

**Akemashite Omedetou!**

The Pasadena Buddhist Temple would like to express its gratitude for all the support from our friends at the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute. We hope that everyone will have a wonderful New Year!

In January, the Pasadena Buddhist Temple will be welcoming our new resident minister, Rev. Gregory Gibbs. Rev Gibbs will be taking over for Rev. Lee Rosenthal, who retired last year. He is "returning" to Southern California with his family, as he was once the reverend at Nishi Honganji, and he will be conducting our weekly service and dharma talks every Sunday. Rev Tetsuo Unno, who has been serving our sangha since Rev Rosenthal retired, will continue to act as our assistant minister.

Please visit the Pasadena Buddhist Temple website at [PasadenaBuddhistTemple.org](http://PasadenaBuddhistTemple.org) for upcoming events.

**Attention PJCI Members**

You are welcome to attend the annual General Meeting to be held Monday, January 19, 2015, where we will be voting on PJCI's By-Laws and choosing the Board of Directors, among other topics of discussion. If you are unable to attend, don't forget to fill out and mail in the Proxy form you received earlier this month so that it is received before Jan. 19, 2015.

**SPECIAL DISCOUNTS FOR PJCI MEMBERS**

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

**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: Pasagakuen01@yahoo.com

**Bando Hidesomi Nihon Buyo Class**

Saturdays: Please call for times

Contact: Bando Hidesomi  
Phone: (310) 800-0118  
Email: bandoridesomi@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

**Miss Pasadena JCI**

Wednesdays: 6:00 a.m.-7:00 a.m.  
Contact: Erika Fisher  
Email: misspasadenajci@gmail.com  
Website: pjci.org

**Nanka Kyudo Kai**

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

Contact: Rick Beal  
Phone: (626) 367-9175  
Email: rickbeal@sbcglobal.net  
Website: pasadenabruins.org  
Website: kyudosocal.com

**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: ernieqigong@gmail.com  
Website: qigongwithernie.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**

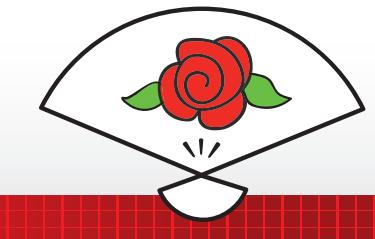
Handicraft Class Wednesdays:  
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Contact: Kiyoshi Takeda  
Phone: (626) 359-3780

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

Contact: Ernie Fukumoto  
Phone: (626) 833-1935

Email: ernieqigong@gmail.com  
Website: qigongwithernie.com

**Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute****Happy Holidays from Pasadena JCI***From the President...*

**J**t has been an honor to serve as president for the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute (PJCI) this past year. We've had a busy year filled with activities locally and abroad, and managed some significant accomplishments along the way. These were made possible by our many hard-working volunteers, their generous donations, and yours. Activities such as the Akabeko Project, Nisei Week Queen Tori Nishinaka-Leon and the Miss Pasadena JCI Committee, our Annual Luncheon and Recognition, the Mishima Friendship Program, and our Annual Fall Bazaar happened because of this network of support--Thank You and Arigato!

I must also thank the PJCI Board of Directors, who collectively roll their sleeves up to tackle all the projects that come our way. Finally, PJCI members should have received their Proxy and Notice for the General Board Meeting to be held Monday, January 19th, 7pm. Also mark your calendars for Sunday, March 1, for the PJCI Annual Luncheon and Recognition for 2015. Hope you and your loved ones enjoy the holidays!

—June Chin  
2014 President

Happy Holidays PJCI!,

*'Tis the season of family and togetherness! I recently returned from Japan on the traditional Nisei Week Court Trip. It was an incredible experience that I would love to tell you all in person.*

*Even though it was my first visit to Japan, I felt nostalgic. As I walked down the cobblestone sidewalks, I couldn't help but wonder if my great-grandparents had done so before me.*

*I learned a lot about myself and never felt more Japanese-American. We have branched out from the Japanese way and have become our own identity as Japanese-Americans. However, it's important not to forget our history. Japan was the homeland of our Issei. Their history is also our history and still is a part of all of us.*

*The PJCI community and the Nisei Week Foundation understands this importance. That is why all year round, our Japanese traditions are honored, cultivated, and carried on to future generations.*

*Without your support of PJCI and Nisei Week, I wouldn't have been on that journey to truly learn firsthand this lesson. I felt a tremendous responsibility to be there as a representative of the California JA community that I love. Every year, the Nisei Week contingent visits our sister city, Nagoya, to strengthen and continue ties. This year marks the 55th Anniversary of that relationship. This bond of trust and unity links our communities across an ocean. I am grateful to have been able to be a part of continuing this relationship.*

*Thank you, as always, for listening and supporting.*

—Tori Nishinaka-Leon

2014 Miss Pasadena JCI and 2014 Nisei Week Queen

**Seeking Nominees for Youth Community Service Award**

**D**o you know a young person that has helped one of the Japanese American organizations or the JA community in the Pasadena area during 2014? Here is a great way of recognizing them.

The Amy Utsunomiya Memorial Youth Community Service Award nominating committee wants to recognize all deserving young people who have helped the community in 2014. Please submit nominations as soon as possible before January 15. Please contact Wade Utsunomiya for nomination forms, referrals, or questions at **(626) 799-7719** or **utsunomiya@earthlink.net**.

Earlier this year, Nancy Izumi Chin (pictured, on left) was recognized for her generous service to several community organizations, including the PJCI, Rising Stars and Friendship youth groups, and the Pasadena Buddhist Temple.

We would greatly appreciate your help in finding deserving young people. Please inform us of any young person that has somehow been of significant help to your organization or the community within the last year. Anyone can be nominated by completing the Nomination Form.



## Pasadena Nikkei Seniors News

The Pasadena Nikkei Seniors closed out 2014 with a busy schedule that included an apple picking trip to Tehachapi, a visit to the Graber Olive House in Ontario, where a tour of their facility was given and our members did lots of Christmas shopping, and an afternoon of lunch and gambling at Santa Anita, where the first race was named in honor of the Pasadena Nikkei Seniors.

The PNS was also treated to luncheons hosted by the Pasadena Buddhist Women's Association, Ron & Cindy Dyo and the Miss Pasadena JCI Committee, and Mrs Miyuki Takeda and her fabulous lunch crew. We thank them all for providing some really delicious lunch fare.

Make plans to attend our annual New Year's Party, tentatively scheduled for Sunday, February 1, at the Pasadena Buddhist Temple. For more information about the PNS, please contact Kiku Matsumoto ([\(626\) 794-0240](tel:(626)794-0240)) or Ron Toshima ([toshima@sbcglobal.net](mailto:toshima@sbcglobal.net)).



## Qi-Gong News



Qigong Class members celebrating at a recent potluck luncheon. lft-rt Carol Moore, Maryann Ito, Joannie Watanabe



## Gakuen News

We are back in full swing for the Fall/Winter session at the Gakuen with a new student and teacher welcome party, parent conferences, a Sougetsu Ikebana Flower Arranging Demonstration for students and parents (pictured), and of course, lessons every Saturday. Thank you to Kitajima sensei and his helpers for visiting and sharing this beautiful art with us.

This month is our Academic Achievement Exhibit, where students get to show family and friends some of what they have been working on in class. We hope everyone enjoys the holiday season and has a Happy New Year!



## Kodama Taiko News

Kodama 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 perform 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. Please visit our new website at [kodamataiko.com](http://kodamataiko.com), call [\(888\) 493-2879](tel:(888)493-2879), or email [info@kodamataiko.com](mailto:info@kodamataiko.com) for more information.



## Integrated Martial Arts News

Sensei's Tim Piering and Andy Leeka from the PJCI Integrated Martial Arts class took a trip to Cebu City Philippines to test for their 2nd degree black belts in Eskrima. Eskrima is a multi-system martial art that uses rattan sticks, knives, staff, throws, locks, disarms, and empty hand techniques. The two weeks of training were grueling and involved all day workouts in high humidity monsoon weather.

There were a total of 15 Masters and Grand Masters at the Doce Pares world headquarters who judged the Black belt testing under the guidance of the Supreme Grand Master Diony Canete. Tim and Andy passed their tests for Nidan which crowned their eight years of training in Eskrima under Master Erwin Mosqueda 9th Dan world champion Eskrima Master.

Sensei Tim Piering now holds black belts in Shorin-ryu Karate, Teakwondo, Judo, Aikido, and Eskrima. Sensei Andy Leeka holds black belts in Gosoku-ryu Karate, He-len-ryu, and Eskrima. Classes in the Integrated Martial Arts include mixing multiple martial arts into an effective self-defense system. However the focus is the great joy of experiencing the techniques Masters have developed over the ages. You can never get to the bottom of any of these arts. There is always another level of Mastery to reach no matter how advanced you are. True artistry in martial arts only comes after drilling fundamentals for many years and internalizing the movements until they flow seamlessly. Integrated Martial Arts class goes from 6 to 7am on Wednesdays and Fridays. There is minimal charge to cover rent and some occasional training aids. More information is available by contacting Tim Piering at [\(626\) 688-1645](tel:(626)688-1645) or email [tmpiering1111@gmail.com](mailto:tmpiering1111@gmail.com).



## Kendo News

The Southern California Kendo Federation held their fall promotional exams on Sunday, October 19th. Congratulations to the following members for receiving their rank: Sang Baek (4kyu), Andrew Ochiai (3kyu), Maureen De Guzman (3kyu), Cedrik De Guzman (2kyu). The first tournament in 2015 will be the Mori Hai Tournament on Sunday, February 1st at Wilson Park. Our next beginners class registration is the first and second Tuesday in January at 6:00pm. If interested, please contact James Yamasaki ([jmyamasaki@yahoo.com](mailto:jmyamasaki@yahoo.com)), website: [www.pasadenakendo.com](http://www.pasadenakendo.com).

## AKABEKO PROJECT Annual event to be held March 8, 2015

The 2nd Annual AKABEKO Project event is scheduled for Sunday, March 8, 2015 at the PJCI. Please join us for an afternoon of creativity and education about the current situation in Fukushima, Japan. This year, in addition to the traditional akabeko, tiger, horse and daruma will also be available for decoration.

Akabeko (red cow) is a traditional toy from the Aizu region of Fukushima Prefecture, in eastern Japan. According to legend, the akabeko was based on a cow that would not leave the temple that it had helped to build and then devoted its life to Buddha. The akabeko also came to be known to ward off smallpox and other illnesses. Today, the akabeko has become a well-known craft and symbol of Aizu and Fukushima Prefecture. Akabeko are now made by fewer than a dozen small family-run workshops in Aizu, whose families have passed down the technique to make akabeko for many generations.

Founded in 2013, the Akabeko Project is an annual event to raise money for the victims of the 3.11 Fukushima nuclear disaster in 2011 while engaging community members of all ages in a creative and educational activity related to Japan. It has been almost four years since the disaster but many in the evacuated areas of Fukushima are still displaced and reside in temporary emergency shelters (kasetsu jutaku) struggling to rebuild their lives. The Akabeko Project aims to continue to educate the community on these issues, while engaging with traditional cultural arts.

Proceeds from the project will be used to support organizations that serve victims of the Fukushima nuclear disaster as well as for the production of a feature length documentary directed by up and coming filmmaker, Marissa Kitazawa, about the social effects of the disaster on children with disabilities, senior citizens and young women. Please contact Lauren Takeda at [Intakeda@gmail.com](mailto:Intakeda@gmail.com) if you would like to support these efforts. More information about the AKABEKO Project can be found at [akabekoproject.wix.com/akabekoproject](http://akabekoproject.wix.com/akabekoproject).

## Pasadena - MIRA California Tour planned for June 2015

An interest list is now being formed for a California tour with members of the Mishima International Relations Association (MIRA) tentatively scheduled for the first week of June, 2015. Currently, 24 MIRA members are planning to visit Pasadena and are looking forward to travelling through California with members of our community. The tentative one week schedule includes a Welcome Party in Pasadena and visits to Manzanar, Mammoth Lakes, Yosemite, Napa Valley and San Francisco. This will be the third such travel program with MIRA members. More details will become available early in 2015.

The cities of Mishima and Pasadena are Sister Cities and have engaged in annual student and city exchange programs for over 50 years. The Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute's Friendship Summer Youth Program has seen the participation of over 200 youth since its start in 2002.

To add your name to the interest list or for more information, please contact Bryan Takeda at [\(626\) 396-9927](tel:(626)396-9927) or [affinity2000@earthlink.net](mailto:affinity2000@earthlink.net).