

COMMUNITY

12448 Braddock Drive • Los Angeles, California 90066

April 2024 • Volume 50 • Number 4

Board Visions

VJCC Legacy

In last month's newsletter, the Pioneer Project got its long overdue moment in the spotlight. Dedicated to preserving our history while celebrating it (and having a whole lot of fun in the process), the Pioneer Project is a testament to the enduring spirit of our community and inspires us to nurture and share it with generations to come.

One place where that spirit continues to spark anew is at the Venice *Gakuen*. Every Saturday morning, students gather to learn about the Japanese language and take part in cultural activities while forging lifelong friendships and bonds. Much of the archival work the Pioneer

by Jolyn Brookes

Project has done makes its way into the Gakuen classrooms, where pieces of the VJCC's history live on in each lesson.



Recently, the Gakuen partnered with the new JCHC (Japanese Cultural Heritage Club) to offer workshops to all VJCC youths. They have experienced *mochitsuki*, learned the ancient art of *Shodo* and celebrated *Hinamatsuri*, with many more events planned for the months ahead.

Like so many of the clubs and classes here, the Pioneer Project, Venice Gakuen and the JCHC honor the past, embrace the present and look toward the future. Together, we all carry the VJCC's legacy forward.

A Legacy Moving Forward... by Gail Sharp

Last month, my mother attended a delicious St. Patrick's Day luncheon hosted by her niece. In attendance were Mom, five surviving siblings, and drivers - my cousins and spouses. The atmosphere was reminiscent of years when *Jiichan*, *Baachan*, aunties, uncles and a score of cousins gathered for holidays... except now it was a cousin taking charge and all the aunties and uncles getting to relax and enjoy. Venues and menus have changed. Family members added and lost. But it is both gratifying and reassuring to know that traditions such as a holiday meal shared by extended family will continue.

Like a family, the 103-year-old VJCC has its traditions. Events like the VJCC *Natsu Matsuri* Summer Festival, which has been around since 1961, draw current and former members from all over California and across the country. For decades it seemed as though the Festival did not change except for improvements to the venue. We paved the dirt parking lot and went from raw wood and nails to welded iron pipe booths. In recent years and among other changes, we dropped popular food items due to city health regulations. *(Continued on page 2)*



SAVE THESE DATES

Summer "Natsu Matsuri" Festival Sat. & Sun., June 22 & 23

Summer BINGO Saturday, August 17

Annual Clean-up Sunday, August 25

Arts & Crafts Fair Saturday, September 28

Golf Tournament Monday, September 30

Please check VJCC.com for the latest updates.

A Legacy Moving Forward (Continued from front page)

We experimented with hiring food trucks during the pandemic. Despite permanent and temporary changes, is the Festival still a revered VJCC tradition that we support wholeheartedly? YES!

Beginning in 2009, one of multiple mentors at the VJCC asked me to shadow her as the head of the reception committee for the annual VICC Shinnen Kai & Keiro Kai. Elinor Suzuki is a most generous teacher. She gave me folders of information, applauded my use of Excel spreadsheets for record keeping, and walked with me through two or three Shinnen Kai & Keiro Kai events before she set me off on my own. And then she stayed on the committee and told me to assign her to work! This was one of the most rewarding collaborative mentor-mentee relationships I have experienced.

Seeing new clubs flourish and their members volunteering their time at events keeps me optimistic for the VJCC. The appearance of new members on the Board, on planning committees and leading organizations like *Gakuen* energizes me and informs me that the VJCC continues to have a bright future because there are people who want to invest their time and energy to make the VJCC as successful as it can be! 🌑



Vision Statement "A center to preserve the heritage and perpetuate the Japanese-American cultural experience." VJCC_{TM} is a registered trademark-servicemark of the Venice Japanese Community Center.

Venice Japanese Community Center, Inc. COMMUNITY NEWS

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Donations: March 2024

The VJCC gratefully acknowledges the following
donations of time, material, and money:
Craig Cummings Monetary Donation
Miyako Kadogawa \$100
In Honor of Kay Kawano
Toby Nakamoto \$100
Toby Nakamoto-Benevity Match \$100
Steven & Patti Mitsunaga Monetary Donation
Galen & Phyllis Murakawa \$200
Annual Fund: March 2024
Ayako Masada \$250

Summer Festival: March 2024
Kubota Mortuary\$200
Senior Wellness Program Grant
Keiro\$10,440
Legacy Tree: March 2024
The VICC gratefully acknowledges donations and

pledges towards the Legacy Tree: Lindon & Joi Kaneshiro \$1,040



Board Vision by Jolyn Brookes – April 2024

先月のニュースレターでは、パイオニア・プロジェクトに長い間待ち望まれていたスポ ットライトがあてられました。私たちは長い歴史を持つパイオニアプロジェクトを祝う と共に楽しみながらコミュニティーへ、そしてこれからの世代へ永続的に共有するよう に育んでいきたいと思います。

コミュニティセンターにあるベニス学園は、毎週土曜日の朝、これからの世代を担う学 生が集まり友情や絆を育みながらパイオニアプロジェクトの歴史を知り日本語や日本文 化も学んでいます。最近、ベニス学園ではパイオニアクラブと新しい JCHC(日本文化遺 産クラブ)と提携し、ワークショップを開催しています。

VJCC の若者向けに餅つきや書道をワークショップとして体験し、ひなまつりをお祝い しました。今後も多くのイベントが計画されています。

ベニス学園以外にも多くのクラスやクラブが VJCC にはあります。VJCC はパイオニアプロジェクトとして築いてきた遺産や歴史を今後も後世に皆さんと一緒に築いて行きます。

ブルック ジョリーン



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Providence

02/2024

Zumba[®] Club at the VJCC

April 2024

In March we had a few dances related to St. Patrick's Day. We danced a few Irish jigs and class was lively. Join us for a fun workout in April. Zumba dance exercise is a fun way to complete your steps for the day, while burning calories and increasing strength and balance in a feel good way.

Starting in April, regretfully, I must cancel the Wednesday night classes. There is not enough attendance to support the use of the MPR room. We will still have Tuesday 9 AM classes.

Here is the schedule and cost. TUES. LIVE - Zumba[®] @9:00 AM - - at the Gym at the VJCC (Venice Japanese Community Center)

Membership at the VJCC is required (\$30 annually until end of the year) Fee applies - \$6 Walk-in, \$25/5 classes, or \$45/10 classes. Liability waiver must be filled out. Registration is ongoing. Newcomers & all levels welcome. Bring: Wear Sturdy shoes, water, towel and energy.

Zumba at the VJCC is taught by Leonore Miller, Certified Zumba, Zumba Gold, Zumba Toning, Zumba Aqua, Zumba Step and AFAA certified.

Questions? Contact Leonore at Skyflakez@hotmail.com Text: 310-210-2154



Leonore



VENICE PIONEER PROJECT

April 2024

April 20 Sat. **JERSEY BOYS** La Mirada, 2pm - Waiting list only. Departure - VJCC Parking lot by 12 noon for check-in. Carpool - Parking limited.

May 8 Wed. HUNTINGTON LIBARAY & GARDEN VPP & HONGWANJI BUDDIST TEMPLE

RESERVATION - mail-in flyer. Trip includes admission, bus, tips, and lunch (Café 1919).

May 20 - 22 <u>LAS VEGAS</u> (Monday to Wednesday) Reservation – mail in flyer, space is limited.

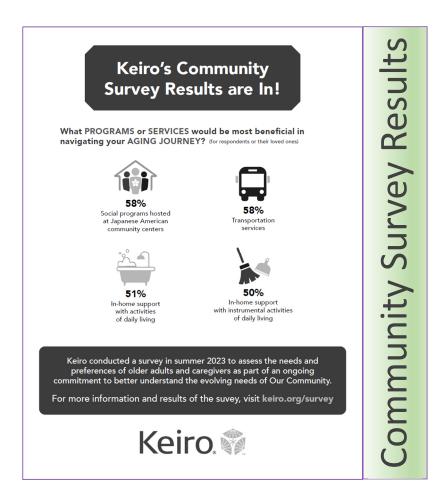
June 2 Sun. <u>LITTLE MERMAID</u> La Mirada, 1:30pm. Reservation – mail in flyer & limited tickets. Departure – VJCC parking lot by 11:30am.

June 22 - 23 VJCC FESTIVAL SATURDAY & SUNDAY

PIONEER PROJECT – GENERAL STORE & PLANT SALE

The Project welcomes and accepts donations in CLEAN & GOOD CONDITION for sale. The Project will have 1 classroom for the sale of merchandise which will limit the space.

A Plant Sale will be outside of classroom 5.





VJCC_{TM} Golf Tournament Platinum Sponsors



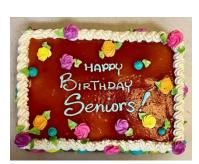
SENIOR NUTRITION

April 2024

Come join us not only 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 to get up, get dressed, and get going...to look forward toward participating in these programs.

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



Program highlight – Monthly Cake Day

- Seniors' birthdays are celebrated on the 3rd Friday of each month with a beautiful cake purchased from Angel Maid Bakery. We make a fuss over everyone celebrating their birthdays for the month, but particularly for those who are 100+ years of age. This is a special treat for our

r y. ng s s

seniors that was started over 30+ years ago which we hope to continue this program for many years to come.

Come in to see Tina Grammatico, WLCAC Meal Service Coordinator, to sign up for the Senior Nutrition Program. She is an employee of the

WLCAC and with the help of the VJCC volunteers go above and beyond to serve nutritious meals Mondays through Fridays (Japanese meals on Tuesdays and Thursdays) to our seniors.



SPRING BAKE SALE

Senior Nutrition's popular <u>Bake Sale will be on Monday, April 29</u>. We will be open from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Do come early as our baked goods (as well as other items – jelly, snack goods, mochi, savory items, etc.) all tend to sell out quickly. We will also have a craft table which is also popular - in the past, we've had handcrafted greeting cards & jewelry, postcards, knitted/crocheted items (it's always a surprise what shows up).

Our fundraisers help us sponsor the VJCC Senior Nutrition programs throughout the year.

We'd love to have you join us at our Spring Bake Sale!!



- ♦<u>Monthly Bento Program</u> (last Friday)
- Ever-popular weekly <u>Bingo</u>
- ♦<u>Annual Holiday Party</u>.

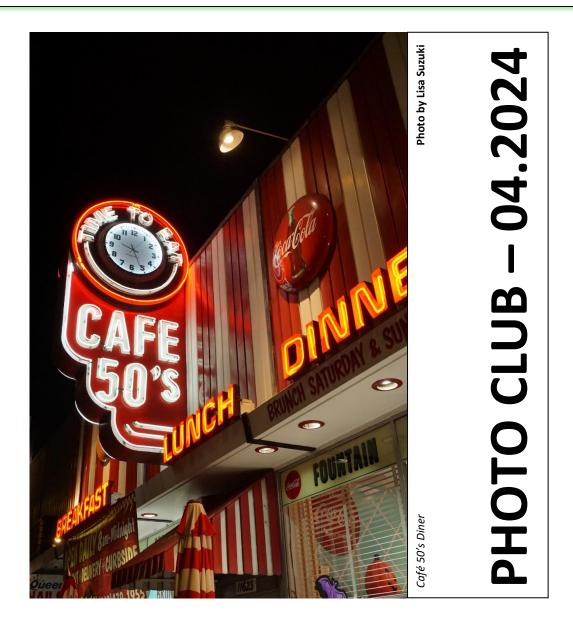
Looking for: <u>Senior Nutrition Manager/Liaison to the Board of Directors</u> (Volunteer)

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.

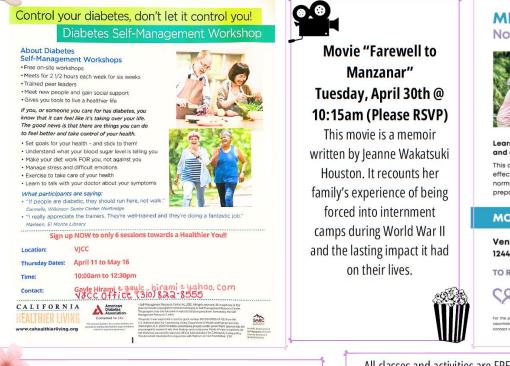


	Senior	Wellness	Program	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
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APRIL 2024

08	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
		1 10-11am Tai Chi (MPR)	2 10am -12pm Chinese Mahjong (MPR)	3	4	5	6	
	7	8 10-11am Tai Chi (MPR)	9 10am -12pm Chinese Mahjong (MPR)	10	11 10am - 12pm DSMP (CL)	12	13	~ *
•	14	15 10-11am Tai Chi (MPR)	16 10am -12pm Chinese Mahjong (MPR)	17	18 10am - 12pm DSMP (CL)	19	20	V
×	21	22 10-11am Tai Chi (MPR) 11:15am Memory Loss Workshop (CL)	23 10am -12pm Chinese Mahjong (MPR)	24	25 10am - 12pm DSMP (CL)	26	27	÷
ju j	28	29 10-11am Tai Chi (MPR)	30 10am -12pm Chinese Mahjong (MPR) 10:15am Movie - Farewell to Manzanar (CL)		2 10am - 12pm DSMP (CL)	MPR= Multip	ntion: Durpose Room assroom	805



MEMORY LOSS & ALZHEIMERS: Normal Aging vs. Signs of Dementia



Learn about normal aging versus potential signs of Alzheimer's and other related dementias.

This class will provide a detailed overview of Alzheimer's disease and its effects, including what causes memory loss, the difference between normal aging compared to signs of Alzheimer's, and what to ask or prepare for when planning a visit to the doctor.

MONDAY, APRIL 22nd • 11:15AM - 12:15PM

Venice Japanese Community Center 12448 Braddock Dr, Los Angeles, CA 90066

TO RSVP OR FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL (310) 822-8885

Alzheimer's Alzheimers AlzheimersLA.org

For the protection of our staff and our community, Alzheimer's Los Angeles strongly encourages all participants to be fully vaccinated against COVID-79 and to use masks. Participants should stay at home if they are feeling sick or have been in close

Coming in May: Spring Arts & Crafts Activity "Tissue Paper Flowers" Monday, May 6th 11:15 – 12:30pm (light lunch will be served)

Must RSVP (limit to 20 people – walk ins may not be accommodated)

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 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 Hirami @ gayle_hirami@yahoo.com. or call the VJCC office at 310. 822.8555.



VENICE KARATE CLUB

April 2024

We hope everyone and their families are doing well. Spring has sprung, and cherry blossoms have begun to appear across the city. Angelenos and the Japanese community are also excited about the baseball season starting, with the Dodgers notably bringing on two top stars in Shohei Ohtani and Yoshinobu Yamamoto. April is a time of "new beginnings" in Japan with the academic and professional field, so all of us look forward to seeing these players' (and our) new beginnings bloom.

Events Recap

On March 9th and 10th, the JKA U.S. team trials were held in New Orleans for the World Cup hosted in Japan in October. From our dojo, students Tom Suzuki and Vladimyr Dubuche were nominated to participate in the trials. They competed in the kata and kumite brackets for their respective divisions, and represented our dojo well against competitors from all over the country. Vladimyr was chosen as the alternate member for the U.S. Men's Jukurensha Kumite team, so please cheer him on as he trains hard towards the World Cup!

From March 14 to 17, JKA Los Angeles dojo hosted kata and kumite seminars taught by Tatsuya Naka Shihan. Including our dojo's students, many others from Santa Monica, Sun Valley, Arizona, Colorado, Texas, Washington, and Mexico attended to learn budo techniques from Naka Shihan. Examinations were also held, where Jin Kuboshima (Nidan), Sanjar Zafar (Yondan), and Tom Suzuki (Examiner certification) were respectfully promoted. Congratulations to all that tested and were promoted!



3月9日と10日に、日本で開催される世界大会へ出場する日本松濤館協会アメリカチームの予選が行われました。当空手クラブからは、鈴木徹さんとデュビッチェブラッディミアさんが予選に出場し、熟年の部でブラッディミアさんの日本大会進出が決まりました。ブラッディミアさん、おめでとうございます。

3月14日から17日は、JKA ロサンゼルス道場にて中達也師範による武道セミナーが開催されました。 ロサンゼルスの道場だけでなく、他州やメキシコからも参加されました。当クラブでは、久保島仁さん が二段に昇段、ザファーサンジャーさんが4段に昇段、鈴木徹さんが級テストの審査官に合格しまし た。

今年の行事

4月6日 春季空手グループイベント(ベニス道場にて)

4月7日 春季昇級テスト

空手クラブでは、毎週月曜日と木曜日午後6時から9時15分に空手の練習をしています。是非一度見 学にいらしてください。



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e 2024 VJCC GOLF TOURNAMENT

Candlewood Country Club 14000 Telegraph Rd. Whittier, CA 90604

Handicapped Four Person Team Scramble Format

REGISTRATION: 7:00 AM - 8:30 AM SHOTGUN START: 9:00 AM AWARDS & BUFFET LUNCH: 2:00 PM

SEPTEMBER 30, 2024 MONDAY

COST: \$180 PER PERSON INCLUDES

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

REGISTER NOW AT:



OR AT: VJCC.COM

Limited Spaces Available

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

Need More Info? Please email or call:

Golf@VJCC.com (310) 822-8885

All proceeds will go to the VJCC Building Fund.

<u>Dress Code</u>: 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.

SPONSORSHIPS

PLATINUM: \$2,000

- Entry for 4 Golfers
- Free 1/4 Page Ad in VJCC Newsletter for One Year
- 3 Tee Sponsorships on Golf Course
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- Special Recognition at Awards Banquet

GOLD: \$1,250

- Entry for 4 Golfers
- 3 Tee Sponsorships on Golf Course
- Special Recognition at Awards Banquet

SILVER: \$750

- Entry for 2 Golfers
- 2 Tee Sponsorships on Golf Course
- 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



March 2024

Venice Gakuen students celebrated Hinamatsuri or Girls' Day on Saturday, March 2nd.

Every year, the J1 students assemble the 7-tier ひなだん (*hina-dan* / doll display). On top are め びな (*mebina* / female hina) and おびな (*obina* / male hina), or more commonly known as *ohinasama*.

J1, Y1 and Y2 students enjoyed chirashi-zushi, ama-zake, hina-arare and other sweets together.

ベニス学園でひな祭りを祝いました。 J1 クラスの生徒が立派なひな壇を準備し、 Y1 と Y2 クラスの生徒と一緒に ちらし寿司、 甘酒、ひなあられ などのお菓子を食べました。





Venice Gakuen Classes

<u>Y1: beginner, ages 5-7</u> Learn to read/write hiragana; Learn basic words and phrases through games and songs

<u>J1: beg/int, ages 12-17</u>

Learn more complex sentence structures through games and roleplay. Must know hiragana & katakana, some basic words and simple sentences.

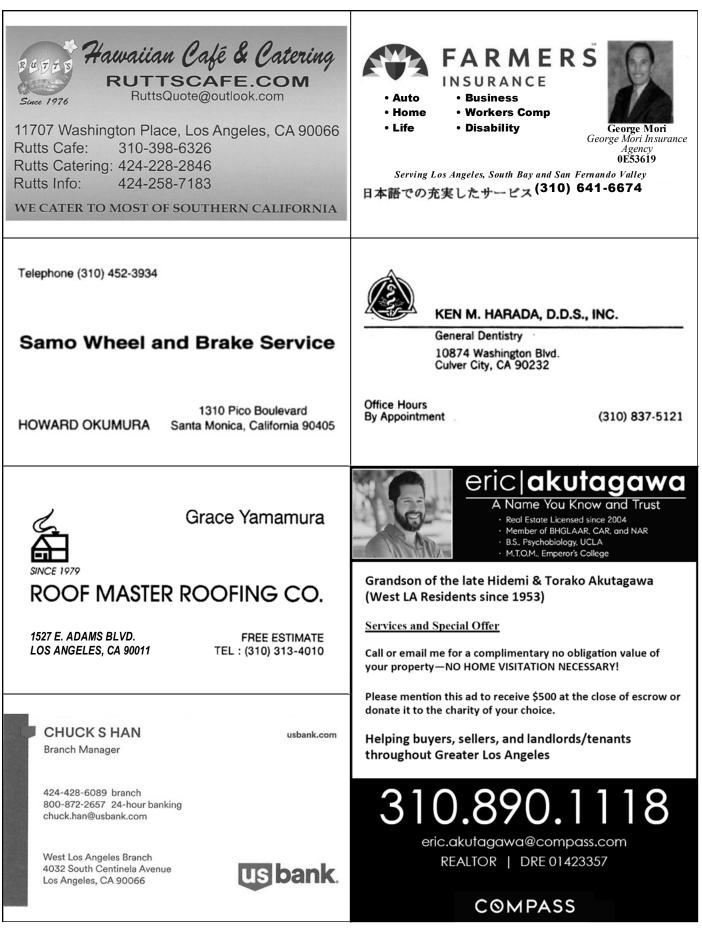
NEW! Y2: Japanese Basics, ages 8-17

Every Saturdays, 12:30pm - 2:30pm | Tuition: \$60 per month Perfect for older children who want to learn hiragana & basic Japanese sentences.

Please email <u>venicegakuen.office@gmail.com</u> for more information

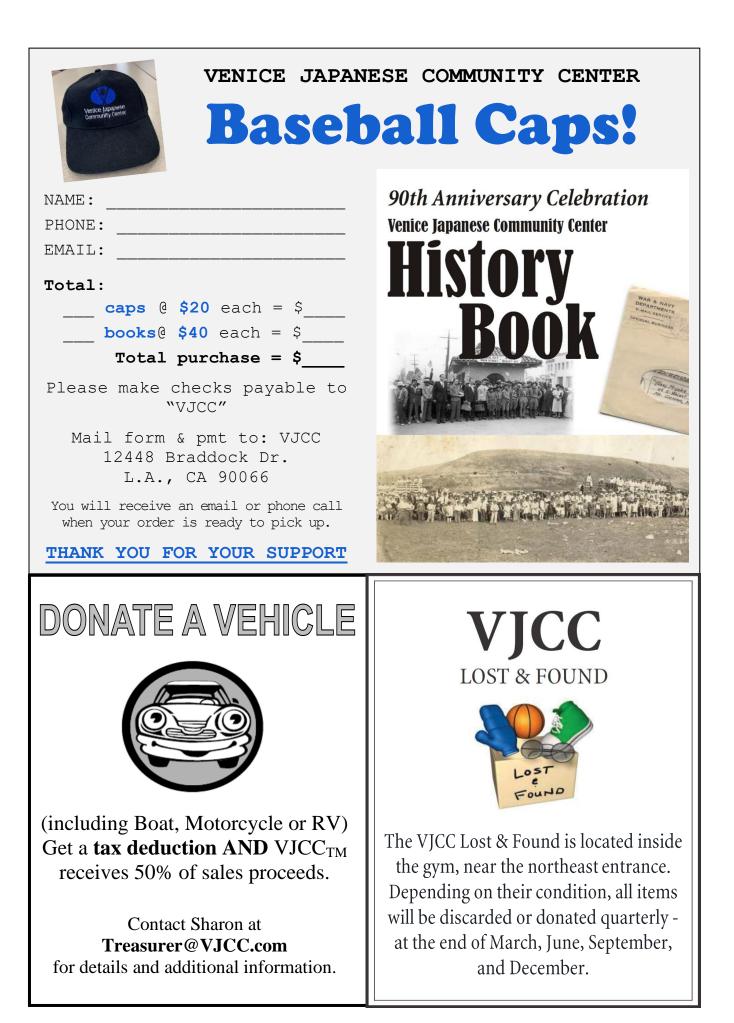
Venice Gakuen | Saturdays 9am - 12pm | Email: <u>venicegakuen.office@gmail.com</u> Established in 1925, Venice Gakuen teaches Japanese language and culture to students K-12 every Saturday. Instruction runs Aug - June with a monthly tuition of \$90.







PROCEEDS GO TO THE VJCC OPERATING FUND



VENICE JAPANESE COMMUNITY CENTER

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 st Mon,Zoom) 7:00 Karate	09:00 Adult Zumba 10:30 Sr. Nutrition ▼ 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 st Wed) 7:00 Kendo 7:00 Adult Zumba	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 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 5:30 Japanese as Sec. Lang. (Before Beginner, Beginner)	Same as Week 1 T: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 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 1/3/2024

* class has not yet resumed

2024 REPRESENTATIVES

Arts & Crafts

Craft Workshop	
Boy Scouts	
ScoutmasterEric Gadal Parents' ClubTed Nishimura	
Exercise	
YogaLeslie Masuda ZumbaLeonore Miller	
Dance	
Ballroom Dance Gayle Hirami	
Hula Wen-Chia Parker Japanese OdoriDianne Fukuwa	
JACL (Venice/WLA)John Saito	
Japanese Culture BonsaiShig Miya, Shinya Miyakoshi IkebanaSatsuki Palter Calligraphy (Japanese Brush Writing) ShodoFusako Ogasawara	
Sumi-e	
Gakuen (Youth) Shizuki Yamashita Adults (as a 2 nd language)Fusako Ogasawara	

Martial Arts Tom Scheir Aikido Harry Mott Judo Trace Nishiyama Karate Ron Sugano Kendo Kenji Arai
Koto Eiko Idota
Shigin (Roeikai)Kosei Yamamura
Taiko (Koshin)Lori Miyakawa
RAP
Senior Wellness ProgramGayle Hirami
Sports Basketball (Adult)Chuan Michael Chang, George Johnston Basketball (VYC)Kathy Yamashita/Kazie Kame Pickleball (Adult)Mil Kurashige/Ken Rosengrant Volleyball (Adult)Stephen Fujimoto

Revised 1/3/2024

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



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