



## 2013 PJCI Luncheon a Huge Success



**T**hank you to everyone who attended our annual luncheon on Sunday, March 3, at the PJCI! Aside from our 50th Anniversary Luncheon in 2012, this was the largest and best we've had the pleasure of hosting. Nearly 175 members of our community came to support our Center and to enjoy the food and festivities. Master of Ceremonies Bryan Takeda presided over the three-hour long program, which featured the 2012-13

Nisei Week Court, the presentation of a variety of community service awards, live entertainment and guests Pasadena City Councilman and Mrs. Gene Masuda and Ms. Misako Ito, Director of the Japan Foundation, Los Angeles.

Rick Beal, President of the PJCI, began by welcoming everyone in attendance and introducing the Board of Directors. Councilman Masuda recognized our efforts in supporting the Japanese American community in Pasadena. The current Nisei Week Court, featuring PJCI Princess Erika Fisher, were then introduced, followed by a very special presentation of our first Community Service Award. Ron and Jeannie Toshima were each honored with a plaque, which recognized over 25 years of service to the PJCI. Over that time, they have both worked tirelessly (and voluntarily) in support of the Center, the Pasadena Buddhist Temple, and the Nikkei Seniors. Besides documenting the history of the Center, Ron has served as our President, Co-President, and Vice President over the years. Jeannie has served the PJCI as Co-President, Secretary and Board Member, while also maintaining our website (pjci.org), publishing the newsletter, and being an integral member of the "Sushi Committee," who are responsible for making our 'famous' PJCI Sushi at our Annual Bazaar.

At the Luncheon, we also introduced our very first Youth Achievement Awards honoring outstanding students from the various groups that call PJCI home. Emika Nishi, a student from Pasadena Gakuen, has excelled at learning Japanese here at the Center while also achieving very high honors as a senior at Schurr High School in Montebello. Judo student and 8th grader Brayon Qunitana has medaled in his last three tournaments and has volunteered to help with many PJCI events over the past few years. Nine-year old Sage Remulla, although learning Kendo only since January 2012, has shown boundless energy and dedication to the art.

After the obento lunch, Wade Utsunomiya presented the Ninth Annual Amy Utsunimoya Memorial Youth Community Service Awards. Details on these honorees and their achievements can be found on the next page.

The afternoon was capped off by a resounding performance of traditional Japanese folk songs and jazz sung by Lisa Horikawa and Miko Shudo, accompanied by guitarist Miles Jensen.

Thanks to everyone who attended for making this a very successful event. A special thanks goes out to all of our board members who volunteered their time and talents in making everything run smoothly throughout the afternoon. We hope to build on this success and bring you an even better Luncheon next year!



INTRODUCING...

### Miss PJCI 2013

**A**s a young girl, Ashley Miekohonma was fortunate to have had the opportunity to grow up and be involved in various Japanese-American community organizations. From elementary school to high school, her weekends were filled with cherished memories of basketball practices, Girl Scout meetings, and Japanese school lessons. In 2011, she graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles, where she served as Secretary for the Nikkei Student Union and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Japanese. She currently works part-time at BLC America and Green Energy Lighting Corp and interns at Bollare, a beauty, lifestyle, and fashion public relations firm. In her spare time, Ashley enjoys playing basketball, spending time with family and friends, and serving as a Planning Committee member for the Rising Stars Youth Leadership Program and a Special Events Committee member for the Budokan. She is honored to have been selected as Miss PJCI 2013 and is looking forward to representing the community center during Nisei Week!



## Friendship 2013 Pasadena-Mishima Summer Youth Program



The Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute is happy to host our eleventh summer youth exchange program—Friendship 2013. The purpose of Friendship 2013 is to bring youth from the cities of Pasadena and Mishima, Japan together to share an experience of a lifetime and to develop an increased understanding of our two cultures. The program will bring youth from Mishima, Japan together with selected youth from the Pasadena area for 8 days.

### Program Goals

- To prepare our youth for the challenges and responsibilities of a changing global community.
- To inspire and engage our youth in cross cultural exchange opportunities.
- To offer our youth the opportunity to develop lifelong friendships.
- To share and understand our cultural similarities and differences.
- To nurture the desire for further exchange and to develop an appreciation for our cultures.
- To develop leadership skills and opportunities through group activities, workshops and field trips.
- To develop communication skills by bringing youth from different countries together to share common goals and activities.

### Program Highlights (tentative)

- Facilitated group activities that encourage interaction and communication
- Overnight to the Grand Canyon and Hoover Dam
- Los Angeles Angels baseball game
- Special guided tour of the Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo
- The California Science Center / Space Shuttle Endeavor
- Meeting with Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard and tour of Pasadena City Hall
- Television studio newsroom tour and live telecast with Frank Buckley at KTLA Channel 5
- Home stay with Pasadena area families

For information to participate or serve as a host family, please contact Bryan Takeda at (626) 396-9927 or [affinity2000@earthlink.net](mailto:affinity2000@earthlink.net)

## The 9th Annual Amy Utsunomiya Memorial Youth Community Service Award

On March 3, the 9th Annual Amy Utsunomiya Memorial Youth Community Service award was presented to four young people that have helped the Japanese American community in the greater Pasadena area this past year. This year's award recipients were Amy Yumika Matsushita-Beal, Carly Halili, Hayley Matsumoto, and Yurika Watanabe. The presentation was made at the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute's (PJCI) Annual Luncheon attended by about 170 community members.

These young people were recognized for taking time out of their busy schedules to provide service to the community. The appreciation of the community and the organizations that were helped was expressed in the presentation of the award to the recipients.



Amy Yumika Matsushita-Beal was recognized for helping the PJCI Board with member registration and the raffle at the PJCI Annual Bazaar. Carly Halili helped the Keiro Intermediate Care Facility in Boyle Heights by coordinating volunteers for the Adopt a Grandparent program and establishing a games library for the residents, many of whom are from the Pasadena community. Hayley Matsumoto assisted the Pasadena Bruins Battling Bruins team with coaching and setting a good example for the players and parents. Yurika Watanabe helped the Pasadena Gakuen with fundraisers and established the Japanese Cultural Awareness Club for anyone wanting to learn more about Japanese culture.

The Luncheon was attended by Pasadena City Council Person, Gene Masuda. He gave a personal address to the attendees and conveyed the sentiments of Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard.

In first nine years of this award, 28 young people have been recognized for their community service.

### Upcoming Events...

MAY	4	Pasadena Gakuen Children's Day Event
	25	Pasadena Nikkei Seniors Luncheon at PJCI
JUN	1	Pasadena Nikkei Seniors Luncheon hosted by Pasadena Buddhist Temple BWA
	15	Pasadena Gakuen End of School Year Ceremonies
JUL	13	Pasadena Gakuen new school year begins
	13-14	Pasadena Buddhist Temple Obon Festival
	27	Pasadena Nikkei Seniors Luncheon hosted by the First Presbyterian Church
AUG	1-8	Friendship 2013 Pasadena-Mishima Summer Youth Program (Pasadena)
SEP	TBD	Pasadena Gakuen New Student Welcome Party
	28	Pasadena Nikkei Seniors Luncheon at PJCI

## Pasadena Kendo Dojo News



**O**n Sunday, October 21, the Southern California Kendo Federation (SCKF) held the fall Shinkyu Shinsa (promotional exams). Congratulations to the following members that were promoted:

*Adam Crawford ~ 5 kyu*  
*Cedrik De Guzman ~ 4 kyu*  
*Andrew Ochiai ~ 4 kyu*  
*Mark De Guzman ~ 3 kyu*  
*Paul Yoo ~ 1 kyu*

On Saturday, November 17, we held our 2nd dojo outing at the Speedzone in the City of Industry. Unfortunately, due to the rainy weather, we were not able to play miniature golf or do any of the racing. We plan to go back on a sunny day to have our race day. We revisited Speedzone on Saturday, March 16, but were only able to play some indoor games and the miniature golf. We have our Spring Promotional Exams on Saturday, May 4 at the University of La Verne. Our first major tournament, SCKF Championships, will be held on Sunday, June 30, at Torrance's Wilson Park. We also have a new website : [www.pasadenakendo.com](http://www.pasadenakendo.com)

## Discounts for PJCI Members

The businesses listed below have partnered with the PJCI to offer our members discounts. Present your membership card to receive the discount listed below.

**Flower Mart**  
**5% off any purchase**  
 9177 Las Tunas Dr.  
 Temple City, CA 91780  
 (626) 286-8858

**Johnny's Sport Shop**  
**10% off**  
 1402 Lincoln Ave  
 Pasadena, CA 91103  
 (626) 797-8839

**Affinity Associates/  
 Happicoats.com**  
**10% off**  
 595 Lincoln Ave., Suite 207  
 Pasadena, CA 91103  
 (626) 396-9927

**Burkard Nursery**  
**15% off**  
 690 N. Orange Grove Blvd.  
 Pasadena, CA 91103  
 (626) 796-4355

**Berry & Sweeney Pharmacy**  
**10% off any over-the-counter purchase**  
 1377 N. Fair Oaks Ave.  
 Pasadena, CA 91103  
 (626) 794-1124

**L & L BBQ, Pasadena**  
**10% discount on purchase of any plate lunch**  
 319 S. Arroyo Parkway #10  
 Pasadena, CA 91105  
 (626) 583-4960

## Pasadena Gakuen News



**T**he students have been busy preparing for our Annual Speech Contest, which was held the first week of March. Each participating student writes, memorizes, and recites his/her speech in Japanese in front of the entire school. We had some special guests in attendance, including this year's Miss PJCI, Erica Hayami Fisher, who also gave a wonderful speech in Japanese. Director Masami Tanaka and Board Member Yoshio Kurata from Kyodo System were also in attendance.

Speech Contest winners are selected by a panel of judges, and those winners go on to compete against other Kyodo System students at the Zenshuji Temple in Downtown Los Angeles. There are many exciting prizes, including a roundtrip airline ticket to Japan! This year's winners from Pasadena are:

*Akane Horii ~ the Japanese Daily Sun Award*  
*Yuta Horii ~ 1st Place for Upper Elementary*  
*Frances Ayumi Noland ~ 1st for Special Recommendation*

Everyone worked hard and did a fantastic job! Congratulations!!!

The Gakuen also celebrated Hinamatsuri that day. Students, teachers, parents, and guests had Hina Arare, Sakura Mochi, and Calpico as we enjoyed looking at the Hina Ningyo doll display. The students are learning not only the Japanese language, but about Japanese culture as well. We were very happy to share this exciting and enjoyable day together.

## Discover Kodama Taiko at PJCI

**K**odama Taiko is currently looking for new recruits to join us in spreading the pulsating rhythms of taiko drumming throughout Southern California. It's a fun and energizing way to discover this unique aspect of Japanese culture.

Composed primarily of working professionals, we are dedicated to learning and performing both traditional and contemporary pieces of taiko music. We have performed at many events and festivals around Los Angeles, including the Japan Expo, the L.A. Tofu Festival, and Nisei Week events. We also performs at private functions such as weddings and corporate events.

Although we freely share our knowledge of taiko, we are not a school—please be prepared to perform with us in front of live audiences once you have learned our songs (really, it's not as scary as it sounds!). We only ask that you be at least 18 years old. Kodama meets at the PJCI gym every Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. For more information, please visit our new website at [kodamataiko.com](http://kodamataiko.com), or call (888) 493-2879, or email [info@kodamataiko.com](mailto:info@kodamataiko.com).

## Pasadena Nikkei Seniors

As per custom, the Pasadena Nikkei Seniors (PNS) celebrated the arrival of 2013 with their annual New Year's Party at the Pasadena Buddhist Church. Two hundred PNS members enjoyed a delicious obento lunch and were entertained by songstress Allie MacDonald, who performed her musical compositions while accompanying herself on ukulele. Other special guests included PJCI Nisei Week Princess Erika Fisher and Consul Shunsuke Chishima from the Japanese Consulate in Los Angeles. Among the luncheon highlights was the introduction by Dr. Osamu Miyamoto of this year's PNS members celebrating their 88th birthdays in 2013.

In early March, three vans filled with PNS members enjoyed the beautiful floral displays at the Santa Barbara Orchid Show and many came home with colorful orchids to add to their own gardens. Following the show, everyone enjoyed lunch at a restaurant on Stearns Wharf and then some visited Underwood Farms in Somis to buy fresh produce grown in the farms around Oxnard and Camarillo. Thanks to Judy Fujimoto, Ron Dyo, and Ron Toshima for serving as chauffeurs for the day.

A trip to see the space shuttle Endeavor at the California Science Center in Exposition Park is scheduled for May 9. The trip, which is sold out, will also include lunch and shopping in Little Tokyo.

And finally, this past March the PNS honored Bobby Fukumoto for his tireless and dedicated volunteer efforts at the PNS luncheons. Once he has his mother settled in her seat, Bobby is up and about distributing lunches, serving tea and clearing trash, oftentimes skipping his own lunch altogether. But most importantly, when lunch is over, he becomes Mr. Bingo, entertaining the Seniors as he calls out the numbers for each game played. The PNS is extremely grateful to Bobby and thanks him for always being so helpful and supportive.

Future luncheons are scheduled for May 25 at the PJCI and June 1 at the Pasadena Buddhist Church. Please call Kiku Matsumoto

(626) 794-0240 to make a reservation. And should any seniors wish to attend a lunch but need a ride, transportation will be provided as long as you are able to walk (with at least a cane). To arrange a ride, please call Itsy Ota (323) 255-2969 after 7:00 or Ron Toshima (626) 799-6684.

## 22nd Haru Uta Matsuri Concert Benefits the Pasadena Nikkei Seniors

On Sunday, April 21, the Annual Haru Uta Matsuri (HUM) Concert was held at the Armstrong Theater in Torrance.

In its 22nd year, Mr. Junichi Araki and the HUM producers have presented the concert for the benefit of the Pasadena Nikkei Seniors.

Every year, about 30 performers devote their Sunday afternoons at the PJCI for 2 months of rehearsals. The amateur performers bring food and refreshments for everyone each Sunday for lunch and snacks while they practice their contemporary Japanese songs and dances to help produce a professional quality show.

Producing such a large concert requires a tremendous amount of volunteer effort. From theater reservations and recruiting performers to script writing, choreography, stage, sound, lighting and ticket sales, planning for the concert begins in the fall of each year. It is truly an impressive commitment of time and effort on the part of these individuals. Many in the concerts have performed for over 20 years.

The concert is always very well attended with over 500 guests each year. The guests enjoy outstanding performances while helping to support the Pasadena Nikkei Seniors.

We look forward to your support for the 23rd Haru Uta Matsuri Concert in 2014!

## PJCI ORGANIZATIONS AND SCHEDULE

### Pasadena Gakuen Japanese Language School

Saturdays: 8:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Contact: Yoshiko Uno, Head Instructor

Phone: (818) 249-0018

Phone: (626) 405-2321

Email: pgakuen@sbcglobal.net

### Bando Hidesomi Nihon Buyo Class

Saturdays: Please call for times

Contact: Bando Hidesomi

Phone: (310) 800-0118

Email: bandohidesomi@gmail.com

### Yokou Kitajima Ikebana

Meets on 4th Saturday of each month from 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Contact: Yokou Kitajima

Phone: (626) 333-3039

### Pasadena Aiki-kai

Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.  
Sundays: 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Phone: (323) 878-5611

Email: info@pasadenaaikikai.com

### Integrated Martial Arts

Wednesdays: 6:00 a.m.-7:00 a.m.  
Fridays: 6:00 a.m.-7:00 a.m.

Contact: Tim Piering

Phone: (626) 440-4183

Email: timpmoto@aol.com

### Pasadena Kodokan Judo Dojo

Mondays: 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.  
Saturdays: 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Contact: Mike Verdugo

Phone: (626) 441-9614

Email: verdugoassoc@earthlink.net

### Pasadena Kendo Dojo

Tuesdays: 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.  
Fridays: 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Contact: James Yamasaki

Phone: (626) 676-0318

Email: jmyamasaki@yahoo.com

Website: pasadenakendo.com

### Kodama Taiko

Thursdays: 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Contact: Karren Tsutsui

Phone: (888) 493-2879

Email: info@kodamataiko.com

Website: kodamataiko.com

### Nanka Kyudo Kai

Saturdays: 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Contact: Rick Beal

Phone: (626) 367-9175

Email: rickbeal@sbcglobal.net

Website: kyudosocal.com

### Pasadena Naginata Dojo

Saturdays: 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Contact: Cathy Mikuni

Phone: (818) 790-2446

Email: cmikuni@hotmail.com

### Pasadena Nikkei Seniors

Handicraft Class

Wednesdays: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Contact: Kiyoshi Takeda

Phone: (626) 359-3780

### PJAA Bruins Basketball

Contact: Dan Nakauchi

Phone: (626) 437-5965

Email: dnaka55413@aol.com

Website: pasadenabruins.org

### Qi Gong - Wei-Tuo Foundation

Tuesdays: 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Contact: Ernie Fukumoto

Phone: (626) 833-1935

Email: efukumoto@sbcglobal.net