



# Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute

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

SPRING 2016



## Mirai Nihongo Gakuin

PASADENA JAPANESE LANGUAGE ACADEMY

**NOW ENROLLING**

**M**irai Nihongo Gakuin is now accepting applications for our Summer and Fall sessions. With the complete support of the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute's board of directors, cultural and martial arts instructors and the Pasadena Nikkei Seniors, Mirai Nihongo Gakuin has an excellent future as an independent school that offers a relevant, developmentally appropriate and flexible curriculum that recognizes the needs of current Japanese language learners.

For continuing students, we would like to make the transition as seamless as possible and offer you...

1. Free registration
2. Free 2016 Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute membership
3. Assurance that your children will be placed in their expected class level for the next school year. A review of a current copy of your class records will be followed by a teacher's assessment.

We also invite you to visit our **INFORMATION** table on any Saturday morning where we will be happy to discuss any of your questions or concerns and where you can register for the next school year. Registration forms can also be downloaded from our website at [www.MiraiNihongoGakuin.org](http://www.MiraiNihongoGakuin.org).

We are also actively recruiting additional qualified teachers for our school. If you or anyone you know may be interested, applications can also be downloaded from our website.

And finally, the Planning Committee currently meets every Tuesday evening at the PJCI to prepare for the opening of Mirai Nihongo Gakuin. We welcome and encourage your participation to build a strong institution of learning for our youth and community.

For more information, please feel free to call (626) 449-5487 or email [Mirai.Nihongo.Gakuin@gmail.com](mailto:Mirai.Nihongo.Gakuin@gmail.com).

We look forward to celebrating the opening of Mirai Nihongo Gakuin!

## Keiro Caregiver Conference

**A** Keiro Caregiver Conference is being held at the Pasadena Buddhist Temple on Saturday, June 11, starting at 8:30 AM. This is a collaborative effort hosted by the PJCI, the First Presbyterian Church of Altadena, the Pasadena Nikkei Seniors, and the Pasadena Buddhist Temple.

This free conference will consist of two keynote presentations along with breakout sessions offering a variety of topics, and will feature special speakers, tools and practical resources to support current and future caregivers. Conference topics include:

- My Role as a Caregiver
- Caregiver's Panel: Sharing My Caregiving Story
- Overview of Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia
- Estate Planning 101 for You and Your Loved Ones
- Paying for Long Term Care
- Hand's On Caregiving Demonstration
- Introduction to Medicare
- Understanding Communication Challenges and Difficult Behaviors

There will also be an opportunity to sign up for consultations with pharmacists and estate planning attorneys. A resource fair will be on site and a free lunch will be offered. Register and learn more at [www.keiro.org/caregiver-conference](http://www.keiro.org/caregiver-conference).





## Shotokan Karate News

*“True Karate is this: That in daily life one’s mind and body be trained and developed in a spirit of humility and that in critical times, one be devoted utterly to the cause of justice.”*

O-SENSEI GICHIN FUNAKOSHI, FATHER OF SHOTOKAN KARATE

**T**his last month (April) was a significant one for Pasadena Shotokan Karate: we celebrated our first anniversary at PJCI! There is another reason practice at PJCI has been so special. It was in January of 1957 that Tsutomu Ohshima sensei began teaching karate at PJCI – which was the 2nd dojo he started in the United States (and the world!) For various reasons he was unable to continue teaching at the Institute but it is wonderful that, 59 years later, Shotokan Karate is being taught here – a joyous homecoming!

We feel deep gratitude to the Board of Directors of PJCI who welcomed us to our long lost home.

Our dojo continues to grow and we now have approximately 10 people practicing on a regular basis twice a week at the Institute. Practices are led by Sensei’s James Uyeda (Godan), Evan Viera (Sandan) and Mike Sanchez (Nidan). We are also proud to report that three of our members, Mark Sugiyama, Daniel Sugiyama and Kevin Hernandez tested on April 28th and were promoted in rank to 6th, 7th and 8th Kyu, respectively. They did a great job in front of a panel of high ranking Black Belts that evaluated them with a critical eye.

We want to extend an invitation to members/friends of PJCI to join us in practice (Karate-do). Our member’s ages range from 10 to 57 years old (our students must be at least 10 years old but can be any age over 10) and we have both males and females practicing, in various stages of fitness. The first two practices are at no cost and, if you decide to join, the cost is set to cover our expenses at the Institute (our dojo is non-profit). Come and check us out – Traditional Karate that nurtures great spirit and powerful effective fighting techniques.

## Miss Pasadena JCI BBQ Matsuri

**O**n behalf of the Miss Pasadena JCI committee, I want to personally thank everyone who came out to support our 3rd annual Pasadena Matsuri Barbecue. As always, I was so happy to see many familiar faces from the greater Pasadena Japanese American community, including members of PJCI, Pasadena Nikkei Seniors, First Presbyterian Church of Altadena, Pasadena Buddhist Temple, Kendo students and families, and many more.



The Miss Pasadena girls as well as the Miss Pasadena JCI committee truly appreciate the community’s continued support of our program. This year, we are committed to getting even more involved with the PJCI, PNS, and greater Pasadena Japanese American community; and we look forward to seeing you at many more upcoming events!

VERONICA OTA  
2015 MISS PASADENA JCI AND 2015 NISEI WEEK 1ST PRINCESS

## Kizuna Nikkei Discovery Camp

**T**he PJCI and Kizuna are hosting their Nikkei Discovery Camp in the Pasadena area in the 2016 summer! The Nikkei Discovery Camp is a local summer camp for kids ages 7-13 (entering 2nd grade to entering 8th grade), centered on building a foundation of Japanese American culture and heritage.

The camp is a high caliber program, selecting instructors from the community’s cultural experts, counselors who are carefully vetted and rigorously trained, and with workshops and activities optimized for passing on the Japanese American tradition.

Camp will be held at the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute from August 1-5, 2016. The camp is run daily from 9am to 5pm. Pricing begins at \$215 per child. Please visit [www.ndc.kizuna-la.org](http://www.ndc.kizuna-la.org) or contact Paul Matsushima at [paul@kizuna-la.org](mailto:paul@kizuna-la.org) or (213) 973-4465 for more information.

## Kendo News

**T**he Southern California Kendo Federation held their spring shinsa (promotional exam) on Saturday, April 16. Congratulations to the following students on receiving new ranks: Urara Araki (6kyu), Hajime Araki (4kyu), Emma Chavez (4kyu), Kai Hartberg (4kyu), Inkyung Chung (4kyu), and Jonathan Hartzberg (4kyu). Our next big event is the Nisei Week Tournament which was moved to Sunday, May 1 at the Almansor Park Gym in Alhambra. There are many more tournaments as well, SCKF Championships (June), Nikkei Games (August), All California Kendo Tournament (September), SCKF Team Championships (September), Fall Shinsa (October). Our next beginner class registration is July. If you are interested in kendo, please contact James Yamasaki ([jmyamasaki@yahoo.com](mailto:jmyamasaki@yahoo.com)) or visit our website: [www.pasadenakendo.com](http://www.pasadenakendo.com).

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**PJCI Annual Fall Bazaar**

**Sunday, October 2, 2016**





## Qi Gong Celebrates Chinese New Year. And A Special Birthday!

**T**wo little monkeys sitting in a tree, one is Carol and the other is me. After all, it is the Year of the Monkey and we have at least two monkeys in our class. If there are others, they choose not to tell. Yes, we are mischievous and we love to celebrate, and that is what we did along with the others in our class.

As we always do, our class on March 22 began as usual. Ernie led us all in celebration of our spirit and intent. We practiced body tapping in order to strengthen our immune system and we later held on to our giant chi balls and captured the energy from the sun and from the earth and we washed the energy over our bodies and shared the energy generated with Glendora.

After enjoying the benefits of our exercises, we gathered to celebrate with our oldest classmate, Glendora. She realized her dream on March 25 when she celebrated her 100th birthday.

Class members cannot always make it to class, but when we celebrate the longevity of our senior members (Glendora and Lucy), the turnout is always exceptional. Carol arrived bearing delicious meat pies from Porto's in Glendale. Caroly gave up another class to join our celebration and Maggie went above and beyond by providing cake, candles, balloons, and tulips. Ave made Glendora smile by presenting her with small Easter treats from See's, Glendora's favorite candy store. And Lucy made Glendora's sweet tooth ache for the cookies she brought.

Ernie brought a huge, and I do mean huge, box of Chinese almond cookies for us to share, and, as a very special treat for Glendora, he presented her with a giant fortune cookie that was over a foot long. I can't recall every gift and the name of each presenter, but I do recall the joy in my mother's eyes as she recalled the events of her special day. She was also surprised when her granddaughter Jessica and great granddaughter Shilo (age 16 months) arrived to join the party.

The birthday cards presented by our class members made Glendora smile, not once, but twice when she reviewed each one at home. Before cutting the cake we all sang the traditional Happy Birthday and were surprised and delighted when a special birthday flower candle was lit in the center. As each pedal unfolded the tip of the pedal was lit by the heat of the flower's center and in the center of the flower sparks shot up to symbolize the spirit of the class. The candle then rotated and played Happy Birthday in a tone as soft as Glendora's voice. By soft I mean you have to strain to hear the tune. Amazingly, the candle played the melody continually for five days, from Tuesday through the Easter Sunday.

Thank you one and all for making Glendora's special day a great memory for her and for me.

MARY ABBETT,

QIGONG CLASS JOURNALIST & GLENDORA FLEISCHMAN'S DAUGHTER

## PJCI's Annual Luncheon in Review

**B**efore a packed house in early March, the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute hosted its annual party honoring individuals for their service to the PJCI and to the greater Pasadena community.

PJCI President Bryan Takeda kicked off the afternoon by welcoming all in attendance and introducing the 2016 PJCI Board of Directors. Consul Mayu Hagiwara from the Los Angeles Office of the Consulate General of Japan offered a congratulatory message, followed by Veronica Ota, the reigning 2015 Miss Pasadena JCI, who expressed her gratitude to the Pasadena community for their support during her reign as a Nisei Week Princess. Veronica then introduced her fellow Nisei Week Court members, in the process revealing interesting tidbits unique to each of her newly found friends.

The PJCI Outstanding Service Award was presented to Ron and Cindy Dyo in appreciation for their many years of service to the Pasadena Nikkei Community. Ron served on the PJCI Board of Directors for 12 years, holding many cabinet positions including four terms as President. Through the years they've both worked extensively with the Pasadena-Mishima Summer Youth Friendship Program, the Miss Pasadena JCI Committee, and the Pasadena Nikkei Seniors.



The Amy Utsunomiya Memorial Youth Community Service Award, created to perpetuate the memory of the woman who was a devoted life-long Pasadena community volunteer, was presented to four deserving high school students who've followed Amy's path as volunteers in the community: Olivia Shue, Lani Masumoto, Kelli Ota, and Mark Morikawa.

The PJCI Youth Achievement Award, given to students involved with groups and organizations affiliated with the PJCI who have shown an appreciation and understanding of the cultural values gained from their association with those groups was presented to Hajime Araki (Pasadena Kendo Dojo), Maud O'Connor (Pasadena Gakuen), Daniel Sugiyama (Shotokan Karate), and Nick Tomoyasu (Pasadena Bruins).

And honored with a special recognition was Steve Kim, who has used his expertise as a licensed contractor to provide many important maintenance and repairs on the PJCI property.

The crowd was entertained by the vocal talents of two Miss Pasadena JCI's, Erika Olsen and Veronica Ota, whose repertoire included crowd-pleasing renditions of *Till There Was You* and *Sukiyaki*.



## Budokan is Making the Final Push

JOIN THE MOVEMENT—HELP PUSH THE PROJECT PAST THE FINISH LINE NOW



**B**udokan of Los Angeles (BoLA)—a multipurpose sports and activities center to be located in Little Tokyo—will become a magnet for Nikkei youth from throughout Southern California.

Scheduled to break ground in early 2017, the nonprofit developers at Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC) have raised over 80% of the \$23.5 million total cost of the project.

LTSC's Executive Director Dean Matsubayashi and the capital campaign chair Alan Kosaka are reaching out to Japanese American families and organizations to raise the remaining 20%. "We've gotten tremendous support from the City and other public sources. Foundations and corporations have been incredibly generous. Some major donors (families and individuals) have contributed. Now, it's time for all of us in the Nikkei community to step up and make this happen," said Kosaka.

"The Issei and Nisei worked hard and sacrificed a lot for their children, families and community, to create enduring community centers and cultural institutes. Now, it's our turn to give back to the community for the sake of future generations," Matsubayashi urged. "We need everyone to contribute for the collective good—whether it's \$25, \$100 or a \$1,000—every little bit will mean a lot."

For more information—or to donate or volunteer—please visit [www.budokanoflosangeles.org](http://www.budokanoflosangeles.org), email [bola@ltsc.org](mailto:bola@ltsc.org), or call (213) 473-3030.



### SPECIAL DISCOUNTS FOR PJCI MEMBERS

*Present your current membership card to receive the discount shown.*

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

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

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

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

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

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- I & L BBQ, Pasadena ▶ 10% off any plate lunch**  
319 S. Arroyo Parkway #10 | Pasadena, CA 91105 | (626) 583-4960

## Friendship 2016 Pasadena-Mishima Summer Youth Program Registration

**T**he Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute is planning for Friendship 2016 Summer Youth Exchange Program and Japan Tour from July 27 through August 6. The purpose of Friendship 2016 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.

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

## PASADENA JAPANESE CULTURAL INSTITUTE ORGANIZATIONS + SCHEDULE

For more information on all of our groups and organizations, including full schedule and contact information, please visit [pjci.org](http://pjci.org).

<b>Sun</b>	PASADENA AIKI-KAI
<b>Mon</b>	SHOTOKAN KARATE
<b>Tue</b>	QI GONG PASADENA KENDO DOJO
<b>Wed</b>	INTEGRATED MARTIAL ARTS PNS HANDICRAFT CLASS AIKI-KAI
<b>Thu</b>	SOROBAN ABACUS CLASS KODAMA TAIKO
<b>Fri</b>	INTEGRATED MARTIAL ARTS PASADENA KENDO DOJO
<b>Sat</b>	MIRAI NIHONGO GAKUIN PASADENA NAGINATA BANDO HIDESOMI NIHON BUYO SHOTOKAN KARATE NANKA KYUDO KAI SOGETSU IKEBANA