



Persons of the Year Awards for 2021

by the Awards and Recognition Committee

Persons of the Year for 2021 have been awarded to **Robert ‘Bob’ Onishi** and **Wen-Chia Parker**.

The restroom remodel project’s initial planning began four years ago...with its formal re-start in early 2020.

Wen-Chia Parker led the design from its early concept phase with the city approval process and got us started. Once construction began on July 12, Wen-Chia spent countless hours in virtual and in-person meetings to review finishes and critical layout with the contractor to assure that the end results followed her vision.

Bob Onishi also spent untold hours in layout, design and coordination. He and Wen-Chia successfully obtained the building permit to proceed with the project



Bob Onishi (middle) and family

amid the COVID-19 shutdown.

Today, after two years of effort, the project is complete.

The VJCC recognizes Bob and Wen-Chia for their unselfish devotion, time and professionalism as the 2021 Persons of the Year. WAY TO GO, Bob and Wen-Chia! ♡



Wen-Chia Parker (middle) and family

...And VJCC Friends Forever

by the Communications Committee

When the gym restroom renovation was still at the wish list stage in 2017-2018, **Bob Onishi** and **Wen-Chia Parker** were serving as representatives on the Executive Council for Boy Scout Troop 764 and Hula, respectively. Little did they know that volunteering to take-a-look and assess options for updating the 1970s era restrooms would lead to a four-year long collaboration marked not only by fits and starts like any construction project, but also a worldwide pandemic!

Bob’s path through, around and back to the VJCC is very well documented by Bob himself in this month’s board message. He was “away” establishing a structural engineering career and a family; but once a VJCC kid, always a VJCC kid. Bob was back at the VJCC when he and wife (Continued on page 3)

Distinguished Service Award for 2021

by Ken Nagao

Koichi ‘Ko’ Endo was born in Hokkaido, Japan and, in the 50s, came to the U.S. with the California State Agricultural Training Program for three years. He made many friends and met his wife, **Kazuko ‘Kaz’ Endo**, so he decided to stay in CA. Ko and Kaz settled in Culver City and raised their three sons, **Stanley, Ricky and Bobby**.

Ko eventually started a gardening business like many of the local Japanese Americans in our community.

He taught himself how to do landscape construction work by observing others. In the 70s, he earned his California State Contractors License (Continued on page 3)



Koichi Endo (right) and wife Kazuko



Board Visions

"Time to reminisce...aka 'the good ol' days'!"

Alas, I was requested to write an article for this month's newsletter. The topic chosen for me was my early days at the VJCC. Hmm, what to write about? First, a quick departure from this article's topic...



Last month's Board message by **Rich Yang** brought on an "aha" feeling for me. Intently reading his first article for the newsletter, I came to read that his family was part of Boy Scout Troop 764 and that his son **Kyle Yang** earned his Eagle Scout rank in 1998. I immediately felt a bond to Rich's family as I too had a long history with Troop 764 (as my son **Tyler** earned his Eagle rank in 2019). Although I didn't know Rich's family before coming onto the Board, the bond we have by "connectivity through mutually shared experiences" is undeniable to me.

Back to the article...Of my early VJCC days, I recollect attending the ALL DAY Venice Gakuen language school on Saturdays. Back then, the parking area was simply a graded dirt lot. In place of the gymnasium were a couple of one-story bungalows. Advanced students (not me!) seeking high school language credits attended class in those bungalows. My favorite teacher was **Dr. Jack Fujimoto**. He had a distinct way of conveying the lessons in a "language for dummies" format that really struck a chord with me. I didn't quite appreciate language in those days as I do now, but enjoying a good recess with my childhood friends **Gary Akioka** and **Randy Fujimoto** made the long Saturday schooling bearable.

On Sundays, I remember attending Koyasan Buddhist Church which used to meet at the VJCC. **Hitoshi Shimizu's** family was part of that congregation.

In those days, I remember my dad **Kenichi** being involved in many VJCC orgs that called the VJCC home--groups like the Gardeners' Federation (lots of gardeners in those days), the Fishing Club and Camera Club just to name a few. And, as I got *(Continued on page 3)*

SAVE THESE DATES

VJCC Summer "Welcome Back" Festival

ONE-DAY ONLY: Saturday, June 25, 2 p.m.-9 p.m.

All other previously scheduled events have been cancelled until further notice. Please check VJCC.com for the latest updates.

VJCC™
Vision Statement

"A center to preserve the heritage and perpetuate the Japanese-American cultural experience."

VJCC™ is a registered trademark-servicemark of the Venice Japanese Community Center.

Venice Japanese Community Center, Inc. COMMUNITY NEWS

Community Center News Staff

MANAGING EDITOR	Communications Committee
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER AND TREASURER	Jun Oyama
JAPANESE TYPIST	Yumi Suzuki
CONTRIBUTING REPORTERS	Ken Nagao Bob Onishi
PRODUCTION STAFF	Atsuro Miyoshi Kyoko Yamamura

VJCC Officers

PRESIDENT	Wes Shimoda
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT	Dave Hirota
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD	John Ikegami
TREASURER	Sharon Aratani

Communications Committee

Jolyn Brookes • Kevin Kunisaki • Jack Kurihara
Tiffany Sato • Gail Sharp • Kelvin Uyeda
Jennifer Yamamoto • Michiko Yamamoto

The Venice Japanese Community Center, Inc. Community News is published monthly by the Venice Japanese Community Center, Inc.
12448 Braddock Drive • Los Angeles, CA 90066 • Phone (310) 822-8885

Donations: March 2022

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

California Community Foundation	\$2,945.94
Midori Endo	\$100.00
Paul Ige	\$100.00
Lindon & Joi Kaneshiro	\$1,040.00
Jennifer Kayano	\$250.00
Susanna Leng	\$500.00
John & Judy Nawa	Monetary Donation
<i>In Memory of Mother Ruby Okamoto</i>	
Quinn Okamoto	\$300.00
<i>In Celebration of Ray Nakagama's 90th</i>	
Mike & Debbie Perry	\$100.00
Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple	\$550.00

100-Year Fund Donations: March 2022

Quinn Okamoto	\$100.00
Richard & Kay Yang	\$5,000.00

Legacy Tree Donations: March 2022

The VJCC gratefully acknowledges donations and pledges towards the Legacy Tree.

Michael & Melissa Hohmann	\$1,000.00
Jay & Gayle Miya	\$600.00
<i>In Memory of Parents Shigeo Otsuji & Matsune Otsuji</i>	
Sam & Kimie Otsuji	\$2,200.00
<i>In Memory of Hitoshi Shimizu</i>	
Lisa Daimonji Chan	\$100.00
Martin & Robyn Shimizu-Cohen	Monetary Donation
Herbert Daimonji	\$100.00
Gail Diggs	\$100.00
Leonard & Jean Gima	Monetary Donation
John & Patti Heyl	Monetary Donation
Toshi Ikeda	Monetary Donation
Asao & Kimberley Masumiya	Monetary Donation

(Continued on page 3)

Board Visions *(Continued from page 2)*

older, I came to be involved with the Crescent Bay Optimist Club (CBO) which sponsors the CBO sports league. It was a great opportunity to meet a lot of community-minded friendly folks. I am forever grateful to senior members like the **Murakawas, Nakamuras** and **Quocks** who took me under their wing and made me feel welcome.

My two older brothers **Kenji** and **Glenn** were part of Troop 764 so I was given opportunities to tag along on some of their activities. A staggering number of families “old and new” come to mind when I think of Troop 764--from their first Scout Master, **Ken Miyake** to their current one, **Bill Conroy**.

In my short time with the VJCC Board, I immediately found myself surrounded by familiar friends from my recent and distant past--including our current President, **Wes Shimoda**. I'm amazed that I can still remember most of the names and faces from those early days as they perpetually blend with days of new. I find myself lucky that without deliberate intention on my part, the VJCC's been a good catalyst for helping me feel at home both at the VJCC and the community. Over the years, that “connectivity through mutually shared experiences” has stayed intact with many friends and acquaintances at the VJCC. I hope the next generation finds the same thing to be true!

Bob Onishi

...And VJCC Friends Forever *(Continued from front page)*

Karen Onishi followed son **Tyler** to Troop 764. Thank you for your assistance, Tyler!!!

Wen-Chia's path to the VJCC involved a cross country trek and some good luck for us. Her architectural design career and family building began on the East Coast. Education and opportunity eventually brought Wen-Chia and husband **Andrew Parker** to the westside of Los Angeles and to the VJCC where son **Kanoa** participated in Boy Scouts and VYC Basketball, while daughters **Makena** and **Lanikai** (Kiki) participate in Hula.

It was serendipity that their children and proximity to the VJCC made Bob and Wen-Chia available at the exact time that they were needed. But, after four years to finish the project, with children grown or growing up quickly, Bob and Wen-Chia have found the time to enjoy the growing number of sports activities for adults such as Basketball, Volleyball and Pickleball that have resumed in recent months.

When contacted to be interviewed for this article, Wen-Chia's reply was a fun and friendly, “... [it] would be nice to meet together with Bob ;-) [as] it would be like old times when we were meeting together LOL except we won't be in the bathroom the whole time!” We arranged to meet in the office instead of the restroom and spent an hour marveling on the winding paths that life leads you. 🍷

Legacy Tree Donations: March 2022 (cont.)

In Memory of Hitoshi Shimizu (continued)

Dorothy Miyake \$1,100.00
Randall & Mari Tamura \$100.00

In Memory of Ben & Betty Yumori

Irene Matsumoto Monetary Donation
Dick Naruse Family \$200.00
Richard Nishiki Monetary Donation
Victoria Taketa Monetary Donation
La Donna Yumori-Kaku Monetary Donation

Senior Wellness Program Grant

Keiro \$8,265.00

Distinguished Service Award

(Continues from front page)

and specialized in designing and building custom landscapes.

He was instrumental in the formation of the Pacific Coast Chapter of the California Landscape Contractor's Association (CLCA). The Pacific Coast Chapter was special in that it was not defined by geography as the other chapters, but was specifically tailored to Japanese-speaking landscape contractors in Southern California.

With the Pacific Coast Chapter, he was involved in the construction of the Japanese Garden at the City of Hope, the James Irvine Japanese Garden at the JACCC in Downtown L.A. and the tribute Japanese Garden at Roosevelt High School in Boyle Heights, renovating the Japanese Garden at the Culver City Library and, in 1995, designing the landscape here at the VJCC.

Ko entered many of his beautiful creations in the local CLCA beautification awards competitions and has won numerous awards. He is also known throughout California for his landscape creations including beautiful koi ponds, waterfalls and Japanese gardens just to name a few.

Ko has unselfishly donated his time to maintaining the VJCC landscaping each year, especially pruning the Japanese Black Pine trees since 1996. He is being awarded the 2021 Distinguished Service Award for his commitment to volunteering at the VJCC for over 26 consecutive years. 🍷





VJCC™ JOB OPPORTUNITY

Part-time Office Manager

The Venice Japanese Community Center ("VJCC") is searching for an Office Manager. The VJCC's mission is to preserve the heritage and perpetuate the Japanese American cultural experience. This position requires the Office Manager to work from the VJCC's Office.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

The VJCC Office Manager will perform various administrative functions, including but not limited to:

- Conduct effective in-person, telephone, and mail communications among VJCC leadership, clubs, members and external individuals and organizations, in a professional manner.
- Manage the annual mailings for the major VJCC events.
- Assist the VJCC Event Committee to plan and prepare for the major VJCC events; Shinnen Kai, Woodlawn Memorial Day Service and other events.
- Coordinate with VJCC Facility Manager for facility maintenance and usage requests.

SALARY

Dependent on work experience.

WORKING HOURS

Approximately 20 hours per week.

Possible times outside these hours may be required.

EXPERIENCE/SKILLS REQUIRED

Strong interpersonal skills, computer-literate, including use of word processing apps and spreadsheets.

SUBMIT TO:

office@vjcc.com

- or -

12448 Braddock Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90066



Local Advertisers



Brian Nakagiri—Realtor® BRE#01817767

Venice Community Resident for Fifty Years!

**Representing Buyers and Sellers of Homes and
Apartments On the Westside of Los Angeles.**

**Ask me for a Free Detailed Analysis of your Real Estate
when Selling, Buying, or Renting a Property.**

Combining Honesty and Integrity with Real Results!

Contact Me Today for Any of Your Real Estate Needs!

Brian Nakagiri

Phone.310.902.4475

PCRE

E-Mail—BrianNakagiri@Gmail.com

FD 929

KUBOTA

Sharing. Community. Legacy.

久保田葬儀社

心のこもった日本スタイルの葬式
日米両語によるきめ細やかなサービス
毎日24時間電話対応

T: 213-749-1449 F: 213-749-0265
911 VENICE BLVD., LOS ANGELES, CA 90015
www.kubotanikkeimortuary.com

Local Advertisers



Professional Ski & Bicycle Repair

8419 Lincoln Blvd. Westchester, CA 90045 (310) 568-8357

PIONEER INSURANCE SERVICE CALIFORNIA PIONEER INSURANCE SERVICE, INC.

~ Insure With Confidence ~

AUTO, FIRE & CASUALTY

SHARON ARATANI OFFICE (310) 642-1066 CELL (310) 897-1303 FAX (310) 348-0842 LIC # 0627858

Melvin M. Shimizu Certified Public Accountant

Income Tax Services, Accounting & Bookkeeping

Now at our New Location: 5555 Inglewood Blvd., Suite 103 Culver City, California 90230 (1 block north of Jefferson Blvd.)

Serving our community since 1978

(310) 306-7500 (310) 306-7520 fax Email: melshimizu@hotmail.com

Office open year round Monday to Fridays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Days, Evenings & Saturdays by Appointment



JO-MI PLUMBING & SOLAR

KELVIN UYEDA General Manager

TEL: 310-473-8111

Fax: 310-479-4940

2011 SAWTELLE BLVD., • L.A. CA 90025 • St. Lic. 243931

rpyang@aol.com



RICHARD P. YANG ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW



2633 LINCOLN BLVD. #126 SANTA MONICA, CA 90405 310.391.8123

Courtney H. Yoshikawa, D.D.S. General Dentistry

7740 W. Manchester Avenue Suite 108 Playa del Rey, CA 90293 (310) 822-4987 cyoshikawa_dd@yahoo.com

Saturday appointments available



NATIONAL NOTARY ASSOCIATION NOTARY PUBLIC

LORI UYEDA HAYASHI

2011 SAWTELLE BLVD., SUITE B LOS ANGELES, CA 90025 OFFICE: 310-914-9147 CELL: 310-988-5874

「追憶にふける時、-いわゆる古き良き時代」

残念ながら、今月のニューズレターの記事を書くことになってしまいました。

「選ばれたトピック」というと、VJCC での私の昔の思い出についてです。うーん。何について書こうかな。まず、この記事のトピックから始めましょうか。

先月のヤングリッチさんが書かれたボードメッセージの記事を読んで私は、なるほど、と思いました。記事をじっくり読んで、リッチさんの家族はボーイスカウト 764 部隊の一員でリッチさんの息子さんのカイルさんは、1998 年にイーグルのランクになったことがわかりました。私も長い間 764 部隊に関わってきたのでリッチさんの家族に親しみを感じました。（私の息子のタイラーも 2019 年にイーグルのランクになっています。）役員になるまで、リッチさんのご家族については存じませんでした。互いに共有の経験での接点があることは、明らかです。VJCC での昔の思い出という記事のタイトルに戻ると、、、私は、毎週土曜日にベニス学園に終日通っていたことを思い出します。その時、駐車場の辺りは、泥がしきつめられているだけでした。体育館の場所には、一階建てのバンガローがいくつもありました。そのバンガローでは、上級レベルの生徒（私ではありません。）が高校の言語のクレジットのために、授業をとっていました。私の好きな先生は、フジモトジャック博士でした。先生は、「ネイティブ」でない生徒にも分かりやすく日本語が学べる授業の仕方をしていて、私の心に響きました。私は、あの当時は、今の様に、日本語を学習するという事については全く有り難く思っていませんでしたが、友達と休憩時間に遊ぶのは、とても楽しかったです。アキオカゲイリーさんや、フジモトランディーさんたちといることで、長い土曜日の授業も我慢することができました。

土曜日に、VJCC で高野山仏教会の集会に出席していたことも思い出しました。それは、シミズヒトシさんのご家族が会衆に属されていらっしやっただけの集会です。

その当時、私の父のケンイチは、庭園組合（かつては大勢の庭師の方がいらっしやっただけ）や、フィッシングクラブ、カメラクラブといったグループが連なる VJCC ホームという名前の VJCC の組織に関わっていました。私も大きくなって、CBO スポーツリーグがスポンサーをしているクレセントベイオプティミストクラブ（CBO）に属していました。大勢の素晴らしい仲間に出会うことができました。ムラカワさんや、ナカムラさんや、クオックさんのような年配の会員の方々に見守られて親切にお世話をしていただいたことに大変感謝しております。

私の兄ケンジとグレンは 764 部隊に入っていたので、私は、彼らの活動についていく機会がありました。764 部隊のことを思いうかべるとき、兄たちの最初のスカウトマスターだったミヤケケンさんから、現在のコンロイビルさんまで、「過去と現在の」驚異的な家族のことを思い出すことができます。

VJCC での役員としての短い間に、私は、現在のシモダウエス会長を含む、最近から、遠く離れた過去の会長が、とてもなじみのある友達だということに、すぐに気がつきました。驚いたことには、未だに私は、昔からの会長さんのほとんどの方の名前や顔を思い出することができます。長年お世話になっている VJCC は、家にいるように感じることに気がつきました。また、正真正銘のコミュニティーセンターとして、VJCC での多くの友人やしりあいの良い関係を保っています。次の世代の人たちも、同様に、今後もここでの良い友情関係が続いていくことを願っています。

Local Advertisers

**JOSEPH E. DEERING
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
ESTATE PLANNING
PROBATE AND ELDER LAW**

“Take care of yourself and your loved ones and give your property to whom you want at the least possible cost”

First Consultation Free

Call Patty Ota-Kuramoto, Legal Assistant for an appointment

**** Our New Address: ****

**2221 23rd Street
Santa Monica, California 90405**

Tel: (310) 907-5714

Fax: (310) 526-8920

www.joedeering.com

JON&MIKA

RODEO REALTY

LOCAL EXPERTISE, GLOBAL PRESENCE.

jonandmikateam@gmail.com • 310.220.7543



Experts in what we do-Proven track record to fetch multiple offers.



5 Star Service-"We set the highest standards in real estate."



24/7-Always available to guide our clients through the emotional transaction process.



Our team is more experienced which translates to: A smooth and easy transaction.



3-step approach-Specialized marketing strategy designed to satisfy your real estate goals.



Knowledge-Family roots that stem 60+ years in this neighborhood.

This is not intended as a solicitation if your property is currently listed.
Jonathan Montenegro DRE#01855811 | Mika Ogawa DRE#01990893.

Senior Wellness Program

April 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	10 - 11 AM Tai Chi (MPR) 12- 2 PM Chinese Mahjong (L) 4	9:15 - 10:15 AM Arthritis Exercise (MPR) 10 AM - 12 PM Chinese Mahjong (L) 1-1:45 PM Virtual chair yoga (Z) 5	6	9:15 - 10:15 AM Arthritis Exercise - Last Day (MPR) 1-1:45 PM Virtual chair Zumba (Z) 7	8	9
10	10 - 11 AM Tai Chi (MPR) 12- 2 PM Chinese Mahjong (L) 11	10 AM - 12 PM Chinese Mahjong (L) 1-1:45 PM Virtual chair yoga (Z) 12	13	14	15	16
17	10 - 11 AM Tai Chi (MPR) 12- 2 PM Chinese Mahjong (L) 18	10 AM - 12 PM Chinese Mahjong (L) 1-1:45 PM Virtual chair yoga (Z) 19	20	21	22	23
24	10 - 11 AM Tai Chi (MPR) 12- 2 PM Chinese Mahjong (L) 25	10 AM - 12 PM Chinese Mahjong (L) 1-1:45 PM Virtual chair yoga (Z) 26	27	28	29	30 Location: L = VJCC Lounge MPR= VJCC Multipurpose Room Z= Zoom



VJCC Walking Club on Saturday, March 19, 2022



Ondo Dance Class

Wednesday, May 11th
10:30 - 11:30am (MPR)

Instructor: Diane Fukuwa

Class meets every other Wed. Bring your own towel, ichiwa (fan) and kachi kachi if you have them.

Returning "In Person" Chair Zumba

10 - 10:45 AM on 4/21 & 4/28 only.



VJCC Logo Origami Art by Deanna Takahashi with the Origami Club



Senior Chair Zumba class led by instructor, Leonore Miller

Our number one priority is the safety of our participants. All classes and activities follow strict CDC protocols. Participants must be fully vaccinated and had taken first booster shot. Scheduled classes can change, rescheduled, canceled due to the COVID – 19. Any questions or concerns, please contact me at 310.890.1732 or gayle_hirami@yahoo.com

Thank you.

The Trusted Choice for In-Home Care



**Home Care Assistance is proud to have partnered with
Millennia Personal Care Services to bring customized
home care to the Japanese Community.**

Home Care Assistance and Millennia Personal Care Services are committed to providing **culturally sensitive, non-medical home care** that enables Japanese older adults to live independently in the comfort of their own home. Our hands-on care management and expert caregiver matching ensure you receive caregivers who match your family's needs and preferences.

Our exclusive approach to wellness for older adults, the **Balanced Care Method™**, is based on the scientifically studied lifestyles of the long-living elders of Okinawa, Japan. This approach is focused on nutrition, physical activity, social engagement and purpose and aims to enhance your loved one's overall health and quality of life.

We help your loved one maintain freedom and a well-deserved quality of life.

Now recruiting home care aides. Call us today! 日本語でどうぞ!
We offer full time caregivers Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, 401K
and other benefits! 各医療保険、年金など福利厚生が充実

888-285-4913

HomeCareAssistance.com/Millennia

The Japanese Community's Premier Provider of In-Home Senior Care

VENICE PIONEER PROJECT

April 2022

WELCOME BACK

The Project will once again try to start up with some events. Very sorry the Project was unable to have any activities for such a long time due to Covid with the various variants, especially Omicron. Plus, the restrictions that were in place by the Public Health Department; seniors being the most vulnerable group affected by the virus.

May 7 Saturday **SOUND OF MUSIC**

Live afternoon Broadway performance at the La Mirada Theater. Space is limited and reservation by mail-in flyer.

DEPARTURE – Check-in at the VJCC parking lot at 12 noon and departure soon after.

May 24 – 26 **LAS VEGAS TRIP** Tuesday to Thursday

The California Hotel will be the destination for 3 days and 2 nights, with 2 meals each day. Reservation by mail-in flyer.

DEPARTURE – Check-in at the VJCC parking lot at 9:30 a.m. and departure soon after.

**** VJCC SUMMER FESTIVAL June 25 & 26 ?????? ****

Probably the Summer Festival will **NOT** be able to return to the previous status. There are many factors to consider such as volunteers of each club and VJCC, food preparations & ordering, public health restrictions, etc.

This year the SUMMER FESTIVAL most likely will be a one day affair on Saturday June 25 from afternoon to evening.

GENERAL STORE of the Pioneer Project

The **PROJECT** will **NOT** have the **GENERAL STORE** if the Festival is one day from afternoon to evening. To open the store for such a short time will take far too much effort to set-up, sorting, cleaning, displaying, pricing, selling, etc.

The **PLANT SALE** and **BOTTLE WATER SALE** is unknown at this time.

The Project apologies for any inconveniences and restrictions. The Covid Virus has affected all of us.

DONATION – **ANN YOUNG** in memory of THOMAS YOUNG.

Keiro Conference



Keiro  Alzheimer's  LOS ANGELES

Presented by Keiro & Alzheimer's Los Angeles

Saturday, June 11, 2022
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. PDT
Zoom Webinar

This FREE event will bring together a panel of expert speakers to educate the community on Alzheimer's disease and related disorders.

This event will be offered in English & Japanese.

Registration closes Friday, June 10th.
Visit keiro.org/alzheimers-conference

Local Advertisers



BANKING FOR ALL GENERATIONS



NIKKEI
credit union

DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS

- Savings • Checking • CDs
- Money Market • Youth Accounts

LOANS

- New or Used Auto/Motorcycle/RV/Boat Loans
- Personal Loans • VISA® Platinum Credit Cards
- Home Loans • Home Equity Lines of Credit

SERVICES

- Direct Deposit • Bill Pay
- Mobile Banking & Mobile Check Deposit
- Saturday Hours

SURCHARGE-FREE CO-OP® ATMs
711 local Co-Op® ATMs
Over 30,000 locations nationwide

CO-OP® SHARED BRANCHES
Over 5,000 branches
coast-to-coast

co-opcreditunions.org/locator

310.324.1544
www.Nikkeicu.org

Federally insured by NCUA.



QUOCK LAW FIRM

Attorneys at Law
Kevin J. Quock, Esq.

Estate Planning, Trusts & Wills
Business & Real Estate Law
General Litigation



6080 Center Drive
Suite 600
Los Angeles, CA 90045
Tel: (310) 348-8162
Fax: (424) 309-5639
e-mail: kjq@quocklaw.com

Visit us on the web at www.quocklaw.com

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, SERVICE. WE CARE

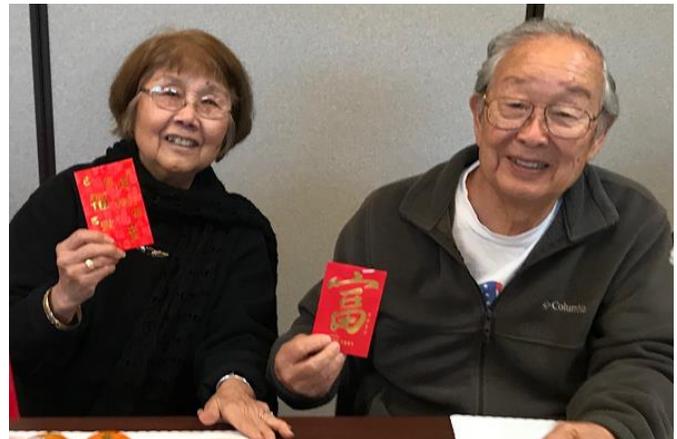
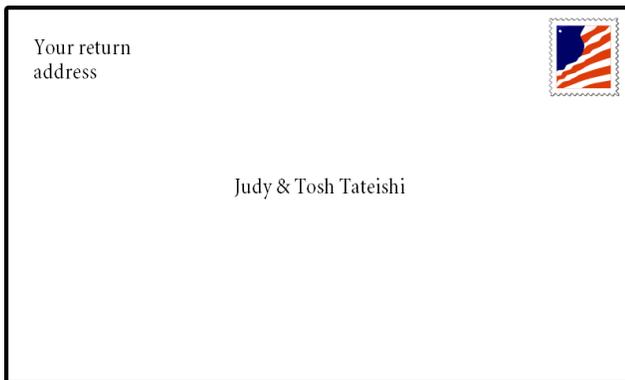
A general law practice with an emphasis in the areas of trusts, wills, estate planning, probate, business law, real estate, general litigation and personal injury. Providing effective, reliable and quality service to individuals and businesses for over 30 years.

Now may be a good time to review your living trust. Recent changes in the tax laws, as well as changes in your life, could be a good reason to review your estate planning documentation, including your living trust and healthcare directives. Schedule an appointment and visit us at our new location in the Sony building inside the Promenade at the Howard Hughes Center, directly across from the Cinemark 18 & XD movie theater. We look forward to serving you.

SENIOR NUTRITION

Not just a healthy meal...

One of our commitments to the community is trying to help everyone stay connected. We would like for anyone who knows Judi and Tosh Tateishi to please reach out to them. Their family moved them to San Francisco where they are currently in an assisted living facility. Help to keep them connected with VJCC by dropping them a quick note. Bring your message in a self-return-addressed stamped envelope to Senior Nutrition or the VJCC office for forwarding.



Happy Birthday to current members who celebrated in March with us. Pictured are Norm Tachiki and Pauline Itow.

Other March celebrants include Galen and Phyllis Murakawa, and Eileen Hiramatsu.

Hope to see more of you in-person in the coming months!

Stay healthy & Stay Connected!

Jae & the VJCC Senior Nutrition Volunteers.

Keiro Iyashi Care

IYASHI 癒 CARE

A community-based palliative care program that can help improve quality of life for older adults with serious or chronic illnesses and their families through:

- ▶ Individualized care planning
- ▶ Symptom management
- ▶ Consultation and communication between family/caregivers
- ▶ Bilingual support in English and Japanese

Call and leave a message to inquire:
213.873.5791

More information: keiro.org/iyashi-care



Local Advertisers

MIKE S. KISHI

1975-2015
40th Anniversary

KISHI AUTO SERVICE



310-397-0059

11608 VENICE BLVD.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90066

(310) 822-6384
(310) 822-8730 Fax



**M-G
LAWN MOWER SHOP**

GARDEN SUPPLIES & FERTILIZERS
GARDEN EQUIPMENT SHARPENED & REPAIRED

Masa Norimoto

4569 CENTINELA AVENUE • LOS ANGELES, CALIF. 90066

**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HomeServices



Donna Sugimoto
Sales Associate, REALTOR®

California Properties
23530 Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 100
Torrance, CA 90505

Dir 310.962.1486 Bus 310.791.3526
donnasugimoto@gmail.com
dsugimoto.BHHSCalProperties.com
CalBRE# 01883265



An independently owned and operated member of BHH Affiliates, LLC

Shibata Creative Arts

A PLACE FOR ARTS, FINE AND MARTIAL

BETH SHIBATA

310-370-7240
shibata.creative.arts@gmail.com
www.shibatacreativearts.com

DONATE A VEHICLE



(including Boat, Motorcycle or RV)
Get a **tax deduction AND VJCC™**
receives 50% of sales proceeds

Contact Sharon at
Treasurer@VJCC.com
for details and additional information.

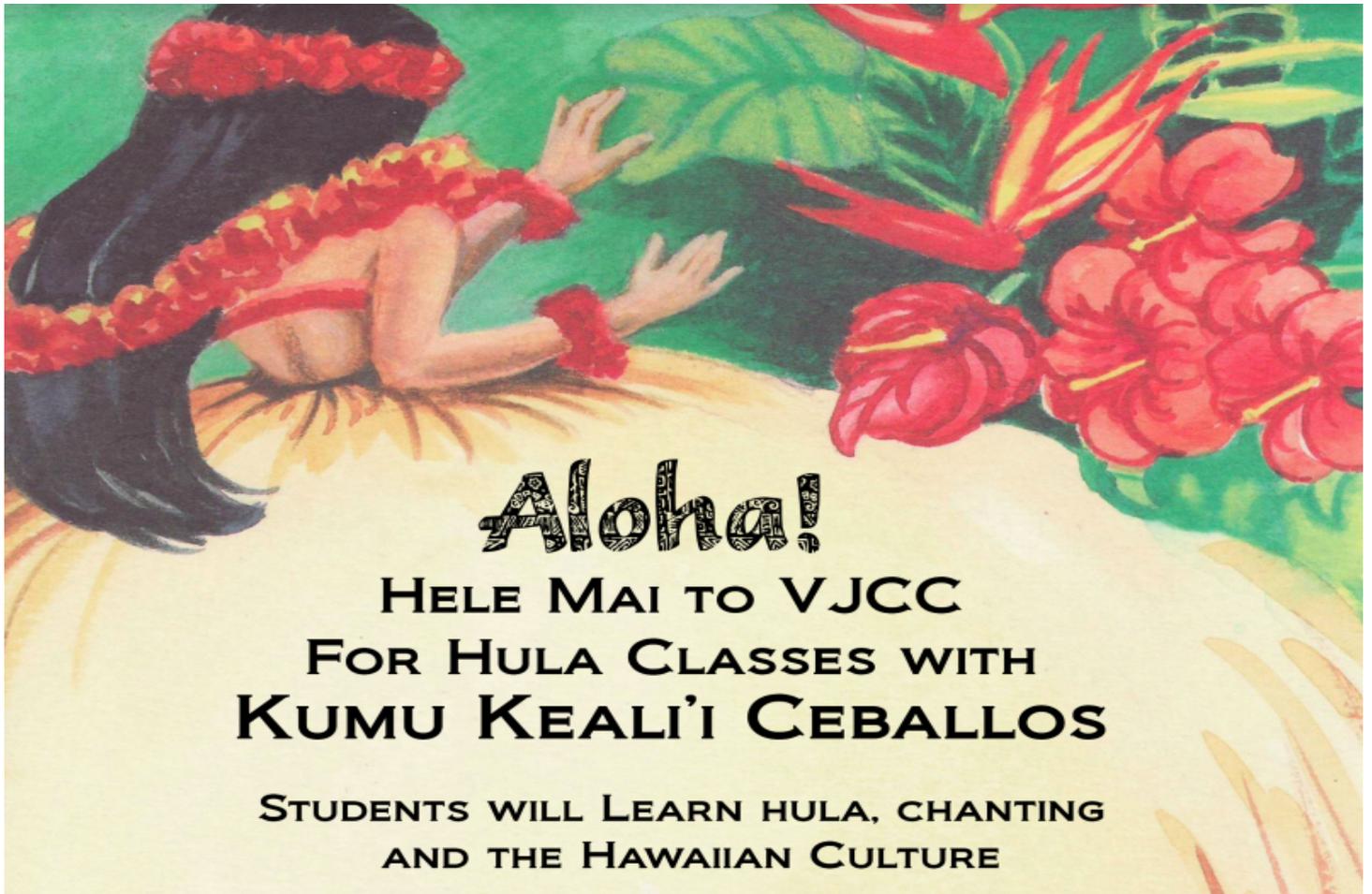
Steven T. Shimoyama, M.D.

Orthopedic Surgery/Sports Medicine
Team Physician, L.A. Clippers

8540 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Ste. 1111
Los Angeles, CA 90045

tel. (424) 331-5112

VJCC™
Community News



Aloha!

**HELE MAI TO VJCC
FOR HULA CLASSES WITH
KUMU KEALI' I CEBALLOS**

**STUDENTS WILL LEARN HULA, CHANTING
AND THE HAWAIIAN CULTURE**

'OHANA HULA

CLASSES OPEN TO ALL AGES

(Begins April 22nd, 2022)

FRIDAYS AT VJCC 5:30PM to 6:30PM

\$15 PER CLASS

Contact: Wen-Chia Parker wenchia@gmail.com 310-254-6858

VENICE JAPANESE COMMUNITY CENTER

12448 BRADDOCK DRIVE OFFICE PHONE: 310- 822-8885





VJCC™ Golf Tournament Platinum Sponsors



JOIN US

Kinecta Federal Credit Union
A better place for you and your money.

- Free Membership¹
- Savings & Checking Accounts
- Auto Loans & Refinancing
- Mortgage Loans

Not a member yet? Join Kinecta today!
For more information and additional locations,
800.854.9846 • www.kinecta.org



1) Minimum \$5 share savings account deposit required to join Kinecta Federal Credit Union. If necessary, \$10 Consumers' Cooperative Society of Santa Monica, Inc. fee will be covered by Kinecta Federal Credit Union (equivalent to free membership). Continued membership in the Santa Monica Co-Op will be subject to an annual membership renewal fee of \$10. However, no annual fee is required to maintain membership in Kinecta.
2) Available through the Co-Op and Shared Branch Network.



Dr. Robert Kimura
Restorative Dentistry
11980 San Vicente Bl.
Suite 500, L.A., 90049
310 207-6111



VENICE KARATE CLUB

April 2022

Hello everyone! We hope all our students and families are healthy and safe during these times. The days are finally getting longer and warmer into the classic SoCal weather we all love and enjoy. Like the Easter egg hunts many of us or our kids will be doing, let's remember to find the joy in the smaller things in our life, and keep our spirits high heading into the summer months.

Each month, our club's instructors and instructor trainees have been sharing their thoughts on Karate-related topics as a tie-in to the Instructor Trainee Program organized by the ISKF(International Shotokan Karate Federation). This month, Sensei (instructor) Kelvin Uyeda shared his thoughts on the importance of breathing to maximize techniques in Karate:

The Breath of Life

By Kelvin Uyeda

Breathing is normally an unconscious – involuntary physiological cyclical process of inhaling oxygen and exhaling carbon dioxide through our lungs. The breathing process is paid little attention between the times of birth and death. An essential part of Karate training is transforming the unconscious process of breathing into a focused process that is measured, timed, and meditative- the Breath of Life.

Each movement, defensive or offensive, is synchronized to a measured and timed inhale or exhale. Short quick movements and long strong movements are matched to the karate-ka's breathing, in and out. When each movement is synchronized to an abrupt stop of airflow, the student acquires the timing of body connection and tension that is called **Kime**. Kime is often described as the quick and intense contraction of the body's core muscles that is immediately followed by the quick release of this tension. In a dojo filled with black belt karate-kas, kime is the audible sound of their snapping Gi's in unison.

Our involuntary breathing cycles in and out from the top of our lungs. The focus of breathing in karate centers from a source lower in the abdominal-pelvic area. Centered deep in the body, this location is identified as the **Seika Tanden**. The seika tanden cannot not be explained as the source of our breathing in physiological terms, rather it can be better described in psychological-spiritual terms. It's the location where our body's core energy resides- our **Ki**. Sourced and centered in our gut, the forceful sudden exhalation of breath creates the emphatic **Ki-Ai**. A loud Ki-Ai can best be described as a guttural ejection of breath sourced from our Ki- our body's core.

Endeavor - "Dohryoku no seishin wo yashinai koto"
Maintain a spirit of effort using your gut instincts.

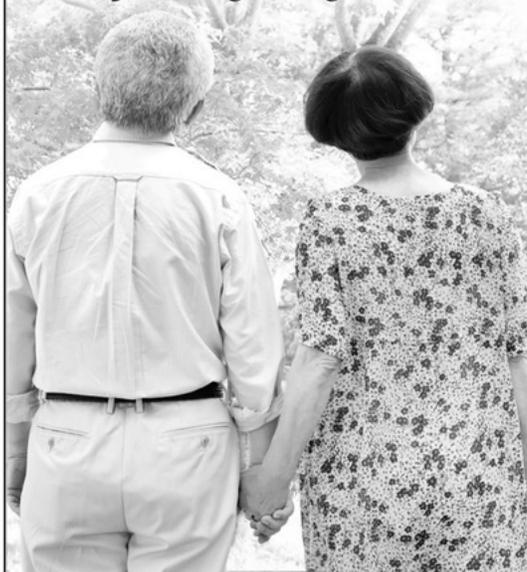
Try hard - Endeavor...
Ki-Ai with spirit and truth...
Breathe the breath of life.

The Venice Karate Club meets every Monday and Thursday from 4-5pm, and 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.

Local Advertiser

*Personalized service through
English and Japanese
speaking caregivers*



*心豊かに健やかな毎日を・・・
Live a life of ease and comfort...*

*Best Care Connections is non-medical, in-home
care services for elders and seniors. Enriching
people's lives by caring for their every need.*

 **Best Care
Connections**
in-home care services

Toll Free: 1 888 610 1160
Fax: 1 310 807 4355
E-mail: info@bcc-la.com
Web: www.bcc-la.com
HCO: #194700410

10866 Washington Blvd., Suite 510, Culver City, CA 90232

Kevin Lai – Hair Stylist for Men & Women of All Ages



**Certified in COVID-19
Safe Practices**



Haircuts • Color • Perms

Call

626-272-8994

**20% OFF HAIRCUT FOR
1ST TIME CUSTOMERS**

Vanities Beauty Salon
12615 Venice Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90066
(near Venice & Centinela)



ベニス空手クラブ

夏時間が始まって、明るい時間が長くなり、南カリフォルニアらしい気持ちのいい天気の日が続いています。イースターのエッグハントで見つける小さな卵のように、小さな幸せを見つけながら夏に向けて前向きに生きて行きましょう。

毎月、クラブのインストラクターが国際松濤館空手連盟のプログラムに沿って、空手に関するトピックを書いています。今回は、ヘッドインストラクターの1人、植田ケルビン先生が書かれた、空手のテクニックに重要な呼吸法についての記事を、以下紹介します。

空手の受けや突きの技でピッと引き締まるような動きを「決め」といいます。普段している呼吸が空手の技の強弱と「決め」に影響しています。生徒は、練習を重ねるにつれて、呼吸のリズムと体の力の強さのバランスを理解し、技を決めることができるようになります。空手の黒帯の人が大勢いる道場では、技を決める時には、空手着が一斉に、擦れ合う音が聞こえます。

無意識に呼吸をして吸ったり吐いたりして、肺から循環しています。空手の「決め」や気合は、腹部の骨盤の下側から中心、丹田と呼ばれる体の奥の部分に意識を集中させます。丹田を生理学的に説明することはできないのですが、心理学的、霊的な表現でよく表されます。体の中心の「気」が集まっている場所です。力強い、突発的な呼気が勢いのある気合になります。大きな声を出して気合を入れることは、体の芯からエネルギーを出すことになります。

努力の精神を養うこと、丹田に意識を集中させて、気合を入れて鍛錬しましょう。

ベニス空手クラブでは、毎週月曜日と木曜日の午後4時から5時までと、午後7時から9時15分練習をしています。何か始めたいと思っている方は、いつでも歓迎します。

詳しくはVJCCのオフィスにお問い合わせください。

Local Advertisers



eric | akutagawa

A Name You Know and Trust

- Real Estate Licensed since 2004
- Member of BHGLAAR, CAR, and NAR
- B.S., Psychobiology, UCLA
- M.T.O.M., Emperor's College

COMPASS

Family History: Grandson of the late Hidemi & Torako Akutagawa (West LA Residents since 1953)

Services And Special Offer

Call or email me for a complimentary, no obligation value of your property - NO HOME VISITATION NECESSARY!

お持ちの不動産についての短時間、無料、何の義務もないの査定をご希望であれば、私までお電話かeメール下さい。お宅への訪問は不要です。

Please mention this ad to receive \$500 at the close of escrow or donate it to the charity of your choice.

この広告を受け取ったことをお知らせ下されば、エスクローが閉じた時に500ドルを差し上げるか、あなたのお名前でご希望のチャリティーに献金させていただきます。

Helping buyers, sellers, and landlords/tenants throughout Greater Los Angeles

310.890.1118 direct | eric.akutagawa@compass.com | www.ericakutagawa.com | DRE 01423357

What's important to you is important to us

Union Bank® understands the importance of community. We are deeply grateful for the personal and professional ties we have developed throughout the years. And with our proven history of solid financial performance, we will continue to put our strength to work for you. Together with you, we look forward to building a successful future for generations to come.

Union Bank is proud to support the VJCC.

unionbank.com   

Chuck Han

Vice President and Branch Manager
West Los Angeles Branch
4032 S. Centinela Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90066
310-391-0678



©2018 MUFG Union Bank, N.A. All rights reserved. Member FDIC.
Union Bank is a registered trademark and brand name of MUFG Union Bank, N.A. unionbank.com

VJCC the First Hundred Years

VENICE JAPANESE COMMUNITY CENTER



COMMEMORATIVE T-SHIRTS & TOTE BAGS

\$20 EACH

VJCC HISTORY BOOK

\$40 EACH

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Adult sizes:

___S ___M ___L ___XL

___2XL ___3XL

___tote bag

Total:

___ t's/totes@ \$20 each = \$___

___ books@ \$40 each = \$___

Total purchase = \$___

Please make checks
payable to "VJCC"

Mail form & pmt to: VJCC
12448 Braddock Dr.
L.A., CA 90066

You will receive an email or phone call
when your order is ready to pick up.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Proceeds will go towards the remodel
of the VJCC restrooms.

90th Anniversary Celebration

Venice Japanese Community Center

History Book



Local Advertisers



Hawaiian Cafe & Catering
RUTTS
RUTTSCAFE.COM
 RuttsQuote@outlook.com
 Since 1976

11707 Washington Place, Los Angeles, CA 90066
 Rutts Cafe: 310-398-6326
 Rutts Catering: 424-228-2846
 Rutts Info: 424-258-7183

WE CATER TO MOST OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



FARMERS
INSURANCE

- Auto
- Home
- Life
- Business
- Workers Comp
- Disability



George Mori
 George Mori Insurance
 Agency
 0E53619

Serving Los Angeles, South Bay and San Fernando Valley
 日本語での充実したサービス **(310) 641-6674**

Telephone (310) 452-3934

Samo Wheel and Brake Service

HOWARD OKUMURA 1310 Pico Boulevard
 Santa Monica, California 90405



KEN M. HARADA, D.D.S., INC.

General Dentistry
 10874 Washington Blvd.
 Culver City, CA 90232

Office Hours
 By Appointment **(310) 837-5121**



Grace Yamamura

ROOF MASTER ROOFING CO.

4226 W. JEFFERSON BLVD.
 LOS ANGELES, CA 90016

FREE ESTIMATE
 TEL : (310) 313-4010



*Help VJCC
 with a click using*
amazonsmile
 You Shop. Amazon Gives.

When you #StartWithaSmile,
 the AmazonSmile Foundation donates **0.5% of the purchase price**
 to the Venice Japanese Community Center.

Go to smile.amazon.com and select **Venice Japanese
 Community Center** to support us every time you shop.

VJCCTM
 Community News



Young and free at the VIJC Festival! The festival is enjoyed by its members of all ages. Photo by Leonore Miller

PHOTO CLUB – 04.2022

Time to reminisce. Same place, same time of year... 81 years ago.



Venice Picnic – 1941

VENICE PICNIC, 1941
July 12, 1941. At Venice Japanese School.
Photo by Leonore Miller

Venice Japanese School Picnic – July 12, 1941

carelife

Restoring Hope Through Exercise, Education and Caregiver's Support

Carelife is a leading Home Care, Caregiver and Home Exercise provider in Los Angeles, Torrance South Bay and Orange County.

Services Offered

- Free in-home and fall risk assessment
- Assistance with walking, transferring, bathing, toileting, dressing & grooming
- Medication reminders
- Meal preparation
- Light housekeeping
- Escort to appointments & shopping
- Companionship
- Home exercise, and more



Carelife Difference

- One of the very few Home Care provider in the U.S. to have on staff a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) and Neurologic Certified Specialist (NCS)
- Offers Moving with CaregiversSM, a 10/10 Home Exercise Program created by Carelife
- Specialized in Neurological Conditions, including Parkinson's Disease, Stroke and more.
- Over 30 years combined staff experience

Japanese Caregivers Available

Please contact us today...

Tel: 310-373-6030

Email: info@carelifeinc.com

www.carelifeinc.com



VENICE JAPANESE COMMUNITY CENTER

2022 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 4:00 Basketball VYC 4:00 Karate (Beginner) 6:30 Aikido 7:00 Del Rey H/O (1 st Mon) 7:00 Karate	10:30 Sr. Nutrition ▼ 1:00 Virtual Chair Yoga (Sr. Wellness) 4:00 Basketball VYC 7:00 Taiko 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Judo	9:00 Pickleball 10:00 Shigin-Kinyukai 10:30 Sr. Nutrition ▼ 4:00 Basketball VYC 7:30 JACL (1 st Wed) 7:00 Kendo	10:30 Sr. Nutrition ▼ 12:30 Ballroom Dance 12:45 Ukulele (Inter. I & II) 1:00 Virtual Chair Zumba (Sr. Wellness) 4:00 Basketball VYC 4:00 Karate (Beginner) 6:30 Aikido 7:00 Ikebana 7:00 Karate	9:30 Sumi-e 10:30 Sr. Nutrition ▼ 4:00 Basketball VYC 5:30 Hula (starting 4/22/22) 7:00 Japanese as Second Language 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 nd Wed)	Same as Week 1	Same as Week 1 ▼ 7:00 Bonsai (2 nd 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 7:00 Photo Club (3 rd Tues)	Same as Week 1 ▼ 7:00 CBO (3 rd Wed) 7:30 VJCC Exec Council	Same as Week 1	Same as Week 1 ▼ 7:00 Karaoke (3 rd Fri)	Same as Week 1
Same as Week 1	Same as Week 1 10:00 Watercolor	Same as Week 1 ▼ 11:30 Podiatrist (last Tues only) 7:00 Bonsai (4 th Tues)	Same as Week 1 ▼ 7:00 RAP (4 th Wed)	Same as Week 1	Same as Week 1	Same as Week 1 3:00 Iaido ▼

Revised 4/1/22

2022 REPRESENTATIVES

Arts & Crafts

Craft Workshop..... Masako Ido
Photo Club..... June Inai
Watercolor..... Ko Yoshida

Boy Scouts

Scoutmaster..... Bill Conroy
Parents' Club..... Ted Nishimura

Exercise

Yoga..... Leslie Masuda

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..... June Lee-Chin

Japanese Language

Gakuen (Youth)..... Jolyn Brookes
Adults (as a 2nd language)..... Fusako Ogasawara

Martial Arts

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

Music

Karaoke..... William Ota
Koto..... Eiko Idota
Shigin (Kinyu Kai)..... Kyoko Yamamura
Taiko (Koshin)..... Lori Miyakawa
Ukulele..... Kay Kawano

Podiatrist (Dr. Kenneth Teshima).....

RAP..... Carolyn Komoto

Seniors

Nutrition..... Jae Toyota
Pioneer Project..... Eric Inouye
Senior Wellness Program..... Gayle Hiram

Sports

Basketball (Adult)..... Chuan Michael Chang, George Johnston
Basketball (VYC)..... Kazie Kame
Pickleball (Adult)..... Mil Kurashige/Ken Rosengrant
Volleyball (Adult)..... Stephen Fujimoto

Venice Youth Council (Mtg)..... Harry Sagara

Revised 4/1/22

FOR CLASS INFO, CALL VJCC OFFICE (310) 822-8885 OR EMAIL OFFICE@VJCC.COM
MESSAGES WILL BE RELAYED TO APPROPRIATE PARTIES



SAVE THESE DATES

Summer “Welcome Back” Festival
Saturday, June 25, 2:00-9:00 p.m. /TBD

Due to compliance with social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic, all other previously scheduled events have been cancelled until further notice.

Please continue to check VJCC.com for the latest updates for the Center.

IN THIS ISSUE

Persons of the Year Award for 2021
Distinguished Service Award for 2021
Board Visions: “Time to reminisce...”

Club News:

Karate Club
Photo Club
Pioneer Project
Senior Nutrition
Senior Wellness

日本語:

空手クラブ
役員からのメッセージ