



# VJCC Presents Its 2024 Scholarships

by Elaine Koyama

The VJCC was pleased to present a record 16 scholarship awards to its 2024 group of high school graduates at the annual Summer *Natsu Matsuri* Festival on June 22. These amazing students were being honored for achieving stellar academic records, involving themselves in community service both at VJCC and the extended community, and participating in extracurricular activities. The awards were presented by **Bob Onishi**, VJCC President.

The recipients, in alphabetical order, are:

**Mason Beard**, a graduate of Da Vinci Science High School, will be attending Cal-Poly SLO. His parents are **Kimberley and Matthew Beard**.

**Alexandra Brookes**, a graduate of New Roads School, plans to attend UCLA. She is the daughter of **Jolyn Matsumuro and Sean Brookes**.

**Kanon Saito (Fahimian)** is a graduate of Culver City High School and plans to attend UC San Diego. She is the daughter of **Mutsumi Saito**.

**Sod-Erdene Gadal**, a graduate of Venice High School, will be attending UC Berkeley. His parents are **Eric Gadal and Enkhtuya Sonompoel**.



Back row, left to right: Alexandra Brookes, Jack Yoshioka, Luke Miura, Diego Heard, Mason Beard and Kevin Yamashita. Front row, left to right: Haley Kaneshiro, Ryann Young, Jennifer Yamashita, Rentaro Suzuki, Brandon Hirano, Kanon Saito, Sofia Pezo and Makena Parker. Missing in the photograph are Sod-Erdene Gadal and Hina Kurono.

**Diego Heard**, a graduate of Saint Monica Preparatory, plans to attend Cal State Fullerton. His parents **Ana and Mike Heard**.

**Brandon Hirano** is a graduate of Venice High School and plans to attend UC San Diego. His parents are **Michael and Cathy Hirano**.

**Haley Kaneshiro** is a graduate of (Continued on page 3)

## 2024 Miss Western L.A. Introduced

by Kazie Kame

**Morgan Mayuko Gee**, 2024 Miss Western L.A., was introduced as this year's queen of the Venice Japanese Community Center and Venice-West Los Angeles JACL during the VJCC's Annual Summer Natsu Matsuri Festival. She is the daughter of **Iris and Ronald Gee** and will be representing Venice and WLA as their queen candidate at this year's Nisei Week Festival.

She is a 2021 graduate from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, majoring in Recreation Parks & Tourism Administration and minoring in Spanish and Integrated Marketing Communications. Currently, Morgan is employed at Omni Hotels (Continued on page 3)



## Board Visions

Greetings, VJCC Members! My name is **Ted Nishimura** and I am a rookie VJCC Board member, along with **Kevin Quock**. Kevin grew up in the community (his dad is **Hank Quock**) and knows the traditions of the Center as well as many of its members.



Kevin serves a valuable purpose on the Board as its Attorney, succeeding **Rich Yang**, long-time Board member and Attorney, who retired after many years of invaluable service. I understand why the Board wanted Kevin to join.

I did NOT grow up in the community like many of you. My wife **Eva** grew up at the Buddhist Temple and the VJCC. I am still trying to learn the traditions of our community and its many members, who ALL seem to know one another. I am an Optometrist, so my ability to help people see better does not help the VJCC continue ITS IMPORTANT ROLE AS A CENTER OF ACTIVITIES in the local community. I could think of many more deserving people than I to be a VJCC Board member.

My son **Trent** played VYC Basketball here. It was through his participation as a Troop 764 Scout that led me to volunteer as its Parents Club President & Unit Commissioner and understand the importance of the VJCC to the Troop, our kids and their families. The Troop has its meetings and many of its activities and events at the Center. In turn, the VJCC is our sponsor. By representing the Troop at the VJCC monthly Executive Council meetings, I came to learn there are MANY VOLUNTEERS representing the interests of their particular club/organization at the Center. **Bob Onishi** and others kept asking me to join the Board. I finally decided I should VOLUNTEER as a Board member once I realized I was going to spend the rest of my life in this wonderful community. So here I am to spread the word of this GREAT place!

In June, we had our first two-day Summer Natsu Matsuri Festival since before COVID. Through the VOLUNTEER leadership and efforts of our membership, it was a GREAT SUCCESS! It was gratifying to see the VJCC community come together, see old friends and make new ones, *(Continued on page 3)*



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The VJCC gratefully acknowledges the following donations of time, material, and money:

Craig Cummings. . . . . Monetary Donation  
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### Scholarship: June/July 2024

John & Vanessa Furuta . . . . . \$100

### Summer Festival: June/July 2024

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Ron & Iris Gee, Morgan Gee . . . . . \$300

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Message from the Board *(Continued from page 2)*

play games and eat great food, and have a good time!

Upcoming events include: 1) our FIRST Bingo Nite since pre-COVID on Saturday, August 17; 2) Clean-Up on Sunday, September 8; 3) the Arts & Crafts Fair on Saturday, September 28; and 4) the Golf Tournament at Candlewood Country Club on Monday, September 30. Check out our website @vjcc.com for detailed information on how to participate. Our VOLUNTEERS (hint, hint) will make sure you have a GREAT time!

Ted Nishimura

## VJCC 2024 Scholarships *(Continued from front page)*

L.A.C.E.S and plans to attend UCLA. Her parents are **Lindon and Joi Kaneshiro**.

**Hina Kurono** is a graduate of Torrance High School and plans to attend UC Davis. Her parents are **Natsu and Yuji Kurono**.

**Luke Miura** is a graduate of Culver City High School and plans to attend W.L.A. College. His parents are **Ramsey and Allison Miura**.

**Makena Parker** is a graduate of Santa Monica High School and plans to attend USC. She is the daughter of **Wen-Chia and Andrew Parker**.

**Sofia Pezo**, a graduate of Culver City High School, will be attending the University of Chicago. Her parents are **Ari Martinez** and **Omar Pezo**.

**Rentaro Suzuki** is a graduate of Culver City High School and plans to attend Santa Monica College. He is the son of **Mayumi and Masuo Suzuki**.

**Kevin Yamashita** is a graduate of Venice High School and will be attending UC Berkeley. His parents are **Mark and Celeste Yamashita**.

**Jennifer Yamashita** is a graduate of Venice High School and will be attending UCLA. Her parents are **Victoria and Roger Yamashita**.

**Jack Yoshioka** is a graduate of Culver City High School and plans to attend Arizona State College. He is the son of **Miles and Ayako Yoshioka**.

**Ryann Young** is a graduate of Wildwood High School and will be attending UC Santa Barbara. She is the daughter of **Wendy and Patrick Young**.

The Scholarship Committee members are: **Sharon Aratani, Glenn Hiraoka, Kazie Kame, Elaine Koyama, Frank Koyama, Sandy Maeshiro** and **Nancy Yamazaki**.

We congratulate our scholars and send them off to college with our best wishes as they continue to explore their futures.

Applications for 2025 will be available on the VJCC Website in December and must be submitted digitally. 🗳️

## Summer Festival: June/July 2024 (continued)

Georgia Gonzales . . . . .	Monetary Donation
Anna Hamada . . . . .	Monetary Donation
Terry & Deborah Hide . . . . .	Monetary Donation
Glenn & Donna Hiraoka . . . . .	Monetary Donation
Robert & Lucy Ito . . . . .	\$150
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Kubota Mortuary . . . . .	\$200
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Milnes & Noriko Kurashige . . . . .	Monetary Donation
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VJCC Adult Japanese Language . . . . .	\$100
Yukiko Yamamoto . . . . .	Monetary Donation
Eleanor Yuyama . . . . .	Monetary Donation

## Legacy Tree: June/July 2024

The VJCC gratefully acknowledges donations and pledges towards the Legacy Tree:  
Teri Kataoka, Emily & Justin Adams . . . . . \$4000

## SAVE THESE DATES

### Bingo Night

Saturday, August 17, 4:30 PM Bento Sales  
5:00 PM First Game

### Annual Clean-up

Sunday, September 8, 8:00 AM

### The Shokudo's Block Party Premiere

Sunday, September 22

### Arts & Crafts Fair

Saturday, September 28

### Golf Tournament

Monday, September 30

Please check VJCC.com for the latest updates.

# Photos from Natsu Matsuri 2024



**2024 Miss Western L.A.** (Continued from front page) & Resorts as the Travel Industry Sales Manager. Her hobbies include basketball, skiing, surfing, cooking and travel.



From left to right: Anita Komatsu (Gardena Evening Optimist Club), Carina Sakimura (Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute), Caitlyn Sasaki (Orange County Nikkei Coordinating Council), Morgan Gee (Venice Japanese Community Center & Venice West Los Angeles Japanese American Citizen's League, Miss Western Los Angeles 2024), Aiko Dzikowski (Miss Western Los Angeles 2023, 2023 Nisei Week Princesses), Seia Watanabe (Japanese Restaurants Association of America), Amy Kubo (East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center)

Gee was introduced by **Aiko Matsumura Dzikowski**, 2023 Miss Western L.A. and Nisei Week Princess, and congratulated by VJCC President **Bob Onishi**. She was joined on the stage with five other Nisei Week queen candidates: **Anita Komatsu** (Gardena Evening Optimist Club), **Amy Kubo** (East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center), **Carina Sakimura** (Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute), **Caitlyn Sasaki** (Orange County Nikkei Coordination Council) and **Seia Watanabe** (Japanese Restaurant Assn. of America).

After the presentation, all the young women participated in the Summer Festival's ondo. 🎶





## Board Vision by Ted Nishimura – August 2024

VJCC メンバーの皆さん、こんにちは！ 私はこの度、クオックケビンさんと共に VJCC の理事会の新しいメンバーを務めることになりましたニシムラテッドと申します。ケビンさんはこのコミュニティで育ち(父親はクオックハンクさんなので)、センターの伝統はもちろん、多くのメンバーの方ともなじみがあります。理事会のメンバーで弁護士であった、ヤングリッチさんが、長年の奉仕活動を経て、引退されました。その後任として、ケビンは弁護士として理事会で貴重な役割を果たしています。私は、理事会がケビンさんの参加を望んだ理由を理解しています。私は、皆さんのようにこのコミュニティで育ったわけではありません。妻のエバは仏教寺院と VJCC に属しながら育ちました。

私はまだ、このコミュニティの伝統や活動を学ぼうとしているところです。

私は検眼医なのですが、人々の視力を向上させる私の能力は、VJCC の重要な役割の継続には役に立ちません。私より VJCC 理事会のメンバーに経験上ふさわしい人はたくさんいると思ってしまう時もあります。

息子のトレントはここで VYC に属してバスケットボールをしていました。彼がボーイスカウト764 団に入団したことがきっかけで、父母クラブ会長とユニット委員をボランティアで務めるようになり VJCC の重要性とその家族にとっての VJCC の重要性を理解するようになりました。ボーイスカウトは、集会や多くの活動や行事をセンターで行っています。

VJCC は私たちのスポンサーでもあります。

ボーイスカウトを代表して VJCC の月例理事会に出席することで、私は VJCC にはクラブや組織を代表する多くのボランティアがいることを知りました。

オオニシボブさんや何人かの人たちが、長い間、私に理事会に参加するよう勧めてくれました。私は、これからの人生をこの素晴らしいコミュニティで過ごすことになることになると実感し、最終的にボランティアの延長として理事になることに決めました。そう、この素晴らしい場所を広めるために、私はここにいるのです！

6 月、私たちはコロナ禍以来、2 日間にわたる夏祭りを開催しました。会員の皆さん一人一人の努力と協力により、夏祭りは大成功を収めました。VJCC のコミュニティが一つになり、旧友と再会し、新しい友人を作り、ゲームをし、美味しい料理を食べ楽しい時間を過ごすことができました！

今後のイベントは以下の通りです。

1. 8 月 17 日(土)ビンゴナイト
  2. 9 月 8 日(日)一斉清掃
  3. 9 月 28 日(土)アート&クラフトフェア。
  4. 9 月 30 日(月)キャンドルウッド・カントリークラブでゴルフ大会開催。
- 参加方法の詳細はウェブサイト [vjcc.com](http://vjcc.com) をご覧ください。

ボランティアの人たちが、皆さんが楽しい時間を過ごせるようお手伝いします！

ニシムラテッド

# VJCC BINGO NIGHT IS BACK!

AUGUST 17, 2024  
SATURDAY

\*1st Game Begins @ 5:00 pm, 20 Games To Be Played\*

Bingo Packet Includes:



- 1 Book of 20 Games (#1-#20), 3 Cards per Game
- 1 Raffle ticket for mini prizes
- 1 Ink Dauber

## LIMITED SEATING

- Pre-sale online or at VJCC office (by August 14, 2024) - \$30
- On day of event - \$40
- Bingo Packets will be distributed at the event.
- After purchase of Bingo Packet, additional game books are available to buy at the event.
- Be sure to arrive on-time!

**The VJCC Kendo Club will be selling chicken teriyaki bentos for \$10.00  
starting at 4:30 pm**

**Desserts and Refreshments will also be available for sale.**

To purchase online, scan here:



Or click here:

[www.vjcc.com](http://www.vjcc.com)

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# VJCC ANNUAL CLEAN-UP DAY

## Sunday, September 8, starting @ 8AM

The Community Center belongs to its members and organizations.

Please come out to meet, and work together with members from other clubs to clean and maintain our Center.

All clubs and organizations are responsible for sending representatives to this event.

There will be refreshments and drinks in appreciation for your labor.



Saturday, September 21, 2024  
Japanese American National Museum  
Little Tokyo

Join us for live entertainment, access to JANM exhibitions, food, and more!

### Registration

Register for free by scanning the QR code or visiting [keiro.org/knh](https://keiro.org/knh).  
Registration is first-come, first-served and closes when full or by **Friday, August 30**.



詳細は: [keiro.org/jp-knh](https://keiro.org/jp-knh)

Questions? Contact [events@keiro.org](mailto:events@keiro.org) or 213.873.5700.



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COMPASS

# MARINA BONSAI CLUB

VJCC SUMMER FESTIVAL

By Lloyd Garver

As always, the Marina Bonsai Club is proud to have participated in this year's VJCC's Natsu Matsuri. Every year, we encourage each member of the club to put a tree in our bonsai show, and this year we had great participation.



This was the first festival since our beloved sensei Frank Goya passed away earlier this year. But he was certainly on our minds and in our hearts, and we honored his memory by displaying photos and some bonsai trees that he created.

Everyone in the club worked hard to make the event a success, especially those who volunteered their muscles and minds whenever needed. The entire effort was spearheaded and run by the Shinya Miyakoshi. He went to the meetings, he made out the schedules, helped set everything up, helped put everything back, and still managed to stay awake all day Saturday and Sunday. I almost forgot. He also took the photos.



Regardless if you are a longtime member or brand-new, it is always a thrill to have a tree that you worked on displayed in the same collection with a tree that was made by a true Bonsai Master, Shig Miya.

This year, Sensei Shig Miya put his magnificent Bald Cypress on display, and all our trees kept his company.

As he always does, Shig checked out all the bonsai of his students, and was happy to see old and new friends who stopped by our exhibit.



Marianne Yamaguchi donated some junipers to the show from the Yamaguchi Nursery on Sawtelle. Marina members Robert King and John Monos did some amazing demos, turning those pre-bonsais into actual bonsai trees. Here is John working on his tree.



And below on the right, is Gordon Anderson giving Robert a hand.

But Gordon did much more than help. He was also the MC, explaining step-by-step to the audience what Robert and John were doing. As always, Gordon was great at this. He was so good that immediately after the demos,



some people from the audience signed up to join the club!



When Robert and John were finished with their demos, the bonsai trees that they made were raffled off. Here's Lisa Duff with those magic tickets.

In case you're wondering how John and Robert felt about parting with such great living art, it wasn't a big problem for Robert. His sister Sharon won his in the raffle.

This raised an eyebrow or two, but the raffle officials determined that nothing sneaky had happened. It was just one of those once in a million coincidences. Okay, once in two million.

Please drop by our exhibit next year.



# SENIOR NUTRITION

August 2024



**Come join us not only for nutritious meals, but also for fun activities that will enhance your overall well-being in a welcoming, kind environment.**

Our VJCC-sponsored programs continue to be popular with our seniors. Our volunteers' mission is to make our seniors get up, get dressed, and get going...to look forward to spending time with old friends, making new ones in a place that is welcoming and fun, and to encourage them to participate in other VJCC activities, classes, and clubs (Senior Wellness Programs, The Pioneer Project, Pickle Ball, Ikebana, Bonsai, and many more).

- ◆ Celebrating Monthly Birthdays (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday)\*
- ◆ The Puzzle Center (1000+ piece puzzles)
- ◆ The Garden Market

- ◆ Monthly Bento Program (last Friday)\*
- ◆ Ever-popular weekly Bingo\*
- ◆ Annual Holiday Party\*

**\*Note: You must be a VJCC member in order to participate in these programs.**

**Program highlight – The Puzzle Center** – The Puzzle Center was developed about a year ago as part of our mission to enhance the lives of our seniors – healthy bodies, and healthy minds, as well as the overall well-being of an important segment of our community. It is run by our Monday volunteers Carol Y., Yoshiko N., and Linda T. Since then they have completed several beautiful puzzles of 1000 pieces. Come by and place a piece or two while waiting for meals or for Bingo to begin.



➤ Come in to sign up with Tina Grammatico, WLCAC Meal Service Coordinator of the Senior Nutrition Program and to pick up a menu (monthly menus are also posted on the VJCC website). Tina is an employee of the WLCAC and with the help of the VJCC volunteers, stands ready to serve nutritious meals Monday through Friday. **Note: There is no fee to participate in the Senior Nutrition Program.**



➤ **Welcome back Elinor Suzuki and Tsuyako Miyashiro!** For over 30 years, Elinor and Tsuyako along with Peggy Sugimoto and Kay Shimizu (who ran the program) were the core group of women who worked tirelessly not only serving meals to the seniors but developed several of the programs that are still on-going today (Bingo, Cake Day), recruited volunteers, and did several fundraisers each year to help with expenses for our annual Holiday Party and Volunteer

Appreciation luncheon. These days we are just happy to have them back in our midst playing Bingo, picking up their bentos, and enjoying time spent with friends. We honor them and thank them for their service.



## Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity?

### VJCC is looking for: **Senior Nutrition Manager/Liaison to the Board of Directors (Volunteer)**

This position serves as a liaison between the Senior Nutrition Program (WLCAC meal service program which provides meals to seniors at the VJCC site) and the VJCC Board of Directors. Works with the Meal Service Coordinator (and the WLCAC) to ensure the needs/requirements of the VJCC, the volunteers, and the meal service program are being met.

Oversees those programs sponsored by the VJCC (Bingo Fridays, monthly birthday celebrations, monthly Bento Program, Home Garden Market, The Puzzle Center, Annual Holiday Party, and the Volunteer Appreciation luncheon). (Note: Volunteers administer/run most of these programs).



If you are a current VJCC member, possess good communication/administrative skills, and like volunteering with people of all ages in a fun, caring, and satisfying environment, this position is for you!

Please contact the VJCC office (310) 822-8885 or office@vjcc.com) for a detailed list of responsibilities.



## Answer Keiro's Memory Survey!

Keiro. 

Keiro announced its intent to develop board and care homes to meet the needs of older adults affected by memory loss. We invite you to participate in our survey.

Please answer the survey if you are...

- Part of the Japanese American and Japanese community AND
- Residing or have a close loved one in LA, Orange, or Ventura Counties

### How to Participate:

- 1 To get immediate access to the online survey, please visit website at [keiro.org/survey](https://keiro.org/survey).
- 2 To request a paper survey, please contact Keiro at 213.873.5700 or [survey@keiro.org](mailto:survey@keiro.org) before September 1, 2024.

*Online surveys must be completed and mailed surveys must be postmarked by September 30, 2024.*

Scan the QR code or visit [keiro.org/survey](https://keiro.org/survey).  
For questions, email [survey@keiro.org](mailto:survey@keiro.org).





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# VENICE KARATE CLUB

August 2024

We hope everyone and their families are doing well and are enjoying the sunny LA weather. Summer is at its peak, and while some are enjoying the time by traveling, the Club is practicing and beating the heat with louder Ki-Ais. The Summer Natsu Matsuri Festival was held at the VJCC on June 22 and 23, and our club brought back their community favorite Chili Rice and Chili Dogs in the booth. Many new and old faces stopped by, letting us have a fun reunion with our families and community "family". The club also had demonstrations on the community center stage both days, showcasing each students' skills and techniques that they diligently practice. For those that came by we thank you for the support, and to those that missed it please stop by the Dojo to check us out until the next Natsu Matsuri!

---

## What Makes the Natsu Matsuri so worth it?

By Tom Suzuki

Every June outside of COVID the VJCC hosts the Natsu Matsuri. It brings together the community for an annual "reunion" while showcasing what makes the community center so great in its facility functions and the various clubs (Karate, Pickleball, Scouts, Photo Club) and talented members in demonstrations and scholarship recognitions. Numerous booths also host their own booths in the Matsuri to reach out to the visiting community, have fun with the community in a different way than their normal activities, and at times learn new skills like serving Chili Bowls.

But what makes the Matsuri worth it year in and year out for Clubs and its members? Outside of seeing familiar faces, the Matsuri booths and demonstrations allow us to fundraise and market our club to potential new members. Several of the students and instructors in our club compete, take certifications, and attend seminars, and the Club utilizes the raised funds as scholarships for them to learn, be inspired, and help the club grow. The new members that join from the Matsuri are often families, helping our club reach the next generation and become not just a club, but a community.

**We hope to be a part of the Natsu Matsuri for many many more years to come!**

コロナ禍を除いては、毎年6月、VJCCでは「夏祭り」を開催しています。年に一度の「同窓会」となるこの催しでは、空手や、ピククルボールや、スカウトや、写真クラブのような様々なクラブが一度に集まって、会員の皆さんの日ごろの練習の成果をステージで披露する発表会や展示会、大学に進学する人への奨学金授与など、VJCCの素晴らしさが紹介されます。また、多くのブースが祭りで独自のお店を開き、訪れる地域社会に働きかけたり、クラブとして普段の活動とは違った形で触れ合ったり、時にはチリボウルのサービスなど新しいスキルを学んだりします。しかし、クラブとそのメンバーにとって、祭りを毎年開催するとはどんな価値をもたらすのでしょうか？おなじみの顔ぶれに会えるだけでなく、祭りのブースはクラブのファンドレージングや新しい会員や地域へのクラブの紹介の場でもあります。クラブの生徒やインストラクターの何人かは大会に出場したり、検査官などの資格を取ったり、セミナーに参加しています。クラブでは集まった資金を奨学金として活用し、彼らが学び、刺激を受け、クラブの成長に貢献しています。祭りをきっかけに入会する新会員は家族連れであることが多く、クラブが次世代を育成し、単なるクラブではなくコミュニティとなる一助となっています。私たちは、これからもずっとずっと「夏祭り」の一員であり続けたいと願っています！

---

The Venice Karate Club meets every Monday and Thursday from 7:00-9:15pm.

Whether you are continuing your training or are interested in starting something new, our Club will always welcome you.

If interested, please contact the Venice Japanese Community Center office for details.

---

空手クラブでは、毎週月曜日と木曜日午後7時から9時15分、空手の稽古をしています。何か運動を始めたいと思っている方は、是非一度見学にいらしてください。

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# 2024 VJCC GOLF TOURNAMENT

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**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

MONDAY

**Handicapped Four Person Team Scramble Format**

REGISTRATION: 7:00 AM - 8:30 AM

SHOTGUN START: 9:00 AM

AWARDS & BUFFET LUNCH: 2:00 PM

**COST: \$180 PER PERSON INCLUDES**

- Green Fee & 1/2 Cart
- Buffet Lunch
- Gift Bag
- Side Games
- Range Balls
- 1 Raffle Ticket

**REGISTER NOW AT:**



**OR AT: [VJCC.COM](http://VJCC.COM)**

**Limited Spaces Available**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:**  
**SEPTEMBER 20, 2024**

Need More Info? Please email or call:

**[Golf@VJCC.com](mailto:Golf@VJCC.com)**  
**(310) 822-8885**

**All proceeds will go to the VJCC Building Fund.**

Dress Code: Collared shirts, business casual attire/golf attire acceptable. Shirts must be tucked in. NO cargo pants/shorts, denim or blue jean apparel, spandex apparel or athletic/gym apparel. NO hats in the dining room. NO metal spikes.

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- Special Recognition at Awards Banquet

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- Special Recognition at Awards Banquet

## **BRONZE: \$400**

- Entry for 1 Golfer
- 1 Tee Sponsorship on Golf Course
- Special Recognition at Awards Banquet

## **TEE SPONSORSHIP: \$100**

- 1 Tee Sponsorship on Golf Course



The Shokudo 食堂

# Block Party Premiere at the VJCC!



Sunday, September 22nd, 2024  
Doors open at 2 pm  
For VJCC members and guests

Tickets starting  
at \$30

A fundraising event to benefit The Shokudo  
and the VJCC.



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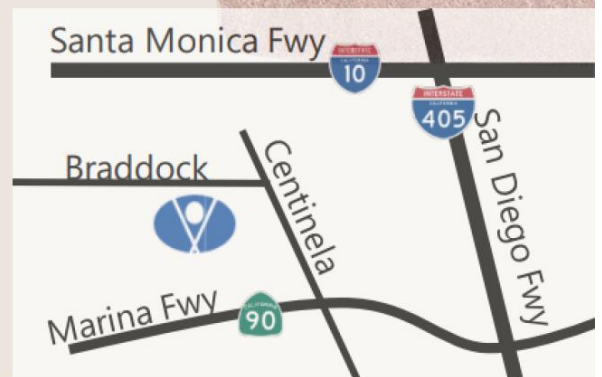
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**All proceeds benefit the VJCC**



**VENICE JAPANESE COMMUNITY CENTER**

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# Venice Pioneer Project *2024 Domo Arigato!* *Thank you so much!*

The PIONEER PROJECT would like to thank all the people who supported and donated to the General Store and donated plants at this year's Community Center Festival, as well as the generous monetary donations.

The Project is also very grateful for all the hard working volunteers who again worked endless hours at our store and booth.

## Volunteers

John Amis	Carolyn Komoto	Kenji Ogawa	Kim Tachiki-Chin
Morgan Amis	Gail Lei	Virginia Okawauchi	Linda Takahashi
Darleen Fujita	Tony Lei	Sharon Okimoto	Gordon Tani
Sylvia Hohri	Diane Matsuno	Fran Saito Oshima	Joan Tani
Debi Horibe-Robbins	Jane Matsuzaki	Jun Oyama	Kazuko Togawa
Tom Ikemoto	Paige Morikawa	Cris Pineda	Carol Velkes
Elizabeth Inouye	Phyllis Murakawa	Evelyn Pineda	Harriet Woo
Eric Inouye	John Nawa	Bryce Robbins	Beverly Yahata
Pauline Itow	Judy Nawa	Nadine (Dinky) Shintaku	Sally Yamashita
Dianne Kazahaya	Kate Nishimoto	Norman Tachiki	Carol Yokoyama
Victor Kobayashi	Alice Ogawa	Yoshie Tachiki	

## Monetary Donors

Natsuko Akiyama	<b>Tom &amp; Masako Ishioka</b>	<b>Ayako Masada</b>	Misao Shibasaki
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			Clarence Yim
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## General Store & Plants Donors

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Tom Ikemoto	Judy Matsumoto	Fran Saito	Clarence Yim
Elizabeth Inouye	Diane Matsuno	Kathi Sakanoi	Carol Yokoyama
	Paige Morikawa	Randy & Barbara Sato	Diane Yoshikawa
	Phyllis Murakawa	Grace Shigekawa	



# Senior Wellness Program



## AUGUST 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5 10-11am Tai Chi (MPR)	6 10-11am AE class (MPR) 10-12pm Chinese Mahjong (L)	7	8	9	10
11	12 10-11am Tai Chi (MPR)	13 10-11am AE class (MPR) 10-12pm Chinese Mahjong (L)	14	15 10-11am AE class (MPR) Last Day!	16	17
18	19 10-11am Tai Chi (MPR)	20 10-12pm Chinese Mahjong (MPR)	21	22	23	24
25	26 10-11am Tai Chi (MPR)	27 10-12pm Chinese Mahjong (MPR)	28	29 10am Nutrition Bingo (CL)	30	31 Location: MPR= Multipurpose Room CL = Classroom L = Lounge



### Nutrition Bingo

Learn while playing a game?! It's true. Learn some interesting nutrition facts and how to eat healthier while playing an old favorite, Nutrition Bingo!



**Venice Japanese Community Center**

**Date: August 29th at 10am**

**Location: 12448 Braddock Drive**

**Los Angeles, CA 90066**

**Please RSVP to**

**310. 822.8885 or email to [office@vjcc.com](mailto:office@vjcc.com)**

### Upcoming Activities/Events



#### Shodo (Japanese Calligraphy)'s Demonstration

with Hands On Activity with Fusako Ogasawara and Shodo students.

Tuesday, September 17th 10-11:15am

Please RSVP to 310.822.8885

#### Keiro No Hi Festival 2024

Saturday, September 21st 10-3pm

Japanese American National Museum

(free for 60 years and older). To register visit

[Keiro.org/knh](http://Keiro.org/knh)



All classes and activities are FREE to all VJCC members 60 years and older. Our number one priority is the safety of our participants. All classes and activities may still follow strict CDC protocols. e.g., face covering. Participants must be fully vaccinated and had taken first booster shot. Scheduled events can change without notice. Any questions or to RSVP please contact Gayle Hiramí @ [gayle\\_hiramí@yahoo.com](mailto:gayle_hiramí@yahoo.com). or call the VJCC office at 310.822.8885.

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# VENICE JAPANESE COMMUNITY CENTER

## 2024 ONGOING PROGRAMS & CLASSES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
▼ 12:30 Taiko 3:30 Virtual Sunday Yoga 5:30 Volleyball Adult 8:00 Basketball Adult	9:00 Pickleball 10:00 Tai Chi (60+) (Senior Wellness Program) 10:30 Sr. Nutrition ▼ 1:00 Craft Workshop 4:30 Basketball VYC 6:00 Karate (Beginner) 6:30 Aikido 7:00 Del Rey H/O (1 <sup>st</sup> Mon,Zoom) 7:00 Karate	09:00 Adult Zumba 10:30 Sr. Nutrition 10:00 Sr. Wellness ▼ 4:00 Basketball VYC 7:00 Taiko 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Judo	9:00 Pickleball 10:00 Roeikai-Shigin 10:30 Sr. Nutrition ▼ 4:30 Basketball VYC 7:30 JACL (1 <sup>st</sup> Wed) 7:00 Kendo	10:30 Sr. Nutrition ▼ 12:30 Ballroom Dance * 4:00 Basketball VYC 6:00 Karate (Beginner) 6:00 Aikido 6:30 Hula 7:00 Ikebana 5:30 Japanese as Sec. Lang. (Before Beginner, Beginner) 7:00 Karate	9:30 Sumi-e 10:30 Sr. Nutrition ▼ 4:00 Basketball VYC 7:00 Japanese as Second Language (Intermediate) 7:00 Judo 7:30 Kendo	7:15 Aikido 9:00 Japanese Language (Children's) 9:30 Japanese Dance* 9:30 Basketball VYC ▼ 1:00 Koto* 2:00 Bunka Shodo 2:00 Iaido
Same as Week 1	Same as Week 1 10:00 Watercolor ▼	Same as Week 1	Same as Week 1 ▼ 7:30 VYC Mtg (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed)	Same as Week 1	Same as Week 1 ▼ 7:00 Bonsai (2 <sup>nd</sup> Fri)	Same as Week 1 3:00 Iaido ▼
Same as Week 1	Same as Week 1	Same as Week 1 ▼ 7:00 Boy Scout Parents	Same as Week 1 ▼ 7:00 CBO (3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed) 7:30 VJCC Exec Council	Same as Week 1 ▼ 5:30 Japanese as Sec. Lang. (Before Beginner, Beginner)	Same as Week 1 ▼ 7:00 Japanese as Second Language (Intermediate)	Same as Week 1
Same as Week 1	Same as Week 1 10:00 Watercolor	Same as Week 1 ▼ 7:00 Photo Club (4 <sup>th</sup> Tues) 7:00 Bonsai (4 <sup>th</sup> Tues)	Same as Week 1 ▼ 7:00 RAP (4 <sup>th</sup> Wed)	Same as Week 1	Same as Week 1	Same as Week 1 3:00 Iaido ▼

Revised 5/8/2024

\* class has not yet resumed

## 2024 REPRESENTATIVES

### Arts & Crafts

Craft Workshop..... Ruby Kita  
 Photo Club..... June Inai  
 Watercolor..... Ko Yoshida

### BSA Troop 764

Scoutmaster..... Eric Gadal  
 Parents' Club..... Ted Nishimura

### Exercise

Yoga.....Leslie Masuda  
 Zumba.....Leonore Miller

### Dance

Ballroom Dance..... Gayle Hiram  
 Hula..... Wen-Chia Parker  
 Japanese Odori..... Dianne Fukuwa

JACL (Venice/WLA).....John Saito

### Japanese Culture

Bonsai..... Shig Miya, Shinya Miyakoshi  
 Ikebana.....Satsuki Palter  
 Calligraphy (Japanese Brush Writing)  
 Shodo.....Fusako Ogasawara  
 Sumi-e..... Jane Shibata

### Japanese Language

Gakuen (Youth)..... Shizuki Yamashita  
 Adults (as a 2<sup>nd</sup> language)..... Fusako Ogasawara

### Martial Arts

Aikido..... Tom Scheir  
 Iaido..... Harry Mott  
 Judo..... Trace Nishiyama  
 Karate..... Ron Sugano  
 Kendo..... Kenji Arai

### Music

Koto..... Eiko Idota  
 Shigin (Roeikai)..... Kosei Yamamura  
 Taiko (Koshin)..... Lori Miyakawa

RAP..... Carolyn Komoto

### Seniors

Nutrition..... Tina Grammatico  
 Pioneer Project..... Eric Inouye  
 Senior Wellness Program..... Gayle Hiram

### Sports

Basketball (Adult)..... Chuan Michael Chang, George Johnston  
 Basketball (VYC)..... Kathy Yamashita/Kazie Kame  
 Pickleball (Adult)..... Mil Kurashige/Ken Rosengrant  
 Volleyball (Adult)..... Todd Nakamoto

Revised 5/8/2024

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