



Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute

pjci.org

SPRING 2016



Mirai Nihongo Gakuin Enjoys Successful Summer

NEW SEMESTER BEGINS SEPTEMBER 10

Students at Mirai Nihongo Gakuin enjoyed a fun and enriching summer session to kick off the school's opening.

In addition to learning basic Japanese, they participated in several Japanese cultural experiences including suikawari (breaking watermelon), traditional Japanese summer games and making musubi. The students also participated in a special, hands-on taiko workshop with Makoto Taiko.

Students can look forward to more nihongo and Japanese cultural education when the new semester begins on September 10. New students (children and adults) are encouraged to register before the start of school. Registration forms can be found on the website at www.MiraiNihongoGakuin.org. For questions or more information, please feel free to call (626) 449-5487 or send an email at Mirai.Nihongo.Gakuin@gmail.com.

PJCI Annual Fall Bazaar

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2016, 11:30AM TO 4:00PM

Our Annual Fall Bazaar is just around the corner! Open to all members and their guests, the event will feature martial arts and cultural demonstrations, as well as various foods and vendor booths. The event also provides an opportunity for attendees to learn about our other activities such as the Akabeko Project, our new Mirai Nihongo Gakuin - Pasadena Japanese Language Academy, and Miss Pasadena JCI (See the related introduction to this year's princess, Miss Julia Tani, on page 6.)

Kicking off with a performance by our own Kodama Taiko, the Bazaar also serves as an important source of fundraising to ensure that all of these activities continue to thrive in our facilities. Raffle prizes and an opportunity drawing will feature a top prize of a 48" television, so don't forget to buy your tickets! (Tickets will be \$3 each, 10-tickets each booklet for a total of \$30 per booklet.)

Come join us for this family-friendly day of fun, and thank you for your support!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Make an Impact

This week, I was happy to reconnect with a young friend who we had met over 12 years ago during one of our Pasadena-Mishima Friendship Youth Programs. Kaori is now working in Sao Paulo, Brazil for JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency.) JICA is a Japan-based non-profit that promotes cultural relationships between Japan and other countries. When I asked her about her exciting new job, I was happy and touched by learning that her experience with our Friendship program had made a great impact on her life. She said that, at the time of our program, she was a young teen and did not truly understand the history and struggles of Japanese-Americans. It was during her studies in college that she felt a strong desire to visit Los Angeles and tour the Japanese American National Museum again. She had realized the importance of preserving her Japanese culture and strengthening relationships between Japan and other countries. After her assignment in Sao Paulo, Kaori will return to Mishima to teach elementary school. Using her Portuguese-speaking skills, she plans to help Brazilian children in Japanese schools.

Stories like this inspire and strengthen my commitment to the mission of the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute: to preserve and promote the Japanese culture and language for our increasingly diverse community. Every day, our center has the opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of our members and their families as well as our friends in Japan. Thank you to all the instructors and volunteers who give their time, talent and treasure to make it all possible.

BRYAN TAKEDA
PRESIDENT,
PASADENA JAPANESE CULTURAL INSTITUTE



IMAs Sensei's Tim Piering and Robert Stadd Earn Blue Belts in Gracie Jiu-Jitsu



For the past year and a half the Integrated Martial Arts class has been focusing on training in the Gracie Jiu-Jitsu Combatives Course. There are 36 techniques that must be mastered to pass this course. These 36 techniques were taken from real fight scenarios out of many hundreds of techniques and are the most effective for defending against common street-fight tactics.

Sensei's Tim and Robert both had to test with Ryron Gracie. Each test took half an hour and consisted of Ryron attacking in a street-fight manner. This included demonstrating the ability to close the distance without getting hit, perform a takedown, control the attacker and finally to submit the attacker with joint locks or chokes. Tim and Robert who have extensive martial arts backgrounds including dan rankings in judo, karate, aikido, and eskrima both

agree that Gracie Jiu-Jitsu is extremely effective for self-defense.

The Combatives course was developed for the military and police and is designed to overcome the attack of a larger stronger opponent. Helio Gracie, the founder, developed this art in Brazil by studying judo ground techniques called newaza. Helio was light weight and frail but found he could overcome larger opponents by using technique, timing, and leverage. His son Roron Gracie brought Gracie Jiu-Jitsu to the U.S. and founded the Ultimate Fighting Championships (UFC) to prove its effectiveness. Roron's brother Royce Gracie put Gracie Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu on the map by winning three UFC's against much larger and stronger opponents. Today, third generation Gracie brothers Ryron and Renner continue the family tradition and have introduced many innovations in a Global Training Program to enable participants of any age to defend themselves.

At our Integrated Martial Arts class we study and teach Combatives Course techniques by viewing a video which breaks the moves down into component parts and then we practice it many times. We rotate through all 36 techniques practicing several each class. Sensei's Tim and Robert also study at the Gracie Academy in under the guidance of Ryron Gracie and are enrolled in the next level of training called the Masters Cycle.

We welcome all students teens and above to the class with or without any prior martial arts training. Each technique stands by itself so you can join at any point in the rotation.

Integrated Martial Arts meets Wednesday and Friday mornings from 6 to 7am. Cost is \$25 per month to cover facility rental and training aids. Please contact Tim Piering at (626) 688-1645 or e-mail timpiering1111@gmail.com for more information.

Pasadena Nikkei Seniors News

The Pasadena Nikkei Seniors' calendar includes plans for the following activities before the end of the year.

On September 22, the group will be going to the Knauss Apple Ranch in Tehachapi (west of Mojave) for apple picking. After picking bags and boxes of apples in 2014, we were unable to return last year because drought conditions prevented the ranch from opening. This year's opening day at the ranch is scheduled for September 17, so there should be plenty of apples for picking on the 22nd. Please remember to bring your own bags and/or boxes. We plan on meeting at the Pasadena Buddhist Temple parking lot at 9:00 and should get back around 4:00. Approximate cost will be \$20. Please call Kiku Matsumoto at (626) 794-0240, or e-mail Ron Toshima at toshima@sbcglobal.net by September 10 to reserve a spot.

After a one-year hiatus, the PNS is returning to the Santa Anita Race Track for "A day at the races" on October 8. An area in the FrontRunner Restaurant, located in the clubhouse area, will be sectioned off for our group. The \$40 cost will entitle you to admission, lunch, a racing program, and general parking. Contact Kiku Matsumoto or Ron Toshima by September 24 to make a reservation.

The PNS is currently making arrangements to host an AARP driver safety classroom course, which will teach safety strategies necessary to maintain confidence behind the wheel. Topics will include how to adjust one's driving as one gets older and how to reduce chances of getting into an accident. The class involves two days of class time, 4 hours each day, and the tentative cost would \$20 or \$15 for AARP members. The dates are yet to be determined, but we're exploring dates in late October or early November. Contact Ron Toshima if you're interested in signing up.

Keiro Caregiver Conference



Many of the volunteers who came out to help and support the Keiro Caregiver Conference

The PJCI, in conjunction with the Pasadena Buddhist Temple, the First Presbyterian Church of Altadena, and the Pasadena Nikkei Seniors, hosted a very successful Keiro Caregiver Conference this past June. Over 200 people attended and received information on topics such as Estate Planning, Medicare, Long Term Care, and Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia. There was also a Resource Fair, free health screenings, and complimentary legal and pharmacy consultations.



Friendship 2016

MEMORIES FROM THIS YEAR'S PASADENA-MISHIMA SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

Friendship 2016 was an experience like no other. This trip was enjoyable because of the many students that participated from China, Japan and America. What made this trip even more special was being able to see my friends that I had met two years ago in Japan. In Fukushima, I was exposed to a live Matsuri summer festival. The streets were bustling with people in yukatas and kimonos, and the air was filled with all sorts of delicious Japanese street food. It was refreshing to be surrounded by the liveliness and high spirits of the summer festival. In Shizuoka, I was very glad to be reunited with friends who had come to America last year. Everyone was like a big family: caring for others, making sure everyone was included in events, and engaging in conversations about each other's culture. The bonds that we have made on Friendship 2016 make me feel strongly about the future relationships between these countries.

What I have learned from these exchange programs is that our differences do not define who we are. No matter what history our countries may have towards each other, we have the ability to mend and create new paths for our future. The Friendship program has done a marvelous job of creating lasting friendships. They have encouraged students to work together in activities and have created exciting new events that students can all experience together. I have truly cherished being part of the Friendship program as a high schooler. As I get older, I wish to share the joy of exchange programs with younger students as well.

BY MK ZUIDERVEEN

Although I have been to Japan before, the Pasadena Mishima Exchange Program was a first for me in that changed my whole perspective on Japan. There are only positive things to say after this experience. The food, the people, the kindness they showed us, and the opportunities that this program offered us. Nothing in my life has ever given me as much as this nine day program has.

All the way from meeting my host family to cooking food with students from Japan and China, I was always learning and having fun. I learned interaction, language, and people skills through this amazing program. These kinds of experiences do not come often, and anyone who is considering joining, I highly recommend it. I look forward to going back in the years to come.

BY MATTHEW KIM



Mayor Bill Bogaard, Yaeko and Bruce Hisayasu, Yaeko Sakahara, Kiyoko Shimoji, Maki Miyahara, Japan Consul Hiroshi Furusawa.

PJCI Mourns Loss “Cultural Heroes” Hisayasu and Miyahara

Two men who had prominent roles for many years with the PJCI passed away this summer. Bruce Hisayasu and Maki Miyahara both left their mark in the PJCI history book, contributing many years of service to the PJCI and the Pasadena Nikkei community. Their contributions were such that in 2008, both were honored at a recognition luncheon as “Cultural Heroes” in appreciation for their dedicated service to the PJCI. Among the attendees were Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard and Japan Consul Hiroshi Furusawa.

Most recently, Bruce Hisayasu and his wife, Yaeko, were renowned for their bonsai expertise. They graciously displayed their collection of bonsai plants every year at the PJCI Annual Bazaar and the Pasadena Buddhist Temple Obon. They were both students of bonsai master John Naka, and were members of many bonsai organizations, including the Pasadena Bonsai Club. Over the years his bonsai was also displayed at numerous exhibits throughout the state, including showings at the Huntington Library and Descanso Gardens.

But in the 1960's, 70's, and 80's, Mr Hisayasu was very busy as a member of many organizations housed at the PJCI. Because his boys practiced judo and went to Japanese school at the PJCI, he was actively involved with Pasadena Kodokan Judo Dojo and Pasadena Gakuen. Working as a gardener led to his association with the Crown City Gardeners, and all of these affiliations eventually led him to join the PJCI Board of Directors. During his years with these organizations, he served terms as President of the Crown City Gardeners, the Pasadena Gakuen PTA, and the PJCI.

Mr Hisayasu also had a long time association with the Taisho Club and for over 30 years was a member of the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee. He passed away on June 13 at the age of 94.

Esteemed kendo sensei Maki Miyahara became the head instructor for the PJCI Kendo Dojo in 1955, and he remained in that position until the mid 1990s. Miyahara-sensei also taught at the San Fernando Kendo Federation, Pomona College, and the UCLA Kendo Club. He held prominent positions with the Southern Cali-

► See Heroes on page 4

Heroes

continued from page 3

fornia Kendo Federation and the Kendo Federation of the United States, and he led seminars in Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

In 1984 he achieved the rank of hachi dan hanshi (8th degree black belt), which made him the highest ranked kendo instructor in the United States. He was on the U.S. national team in the 2nd International Kendo Championship and in 1976, coached the U.S. team to a 3rd place finish in London, England.

Mr. Miyahara and was inducted into the Black Belt Hall of Fame in 1971 and was honored as a 2006 Nisei Week Pioneer. He was also awarded the "The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays" on July 21, 2011 for his contributions promoting kendo and the enhancement of friendly relations between the United States and Japan.

He had been teaching the art of kendo and investing in the lives of kendoists throughout his entire life, and he was happiest when repairing and balancing the bamboo swords for his kendo students. Mr Miyahara passed away on July 28 at the age of 95.



AROUND THE COMMUNITY

PASADENA NIKKEI SENIORS LUNCHEON DATES

September 10 @Pasadena Buddhist Temple
October 29 @PJCI
November 19 @PJCI

Please call Kiku Matsumoto (626) 794-0240 to make a reservation.

FALL FESTIVAL AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ALTADENA

Saturday, September 17

The First Presbyterian Church of Altadena will be hosting its annual Fall Festival on Saturday, September 17 from 3:00–8:00 pm. This a good time to renew acquaintances and meet new people. There will be a variety of game booths for children, food to satisfy all palates such as hamburgers, chirasushi, teriyaki chicken, snow cones, a variety of baked goods, as well as a boutique for shopping, art displays and a children's art booth. Entertainment will occur throughout the day and will culminate in the evening with the raffle drawing. The church is located at 2775 Lincoln Avenue, Altadena. Please call the church office if you have any questions at (626) 791-4271. We hope you will be able to join us.

PASADENA BUDDHIST TEMPLE SHOPPING EXTRAVAGANZA

Saturday, October 1

This year's Shopping Extravaganza event is on October 1st. Come with friends and get a head start on your holiday shopping list. By purchasing a pass, you get a wristband that adds discounts to already discounted prices. Your pass also provides; private catered lunch, live entertainment, complimentary wine tasting, free bag checking, and free raffle tickets for a chance to win gift cards. Tickets are \$35 per person and can be purchased online at www.citadeloutlets.com (select "BWA of Pasadena" as the charity of your choice). If you prefer to pay by check or cash, email pasadenasangha@gmail.com no later than Sept 15.

PASADENA BUDDHIST TEMPLE FALL DINNER

Saturday, October 22

Take-out or Dine-in from 3:00–6:30 p.m.

Dinner includes:

- Beef Chow Mein with Pan Fried Noodles
- Barbecued Chicken Teriyaki
- Rice and side dish



Pre-Order by October 15, your dinner cost is \$13. After October 15 cost will be \$15. Visit the temple website for pre-ordering options at www.PasadenaBuddhistTemple.org.

PASADENA JAPANESE CULTURAL INSTITUTE ORGANIZATIONS + SCHEDULE

Mirai Nihongo Gakuin - Pasadena Japanese Language Academy

Saturdays 8:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m., and 1:30-4:45 p.m.

▶ (626) 449-5487
Mirai.Nihongo.Gakuin@gmail.com

Pasadena Aiki-kai

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

▶ (323) 878-5611 | info@pasadenaaikikai.com

Kodama Taiko

Thursdays 7:30–9:30 p.m.

▶ (888) 493-2879 | info@kodamataiko.com
kodamataiko.com

Pasadena Naginata Dojo

Saturdays 9:00–11:00 a.m.

▶ (626) 375-4876 | cmikuni@hotmail.com

Bando Hidesomi Nihon Buyo Class

Saturdays Please call for times

▶ (310) 800-0118 | bandohidesomi@gmail.com

Integrated Martial Arts

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

▶ (626) 688-1645 | timpiering1111@gmail.com

Miss Pasadena JCI

▶ misspasadenajci@gmail.com | pjci.org

Pasadena Nikkei Seniors

Handicraft Class

Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

▶ (626) 826-1005 | toshima@sbcglobal.net
pjci.org

Ikebana - Sogetsu Ikebana

Meets on the 4th Saturday 1:00–3:00 p.m.

▶ (626) 333-3039 | kazhanatoniwa@gmail.com

Pasadena Kendo Dojo

Tuesdays 6:00–7:00 p.m. (beginners)
 7:00–8:30 p.m. (advanced)
 Fridays 6:00–7:00 p.m. (beginners)
 7:00–9:30 p.m. (advanced)

▶ (626) 676-0318 | jmyamasaki@yahoo.com
pasadenakendo.com

Nanka Kyudo Kai

Saturdays 5:30–8:30 p.m.

▶ (626) 367-9175 | rick@nankakyudokai.org
kyudosocal.com

PJAA Bruins Basketball

▶ (818) 261-4626 | deo24bra@yahoo.com
pasadenabruins.org

Qi Gong

Tuesdays 9:00–11:00 a.m.

▶ (626) 833-1935 | eyf713@yahoo.com
qiqongwithernie.com

Shotokan Karate

Mondays 7:00–7:30 p.m. (kids) and 7:30–9:00 p.m. (adults)

Saturdays 1:30–3:00 p.m. (all ages)
 ▶ (508) 951-0790 | evanviera@gmail.com
 ▶ (213) 709-1596 | james@uyedalaw.com
pasadena.ska.org

Soroban Class (Japanese Abacus)

Thursdays 3:30–4:30 p.m. (advanced)
 4:45–5:30 p.m. (beginners)

▶ hiromi@alcatraz.net



Kendo News

It is with a sad heart that on July 28, 2016, Maki Miyahara sensei passed away at the age of 95. He, along with his father, was one of the original senseis when the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute Kendo Dojo started back in 1955. He was the highest ranking sensei in the United States with the rank of Hanshi Hachi Dan (8th degree black belt). He continued to practice kendo until he was 90 years old and even after he stopped, he continued to teach all the students that visited him at his home. I studied under Miyahara sensei for 40+ years and appreciate all he taught me and as the current head instructor of the dojo, continue his teaching ways. He will be greatly missed. Arigato gozaimasu sensei.

In regards to upcoming events, we will be doing a kids kendo demo at the Altadena Presbyterian Church Fall Festival on Saturday, September 17th. The SCKF Team Championships will be held on Sunday, September 25th at Wilson Park in Torrance, CA. Our next beginners class registration will be in January 2017. Please visit our website at pasadenakendo.com or you can contact James Yamasaki at jmyamasaki@yahoo.com.

Calling All Waseda Kokusaibu Alumni

The second WaKa Mono (Waseda Kokusaibu Alumni) reunion luncheon will be held Saturday, October 8, 2016 in Little Tokyo. The first one was held October 10, 2015 and was a big success with nearly 40 attendees having a good time reconnecting, and making new friends with their fellow Kokusaibu classmates across the years. You may have read about it in the Rafu Shimpō.

The committee is currently finalizing the location and cost for our second luncheon, and we would love to see our fellow alumni join us. Save the date: Saturday, October 8, 2016, 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m., Little Tokyo.

If you are interested in attending, or would like further information, please contact Janet Anwyl, jmanwyl@hotmail.com.

Shotokan Karate News



“True karate, that is, Karate-do, strives internally to train the mind to develop a clear conscience enabling one to face the world truthfully, while externally developing strength until one may overcome even ferocious wild animals.”

MASTER GICHIN FUNAKOSHI, FOUNDER OF SHOTOKAN KARATE

We continue the pursuit of our Way, practicing with intense focus and great physical effort during these hot days of Summer. Our focus has been on Kihon and Kata. Our students are learning basic techniques and stances and learning to move in these stances and freely and precisely execute those techniques. The sweat pours off our bodies, muscles ache and ligaments get stretched as our bodies become conditioned, flexible and strong and so able to do the powerful, dynamic movements demanded by Karate.

However, ‘Karate is not just in the Dojo’, Master Funakoshi was known to tell his students. On Sunday, July 10th, our dojo members helped PJCI with painting several rooms in preparation for the coming of the newest member of the community, the Mirai Nihongo Gakuin - the Pasadena Japanese Language Academy. Eleven of our members (including members of their respective families) pitched in to get the job done quickly and thoroughly. We were proud of our student’s commitment to the project and their single-minded devotion to getting it done. Because there were so many workers (other members of PJCI both directed and assisted us in the painting) both rooms were completed in about three hours.

We were also given the opportunity to participate in the Obon Festival at the Pasadena Buddhist Temple on July 20th. Dojo leader, Evan Viera, gave a running explanation of what was taking place in

front of the attendees. Pasadena Dojo, in conjunction with Maryknoll Dojo, presented a demonstration of basic techniques (kihon), group and individual kata (Heian Shodan, Jion and Jutte) and several forms of kumite (ippon, sanbon and ju-ippon). The demonstration lasted approximately 20 minutes and was well received. Several members of the audience approached us afterward to ask questions and get more information about our Dojo.

Finally, our members were involved in another major event in Pasadena – Shotokan Karate of America’s 60th Annual Nisei Week Demonstration and Tournament. On August 13th, at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), Karateka from around the world and from across the country, gathered to participate in the oldest continuously run Karate tournament in the U.S. Our members helped put on the event, participated in the tournament and enjoyed watching it. Our Chief Instructor, Tsutomu Ohshima, several of his senior students, special guests that included a Nobel Peace Prize winner, chief instructor of another Karate style, a former Olympic contestant, the vice mayor of Pasadena and other notables were in attendance and the event was covered by Channel 7 News as well as KTLA TV.

We look forward to what lays ahead for the PJCI and for our Dojo and remain grateful for the opportunity to practice here. All are welcome to come and watch our practice and see if you might want to join us in our pursuit of the Karate Way.

Miss Pasadena JCI News



Dear PJCI members,

It has truly been an honor to represent our community. This year has been filled with rewarding experiences and unforgettable memories, and I am eternally grateful to the Pasadena Japanese American community for providing me with this wonderful opportunity.

I am humbled by the heartfelt support I received throughout this year. I want to thank my loving parents and family (the Ota's, Omokawa's and Utsunomiya's), as well as members of First Presbyterian Church of Altadena, Pasadena Nikkei Seniors, and of course the Board and members of PJCI for their unwavering support and kind words of encouragement.

Growing up in the Pasadena Japanese American community was a blessing. Our community may be smaller in size, but it is filled with countless individuals who dedicate their time, energy, and heart to preserving our culture and our story. Although I am retiring the crown and sash, I look forward to staying actively involved in our community, and I can't wait to see you all at the PJCI Bazaar.

Love,

VERONICA TOYOMI OTA
MISS PASADENAJCI '15

Dear PJCI Members,

My name is Julia Kiyomi Tani and I am so grateful to be part of the Miss PJCI program. I want to thank the PJCI and the Miss PJCI program for sponsoring me to become part of Nisei Week. I am so honored to have been chosen Miss Tomodachi by my fellow court mates. I know it is going to be an amazing year!

I want to thank my family, friends, and the Board members of PJCI for their generous support throughout these past few months. It is overwhelming, yet encouraging to have such an amazing support system and I would not have been able to do it without them.

I look forward to getting to know the Pasadena community better in the upcoming years. I hope to see everyone at the annual Fall Bazaar. Come visit us at the Miss PJCI booth where we will have ice cream sandwiches.

Love,

JULIA KIYOMI TANI
MISS PASADENAJCI '16

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Present your current membership card to receive the discount shown.

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9177 Las Tunas Dr. | Temple City, CA 91780 | (626) 286-8858

► 10% off

Affinity Associates / Print and Promotional Products

595 Lincoln Ave., Suite 207 | Pasadena, CA 91103 | (626) 396-9927

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1377 N. Fair Oaks Ave. | Pasadena, CA 91103 | (626) 794-1124

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1402 Lincoln Ave. | Pasadena, CA 91103 | (626) 797-8839

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690 N. Orange Grove Blvd. | Pasadena, CA 91103 | (626) 796-4355

► 10% off any plate lunch

L & L BBQ, Pasadena

319 S. Arroyo Parkway #10 | Pasadena, CA 91105 | (626) 583-4960

