



From the President



Greetings,

I'm honored to be serving as this year's President of the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute (PJCI). Previously, I had been a parent representative of the Pasadena Gakuen PTA; I've been happy to remain active on the PJCI Board ever since. Our Annual Luncheon marks our first major event of the year, and it was great to see so many of you in attendance! Thanks to your generous contributions and support, we're looking forward to another event- and activity-filled year. I'm also grateful to be working alongside my fellow Board Members and others who volunteer so tirelessly and with such dedication; I couldn't do it without them! Thank You and Arigato!

- June Chin

Introducing Our 2014 Miss Pasadena JCI

Greetings, PJCI. My name is Tori Angela Nishinaka-Leon, and it is my honor to be your 2014 Miss Pasadena JCI. I have already been showered with support from the PJCI community. I want to make you proud.

I currently work for my mentor, Dr. Matsuzaki, at his optometry office in Pasadena because I want to be an optometrist myself one day. Last summer, he invited me to my first obon- the Pasadena Buddhist Temple Obon! The spirit of the festival touched me when the priest said to invite a lost loved one to dance. I asked Grandpa. I let go of all my worries of looking silly because, at obon, none of that matters. With this introduction to my Japanese side, a spark lit inside me. I went to all of the other hosted obons and dance practices to be in the Nisei Week parade! I want to continue to learn more about my Japanese culture. This led me to PJCI.



Tori Nishinaka-Leon (second from left) poses with former Miss Pasadena JCIs Erika Olsen (2011, far left), Ashley Honma (2013, third from left), and Erika Fisher (2012, far right) after her coronation at the PJCIs Annual Luncheon in March.

I am no stranger to Pasadena. If I was not at school, I was in Pasadena on the golf course, either at Brookside or my second home, Arroyo Seco. My hard work led me to title top ten for four years in the L.A. CIF Championships, placing 2nd twice. I also attended college nearby at Occidental on full scholarship. While there, I played on the men's team as the first female golfer at Oxy, and I later formed the women's golf program.

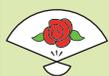
I hope to be an active contributor to the Japanese American community. It was a delight to participate in PJCI's Akabeko Project. Even though Fukushima suffered much heartache, I witnessed the PJCI community unite for those in need. The event was a huge turn out and a great success. I look forward to many more such events. Thank you.

Akabeko Project: Design. Paint. Fund Raise.

On the afternoon of Sunday, March 9th, the Akabeko Project was held at the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute. The event was held to remember the victims of the 3.11 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami and to raise money for Ohana Ouenjya, a school that serves children with disabilities in Fukushima Prefecture, Japan. The project raised over \$1,200 and was attended by over 100 people. The attendees ranged from ages 2 to 98 from our Pasadena and Los Angeles communities, Indiana, as well as university students from throughout Japan.

A group of young adults from the PJCI organized the event, with the goal of providing a creative, youthful, and fun way to bring together the

► Please see Akabeko on page 3



Sign Up for Japanese Language Classes

Japanese Language classes for adults beginning now! Please call Pasadena Gakuen at (213) 383-4706 for more information.

PJCI Presents Outstanding Service Awards

Among those recognized at this year's Annual Party were seven individuals who, for a number of years, have played a vital "behind the scenes" role as contributors to many PJCI and Pasadena community activities. Each was presented a plaque from the PJCI in appreciation for their service along with a "Certificate of Recognition" from the city of Pasadena signed by Mayor Bill Bogaard.

Most of the recipients are long time members of the PNS Board of Directors and include:

Kay Abe—has served as PNS Treasurer for over 15 years

Dr Osamu Miyamoto—was first President of Pasadena Pioneer Project and instrumental in establishing PNS as a non-profit organization

Itsy Ota—one of the founders of the Pasadena Pioneer Project and currently heads PNS Craft Class

Kiyoe Suzuki—has been PJCI Bazaar Sushi Chair over 10 years, integral part of Sushi Committee for more than 20 years

Miyuki Takeda—Lunch Coordinator for PNS luncheons for over 20 years, responsible for menus and recipes that feed large crowds several times a year



l to r: Dr Osamu Miyamoto, Kay Abe, Kiyoe Suzuki, Itsy Ota, Miyuki Takeda, Mary Uchiyama, Mitsie Yanari, and Pasadena City Councilman Gene Masuda

Mary Uchiyama—long time PNS Vice-President, put together newsletters that kept members informed of events and activities; also taught Asian cooking and sewing classes for city of Pasadena for over 30 years

Mitsie Yanari—has organized flu shot clinic for PJCI for more than 20 years, has served as PNS Secretary and Vice President

Gakuen News

Akemashite omedetou gozaimasu! We celebrated the New Year with a shamisen and koto performance by Oosumi sensei and a kakizome calligraphy demonstration with Miyamoto sensei. The children were able to practice their writing skills with real brushes and ink. We also had our annual Setsubun and Hinamatsuri celebrations. Special thanks to Alice Rothenberg and Fugetsudo Sweet Shop in Downtown Los Angeles for donating the Sakura mochi. <3 We are looking forward to our American

and Japanese Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, April 27th. It seems to be getting bigger and better every year, so be sure not to miss it!

It has not just been celebrations, or course. Our students attend classes each Saturday and have also been working very hard on their speeches for the Speech Contest. Congratulations to the finalists! The Finals will be held Downtown later this month. Congratulations also to Akiko Akanuma, who won an Academic Achievement Award at the PJCI Annual Luncheon. Great job, everyone!

We offer classes for both children and adults. The adult sessions begin every 10 weeks, so now is a great time to jump in if you've always wanted to brush up on your Japanese Language Skills. Please call the administrative office at (213) 383-4706 for more information.



The 10th Annual Amy Utsunomiya Memorial Youth Community Service Award

On March 2, the 10th Annual Amy Utsunomiya Memorial Youth Community Service award was presented to Nancy Izumi Chin. The award recognizes outstanding service to the Japanese American community in the greater Pasadena area by youth. The presentation was made at the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute's (PJCI) Annual Luncheon attended by over 160 community members. The appreciation of the community and the organizations that were helped was expressed in the presentation of the award to Nancy.



Nancy was recognized for her many hours of volunteer help including: helping the Rising Stars and Friendship youth groups, and PJCI fundraising booths at the Pasadena Buddhist Temples' Obon festival for two days; helping prepare and serve at the Pasadena Buddhist Temple's Sukiyaki Dinner fundraiser for two days; and manning the PJCI booth at the PJCI Annual Bazaar. The community. Most impressively, Nancy is not a member of any of these organizations and was not asked or required to help. She helped because she likes the feeling and likes to give back to the community.

This is the kind of genuine community spirit that this award wants to recognize and encourage.

Seeking Teaching Assistant Pasadena Gakuen has an opening for Teaching Assistant. Knowledge of the Japanese language preferred. Please contact Kyodo Systems Headquarters for more information. (213) 383-4706



Kendo News

On Sunday, March 2, at the PJCI Annual Luncheon, the kendo group honored Cedrik De Guzman with the Outstanding Youth Achievement Award. He is a very dedicated kendoist which shows with his hard work at practice and attending both of the weekly practices. He currently holds a rank of 4 kyu in kendo, also a green belt in karate. He also is also an avid drummer with his music inspirations from various groups like Nirvana and Linkin Park. There are also some upcoming kendo events: Promotional Exams on Saturday, April 19th at Covina Dojo; North/South Kendo Tournament on Sunday, May 4th at Wilson Park in Torrance. If you are interested in starting kendo, please contact James Yamasaki at jmyamasaki@yahoo.com.

Pasadena Sister Cities Student Exchange Program

Register Now for Friendship 2014 Pasadena-Mishima Summer Youth Program

The Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute is planning for Friendship 2014 Summer Youth Exchange Program and Japan Tour at the end of July through early August. The purpose of Friendship 2014 is to bring people from the cities of Pasadena and Mishima, Japan together to share life experiences



and to develop lasting friendships. We will visit our Sister City of Mishima for a home stay and several facilitated activities with assistance from the Mishima International Relations Association. In light of the tragedy of the 3.11 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, we will visit Fukushima and the Ohana Ouenjya school for children with disabilities to present our donation from the Akabeko Project and to show our support for those who are working so hard to rebuild their lives.

Program Highlights

- Fun group activities with Mishima students eager to meet you.
- Welcome Party hosted by the Mishima International Relations Association (MIRA)
- Enjoy a home stay in Mishima with wonderful host families.
- Hike beautiful Mt. Fuji and enjoy lunch high above the city of Mishima
- Enjoy a field trip to the Atami Fireworks Festival with host students.
- Explore and shop Tokyo – Tokyo Sky Tree, Asakusa Shrine, the Imperial Palace, Shibuya and Harajuku.
- Meet the children of Ohana Ouenjya school for children with disabilities in Fukushima.
- Decorate an akabeko at one of the few remaining akabeko workshops of Japan.
- See the historic sites of Nikko or the world famous temples of Kyoto.

Register now for your adventure in Japan! Contact Bryan Takeda at (626) 396-9927 or at affinity2000@earthlink.net to reserve your spot!

Akabeko *continued from page 1*



community in support of Ohana Ouenjya. Each participant received a blank akabeko, which is a handmade papier-mâché cow from a family-owned workshop in Fukushima, Japan. Each participant then used paints and decorating supplies, provided by The Akabeko Project, to decorate and design their own unique akabeko to take home and display.

The akabeko is a well-known handicraft and symbol of the Fukushima region, serving as the perfect item for participants to customize and take home with them as a keepsake for their contribution and support.

Please visit the Akabeko gallery to learn more information and to see the great pieces of work at akabekoproject.wix.com/akabekoproject.



Some PNS members recently enjoyed a visit to the Farmer's Market for lunch and shopping followed by a quick stopover at Olvera Street.

2014 Pasadena Buddhist Temple Obon

Saturday, July 19, 4:30-9:00 P.M. | Sunday, July 20, 4:30-8:30 P.M.

Food, cultural demonstrations, Bon Dancing each night at 7:00 P.M.

Visit PasadenaBuddhistTemple.org for up-to-date information

First Presbyterian Church, Altadena Presents the Nozomi Story: Beauty from Brokenness

In 2011, a devastating tsunami hit Japan's eastern coast. The city of Ishinomaki, about three hours north of Fukushima, was nearly destroyed. Although many lives were shattered by the tsunami, a group of women from this city began to gather up the broken pieces of pottery left in the wake of the tsunami and learned to craft unique jewelry products from the broken shards. From brokenness to beauty, God is transforming the lives of these women, as they see new hope for their future in their new enterprise. "Nozomi" means "hope" in Japanese, and this enterprise brings sustainable income, dignity and hope to these women in Ishinomaki.

First Presbyterian Church, Altadena invites the community to hear the Nozomi story. The Nozomi presentation is scheduled for Sunday, April 27, at 12:00 noon, in the Social Hall. This event begins with an invitation to enjoy a very nice luncheon, followed by a presentation by a Nozomi representative. Many pieces of the jewelry will be on display, and for purchase. All proceeds from the sale of the jewelry go directly to support the Nozomi women.

All are welcome! Please save the date, Sunday, April 27 at 12:00 noon. This event begins immediately after the 10:30 a.m. worship service, and all are invited to come early and worship as well. The church address is 2775 Lincoln Avenue, Altadena, 91001. Questions? Call Alice Young at the church office at (626) 791-4271.

Pasadena Nikkei Senior News

In February, the Pasadena Nikkei Seniors held their Annual New Year's Party, which honored its most recent 88 year-old members. The crowd was greeted by Vice Consul Shunsuke Chishima, representing the Consulate General of Japan, and Ashley Honma, 2013 Miss Pasadena JCI. Following a delicious obento lunch, 2011 Nisei Week Queen Erika Olsen entertained the crowd singing songs that showcased her extraordinary vocal talents.

On April 9, the PNS is scheduled to take a day trip to view the Flower Fields of Carlsbad, followed by a visit to Pechanga for lunch and a bit of gambling. The cost for the trip will be approximately \$50. In May, a visit to Roger's Gardens is being planned.

Upcoming lunch dates are March 29, April 26, and May 24, all at the PJCI. For information or to make a reservation for the trips and/or the luncheons, please contact Kiku Matsumoto (626) 794-0240 or Ron Toshima toshima@sbcglobal.net.



88 year-old honorees (l to r): Kay Abe, Dorothy Kuroye, Helen Nakagawa, Itsuko Ota, Sherry Taniguchi, Kiyoshi Takeda, Akira Toda, Joe Uchida, and Mitsie Yanari.



DISCOUNTS FOR PJCI MEMBERS

The businesses listed at right have partnered with the PJCI to offer our members discounts. Just present your membership card to receive the discount shown here.

Flower Mart
10% off any purchase
9177 Las Tunas Dr.
Temple City, CA 91780
(626) 286-8858

Affinity Associates / Print and Promotional Products
10% off
595 Lincoln Ave., Suite 207
Pasadena, CA 91103
(626) 396-9927

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

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

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

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

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 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

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

Contact: Ernie Fukumoto

Phone: (626) 833-1935

Email: efukumoto@sbcglobal.net