



# Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute

[pjci.org](http://pjci.org)

SUMMER 2013

## PJCI Preparing for Nisei Week Festival

**W**ith Nisei Week just around the corner we would like to invite you to come out once again and support our newest Miss PJCI. We have had great success in recent years, highlighted by 2009 Queen, Dana Heatherton, 2010 Miss Tomodachi, Jamie Hagiya, and 2011 Queen, Erika Olsen. And none of this would have been possible without your support. Thank you!

Two upcoming events will give you the opportunity to meet our current candidate, Ashley Honma, and 2012 Nisei Week Princess, Erika Fisher. First, on July 13th and 14th, the Pasadena Buddhist Temple will hold their annual Obon Festival (*please see page 2 for more information*). On Sunday the 14th, 2013 Nisei Week Candidates and 2012 Nisei Week Court members will be in attendance to introduce themselves, including our very own 2013 Miss PJCI. Then, on October 6, we invite the Court back to the PJCI at our Annual Bazaar. At both events, there will be food, games, and arts and crafts booths, as well as a variety of martial arts and cultural demonstrations.

In August, Nisei Week will begin on the second weekend and wraps up the following weekend. Prior to those festivities, there will be various opportunities for you to meet them and the other candidates of the Court in person. Keep an eye out for upcoming events, whether in upcoming newsletters or on the PJCI Facebook page.

In addition, Ashley and Erika can be available to come and meet your groups and support you at your various events—schedule permitting, of course. They are both very committed to staying engaged in our community and helping your groups (and the PJCI) grow.

If you are interested in becoming involved with the Miss PJCI Committee and/or Nisei Week events in Little Tokyo, please contact Steve Koyama at [stevekoyama@ca.rr.com](mailto:stevekoyama@ca.rr.com) or call (310) 892-2656 for more information. We look forward to hearing from you soon. Thank you again for your support!



## Bando Hidesomi—Traditional Japanese Dance Classes Comes to Pasadena

**J**f you are around the cultural center on Saturday mornings, you may have seen some young ladies in beautiful kimono or heard traditional Japanese music. Nihon Buyo is now at our center!

The Bando Hidesomi Nihon Buyo Class is a Japanese traditional dance class led by Bando Hidesomi. Presently, the class consists of students ranging from age 4 up to students in their 50's. The group has performed at many different venues throughout the years including at the Monterey Park Cherry Blossom Festival, Thunder and Silk (a multicultural event), Mt. San Antonio College, Rancho Los Alamitos, Iris Festival at the Arboretum, Awaya-Kai Koto Concerts, the Warner Grand Theater and at the Arizona Matsuri Festival in Phoenix. They have also participated annually in the Nisei Week Festival, obon festivals held at Zenshuji and Sozenji Temples. Bando Hidesomi also shares their passion by performing for the Keiro nursing homes in Gardena and Los Angeles, which brings much joy into the hearts of the residents.

► *Continued on page 4*

## Friendship 2013 Celebrates Its 11th Year



**M**aking new friends, learning Japanese language and culture, sharing your home and your interests, that's what Friendship 2013 is about. For the past 11 years, the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Center and the City of Mishima have supported this program which fosters

youth understanding between the United States and Japan while strengthening the US-Japan relationship.

PJCI Board Member, Bryan Takeda, has been working on this project with Pasadena's Sister City of Mishima since a personal visit to Japan in 2000. In early 2001, the City of Mishima and Shizuoka Prefecture invited several youth from the Pasadena area to participate in an International Summer Camp at Mt. Fuji, Japan. Several teenagers and two chaperones, including Bryan, joined two college exchange students from Pasadena at the International Summer Camp for a week of activities and experiences of a lifetime with new friends from the United States, China, Canada and New Zealand. Following the camp, Bryan met with Mishima Mayor Koike to discuss

► *Continued on page 2*

## Grateful Crane's "Nisei Serenade" to Feature Youth Singers Performing 1940's Songs in Tribute to the Nisei

Seventy years and two generations later, classic songs from the 1940s will be brought back to life by five young Japanese American women portraying real-life Nisei singers who sang these songs that brought joy, hope and inspiration to their fellow Nisei confined behind barbed wires.

In "Nisei Serenade," Grateful Crane's Next Generation Youth—Aimee Machida, Erika Mariko Olsen, Miko Shudo, Alyssa Nakamoto and Lisa Horikawa—will be sharing the history and performing Nisei stories and songs on Saturday, June 29 at 2 p.m. at the Centenary United Methodist Church in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

Written by Soji Kashiwagi, directed by Alison Minami with musical direction by Scott Nagatani, the one-act show begins in present day at the Keiro Retirement Home in Los Angeles. After a performance of 1940s songs, a Keiro senior approaches Grateful Crane's youth singers and takes them on a journey back in time to 1944, when five young Nisei singers were brought in from camps across America to perform at a special one-night-only show at Heart Mountain.

"Our scenario of five young singers coming into camp for a one-night only show didn't actually happen," said Soji Kashiwagi, Executive Producer of Grateful Crane. "But the Nisei singers they're portraying are based on real people, the songs they will be singing are real and the stories they will be telling are real," said Kashiwagi.

Adding further authenticity to the show will be a special guest appearance by Mary Kageyama Nomura, aka the "Songbird of Manzanar" who at age 16 delighted her fellow Nisei by singing all the favorite songs of the era at camp dances, concerts and weddings. Today at 87, Mary is a great grandmother who still loves to sing—and she will be doing just that to close the show.

Some of the songs the youth will be singing include *At Last*, *How High the Moon*, *I Could Write A Book*, *Mister Five By Five*, *I Had the Craziest Dream*, *Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy*, *Over the Rainbow*, *Apple Blossom Time*, *Dream* and *Rum & Coca Cola*.

"And of course, given their situation in camp, 'Accentuate the Positive' is a must for this show," said Kashiwagi.

## PJCI Members Trained in CPR

On Saturday, May 25, eleven PJCI members took part in a CPR/First Aid training class at Code 3 Life Support Education in Pasadena. Former paramedic and licensed instructor, Michael Nerone, taught the 4-hour class where we learned some basic procedures to take when encountering an emergency situation, and we all became certified in the American Heart Association's First Aid CPR AED Program. The techniques we learned can have a very real and positive impact. He stressed that the most important thing you can do in such an emergency is to call 911 as soon as possible and get help, even if you don't have any training in CPR or first aid.

Thank you to everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to learn these special skills. A special thanks goes out to James Yamasaki of our Kendo group who organized the class. Taking part were representatives from Kendo, Integrated Martial Arts, Kyudo, Aiki-Kai, Gakuen, Qi-Gong, and Kodama Taiko. We feel it will be an important part of all of the activities that take place at the Center. Even though none of us wish for an emergency situation to occur at our facility, you should have some peace of mind in knowing that one of us will be able to act quickly to save a life.

## Obon Festival at Pasadena Buddhist Temple

The Pasadena Buddhist Temple Obon festival will take place July 13 & 14 from 4:00 p.m. each day. Obon is a time when we remember and show our appreciation to family and friends who have passed from this world. Buddhists know that we are what we are today because of all the sacrifices and guidance we received from them when they shared our lives.

Obon dancing will take place each evening at 6:30 p.m. Taiko performance will take place at 7:00 p.m. with more Obon dancing resuming afterwards. Practices to learn the dances will be held Tuesday and Thursday nights from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. beginning on June 18th. Obon dancing is all about dancing for your own enjoyment not to entertain or impress anyone else! For a schedule of all Obon festivals in Southern California, go to the Japanese-City website, [www.japanese-city.com/calendar/events/p/obon.php](http://www.japanese-city.com/calendar/events/p/obon.php).

Martial Arts Demonstrations will be provided by the PJCI organizations (tentative schedule).

### Saturday

4:45 – Qi Gong

5:15 – Aikido

5:45 – Judo

### Sunday:

5:00 – Kyudo

5:30 – Kendo

6:00 – Naginata

Tea Ceremony will take place on Sunday. Ikebana will be on display both days.

Vendors selling crafts, t-shirts and other handmade items will be available both days. A variety of foods will be sold each day. Game booths will be set-up for the kids and the adults.

Please go to the Pasadena Buddhist Temple for the updated information and religious schedules. [www.PasadenaBuddhistTemple.org](http://www.PasadenaBuddhistTemple.org).

## Friendship 2013 continued from page 1

the success of the program and to explore ways to strengthen the relationship between Pasadena and Mishima. Bryan mentioned how great it would be to host a youth group from Mishima for a summer exchange program in Pasadena. Mayor Koike seized the opportunity and promised to send 15 Mishima students to Pasadena the following summer. With Mayor Koike's support and with the support of the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute and the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee, Friendship 2002 Pasadena-Mishima Summer Youth Program was launched. Since that time, over 150 students from Pasadena and Mishima have participated in the program. Many continue to stay in contact with one another to share their life experiences through college, early career and even marriage!

This year, students from Mishima will be visiting Pasadena from August 1 thru August 8. Highlights of this year's program include a trip to the Grand Canyon and Las Vegas, a live KTLA Morning Show telecast, an Angels baseball game, beach outing, the Gardena Obon Festival and private tours of the Japanese American National Museum and the newly renovated Rose Bowl.

To participate and/or host a student this year or if you would like to travel to Japan in 2014, please contact Bryan Takeda at [affinity2000@earthlink.net](mailto:affinity2000@earthlink.net) or call (626) 396-9927 at your soonest convenience. Space is limited and will be assigned on a first come-first serve basis.



### Pasadena Kendo Dojo News

The Southern California Kendo Federation held their spring shinsa (promotional exams) on Saturday, May 4 at the University of La Verne. We would like to congratulate Sam Crawford and Paul "Pepe" Yoo for receiving their Sho-dan (1st degree black belt) rank. Southern California Kendo Federation will be holding their championships on Sunday, June 30th at the Dee Hardison Sports Complex (Wilson Park) in Torrance. We are very excited for it will be the first tournament for a few of our members. If you have time, please come out and cheer us onto victory.



If you are interested in kendo lessons, please check out our website at [www.pasadenakendo.com](http://www.pasadenakendo.com).



### Join Awaodori! The Folk Dance of Tokushima

Beginning on Sunday afternoon, July 14, Awaodori will hold practice at the cultural center. Awaodori is the traditional folk dance of Tokushima in Shikoku. Every year, the volunteer dance group performs at the Nisei Week Festival in Little Tokyo and the Monterey Park Cherry Blossom Festival.



Dancers make their own colorful happi coats and hair bands for their performances. The dance group is open to all ages and welcomes everyone to join them. Practice dates at the center are scheduled for Sundays afternoons, July 14, 21, 28 and August 4 in preparation for the Nisei Week Festival. For more information, contact Hiromi Jo at (626) 617-7767 or [h.vivihair@gmail.com](mailto:h.vivihair@gmail.com).



### Pasadena Gakuen News

Kyodo System has been taking a triennial speech exchange tour of Japan since 1960. This summer they will be going once again. Junior High and High School students will visit Kyoto, Osaka, Mie, Nagoya, and Tokyo.

Over 300 people attended our annual Pancake Breakfast on April 21st. Both American and Japanese style breakfast was served to a hungry crowd. We had singers, a Hawaiian dancer, and a taiko drummer perform in our talent show.

Thank you very much to the PJCI community for your continued support of Pasadena Gakuen and our PTA.

We celebrated Kodomo No Hi Children's Day on May 4th with a mini Undokai Sports Day in the auditorium. This year, the Red Team won! We also served traditional chimaki sweet rice dumplings. A great time was had by all.

### Naginata News



At the last Southern California Naginata Federation Seminar and Taikai held on November 2-4, 2012, the following Pasadena Naginata Dojo members participated: Tony Bernot, Anthony Bernot, Debbie Bernot, Jenny Bernot, Dan Trexler, Tamaki Hozumi, Toan Hoang, Cathy Mikuni. It was a very exciting seminar where we improved our techniques, strengthened our spirit, and renewed our friendships with members from our other dojos in the SCNF. Pasadena members also did very well in the Taikai. Jenny Bernot took second place in the Shiai competition, In the Engi competition, the team of Dan Trexler and Jenny Bernot took first place and the team of Tamaki Hozumi and Anthony Bernot took second place. Many of the Pasadena members will be attending the International Naginata Federation Seminar and US Championships in Seattle, Washington at the end of June.



### Aikikai News

This year Pasadena Aikikai participated in more than the usual number of special events. They did a demonstration at the Obon festival and held the Annual Friendship Practice as has been done for many years. This year there were also several special classes by guest instructors, one by Phil Greenwood and two by Eskabo Daan practitioners G.M. Castro and his staff. The dojo also participated in a fundraiser seminar at Whittier Aikikai.



### Pasadena Nikkei Seniors



In May, a bus full of Nikkei Seniors paid a visit to the space shuttle Endeavor at the California Science Center. After the museum, the bus took the group to Little Tokyo where everyone enjoyed lunch at Oiwake, followed by some shopping and sightseeing. At left, Tak Kiriyama visits with Jake and Mary Matsumoto in the shadow of the Endeavor.

**Bando Hidesomi** *continued from page 1*

Apart from her group, Bando Hidesomi has also performed for lecture demonstrations, concerts and educational institutions such as the JACCC, UC Santa Barbara, El Camino College and Loyola Marymount University.

**A Brief explanation of Bando-ryu (Bando School of Nihon Buyo)**

Bando Mitsugoro III, a master in Nihon Buyo, is the founder of Bando-ryu. The Bando family was the original proprietor of Moritaza, one of the three theaters approved by the Japanese government during the Edo Period. The origin of the Bando-ryu style of buyo dance comes from Kabuki. The present Grand master is Bando Mitsugoro X (10th), who is also a well-known Kabuki actor in Japan.

Bando Hidesomi was born in Torrance, CA and started her training under Madame Bando Mitsuhiko, at the age of three in 1976. In 1985, she started training under Madame Bando Hideko, daughter of Grand Master Bando Mitsugoro IX. She then trained in Japan for 5 years under the care of Bando Mitsugoro IX while attending Keio University. During her 5 years in Japan, she received the title of Shihan (Master's degree). She also participated in the Bando School's Charity Recital in Tokyo and Bando-Kai's 75th Anniversary Recital, at the National Theater of Japan. After returning to the United States in 1996, Bando Hidesomi started to build her career as a dancer. While pursuing her dance studies, she has dedicated herself to teaching students in the Los Angeles area for over 15 years. She is also a part of the after school program at El Marino Elementary School located in Culver City. Through Nihon Buyo, Bando Hidesomi wishes to express the feeling of appreciation and respect for all cultures, and hopes that her passion for Nihon Buyo will bring love, joy, peace and hope to everyone while creating a bridge of unity between all cultures.

Bando Hidesomi meets on Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Contact [bandohidesomi@gmail.com](mailto:bandohidesomi@gmail.com) for appointments or for more information.

**Qi-Gong News**



**O**n Thursday, May 30, the Huntington Library was visited by PJCI's Qigong class. Student Erv Kiriu took the photo above showing some Canadian goslings 'participating' in the Energy Circle. Erv, who has extensive experience with these birds, expressed his surprise that not only did the little goslings feel safe and comfortable walking through the group, but that their parents actually 'allowed' them to come so close to the humans. Canadian Geese are known to be extremely protective of their offspring to the point of aggression and violence! So this was a very special treat indeed for the Qigong participants. Please note that the Huntington does not recommend that you approach these geese families too closely should you visit the grounds.

Other highlights of the outing included a visit to the Tea House, which was donated and relocated to the Huntington last year by the Pasadena Buddhist Temple. Special thanks goes to Huntington Library docents Sinton Stranger and Michiko Watanabe (also Qigong students) for organizing this wonderful visit, and Sharon Cohen, another Qigong student and docent at the Gamble House, for leading the group through the Green and Green exhibit at the Library.

**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

*If you would like to receive the electronic version of this newsletter, as well as special email announcements for upcoming events, please send us a note and let us know at [info@pjci.org](mailto:info@pjci.org).*

**Upcoming Events...**

- 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
- OCT 6** PJCI Annual Bazaar
- 26** Pasadena Nikkei Seniors Luncheon at PJCI
- NOV 23** Pasadena Nikkei Seniors Luncheon hosted by Pasadena Buddhist Temple

**PJCI ORGANIZATIONS AND SCHEDULE**

For a list of the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute's Organizations and their schedules, please see the Spring 2013 issue of our newsletter, or visit [pjci.org](http://pjci.org).