some downtime.

Additionally, the ESGVJCC's 75th Anniversary is quickly approaching—a significant milestone for our community. It's an incredible accomplishment to have been able to serve our members and organizations for 75 years. We will be preparing for the celebration this year, and we'll keep you updated on special events and more in the coming months. Here's to the 75th Anniversary of ESGVJCC in 2026!

Looking forward to seeing all of you throughout 2025!

Sincerely,

Tim T. Itatani
President, ESGVJCC Board of Directors

ESGVJCC

ESGVJCC FIRE RELIEF FUND



Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator

The recent fires in Los Angeles County devastated many communities, including parts of the San Gabriel Valley, leaving countless families displaced and struggling. It was a time of great loss, but it also revealed the true strength and spirit of our local community.

Among those affected by the fires were members of the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center (ESGVJCC). The loss and destruction hit home for many, but during this incredibly difficult time, it was inspiring to witness the incredible outpour of support from the community.

Throughout the month of February, the ESGVJCC rallied together to collect monetary donations for our members impacted by the fires. These efforts were fueled by the generosity of our members, Installation Banquet guests, and the support of the ESGVJCC Board of Directors. Thanks to all the contributions, we were able to raise \$2,111 for the relief fund! The ESGVJCC and Board of Directors have committed to matching a percentage of the funds raised, and these donations will be evenly distributed to those directly impacted by the fires.

This outpouring of community spirit has been a shining light in a difficult time. We are deeply grateful for everyone who extended their kindness during this unprecedented disaster and thank you from the bottom of our hearts! ■

ESGVJCC

ESGVJCC SPRING CLEAN-UP/MATSU TREE TRIMMING

Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator

Spring Clean-up/Matsu Tree Trimming will be on Sunday, April 6 this year!

Have some free time? Help us get the ESGVJCC in tip top shape for the rest of the year. We'll be doing some painting, cleaning the facilities, and other various maintenance around the Center. If you're interested in volunteering for a few hours, meet us at the ESGVJCC at 8am on April 6! ■

ESGVJCC SENIOR PROGRAMS

2025 LEISURE CLUB



Submitted by Kazumi Williams, Leisure Club Secretary

The Leisure Club started off the new year with the installation of its Board Members. The 2025 Officers are as follows:

President:

Phillip Komai

1st Vice President (Activities):

Lydia Diaz

2nd Vice President (Food):

Lonin Lew

3rd Vice President (Membership):

Lydia Diaz

Secretary:

Kazumi Williams

Treasurer:

Nancy Hombo

Parliamentarian:

Paul Konno

Leisure Club members continue to enjoy a variety of activities, such as playing casino games like Blackjack and Keno, and playing popular TV games like The Price is Right, Team Wheel of Fortune, and Team Scattergories. We also enjoy playing board games and piece together some puzzles. Our members participate in weekly stretching exercises to stay healthy. Most of all, our members look forward to playing bingo every week.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact the ESGVJCC at (626) 960-2566. We meet every Wednesday from 9:30am to 12pm. We also serve a delicious lunch for everyone to dine in or take home. ■



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 4

AKIMATSURI FESTIVAL

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

TBD

AKIMATSURI GOLF TOURNAMENT

Fundraiser event: Golfers! Come support the ESGVJCC!

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. ■



TARGETED UNDERGROUNDING IN HIGH FIRE RISK AREAS UNDERSTANDING THE FACTS

Faced with the ongoing threat of more frequent and catastrophic wildfires, California needs more resilient infrastructure. Southern California Edison continues to strengthen its electric grid, using innovative tools, technologies, and practices to further protect customers and communities from the ongoing risks of wildfires. More than 40% of the primary distribution lines in SCE's high fire risk areas are undergrounded. To further reduce wildfire risk cost-effectively and expeditiously, SCE continues to replace bare wire with covered conductor (coated wire). By the end of 2025, SCE expects to have hardened nearly 90% of its total distribution power lines, prioritizing its riskiest areas.

TARGETED UNDERGROUNDING AS A WILDFIRE MITIGATION MEASURE

Underground systems can help reduce the risk of wildfires and increase reliability during high winds and storms by reducing the exposure of electrical infrastructure to extreme weather conditions. We are identifying the highest risk power lines to underground. Customers will continue to see other equipment overhead, including telephone, cable and internet lines.

SCE has identified a subset of high fire risk areas as "Severe Risk Areas" where we have determined that for public safety reasons it is prudent to significantly reduce ignition risk by undergrounding, if not already hardened with covered conductor.

Targeting underground criteria include:

- limited exit and entry points to communities
- high burn frequency
- high wind speeds exceeding covered conductor Public Safety Power Shutoff thresholds
- exceptionally high potential consequence (could burn > 10,000 acres within 8 hours)
- communities of elevated concern
- operational feasibility

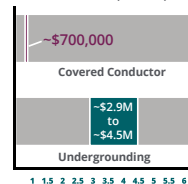
TARGETED UNDERGROUNDING REQUIRES EXTENSIVE PLANNING AND EARLY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Undergrounding power lines take much longer to construct, are more costly, and are more difficult to maintain and repair than overhead infrastructure, particularly in mountainous and rocky terrain.

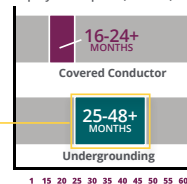
Typically, targeted undergrounding can take two to four years, and possibly longer, whereas covered conductor can be installed in less than two years. SCE will work closely with local cities and counties and engage impacted customers early in the process, especially concerning easement acquisition.

Mitigation Comparison

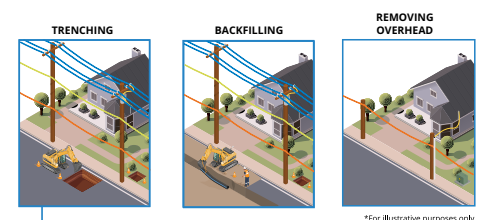
Approximate Average Lifetime Cost/Mile (Millions)



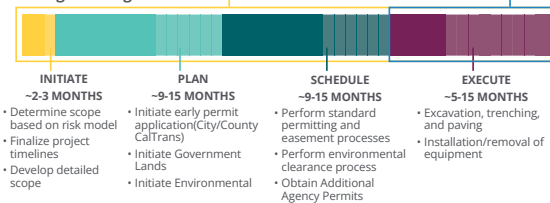
Deployment Speed (Months)



Construction Process During Execution



Undergrounding Timeline



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit sce.com/tug, email SCProjects@sce.com, or leave a voicemail for the project team on its dedicated phone voicemail box at 1-888-331-0010.

Updated: 4/3/24

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 QUEENS PROGRAM

OUTGOING MESSAGE FROM THE 2024 ESGVJCC QUEEN

Submitted by Amy Kubo, 2024 ESGVJCC Queen



Growing up, I dreamed of being a paleontologist, a veterinarian, and even a professional soccer player. Never did I imagine I would have had the opportunity to be a princess that represented our amazing East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center (ESGVJCC)!

Throughout this past year of living the “princess life,” it has been an awesome adventure of meeting new people, connecting more with the Japanese American community, and even eating lots of great food! I am especially thankful that I was able to represent the ESGVJCC as its 42nd Queen since our Center is made up of the most loving and supportive people! From the start of my training to emceeing at festivals while playing taiko in a crown and sash, my time as the 2024 ESGVJCC Queen has been full of laughter and great memories.

Continuing on to become a member of the 2024 Nisei Week Court has also been more fun than I could have ever imagined! We have all had a blast attending events together, supporting Little Tokyo, and grabbing boba and food whenever possible. Out of my court experience so far, I have especially enjoyed getting to meet and hear the stories of many Little Tokyo business owners. Being able to meet with them gave me the chance to get to know the people that are helping to protect the Japan Town we have in Southern California. I've also enjoyed being able to volunteer at various events including golf tournaments, community dances, festivals, and more. I've even been potentially inspired to learn golf so I can play with my dad. Being able to make a difference in my community while learning more about my own identity as

a Japanese American has been fulfilling and exciting, and I can't wait to finish out this year strong!

My experience would not have been possible without the love and support of many of you! I especially want to thank the ESGVJCC Board, Tim & Sandy Itatani, Melissa Kozono, Michi Lew, the ESGVJCC Queens Committee, Kishin Daiko, and my family. As many of you know, I am “round two” for my family since I ran directly after my sister Sara's reign (the 41st ESGVJCC Queen). Although I know my family has been enjoying this second round, supporting a princess is no small task. My family has especially been supportive in getting raffle tickets, being my personal PR committee, and even working to pick up over 20+ small Trader Joe's insulated tote bags to use as omiyage (I know we can be a little crazy).

I also want to give a special shoutout to Sara for always being willing to share her advice and help with all things that come with being a princess. I've always said I have the “cheat code” to being a Nisei Week court member and ESGVJCC Queen because of Sara. That's why I always appreciate her willingness and care in making sure I enjoy my time on court as much as possible.

Lastly, I want to give our next Queen candidate Mia Takatsuka a hearty GOOD LUCK! Mia is such a warm, curious, and thoughtful person so I'm excited how she will grow throughout this next year while she supports our center and Little Tokyo.

Cheers,

Amy Kubo ■

ESGVJCC EVENTS

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE 2025 INSTALLATION BANQUET!



Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator

A big thank you to everyone who joined us at the 2025 Installation Banquet in February! The evening was filled with very special moments, including the celebration of our Executive Director Pearl Omiya's 20th anniversary at the ESGVJCC, the honoring of two Distinguished Members, Nancy Kudo-Hombo and Kathy Warth, and the exciting welcome of California Justice Department Supervising Attorney and former West Covina Mayor, James Toma, to our Board of Governors. We also had the honor of installing our 2025 Board of Directors! Guests also enjoyed a delicious, full-course dinner prepared by the renowned Chef Ryo Sato and his incredible team, who always provide a unique fine dining experience.

The success of the 2025 Installation Banquet would not have been possible without the efforts of an amazing team of people. We'd like to take a moment to thank the following individuals and groups for helping us throughout the night and behind the scenes.

- Tony Tang, Program Director of Senior Services, for serving as our fantastic emcee.
- Glenn Nakatani, former ESGVJCC President, Melissa Kozono, Program Director of Youth Services, Tim Itatani, current ESGVJCC President, and Susie Kozono, ESGVJCC Board Member, for presenting Pearl Omiya with her 20th Anniversary gifts.
- 2024 ESGVJCC Queen Amy Ryoko Kubo for delivering a lovely toast that set the perfect tone for the evening.
- Representatives from the City of West Covina and Norwalk for their continued support and kind words.
- Glenn Nakatani for installing our new Board members.
- Tim Itatani for delivering a heartfelt closing message that inspired us all.
- The Sabers/Saberettes Youth Basketball Organization for their help with event setup, dinner service, and cleanup.
- The ESGVJCC Nikkei Youth Organization for their assistance with dinner service.
- Tanisha Kyoka White for her warm and excellent bar service.
- Last but certainly not least, our ESGVJCC Staff and Teachers, who made sure everything ran smoothly.

Kampai to 2025! We are so grateful for all of you who helped make the ESGVJCC such a special place. ■



ESGVJCC PROGRAMS

SAVE THE DATE: YUKATA KAI SUMMER DANCE FESTIVAL



Bandō Ryū Kyō no Kai

Save The Date!

Yukata Kai:
Summer Dance Festival

An enchanting celebration of traditional Japanese dance and culture. Experience the elegance of *Nihon Buyō* and the charm of the Japanese *Yukata* in a mesmerizing showcase.

Sunday June 8, 2025
1:30 pm - 4 pm

East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center
1203 West Puente Ave, West Covina 91790

We can't wait to share this special day with you!

Stay tuned for more details!

For more information:
bandoryuinfo@gmail.com




Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator

Save the date and join us for Yukata Kai (Summer Dance Festival) at the ESGVJCC on Sunday, June 8 from 1:30pm-4pm! Enjoy stunning performances presented by Bandō Ryū Kyō no Kai. Kyō no Kai is an organization founded and headed by Kabuki actor Nakamura Gankyō (aka Bandō Hirohichirō). The mission of Kyō no Kai is to teach and promote various aspects of traditional Japanese culture with the emphasis on the performance art of Kabuki. Come immerse yourself in the beauty of Japanese Kabuki and classical dance and stay for refreshments after the performances.

Stay tuned for more details about the event! To learn more about the festival or Kyō no Kai, please visit kyonokai.org or check out their Instagram page [@kyonokai](https://www.instagram.com/kyonokai). ■

ESGVJCC PROGRAMS

WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE PRESENTS: OLDIES DANCE

Submitted by Mary Nagakawa, Marketing Coordinator

Put on your dancing shoes and join us for the Oldies Dance at the ESGVJCC! This special event is held in memory of Joanie, a beloved friend of the West Covina Buddhist Temple. Enjoy the tunes of High Resolution, plus drinks, food, and prizes! Ticket Prices are \$25 before March 10 and \$30 after March 10. For more details and to reserve your tickets, please reach out to Lillian Nishihara at (626) 780-9866 / lilnish77@gmail.com or Lee Ezaki at (626) 533-8359 / samurai691@verizon.net. ■

WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE PRESENTS

OLDIES DANCE

"Let's do the twist, jerk & pony
In memory of our friend Joanie!"

**Saturday, April 5, 2025
7 pm to 11 pm**

East Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center
1203 W. Puente Ave., West Covina 91790
(Parking in the rear)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Bonsai



Monthly | ESGVJCC

Bonsai is a Japanese art form using trees grown in containers. The purposes of bonsai are primarily contemplation and the pleasant exercise of effort and ingenuity. Bonsai focuses on long-term cultivation and shaping of small trees growing in a container. To sign up, contact Aki Kamimura at (626) 222-1843 or akikamimura1230@gmail.com.

Camp Chibikko



Annually | ESGVJCC

This year, camp will be held July 7-11 and July 14-18! 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 by Friday, May 16!

Basketball Camp



Annually | ESGVJCC Gymnasium

We're bringing back Basketball Camp this summer! The basketball camp will be held on July 21-25 for grades Kindergarten-6th grade. A morning snack and lunch will be included. Learn more or sign up on esgvjcc.org/youth-programs. Register by Friday, June 6!

KONDO WEALTH ADVISORS

FINANCE FRAUD CAN HAPPEN TO ALL OF US

Submitted by Akemi Dalvi, CPA/PFS, CFP

Professional finance fraud, targeting the elderly and large corporations alike, is an alarming new trend in the finance industry. No one likes to admit when they've been victimized, and it is true that reporting the crime often doesn't materialize into immediate results. However, talking about how these professional criminals are defrauding us may stop the next person from being a victim. Here are some common crimes witnessed:

Smishing or SMS Phishing – Text message scams attempt to steal personal data by claiming to be a bank, government agency, or institution needing immediate action to prevent an unwanted outcome. Common text scams might include alerts about a USPS package that cannot be delivered, or warnings of accumulating penalties for unpaid freeway tolls. Try to avoid responding to texts from unknown numbers or sharing financial information and passwords on sites you are unfamiliar with.

Grandparent Scam – Fraudsters call grandparents pretending to be their grandchild, asking for money urgently, in confidence, to get out of jail or pay for health expenses in another country. Criminals can utilize technology to recreate the child's voice and may fool loving family members out of cash in an instant. Even if you hear the voice of someone you know or were sworn to secrecy, before you wire cash, call a related party to verify that the person you think you spoke to is truly in need.

Romance Afar – In a globalized world where many relationships begin or are supported online, this has become perhaps the most devastating crime. Career criminals have been known to engage in fake romantic relationships for years, utilizing thousands of emails/texts to create validity to their storytelling and build trust with their victims. Often, these heartless offenders focus on someone who is alone, perhaps a widow or a single person, who may not have a sounding board at home to notice the crime developing. The criminal might say they need money to get away from a harmful predator, pay medical bills, or to travel to come see you. Ask a trusted friend for a second opinion. Sometimes an independent party can see more clearly, when our heart blinds us.

A friend of mine is a successful woman who raised a family and worked as a leader in the finance department of a large corporation before retiring. She is smart, accomplished, and independent. When her husband passed, she found herself spending more time volunteering to improve the environment to make her days productive and rewarding. Through a common friend, she connected with another volunteer online. He spent weeks cleaning up oil spills in remote parts of the world where cell service was often spotty. However, they always kept in touch, exchanging thousands of emails over the span of two years. At first, he asked for a few dollars to support a deserving charity. Then he needed money for an emergency medical surgery. At the end, she was considering a reverse mortgage on her house to help pay off his debts and for him to come live with her so they could have a future together. Luckily, family members stepped in to save my friend's house and help secure her finances. A professional criminal trained to prey on victims through psychological manipulation had defrauded her. Falling victim can happen to the smartest people we know.

If you have been a victim of fraud, please confide in someone you trust for support. Although we cannot eliminate the bad that exists in our world, perhaps we can work together to support and care for one another. Below are some resources to help someone who might be experiencing financial fraud.

Signs of financial fraud

- Suspicious signatures on checks
- Checks written as "loans" or "gifts" to someone the family doesn't know
- Bank and credit card statements that no longer go to the customer's home
- New credit cards showing up in your loved one's name

What to do if you suspect financial fraud?

- Report the fraud to the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov
- Contact Adult Protective Services for elders
- Sign up for the Do Not Call Registry
- File a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3)

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. ■

BUNKA ISAN

Submitted by Robert Fumio Leong, Host of the ESGVJCC Samurai Film Series

CHERRY BLOSSOM SPRING AND THE FALL OF THE SAMURAI



March begins the Cherry Blossom (Sakura) season in the mainland of Japan and starts in the south in Kyushu and works its way north and ends in late April. The Sakura signals the coming of spring and symbolizes a time of rebirth and renewal, and the fleeting nature of life because their life is short and in two weeks their beauty peaks.

The Chrysanthemum (Kiku) is the official national flower of Japan, but the Sakura is cherished as the second flower of the nation, and for centuries, it has been entwined to the mythos of the samurai, as expressed in the saying, Hana wa sakura, hito wa bushi - "The cherry blossom is first among flowers, the samurai among men." The flower of the samurai would fall in March 1877 at the Battle of Tabaruzaka.

Tabaruzaka was the turning point of the Seinan War aka Satsuma Rebellion (29 January - 24 September 1877). The belligerents were the Imperial Forces of Japan against the Satsuma Domain (Kagoshima, Kyushu) led by Saigo Takamori, once a champion in the overthrowing of the Tokugawa Shogunate and the restoration of the Emperor Meiji in 1868. But he became disenchanted with the new government particularly in the rapid adoption of Western Ways and the abolishment of the samurai class. His stature and support were so great that Satsuma essentially seceded from the Meiji central government in 1876 and set in motion the civil war that was to come.

The sparks that ignited the war were an alleged assassination attempt on Saigo by a police force sent by the Meiji government, followed by central government actions to disarm the Satsuma samurai and the elimination of rice stipends for samurai. Outrage ensued and the rebellion began.

Hostilities started with the siege of Kumamoto Castle with its garrison of Imperial soldiers and policemen by Saigo's army on February 19, 1877. The castle was one of the strongest in Japan and did not easily fall, so Saigo planned to starve the garrison into submission. In the meanwhile, the main Imperial Army began to arrive in Kyushu and its first aim was to relieve the siege of Kumamoto Castle.

Tabaruzaka lies along the main road out of Kumamoto. Saigo deployed his army of about 15,000 samurai to capture and block the road while the Imperial Army of 90,000 conscripted soldiers with modern rifles and artillery attacked to break the siege of Kumamoto; the battle began on 3 March and lasted until 20 March. It was spring and the Sakura were in full bloom and in the beginning it rained which hampered the samurai army to re-supply as well as to make their antiquated rifles useless; the samurai had to fight with their swords. Initially, the battle was a stalemate with heavy losses on both sides but on 15 March, as the Sakura were falling, the Imperial Army launched a major assault against the rebel army and on 20 March Saigo's beleaguered and shattered army was forced to retreat. It was a decisive defeat and the beginning of the end of the rebellion.

The dwindling remnants of the samurai army would meet their end in the Fall of 1877; on 24 September at the Battle of Shiroyama overlooking Kagoshima where Saigo and five hundred surviving rebels made their last heroic stand against thirty-thousand Imperial troops and died keeping faith to their ancient code of honor. The cherry blossom season had passed that year and so had the thousand-year season of the samurai.

Until the next time. ■

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	\$100
Anonymous	\$125
Marlene Berry	\$100
Jerry & Jane Earley	\$35
Ellie and Douglas Fong	\$200
Shirley Hatsumi & Wilbur Clark	\$300
Reiko Ikehara-Nelson	\$100
Mike & Terri Connelly	\$300
Keith Inatomi	\$100
Beverly Ito	\$100
Shoye Iwo	\$100
Colleen Kan	\$200
Kay Kanayama	\$1,000
Noreen & Robert Kirk	\$55
Jack Kurihara	\$100
Russell & Marlys Kuruma	\$200
Michi Miyada	\$5
Hatsue Miyashiro	\$100
Koharu Nakamura	\$5
Myrtle & Charles Nakamura	\$200
Taka Nakamura	\$200
Laraine H Oda	\$200
Yasuo & Mimi Michi Onogawa	\$500
Darly & Cynthia Itatani	\$500
Lisa Ann Sugimoto	\$150
Jack & Elaine Yanabu	\$100

Fire Relief Fund

Anonymous	\$100
Anonymous	\$100
Leroy & Karen Ezaki	\$100
Diane Hata	\$50
Fumiko & Huey Hong	\$50
Hideko Ikehara	\$100
Michael Iwashita	\$20
Ralph Komai	\$50
George Lee	\$200
Jennifer Lee & Danny Woo	\$100
Robert & Nancy Leong	\$200
Nobuko Miyoshi	\$200
Grace Richardson	\$100
Alex Sario & Pearl Omiya	\$50

Kathy Shibata \$50
 Donations collected at Installation Banquet \$641

In Honor of Tim Itatani

Wayne & Minako Kitagawa \$200
 Masako & Richard Murakami \$1,000

Financial Literacy 101: Saving Your Future



Personal Financial Education for ALL ages

Students, parents, seniors, sandwich generations—
 Ease your stress/uncertainty by knowing what resources you can leverage for you
 and your family to be financially secure, no matter what happens!

Sunday, April 27th at 1pm
ESGVJCC Sugimoto Family Social Hall

2025 KIBOU LEGACY CIRCLE

希 望

Tim & Sandy Itatani
Mae & Ken Kimura
Glenn & Jean Nakatani
Grace Richardson
Barbara Shiota
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. ■

Keiro



ARE YOU PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY?



Knowing where to start is one of the hardest parts of planning for an emergency. Keiro has a resource page dedicated to helping you develop an emergency preparedness plan.

For helpful tips and resources,
 visit keiro.org/eprep.

keiro.org |

CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

APRIL 26, 2025
2-7PM

FOOD | VENDORS | PERFORMANCES

A CELEBRATION OF SPRING & JAPANESE CULTURE AT PLAZA WEST COVINA

112 PLAZA DR
WEST COVINA

FOR MORE INFO OR QUESTIONS, CONTACT EVENTS COORDINATOR
 DAI DAVILA AT DDAVILA@ESGVJCC.ORG OR (626) 960-2566.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY: **ESGVJCC**



PLAZA
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EAST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY
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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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