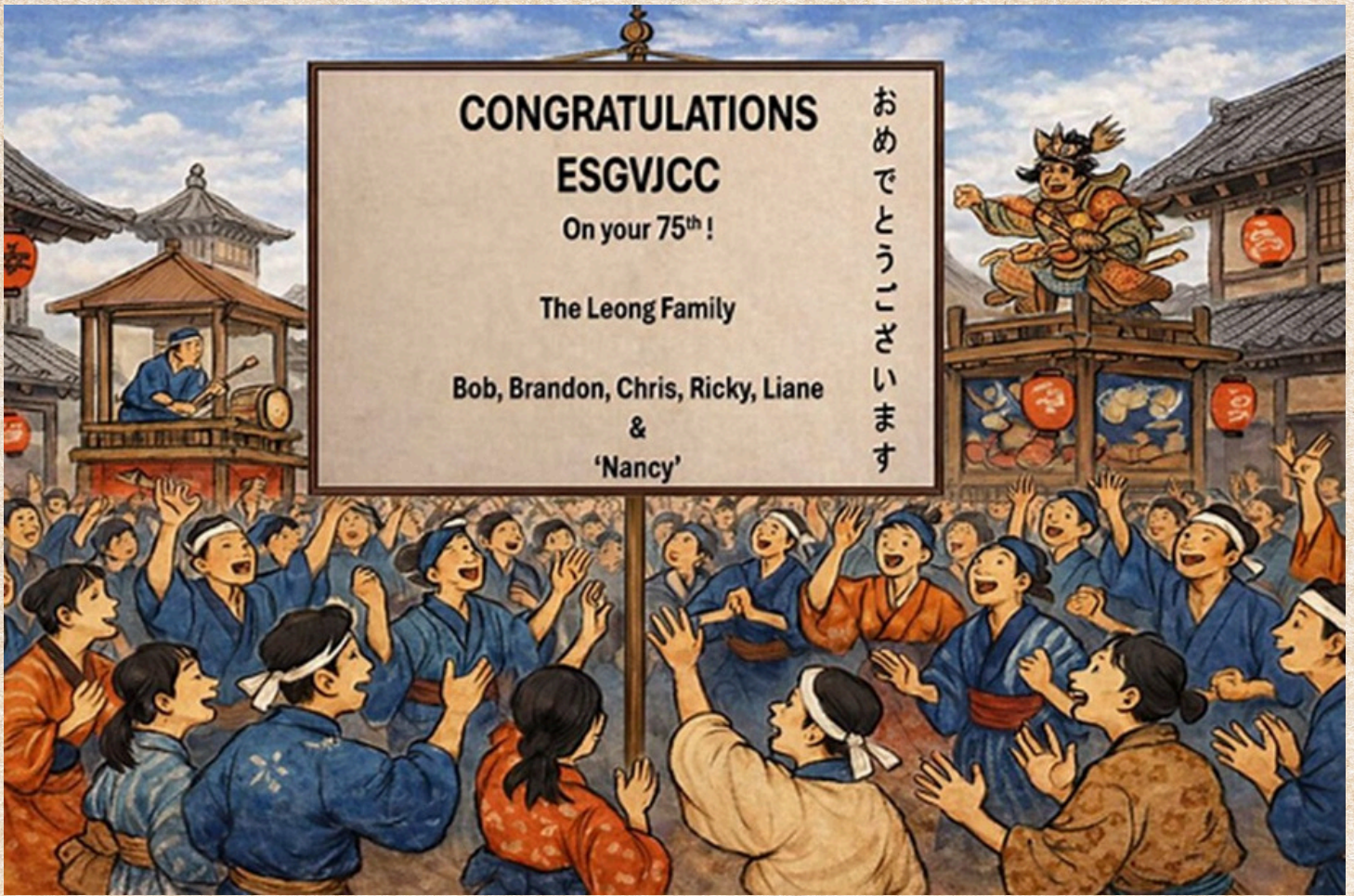


ESGVJCC

75 七十五
1951-2026
YEARS

**EAST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY
JAPANESE COMMUNITY CENTER**

75 YEARS OF BRIDGING CULTURE, FAMILY & COMMUNITY



MESSAGE FROM THE 2026 PRESIDENT OF THE ESGVJCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Welcome everyone to the 75th Anniversary Celebration of our beloved Center!

I would like to thank our Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, sponsors, and program leaders for making this special event possible. I also want to honor the generations who came before us. Through countless hours of dedication, sacrifice, and perseverance during both good times and difficult times, they built the foundation that allows us to celebrate 75 years of service today.

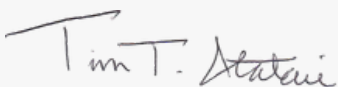
Our founders left us with a powerful legacy and a clear vision: that ESGVJCC would always serve the needs of our community, young and old. It is now our responsibility not only to uphold their commitment, but also to continue growing and evolving so that future generations can gather here and celebrate another 75 years of service, impact, and community.

The year 2026 marks a significant milestone for ESGVJCC, as it is the 75th anniversary of our incorporation as a nonprofit organization. In 1951, the Center officially incorporated and adopted the name East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center. While we recognize 1951 as our official anniversary, our story began much earlier.

We have so much to be grateful for. If our founders could see what their vision has become—more than 40 programs, over 1,000 members, childcare and senior daycare services, and a dedicated professional staff supporting our community—I believe they would be proud beyond measure.

Most importantly, they would know that ESGVJCC remains strong, vibrant, and well-positioned to serve our community for the next 75 years and beyond.

Sincerely,



Tim Itatani
President, ESGVJCC Board of Directors



"Our founders left us with a powerful legacy and a clear vision: that ESGVJCC would always serve the needs of our community, young and old."



REFLECTING ON 75 YEARS OF RICH HISTORY

1930s-1940s

In 1936, Mr. Eijiro Machida donated one acre of his land so that the Japanese farming community in the San Gabriel Valley could have a place where they could teach their children the Japanese language and its culture. Beginning humbly with the Japanese language school and a judo dojo, the community center was also a place to for group meetings and social activities.

During World War II, all of the Japanese Americans were forced to leave their homes and relocate into ten different internment camps. During the war, deed holders Nobue Sera and Chiye Hashimoto Taniguchi entrusted the keys to the community center to Mr. and Mrs. Ted & Hazel Roberts. One of our members said, "If it wasn't for [Roberts], the original building we had would have been vandalized and torn up while we were gone." Mrs. Hazel Roberts watched over the facility, leasing it to West Covina schools to help pay for the upkeep and property taxes. When the members came back in 1946, the Center was just as the families remembered it.

Under the leadership of Kimio Hatakeyama, Frank Konno, and Yosh Sogioka, the doors to the Community Center were open again and Ms. Sera and Ms. Taniguchi turned over the deed to these three men. The Center resumed activity with the Japanese language school, judo classes for children, the Buddhist Church, Gardeners' Association, and many other organizations.



1980-1990s

The 1980s were an exciting time at the Center. On May 10, 1981, the Center held a special "mortgage burning" ceremony to commemorate the end of its first building project. Two years later, the ESGVJCC began the "Expanding Our Horizons" fundraising drive. Under the leadership of Building Fund Chairman Kimio Hatakeyama, this fund drive was able to raise over \$100,000 for a new two-story building between the Social Hall and the gym that provided additional classroom and meeting space.

In 1984, Barbara Yanase-Shirota became the Center's first woman President, served for three terms, and continues to serve on the Board of Directors as a member-at-large.



1950s-1970s

In February 1951, the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese American Association was officially changed to the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center as the State of California chartered the Center a non-profit corporation.

In 1964, the Center faced a crisis due to the phenomenal growth of the City of West Covina. The City wanted to expand its central core and asked the Japanese Community Center to move in order to create roads and a shopping center. A year later, our property here on Puente Ave. was purchased for \$95,000 from the Shephard of the Valley Lutheran Church. Shortly after, Mr. Frank Yamashita donated and planted all the black pine trees in the Center's front lawn. In 1974, Mr. Yamashita celebrated his 70th birthday by planting the 70 juniper cypress trees that border the Center's perimeter.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the Center was experiencing phenomenal growth as well with many Japanese American families moving from urban areas into the suburbs. The need for a larger facility became more and more apparent. It was decided to keep the original Social Hall and build the gym, kitchen, dining room, and classrooms. Under the leadership of Mr. Henry Miyata, Building Committee chair, Mr. Roy Iketani, Finance Committee chair, and President Mr. Leo Hayashi, the fund drive for this enormous project began on November 13, 1971 with \$125,000. The total cost for the project was \$300,000. Thirteen families put their homes up as collateral to finance this project while all of the families at the Center rallied together to raise the remaining \$175,000.



2000s

The 2000s brought in a new generation of leadership at the Center. In May of 2006, plans to rebuild the Social Hall were approved by the City of West Covina, but with only \$196,000 in our Building Fund and a \$75,000 federal HUD grant secured by Congresswoman Hilda Solis, the Social Hall Capital Campaign was launched in September of the same year under the leadership of Mr. Glenn Nakatani. The cost of the new Social Hall was estimated to be \$1.5 million and through the efforts of the Development Committee, headed by Mr. Robert Leong, the Community Center continued forward to raise the necessary funds.

With the campaign launched, the Community Center decided it was imperative to hire a full-time Executive Director to manage the Center's fundraising efforts and the upcoming construction. Ms. Pearl Omiya, who had been the Community Center's Operations Manager, was chosen and hired by December 2006. With forty percent of the budgeted amount in hand, the Community Center obtained a construction loan from Pacific Commerce Bank and demolition of the original Social Hall was scheduled on May 12, 2008.



2010s

In just seven months, the Social Hall was reopened, allowing for three classrooms for Japanese school, two new restrooms, a fully functioning library, and larger space for our classes and programs to practice and learn. With a \$500,000 permanent loan, the fundraising continued to retire the loan. The ESGVJCC had raised 76% of its \$1.5 million goal. Through the generosity of the Sugimoto Family—George, Ruri, Lisa and Nathan—the ESGVCC was able to retire the remainder of the loan in 2011, a mortgage burning ceremony was conducted in June of 2011 to celebrate this momentous occasion.

In 2013, the ESGVJCC Board of Directors, under the leadership of President Phillip Komai, a new Strategic Vision, Honoring Our Past, Pioneering Our Future was unveiled at the 2013 Installation Banquet. A key component of the Strategic Vision included the creation of new social enterprise. After much discussion and research, it was determined the best option that fit with the Community Center's mission would be an infant care center. In 2015, a remodel project began on the office and conference room areas to become the home of the new infant care center, Kokoro no Sato Infant Care Center. In August 2017, Kokoro no Sato opened its doors to three infants and soon filled to capacity in just five months!



2020s

After three successful years, the Board of Directors decided to move forward with the expansion of Kokoro no Sato to include a toddler center. The toddler center found its new home in the Upstairs Classrooms above the infant care center. In addition to reconfiguring the stairs that led to the Upstairs Classroom for added safety for young children, the Upstairs Classrooms were remodeled in late 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic was a challenging time for the ESGVJCC due to the uncertainty of funding sources and the resulting loss of income from the cancellation of in-person classes, programs and events. During the COVID-19 pandemic and shut down, the ESGVJCC was closed to the public from March 2020 to May 2021. No programs were held indoors during this time and many programs provided virtual options. The reality of not having many "essential" programs threatened the Community Center's sustainability. It became evident that it was necessary to create more "essential" services and programs in order for the ESGVJCC to remain viable in times of crisis.

The Kokoro no Sato Infant Care Center opened its doors to its toddler center in April 2021 and soon quickly filled one classroom in just four months! It was then determined by the Board of Directors that the toddler center could gain its own license to become a Preschool and serve children from until 5 years of age allowing Kokoro no Sato to serve children from 2 months to 5 years old. The Licensing process for this took a little longer than expected but Kokoro no Sato was licensed by the State of California and opened the doors to the Preschool in the spring of 2023.



In November of 2021, the ESGVJCC began its partnership with Keiro to launch a culturally-sensitive senior adult day program that seeks to enhance the quality of life for older adults aging at home. This collaboration combined the ESGVJCC's long history as a vibrant Japanese American regional cultural and community organization for all ages with Keiro's experience in providing health and support services to older adults in the Japanese American community.

Through a three-year, \$150,000 commitment from Keiro, the partnership supported the ESGVJCC to expand our existing senior programs to include a licensed adult day program for older adults age 55 and older. Genki, which means "energy" or "healthy" in Japanese, is the core value of the program that seeks to promote Japanese and Japanese American culture through daily activities for older adults. By providing a healthy, nurturing, and socially-stimulating environment, ClubGenki promotes overall wellness with a focus on one's physical, mental, social, and emotional wellbeing. Participants have access to the vast network of the ESGVJCC's programs, including intergenerational activities with the Kokoro no Sato child care center. ClubGenki operates Monday through Friday from 9am-5pm.

It is through the support and partnerships like this that the ESGVJCC is able to expand its services to the community and we are truly grateful for the many opportunities that have been afforded to us throughout our 75 year history.

As we celebrate 75 years, we must thank all those who have come before us, laying down a foundation for us to build upon and grow. As we reflect on how far we have come, we realize how lucky we are to have such amazing people at this Center. Thank you for our 40 programs and the 1,000 member families for your continued support. We are truly indebted to you. Thank you to everyone for a wonderful 75 years.

CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN
350 SOUTH GRAND AVENUE, SUITE 1700
LOS ANGELES, CA 90071
TEL: (213)617-6700

June 2026

Dear Board President Tim Itatani,

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center on the occasion of your 75th anniversary.

Since your founding, you have played a vital role in promoting Japanese culture and heritage and providing a multi-generational gathering place for the community. Partnerships such as the annual Cherry Blossom Festival with the City of West Covina and student exchange programs with the West Covina-Ohtawara sister city relationship make a strong impact in furthering Japan-U.S. relations.

I would like to recognize the early pioneers and founders of the ESGVJCC, as well as all the leaders since then, who have made the flourishing of your community center possible.

I commend your programs focused on encouraging and sharing cultural legacies with younger generations, ensuring the continued vibrancy of the community for years to come.

I send very best wishes to you and all members of the ESGVJCC for reaching this momentous milestone!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Murota', with a stylized flourish at the end.

MUROTA Kosei
Consul General of Japan
in Los Angeles

GILBERT RAY CISNEROS, JR.
31ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2463 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0531
(202) 225-5256

DISTRICT OFFICE
100 S. CITRUS AVENUE, SUITE 204
COVINA, CA 91723
(626) 646-0369



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0531

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEES ON
INTELLIGENCE AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS,
MILITARY PERSONNEL
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
SMALL BUSINESS
SUBCOMMITTEES ON
CONTRACTING AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
OVERSIGHT, INVESTIGATIONS,
AND REGULATIONS

June 20, 2026

Dear Attendees,

As Representative of California's 31st Congressional District, it is my pleasure to recognize the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center (ESGVJCC) on the occasion of their 75th Anniversary in the City of West Covina.

Tonight's joyous celebration marks 75 years since the ESGVJCC's incorporation as a nonprofit organization in 1951, but the Center's roots in West Covina extend even further, back to Eijiro Machida's generous farmland donation in the 1930s. Originally founded as a small Japanese cultural hub in 1936 spanning the acre of donated land, the ESGVJCC has since grown into a thriving cornerstone of the region's Japanese American community, home to more than 1,000 active members, 40 programs, and a committed full-time staff. After the Center's closure during World War II and the return of Japanese Americans into the community from forced internment, founders Yosh Sogioka, Kimio Hatakeyama, and Frank Konno helped to revive the ESGVJCC, officially reopening 1946.

Since then, the Center has been faithfully dedicated to fostering, preserving, and honoring Japanese culture, moving to its current and permanent location in the 1960s. This joyous and exciting milestone is the culmination of the ESGVJCC's more than seven decades of service to the Japanese American community, providing resources, recreational and educational programming, and fellowship to community members of all ages.

On behalf of California's 31st Congressional District, I extend my sincere congratulations on 75 years, and best wishes for a jubilant event, as you continue your organizational mission and long legacy of service!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

GILBERT R. CISNEROS, JR.
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
31st DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0048
(916) 319-2048
FAX (916) 319-2148

DISTRICT OFFICE
100 NORTH BARRANCA STREET, SUITE 895
WEST COVINA, CA 91791
(626) 960-4457
FAX (626) 960-1310

E-MAIL
Assemblymember.Rubio@assembly.ca.gov



COMMITTEES
CHAIR, GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
AGING AND LONG TERM CARE
BANKING AND FINANCE
COMMUNICATIONS AND CONVEYANCE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Congratulations on 75 Years of Service and Cultural Enrichment

Dear Friends,

It is an honor to extend my sincerest congratulations to the **East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center (ESGVJCC)** on the celebration of its 75th Anniversary.

For generations, ESGVJCC has served as a bridge connecting families to the rich traditions, values, and culture of the Japanese American community. Inspired by the vision and generosity of Eijiro Machida, the Center has grown from a place of cultural preservation into a vibrant community institution that brings people together through educational, artistic, recreational, and social programs.

As you commemorate this remarkable milestone, we recognize the countless volunteers, leaders, and community members whose dedication has strengthened the Center's legacy and expanded its impact throughout the San Gabriel Valley and beyond. Your commitment to fostering cultural understanding, community partnerships, and intergenerational connections continues to enrich the lives of thousands.

Congratulations on 75 years of excellence, service, and cultural leadership. May the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center continue to inspire future generations and serve as a welcoming bridge for all who seek to celebrate and experience the beauty of Japanese American culture. Best wishes for continued success in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Blanca E. Rubio". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Blanca E. Rubio
Assemblywoman, 48th District
California State Legislature





BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

866 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012 / (213) 974-1111

HILDA L. SOLIS
CHAIR AND SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT



April 29, 2026

Dear Friends,

Congratulations on the 75th Anniversary of the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center (ESGVJCC) and its enduring role as a vibrant Japanese American cultural and community organization serving the greater Los Angeles County, the Inland Empire, and Orange County.

Over the past 75 years, ESGVJCC has helped bridge Japanese American history and tradition across culture, family, and community. Your programs and partnerships with local stakeholders and government continue to strengthen relationships between families and Japanese heritage, while fostering an environment rooted in belonging, pride, and opportunity. By providing vital resources and services, you enrich the cultural fabric of Los Angeles County and elevate the history and lived experiences of Japanese American communities.

May this evening be filled with joy and connection as you come together to celebrate this remarkable milestone. On behalf of Los Angeles County, I extend my heartfelt congratulations and deep appreciation for your unwavering commitment to preserving history and building a stronger future for our communities. Let us continue working toward a brighter, more united future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hilda L. Solis".

HILDA L. SOLIS
Chair and Supervisor, First District
Board of Supervisors

2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF



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Tim Itatani

Co-Vice President

Grace Richardson

Co-Vice President

Richard Sato

Co-Vice President

Karen Ogawa

Secretary

Denise Akune

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Executive Director

Pearl Omiya

Executive Assistant

Tina Asano

Program Director

Melissa Kozono

Office Manager

Scott Kawachi

Marketing Coordinator

Mary Nagakawa

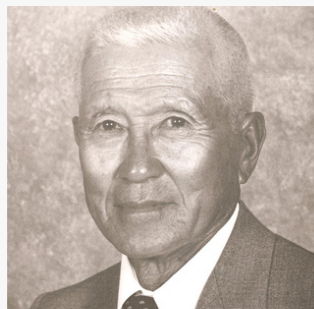
Events & Programs Coordinator

Bryce Middo

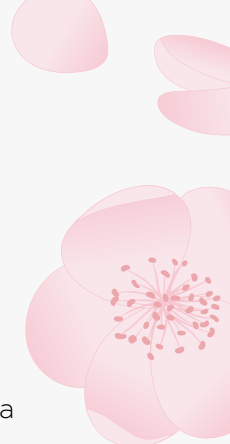
Events & Programs Coordinator

Victoria Castellanos

ESGVJCC PRESIDENTS



- 1951** Toyo Niitake
- 1952** Yosh Sogioka
- 1953** Enro Okada
- 1954** Hide Kiyon
- 1955-1956** Takahashi Yamashita
- 1957** George Taguchi
- 1958** Kim Hatakeyama
- 1959** Hal Kodota
- 1960** Harold Hoshimo
- 1961** Enro Okada
- 1962-1963** Ted Hamachi
- 1964-1966** Tom Yamashita
- 1967-1969** Shiro Takemoto
- 1970-1971** Leo Hayashi
- 1972-1973** Roy Iketani
- 1974** Henry Miyata
- 1975-1976** Shiro Takemoto
- 1977-1978** Tom Fujii
- 1979-1980** Fred Oda
- 1981-1982** Paul Imahara
- 1983** Kanji Sahara
- 1984-1986** Barbara Yanase-Shirota
- 1987-1988** Mike Tanaka
- 1989-1991** Roy Takemura
- 1992-1993** Ray Takai
- 1994-1995** Leroy Kawai
- 1996** Cal Kitaura
- 1997** Roy Takemura
- 1998-1999** Richard Nakawatase
- 2000** Roy Takemura
- 2001** Richard Nakawatase
- 2002-2004** David Teragawa
- 2005-2008** Glenn Nakatani
- 2009-2011** Aya Kamimura
- 2012** Glenn Nakatani
- 2013-2016** Phillip Komai
- 2017-2018** Gary Takamatsu
- 2019-Present** Tim Itatani



ESGVJCC QUEENS

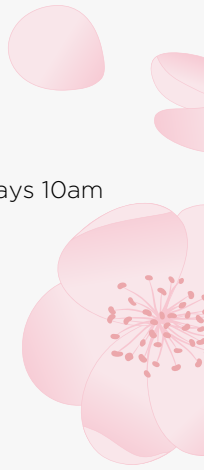


- 1982** Janet Midori Barnes (*Nisei Week Queen*)
- 1983** Elva Tamashiro (*Nisei Week 1st Princess*)
- 1984** Shelly Mizuhara
- 1985** Miyoko Chatel (*Nisei Week 1st Princess*)
- 1986** Karen Kakuta (*Nisei Week Miss Tomodachi*)
- 1987** Julie Emiko Tsuneishi
- 1988** Karen Mieko Uchizono (*Nisei Week Queen*)
- 1989** Jacqueline Michiko Borja
- 1990** Kathy Lyn Oshima
- 1991** Mustuko Suzanne Sata (*Nisei Week Queen*)
- 1992** Satomi Fukudome (*Nisei Week Miss Tomodachi*)
- 1993** Naomi Ono (*Nisei Week Queen*)
- 1994** Lisa Kinoshita-Chee (*Nisei Week Miss Tomodachi*)
- 1995** Aileen Sato (*Nisei Week Miss Tomodachi*)
- 1996** Joann Yumi Shin (*Nisei Week Queen*)
- 1997** Catherine Emiko Nakano
- 1998** Jennifer Okamura
- 1999** Alissa Hana Hiraga
- 2000** Tricia Sumiko Tanaka (*Nisei Week Queen*)
- 2001** Silvia Masami Yoshimizu (*Nisei Week 1st Princess*)
- 2002** Dawn Kiko Mizuhara
- 2003** Nicole Miyako Cherry (*Nisei Week Queen*)

- 2004** Jill Igarashi
- 2005** Doreen Ogata
- 2006** Callen Kitaura
- 2007** Mandy Kusumoto
- 2008** Kimberly Kitaura (*Nisei Week 1st Princess*)
- 2009** Jennifer Akamine
- 2010** Kelli Toshiye Teragawa (*Nisei Week 1st Princess*)
- 2011** Michi Lew
- 2012** Sarah Fujimoto
- 2013** Jamie Teragawa
- 2014** Melissa Kozono
- 2015** Tamara Teragawa
- 2016** Heather Iwata
- 2017** Kelly Sera (*Nisei Week Miss Tomodachi*)
- 2018** Lauren Miyamoto
- 2019** Emily Ishida
- 2020-2021** Kiyomi Takemoto (*Nisei Week Miss Tomodachi*)
- 2022** Amanda Akiko Hiraishi
- 2023** Sara Emiko Kubo (*Nisei Week 1st Princess*)
- 2024** Amy Ryoko Kubo (*Nisei Week Miss Tomodachi*)
- 2025** Mia Miyoko Takatsuka
- 2026** Jacqueline Fujiko Naito

PROGRAMS AT THE ESGVJCC

Cultural	Bonsai Ikebana Kimekomi Doll Class Kishin Daiko Koto Nihon Buyo Student Exchange Program	2 nd Mondays, 10:30am 1 st Fridays, 9am 2 nd Wednesdays, 9am Mondays, 6:30pm/7:30pm 2 nd & 4 th Saturdays and Sundays Saturdays, 1:30pm Annually
Educational	Gakuen Japanese Language School (K-12) Gakuen Japanese Language School (Adult Conversation Classes) Keepers of the Flame	Saturdays, 9am Tuesdays 6pm, Fridays 6pm, Saturdays 10am Archival Interview Project
Youth	Basketball Camp Basketball Clinic Camp Chibikko Winter Camp Chibikko Kokoro no Sato After School Program Kokoro no Sato Infant Care Center & Preschool Kokoro no Sato Saturday Japanese Preschool Kokoro no Sato Summer Fun Club Ogino Academy Eurythmics Class	Annually in July Biannually Annually in July Annually Monday-Friday Monday-Friday Saturdays Annually, June-August Thursdays, 3pm/4pm
Young Adult	Internship Nikkei Youth Organization Nikkei Youth Organization Scholarship Program Queens Program Sabers Youth Basketball Organization	Annually Monthly Annually Annually Daily
Seniors	ClubGenki Senior Adult Day Program DISKovery Center Mt. San Antonio College Education for Older Adults Leisure Club Senior Wellness	Monday-Friday Private Lessons Tuesdays, 12:40pm & Wednesdays, 12:50pm Wednesdays, 9:30am Tuesdays, 9:30am
Recreational	Ballroom Dance GROOV3 Pickleball Yoga	Fridays, 7pm Periodically Thursdays, 11:30am Wednesdays, 7:30pm
Martial Arts	Aikido Bushido Kenkyuukai Covina Kendo Dojo West Covina Judo Dojo Eibukan Goju Ryu Karate-do	Saturdays, 1:30pm Saturdays, 1:30pm Tuesdays & Thursdays, 7pm Tuesdays & Fridays, 7pm Wednesdays, 7pm
Organizations	Edgewood/ESGV Gardeners ESGVJCC Travel Club San Gabriel Valley JACL West Covina Buddhist Temple	Periodically Periodically Periodically Sundays, 10am



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



ESGVJCC Bonsai Club

Bonsai classes returned to the ESGVJCC in 2014 as a part of the Arts Engagement in American Communities grant from the National Endowment for the Arts that the ESGVJCC was awarded.

Bonsai is a beautiful art form that aims to blend horticultural skills with Japanese aesthetics. The Bonsai Club, originally known as the Mt. Baldly Bonsai Club, started with one-time workshops to help generate interest for our members and the community. From those workshops, a monthly class was born. Currently, Bonsai class meets in the Patio Area every 2nd Monday of the month from 10:30am to 12:30pm.

Long time Sensei, Ikuo "Ike" Matsukiyo passed away in October 2024. However, his class members have decided to carry on the legacy. Matsukiyo-sensei has taught his students to create their own Bonsai, not necessarily to practice the traditional techniques and have fun with it at the same time. Every time someone clipped-off a branch accidentally, Sensei always said "Don't worry, Daijyoubu, it will grow back!" Bonsai class continues to meet and practice Matsukiyo-Sensei's spirit of love of Bonsai.



ESGVJCC Ikebana

Life is chaotic and stressful as we all know. Ikebana, or the art of Japanese flower arranging, is a way to gain some sanity by bringing in beauty, harmony and practicing appreciation and patience. The art form is not just about the end products which are amazingly gratifying to admire, but the process of the practice is awesome. It allows for moments of pause, and a focus of wonder in marveling all that nature offers us. The budding of the tree branches in the spring. The blooming of the vibrant flowers in the summer. The colorful shades of orange, brown and gold in the fall and the snowy wonders of the dry branches or the evergreen in the winter, are all the splendid moments that an Ikebana artist seizes and enjoys.

An explorative journey, a lifetime of curiosity and a grateful heart are a few of the phrases that guide the discipline of Ikebana for our current Sensei Wendy Lai. Wendy has been taking lessons from the Ohara School of Ikebana since 2008. Prior to Ohara, she took lessons from Ikenobo at a local community college in the late 1980s. She is currently a certified instructor of the Ohara School of Ikebana and continues to take lessons from professors in Japan and other professionals in the field.

Come join Sensei Wendy as she shares with us her journey of Ikebana every first Friday of the month at the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center, 1203 W. Puente Ave. West Covina, 91790.



West Covina Kimekomi Doll Class

The West Covina Kimekomi Doll Class started in January of 1991 at the ESGVJCC with 15 students. This year marks the 35th Anniversary, and to celebrate this special occasion each student will be making FROG as a group project. The frog symbolizes good fortune, amazing achievement, and safe return (kaeru).

The KIMEKOMI DOLL originated somewhere between 1726-1744 in Kyoto. Chuji Takahashi wanted to send something unique and special to his friends. He carved out a doll from a scrap of willow tree and then dressed it with remnants of beautiful fabric. A new style of doll was born, this was the beginning of the KIMEKOME DOLL.

The term Kimekomi refers to the technique of tucking fabric into carved grooves.

The doll has a wooden body and the fabric looks laminated to the body so that the doll retains its shape. Today the doll's body is produced in a "press-wood" process using molds. The faces of the dolls are made of fine porcelain.

Kimekomi Class is held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 9am to 11:30am. The class is open to anyone who is interested, and you can join anytime. For more information regarding the class, please call the Center office.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Kishin Daiko

Kishin Daiko is a multi-ethnic, multi-generational taiko (Japanese drumming) group based in Southern California. The group is dedicated to sharing Japanese and Japanese American culture through workshops, classes, and performances throughout Southern California and beyond.

Since its establishment at the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center in June 1981, Kishin Daiko has entertained, educated, and inspired audiences with the dynamic, powerful, and heart-stopping sounds of taiko. The group's performances embody the meaning of Kishin—energy, spirit, and heart.

Performance highlights include the World Cup Soccer Celebration at Universal Studios, Super Bowl XXXII pre-game festivities, halftime performances at Clippers games, the Knott's Scary Farm Maze Reveal, the Video Music Awards, and the Special Olympics Torch Run Ceremony.

Kishin Daiko's repertoire includes traditional Japanese taiko pieces, adaptations of traditional works, and original compositions by contemporary musicians and Kishin members.

Through its uniquely engaging and diverse expression of taiko music, Kishin Daiko strives to promote harmony within the community. We invite you to join us and experience the energy, spirit, and heart of taiko.



Koto

Discover the Beauty of Okinawan Koto at ESGVJCC! Join the ESGVJCC Koto Class, led by Joy Afuso, Los Angeles Branch Head of the Ryukyu Sokyoku Koyokai Okinawan Koto School. For over 11 years, this vibrant program has shared the rich traditions of Okinawan koto music with our community. Like many of our other Japanese cultural programs, koto returned to ESGVJCC as part of the Arts Engagement in American Communities grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in 2014. After hosting koto workshops in 2014 and 2015, we reintroduced a monthly koto class. Students learn classical, folk, and dance repertoire, performing both solo and ensemble pieces with traditional instruments such as sanshin, taiko, fue, and kokyu. In 2025, members had the honor of performing in Okinawa at the National Theatre of Japan in celebration of the 80th anniversary of the Koyokai School.

Class Schedule

Intermediate: 2nd & 4th Saturdays (afternoon)

Beginner: 2nd & 4th Sundays (afternoon)

Instruments are available for rent. Beginners are welcome! For additional information and registration details, please contact the ESGVJCC office.



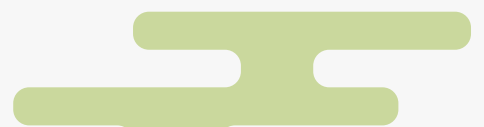
Bando Ryu Kyō no Kai

Kyo no Kai is founded by the first non-Japanese citizen to become a Kabuki actor in the theater's over four hundred year history, Nakamura Gankyo, AKA Bando Hirohichiro. He is apprenticed to National Living Treasure, Sakata Tojuro.

Kyo no Kai is founded on the belief of educating its students in the basics of the Kabuki Theater and Japanese Classical dance. However, Kabuki is an on-going theater that is shaped by the modern audience. Hence, Kyo no Kai not only retains the traditional fundamentals, but also incorporates modern techniques and choreography.

Kabuki is known for its dramas, but today, Kyo no Kai will present different genres of Japanese Classical dance that can trace the fundamentals back to Kabuki. Kyo no Kai has studios in Los Angeles and Monterey California

Bando Ryu Kyo no Kai began offering classes at the ESGVJCC in 2020 virtually during the pandemic, giving students the opportunity to embrace their culture from the safety of their homes. Since then, classes are offered every other week in-person. Students perform throughout the San Gabriel Valley and the greater Los Angeles county sharing the beauty of kabuki and Japanese classical dance with their community.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



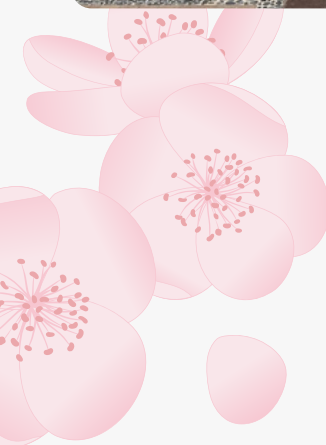
ESGVJCC Gakuen Japanese Language School

Congratulations to the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center on achieving an incredible milestone of providing 75 years of service to the community!

What has fondly been known as the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center - Gakuen (Japanese language school) actually originated in 1930 as the Baldwin Park Japanese Language School. Six years later, the school relocated several miles away and changed its name to the West Covina Japanese Language School. The school closed during World War II, but was re-opened in 1959 after the re-establishment of the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center thanks to the efforts of ESGVJCC co-founder, Kimio Hatakeyama, Reverend Nitta and Mrs. Ikeda of the Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple where it has since been serving the community. Although the name and location have undergone changes, what we do and why we do it have remained the same.

The East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center - Gakuen provides education of the Japanese language and culture to interested individuals from all cultural backgrounds. Current program offerings include a year-round Saturday-only school for youth K-12 as well as beginner and intermediate level conversation classes for ages 18 and up. The K-12 school incorporates cultural enrichment experiences such as celebrating Japanese holidays and traditions, eating cultural food, engaging in hands-on cultural activities, and participating in special cultural workshops. Conversation classes for adults are conducted virtually over a shorter period of time with a focus on developing speaking and listening skills.

Our mission is to provide a positive environment for children and adults to learn the Japanese language and culture while participating in various activities enhancing their understanding and appreciation of the Japanese language and culture. As we remain committed to our mission, we look forward to celebrating the next milestone with the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center.



Camp Chibikko

As the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center celebrates its 75th anniversary, Camp Chibikko stands out as a shining example of our enduring commitment to culture, community, and the next generation. For over a decade, this beloved program has brought generations of families together, creating a space where children can explore their heritage, form friendships and make lasting memories.

Camp Chibikko began in 2012 in partnership with ESGVJCC Gakuen, with 12 students, providing a hands-on environment where children could engage with Japanese language, arts, and traditions. Campers learn about culture not only through interactive activities—such as making their own hachimakis and uchiwas to celebrate the Obon season or participating in workshops like taiko, karate, and nihon buyo—but also through daily lunches and snacks thoughtfully prepared by staff and volunteers, offering a taste of Japanese culture in every meal.

Since 2018, the ESGVJCC has proudly operated Camp Chibikko independently, continuing to grow and evolve the program while staying true to its mission, now serving over 90 campers each year. Through this program, we have watched campers grow up and return as counselors, helping to guide the next generation and carry forward the camp's spirit of learning, friendship, and community. In 2021, the camp expanded to include a Winter Camp Chibikko, offering new opportunities for cultural learning and community connection year-round.

Camp Chibikko is more than a youth program, it is a celebration of heritage, a place where pride and belonging flourish, and a tradition that strengthens the bonds of our community. As ESGVJCC marks 75 years of impact, Camp Chibikko continues to honor the past while inspiring the future.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Ogino Academy Eurythmics Class

Congratulations to ESGVJCC on its 75th Anniversary.

The Ogino Academy Eurythmics Class is honored to be part of this meaningful journey. We began our music program for young children in 2021, introducing music through hands-on instrument play, singing in both Japanese and English, learning to read musical notes, and other enriching musical activities.

We look forward to continuing our partnership and being a part of the ESGVJCC journey for many years to come.



Kokoro no Sato Infant Center & Preschool

As the ESGVJCC celebrates its 75th anniversary, Kokoro no Sato stands as a heartfelt reflection of our commitment to nurturing the youngest members of our community.

In Japanese, Kokoro means heart and Sato means village or hometown. Kokoro no Sato is a Japanese-based child care program dedicated to providing meaningful learning opportunities that support each child's growth and development. We believe the earliest years of a child's life are the most impressionable and formative, and through guidance and individualized attention, we strive to build a strong foundation of values that fosters self-worth, confidence, and purpose.

At Kokoro no Sato, we prioritize nurturing each child's heart within a safe, comfortable, and engaging environment where they can truly thrive while also providing them with the tools to foster independence. Grounded in the belief that "it takes a village to raise a child", we wholeheartedly believe in the strong partnership between families, community, and school in helping shape a child's life. These relationships are essential in creating a supportive and loving environment for every child. Intergenerational activities with our Preschool and ClubGenki Adult Senior Day Program further enrich this experience, fostering meaningful connections, empathy, and a strong sense of community across generations.

Opened in August 2017 as an Infant Center serving 8 children, Kokoro no Sato has continued to grow alongside the needs of our community. In April 2021, a Toddler Program was introduced, followed by the addition of a Preschool Program in February 2022, allowing children to remain at Kokoro until they enter Transitional Kindergarten/Kindergarten. The program further expanded in July 2023 with the addition of another toddler classroom. Today, Kokoro no Sato is licensed for four classrooms serving up to 30 children.

As one of the newer programs at the ESGVJCC, Kokoro no Sato continues to provide a nurturing village where children and families can grow, feel supported, connected and inspired to build a strong foundation for the future.



Kokoro no Sato Saturday Japanese Preschool

The Kokoro no Sato Saturday Japanese Preschool Program began in 2016 as a Japanese immersion class where children were encouraged to explore and learn the Japanese language through hands-on, play-based activities that foster curiosity, confidence, and cultural appreciation.

Instruction is provided in both Japanese and English to support understanding, accessibility and meaningful language development for all learners. In 2018, the program evolved to place a stronger emphasis on introducing Japanese language in a more intentional and developmentally appropriate way, while still maintaining a strong connection to cultural traditions, seasonal celebrations, and engaging learning.

Kokoro no Sato remains dedicated to creating a warm, nurturing environment where young learners are supported in developing early language skills, cultural understanding, and a sense of belonging within a vibrant and caring community.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Kokoro no Sato After School Program

As the ESGVJCC celebrates its 75th anniversary, the Kokoro no Sato After School Program reflects our ongoing commitment to nurturing the next generation through culture, learning, and community.

The Kokoro no Sato After School Program, which began in August 2018, is a culturally relevant program designed for children from Transitional Kindergarten through 5th grade, offering meaningful opportunities to explore Japanese and Japanese American culture, history, language, and heritage. Rooted in the ESGVJCC's mission to foster and preserve traditions unique to the Japanese American community, the program continues this legacy by passing it on to the next generation.

Providing a safe, healthy, and engaging environment, the program supports children's growth and development through a variety of enriching activities. Students receive homework support while also participating in sports, lifetime movement, computer activities, Japanese language lessons, and cultural experiences. Daily snacks and hands-on learning opportunities further enhance the experience, creating a well-rounded and stimulating program.

Many of our Kokoro no Sato Infant Center & Preschool students continue on to the After School Program, allowing us to remain a meaningful part of each child's journey as they grow while supporting their development, deepening their connection to culture, and strengthening their sense of community over the years.

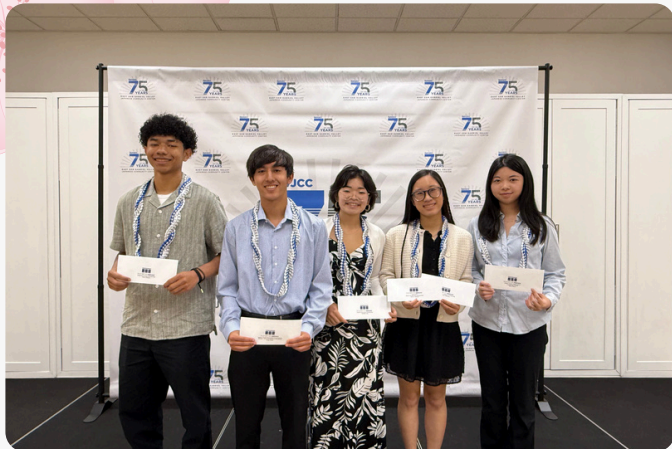
While grounded in Japanese American culture, the Kokoro no Sato After School Program warmly welcomes children of all backgrounds, fostering inclusivity, curiosity and connection. The Kokoro no Sato After School Program continues to inspire learning, build community, and create a strong foundation for future generations.

Nikkei Youth Scholarship Program

The Nikkei Youth Scholarship Program was officially established in 2022, building upon decades of scholarship opportunities that have long supported our community. The program was created to provide a streamlined and accessible pathway for high school graduates and undergraduate students to find meaningful financial support as they pursue their educational goals.

Made possible through the generosity of various ESGVJCC programs and families, the Nikkei Youth Scholarship Program now offers over 10 scholarships totaling more than \$14,000. Each award represents a shared investment in the success, growth, and leadership of our youth.

As the ESGVJCC marks 75 years of community impact, the Nikkei Youth Scholarship continues to honor this tradition of giving, empowering students to achieve their goals while carrying forward the values of culture, community, and service.



Sabers Youth Basketball Organization

The Sabers Youth Basketball Organization was established in 1970 at the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center by Don Mita and Bob Yamashita. What began with only a handful of boys and girls teams was created to give Japanese American youth the opportunity to play organized basketball at a time when access to other programs was limited.

More than fifty years later, the Sabers Organization has grown to include over 27 teams and more than 260 boys and girls of all ages. Through the program, players learn not only basketball fundamentals, but also develop lifelong skills such as teamwork, dedication, and commitment.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



ESGVJCC Queens Program

The ESGVJCC Queens Program is one of the most enduring and meaningful traditions of the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center. Its origins date back to 1968, when Dawn Shinmoto was named the Citrus Valley Optimist Club Queen, beginning a legacy carried forward by thirteen women. Among them, three—Cheryl Kawakami (1973), Elisa Akemi Cuthbert (1974), and Loris Kurashige (1977)—went on to be crowned Nisei Week Queen.

In 1982, the ESGVJCC became the official sponsor of these young women, marking the establishment of the ESGVJCC Queen title. That same year, Janet Midori Barnes became both the first ESGVJCC Queen and the 1982 Nisei Week Queen. Since then, the organization has proudly sponsored a candidate for each year's Nisei Week Japanese Festival, and remains the longest-running and most continuous single sponsor of a Queen Candidate. For over four decades, ESGVJCC Queens have represented not only the Center, but also the broader Southern California Japanese American community with pride and purpose.

As the ESGVJCC celebrates its 75th anniversary, the Queens Program stands as a reflection of the Center's deep roots and lasting impact. Closely tied to the organization's mission and community, the program has grown alongside the ESGVJCC, helping to foster leadership, cultural pride, and meaningful connections across generations.

More than a title, the Queens Program reflects generations of young women who embody the values, culture, and spirit of the Japanese American community. This tradition has been sustained by the dedication and support of the community itself—through mentorship, volunteerism, and encouragement—empowering young women to grow in confidence, honor their heritage, and carry forward a deep and lasting sense of belonging.



ESGVJCC Social Ballroom Dance Class

Jim and Hideko Ikehara started teaching ballroom dancing at the Center on September 13, 1985. Their first class consisted of 24 dancers. They added a class for beginners on May 12, 1995. They continued teaching ballroom dancing until August 2010. Several months later Sherry Novak became the ballroom dance instructor at the Center. She taught two different ballroom dances each session until her retirement. In 2013 Taya Hughes took over as ballroom instructor continuing the practice of teaching two different dances each session on Friday evenings at the Center.



ESGVJCC Yoga

Congratulations to the ESGVJCC on 75 years of serving the community and preserving Japanese American culture!

The ESGVJCC Yoga Club has been practicing together for approximately 16 years and with their current teacher, Lina, for 12 years. The yoga styles practiced include but are not limited to power yoga, vinyasa flow, and gentle yoga. Yoga Club offers members and friends of the Center high quality yoga classes at an affordable price in alignment with the Center's mission to serve the community.

The benefits of the ESGVJCC yoga classes include purposeful stretching, better sleep patterns, mindful breath work and community connection. The club meets every Wednesday at 7:30pm and is meeting virtually until further notice.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



ESGVJCC Senior Wellness Program

As the ESGVJCC celebrates its 75th anniversary, the Senior Wellness Program reflects our ongoing commitment to supporting the health and well-being of every generation of our community.

Launched in 2010 in conjunction with the weekly Leisure Club, the Senior Wellness Program was created to encourage older adults to stay physically active, mentally engaged, and socially connected. Through a variety of weekly games and activities, participants are challenged in fun and meaningful ways that promote healthy aging. From stretching and light fitness exercises to memory games and interactive activities, the program fosters both wellness and community. Healthy, affordable senior lunches are also available and prepared onsite, providing both nourishment and an opportunity for connection.

At its heart, the program is a way to give back to the seniors who have contributed so much to our community, ensuring they feel supported, valued, and connected. In 2017, the program expanded to include a second day on Tuesday mornings, allowing even more opportunities for seniors to participate and connect. Activities such as Fitness Corner, basketball toss, golf, card games, Japanese arts and crafts, and more continue to bring energy and joy to each gathering.

As the ESGVJCC marks 75 years of service, the Senior Wellness Program remains a vibrant example of how community, connection, and care can enrich lives at every stage.



ESGVJCC Leisure Club

The Leisure Club members meet every Wednesday from 9:30am to 12pm. Membership is open to persons age 55 or older. At the weekly meetings, the seniors engage in group activities such as arts and crafts, memory games, card games, physical dexterity games, and coloring. There are also learning opportunities through expert-led lectures and discussions on health and safety topics such as avoiding scams and protecting their identity, nutrition, foot care, etc. Keeping seniors physically fit is important so the program provides a physical exercise component that includes stretching, physical movement, and dancing. Each meeting consists of several games of bingo followed by a nutritious lunch prepared and served by senior volunteers. Members also have an opportunity to attend the popular trips to the Indian casino.

For more information regarding Leisure Club membership or activities, please contact Nancy Hombo at nkudoho@gmail.com.



ClubGenki Senior Adult Day Program

ClubGenki Adult Senior Day Program represents the ESGVJCC's continued dedication to supporting the health, happiness, and connection of our senior community.

"Genki", meaning energy and vitality in Japanese, reflects the heart of the program, encouraging participants to stay active, engaged, and connected. Opened in May 2023 as a partnership with Keiro, the program provides a safe, nurturing, and socially stimulating environment that promotes overall wellness and supporting physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being. Beginning in April 2025, the ESGVJCC proudly transitioned to operating the program independently, continuing its growth while staying true to its mission.

Rooted in Japanese and Japanese American culture, the program offers meaningful daily activities such as exercise, arts, crafts, taiko drumming, martial arts for balance and safety. Participants also enjoy Japanese and Japanese American meals and snacks, along with opportunities to celebrate cultural traditions through cooking, crafts, and seasonal workshops. Weekly intergenerational activities with the Kokoro no Sato Preschool further enrich the program, fostering meaningful connections between seniors and young children while promoting joy, learning, and a strong sense of community across generations.

At its core, ClubGenki is a place where community, culture, and care all come together, honoring our seniors while enriching their daily lives. ClubGenki continues to provide a vibrant and supportive space where older adults can truly thrive.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Bushido Tanren Kenyuukai

The Bushido Training Research Group (Bushido Tanren Kenyuukai) was founded in May, 2022 with the goal of putting into practice the training and research of Bushido—the Japanese spirit, which has been passed down from Japan’s classical era.

Techniques will be taken in from a variety of martial arts and those in the US will be enlightened by our findings.

To begin with, the thinking behind various schools of martial arts do not allow their teachings to be taught outside of their own schools. Throughout history, members of the practitioners’ own clans were forbidden from being shown techniques if they happened to study a different style of martial art. This has been the norm. This naturally went without saying. When using various techniques of classical martial arts during historical times, you would have been put into a disadvantageous situation when you absolutely needed to fight if the techniques were widely known.

However, in the modern era, knowing the techniques becomes meaningless when you use them to cause injuries to other people.

Even if you know martial techniques, the goal of knowing them is not to cause injuries to others. They are to play a behind the scenes role of promoting peace for the people so we can pursue happiness.

Therefore, the goal of our research group is harmonious coexistence with the practitioners of various martial arts.

Warriors who studied the 18 Arms of Wushu were said to be required to learn 18 types of weapons and techniques. They trained their bodies, they learned morals, and strove to create a peaceful and happy society.

In the Edo period, samurai primarily trained with the use of the sword. However, while samurai carried swords, they did not draw them. If a sword was drawn, it was as a last resort and a samurai risked his own life in doing so. Physical conflict was avoided as much as possible. Even so, they did not neglect their daily training. They cultivated their minds and bodies as their way of life.

Our school’s basic training has the fundamentals of martial arts: Footwork, body movement, and sword handling. In addition, we would like to take in ideas and learn from other martial arts such as Kendo, Kobudo, Iaido, Battou-do, and more too many to list.



Covina Kendo Dojo

As a means to maintain heritage, Akio Hara sensei for many years was already preserving and teaching Japanese culture in the Southern California region, building a cultural bridge for the Japanese and Japanese-American community. Along with the young brothers, Takeshi and Makoto Yamaguchi sensei, Hara sensei brought that purpose here to the San Gabriel Valley and in 1969 established Covina Kendo Dojo. They began practicing in the old social hall of the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center (ESGVJCC). Since then, countless numbers of children and adults have trained at Covina Kendo Dojo, including many that have gone on to compete at the national and international levels. One of the legacies of Hara sensei was the sense of bringing family and community together. For over 50 years, each subsequent Head Sensei to lead the Dojo has also continued his legacy. This is further embodied in Covina Kendo Dojo’s current logo: a counter-clock wise swirling “Mitsu-Domoe” motif inside a larger circle, forming a “C” shaped crescent. The Mitsu-Domoe design represents a family of 3, showing the Father, Mother, and Child revolving around each other. The “C” shaped crescent represents the first letter of the area of our namesake: Covina. Today, kendo is more than just a cultural bridge. It also serves as a gateway to anyone who is interested in Japanese and Japanese-American culture. The spirit of “building friendships through swords” is known as “Ko-Ken-Chi-Ai”, and Covina Kendo Dojo continues to spread and introduce kendo to new generations of children and adults.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Eibukan Goju Ryu Karate Do

The Eibu-Kan Karate Dojo will be celebrating its 58th year in the wake of the ESGVJCC's 75th Anniversary. As one of its oldest remaining independent organizations, it has been providing and preserving low-cost traditional Japanese/Okinawan Goju Ryu Karate instruction in West Covina and is now known throughout the US West Coast, as being premier provider since starting operations circa 1968, under Kiyonori Ikumura Sensei from Kagoshima, Japan.

Currently, the Eibu Kan Dojo is running under the instruction of its Chief Instructor, Takafumi Hamabata and Senior Instructor, Katsuhide Kinjo. Hamabata Sensei and Kinjo Sensei are both responsible for connecting the ESGVJCC through the Eibu Kan Dojo to prestigious international Karate organizations, such as the Japan Karatedo Federation Goju-kai, who is one of the leading global authorities in promoting the Goju Ryu Karate legacy and is also recognized by Japanese Ministry of Education.



West Covina Buddhist Temple

It is a great honor for us to be a part of the 75-year history of the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center. The West Covina Buddhist Temple, established in 1959, began as a Dharma School for children upon the request from Buddhist families who aspired to hand down the Buddhist teachings to their children and grandchildren. Throughout over 60 years of history of the West Covina Buddhist Temple, our members have firmly received the aspiration from the founding members. They opened the temple as a Monpo Dojo, a place for listening to the teachings, where anyone who is in this Buddhist community can actively learn and share the teachings of Jodo Shinshu with an increasingly diverse Sangha.



San Gabriel Valley Chapter of Japanese American Citizens League

The San Gabriel Valley Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) was formed in 1933 under the leadership of Shizuko Shirane and was the first president. There was no activity during World War II. The SGV JACL was reorganized in 1967 by David Ito and Marvel Miyata. David Ito was president from 1969-1970. The Scholarship Program for graduating high school seniors was started in 1985 and so far over 250 scholarships have been given ranging from \$50.00 to \$1000.00.

In 2013, Mr. Edward Moreno established the Reiko Moreno Memorial Scholarship and to date there have been 15 recipients.

In 2000, in memory of her husband, Mrs. Kusuda established the Kusuda Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship was for upper division/undergraduate or graduate students. In 2001, the first \$1000 scholarship was awarded. In 2011, the Kusuda Memorial Scholarship became part of the SGV JACL Scholarship Program. To date there have been 24 recipients. The Kusuda Memorial Scholarship Program will end in 2026. The last scholarship was awarded at the ESGVJCC Scholarship & Awards Luncheon on Sunday May 17th.

Omedetou to the
ESGVJCC on 75
years of serving
the community!

The Campbell Family
Alex, Jennifer, Presley and Kai

Congratulations

to
ESGVJCC

on an amazing
75 years
bridging culture,
family, and
community

*Carroll-Kozono
Family:*

Justin, Melissa, & Emika



ESGVJCC Ballroom
Dance Class



Class meets on Fridays
from 7pm to 9pm at the ESGVJCC
Instructor is Taya Hughes
No partner necessary!

For more information, contact Lee Ezaki at (626) 533-8359

Congratulations on 75
years of bridging culture,
family, & community!



Rich & Christine Sato

Congratulations on your 75th!



From the Kamimuras:
Aki, Aya, Maki, Trevor, Nicholas, James, AJ, Vanessa and Adrian



Happy 75th
Anniversary to
the ESGVJCC!

FROM THE KOCHI & RICHARDSON FAMILY



Congratulations
to the ESGVJCC
on your 75th
Anniversary!

Thank you for providing a safe
space for our family and all of the
ESGVJCC families to grow and
learn about the Japanese culture.

Omiya-Sario Family

Best wishes on your
75th Anniversary!



David and Helen Yamahata



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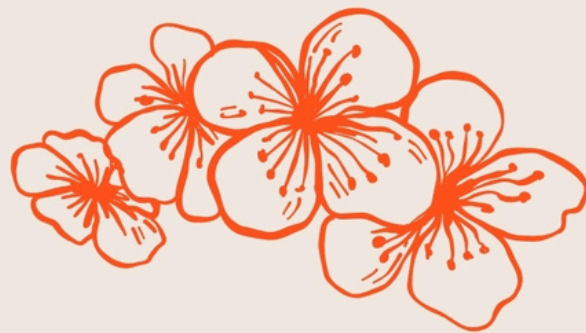
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Congratulations
on your
75th
Anniversary!



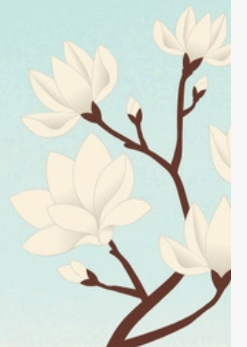
Nakatani/Ichinaga
Families

Jean, Glenn, Jamie,
Ryan and Emmet



Congratulations
ESGVJCC on
75 wonderful
years!

Shirota, Yanase,
& Arnheim Families





Congratulations
on your
75th Anniversary!



The Sugimoto
Family Foundation
George, Ruri, Lisa, & Nathan



Congratulations on 75 years of service!
Glen & Rosemary Waki

Congratulations

ESGVJCC on **75** *Years!*



For 75 years, you have brought people together,
strengthened traditions, and built lasting connections.
Your dedication to preserving culture, building community,
and enriching lives has touched generations.



We are proud to celebrate this incredible milestone
with you and honored to be part of the same community.

Thank you for all that you do!



japanese american
COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

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**THANK YOU FOR CELEBRATING
75 YEARS WITH US!**



**EAST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY
JAPANESE COMMUNITY CENTER**

MISSION STATEMENT

The East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center (ESGVJCC) 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.

STAY CONNECTED WITH US @ESGVJCC

