

Sounds of Fall Concert

Over 100 people attended the Sounds of Fall Koto & Shakuhachi Concert held over Thanksgiving weekend. The Saturday, November 24 concert featured koto performances by PJCI member Hiroko Masuda, Hiromi Hashibe, and international shakuhachi artist Kaoru Kakizakai. This concert provided a rare opportunity to catch Kakizakai Sensei in between his busy touring and teaching schedule. A spectacular and large floral arrangement was provided by Mrs. Yuko Chiba, who was in attendance with her husband, Counsel General of Japan, Mr. Akira Chiba. Thank you to all who attended, and to the Masuda Family & Friends who supported this event!



INTERESTED IN LEARNING THE KOTO?

Kozue Matsumoto offers lessons at PJCI. Please contact Matsumoto Sensei at (661) 877-1996, kozuematsumoto@alum.calarts.edu.

DID YOU KNOW?

A koto will be a featured instrument in the 2019 Rose Parade! PJCI Board Member Max Zirkelbach's wife, Saeko Kujiraoka Zirkelbach, will be on the City of Sierra Madre's float playing the koto.

Pasadena Nikkei Seniors News



ANNUAL NEW YEAR PARTY SET FOR JANUARY 27, 2019

The Pasadena Nikkei Seniors just wrapped up a busy fall calendar culminating with a bus load of members enjoying a day trip to the San Juan Capistrano Mission, followed by an afternoon of shopping and dining at neighboring shops and restaurants.

Besides its monthly luncheons, PNS members also recently enjoyed apple picking at Tehachapi's Knauss Ranch, an afternoon betting the horses at Santa Anita, and bus trips to Pala and San Manuel Indian Casinos. Our thanks to JoAnne SooHoo, Ron Dyo, Ron Toshima, and Wade Utsunomiya for planning and organizing the aforementioned excursions.

We also want to remind all members, along with anyone interested in becoming a member, to save Sunday, January 27, 2019, on their calendars for the annual PNS New Year Party at the Pasadena Buddhist Temple. Scheduled as entertainment is singer/guitarist Ken Okuno, son of Alice Okuno. For more information, please contact Ron Toshima at (626) 826-1005 or toshima@sbcglobal.net. Additional information will be included in the January PNS newsletter.

SAVE THE DATE

Keiro Caregiver Conference - Saturday, March 30, 2019
Pasadena Buddhist Temple, 9:00 am-2:00 pm
Breakout session titles: *Mobile Caregiving; Hand-On Caregiving; Preparing for In-Home Care*
Register online at keiro.org/caregiver-conference or call (213) 873-5708



SPECIAL DISCOUNTS FOR PJCI MEMBERS

Present your current membership card to receive the discount shown.

► **10% off any purchase**
Flower Mart
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

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

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

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



Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute

pjci.org

Sister City Nagoya Hosts 2018 Nisei Week Court



Do you know what city is famous for its golden shachihoko and hitsumabushi? Nagoya! Mid-October, the Nisei Week court and I embarked on the much anticipated trip to our sister city. After some free time in Tokyo, we took the train to Nagoya, and the real fun began. Upon arrival, we were welcomed with dinner and a show, where geisha and maiko performed breathtaking dances, including Nagoya's famous "Kin no Shachihoko." After a night of laughter and great food, we got up bright and early to visit city hall. Of the many gems that Nagoya holds, its mayor, Kawamura Takashi, was perhaps the brightest of them all, with his love for sake, Elvis Presley, and his city. That night at the sister city reception, we were honored with the opportunity to perform hula, enjoy the delicacies of our other sister cities, and mingle with the mayor and representatives from Mexico, Sydney, Nanjing, and Turin. The following days were a whirlwind of exciting events that flashed before my eyes. At the opening ceremony for Nagoya Matsuri, the court and I introduced ourselves and performed our modern dance routine at Oasis 21. On the day of the parade, we visited Nagoya Castle and saw the golden shachi before racing back to change into our evening gowns to be in the parade. It was huge! After the formal portion of the trip ended, Pure O2 group guided us to visit Inuyama Castle, Inuyama monkey park, and Gero Onsen, where we experienced a seasonal course menu, taiko performance, and karaoke. It was a trip of a lifetime, and I am deeply grateful to the people who carefully planned it for us.

PJCI Community Comes Together for Another Successful Bazaar

This year's Annual Bazaar was held on October 7 from 11 am to 3 pm, with many hands coming together to assist in the early morning. Special thanks to Charles Inada for picking up the chirashi; James Chilingirian, James Uyeda, and Charles Inada for setting up the open areas; and the volunteers who prepped the chirashi, including Mrs. Suzuki, who added finishing touches, and the volunteers from BWA and PJCI who weighed, packaged, and transported the finished products to the sushi booth. Also, not to be forgotten, warm thanks and appreciation to Yokou Kitajimi for the beautiful ikebana display he and his wife created in the gym. Donuts and coffee were



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IN MEMORY...

Dr. Osamu Miyamoto and Mr. Hirohisa Suzuki

The Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute mourns the recent passing of two of its prominent members, Dr. Osamu Miyamoto and Mr. Hirohisa Suzuki.

Dr. Miyamoto has been volunteering with the Pasadena community since the 1970's, when he played a major role in the formation of the Pasadena Pioneer Project, serving as its first President. In 1985, the Pasadena Nikkei Seniors evolved from this organization, and Dr. Miyamoto's efforts in writing the bylaws and articles of incorporation were instrumental in the PNS obtaining its 501(c)3 non-profit status. He was a long time member of the PNS Board of Directors until he finally stepped off the PNS Board a few years ago.

Mr. Suzuki, longtime owner of Kubota Mortuary, became involved with the PJCI when his daughters attended Pasadena Gakuen. Over time he was elected President of the Pasadena Gakuen PTA, which led to a seat on the PJCI Board of Directors. He served as a PJCI Board member for seven years (1984-1990) but continued dedicated annual support to the PJCI until his passing. His wife, Kiyoe, has also been a dedicated PJCI volunteer, serving as the Annual Bazaar Sushi Co-Chairperson for many years.

Mirai Nihongo Gakuin News

ENROLL NOW FOR OUR 2ND SESSION

Mirai Nihongo Gakuin is now accepting students for our 2nd Session which will begin on February 2, 2019. Classes for children, teens and adults at all levels are offered. Please call (626) 396-9927 or email Mirai.Nihongo.Gakuin@gmail.com or visit www.MiraiNihongoGakuin.org for registration information.

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS!

Mirai students will celebrate the holidays with their annual Tanoshimi-kai and student performances on Saturday, December 15 beginning at 11:00 am. Classes have been preparing for their festive songs in Japanese and look forward to performing for their families and friends. The program will be followed by a Pot Luck lunch to be enjoyed by everyone. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the festivities and to encourage students to continue learning Japanese!

Mirai Nihongo Gakuin continues to welcome and encourage new students as well as the community's support to continue to build a strong institution of Japanese learning for all. Please feel free to call (626) 396-9927 or email Mirai.Nihongo.Gakuin@gmail.com or visit www.MiraiNihongoGakuin.org for more information.



Kendo News

Our first tournament of 2019 is the SCKF Memorial Open Tournament that will be held on Sunday, January 20th at Wilson Park in Torrance. The tournament is held every 3 years to remember those past senseis (instructors) that promoted kendo in southern California. If anyone is interested in taking kendo, our next beginner class registration is the first (4th) and second (11th) Friday in January. The beginners classes are held on Fridays from 7:00pm-8:00pm. If you are interested and want more information, please visit our website: pasadenakendo.com or contact James Yamasaki at jmyamasaki@yahoo.com.



2018 Annual Bazaar

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enjoyed by all, courtesy of PJCI.

The Bazaar was officially kicked off by Kodama Taiko with a rousing performance that welcomed guests as they entered the Center. Attendees enjoyed a great variety of delicious food available at the booths this year. In addition to the PJCI chirashi, there were the ever-popular Aikido meat skewers and limited edition rice balls, lip-smacking Karate chili rice and hot dogs, soul-satisfying Akabeko tenzaru soba, yummy Miss PJCI baked goods, and refreshing Kyudo snow cones. The Kendo drink booth offered various libations to wash it all down.

Deals and gifts could be found at the Pasadena Nikkei Seniors White Elephant booth and our two guest jewelry vendors, Filaments (Adrienne Doi) and Lightwaves (Emily Kanemaru). For the artists in attendance, a new Paper Dolls booth was available, courtesy of Emma, Bella, and Victoria Chavez. Our Mirai Gakuin hosted an open house and information booth for those interested in learning more about our Japanese language program.

In our gym, guests were entertained by demonstrations by Kyudo, Naginata, Kendo, Shotokan Karate, Aikido, and Qi Gong. Thanks go to each of our Martial Arts groups for showcasing their arts and to Cathy Mikuni for organizing the demonstrations.



Nanka Kyudo Kai held one of many demonstrations inside the gym during our Annual Bazaar. Visit our Facebook page to see more images from the event.

Excitement built as the raffle started with grand prizes of \$500, \$300, and \$100 in cash. Generous business donors who provided raffle items and donations included Fish King, A Noise Within, Johnny's Sporting Goods, Yamasa, Matsuri Restaurant, Sushi Gen, Bellefontaine Nursery, and our two guest jewelry vendors, Filaments and Lightwaves. In addition, thanks go out to our many member organizations and individual members, Mitsi Toshima and Suzie Yamanaka, for their generosity in providing gift cards.

Thanks go to the many hands that helped to clean-up after the Bazaar. Clean-up happened so quickly and efficiently, that it was over before long.

This year, the PJCI chirashi booth greatly exceeded its sales goal and many members benevolently gave donations to the center. It was great to see the support extended to this most important fundraising and promotional event for PJCI. Personally, it was good to have an active role in bringing this together which allowed me to appreciate the great amount of work and heartfelt cooperation from many individuals. I enjoyed spending time with June Chin, James Yamasaki, and Cathy Mikuni in preparing for the Bazaar, as well as working with them at the PJCI booth where I got to chat with volunteer Jane Utsumi.

Thank you to everyone who made the Bazaar a success. Without each and every one of you, this would not have been possible.



Apply to become Miss Pasadena JCI

An unforgettable experience of community, ambassadorship, sisterhood, & Japanese culture.

The winner will represent Pasadena on the 2019 Nisei Week Court.

Contact:
MissPasadenaJCI@gmail.com

Kodama Taiko News

The Japanese American National Museum rings in 2019 – the year of the Boar – with its annual Oshogatsu Family Festival on Sunday, January 6, 2019, from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Kodama Taiko has once again been invited to perform our unique *mochitsuki* (rice pounding) demonstration and will be taking the stage at 2:00 and 4:00 pm. Come and join us as for an afternoon of family fun as we celebrate the New Year with a variety of crafts, foods, cultural activities and performances. JANM is located at 100 North Central Avenue, in the heart of Little Tokyo in downtown L.A.

Kodama Taiko is always looking for new recruits! Please visit our website at www.kodama-taiko.com or send an email to info@kodama-taiko.com for additional information.



Shotokan Karate News

The Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute is home to the Pasadena Dojo of Shotokan Karate of America (SKA), a nonprofit organization dedicated to teaching traditional karate-do in a noncommercial setting available to the public at large.

Karate-Do is a martial art that develops fitness and confidence. Karate-Do can be practiced by anyone at any age and does not require any special equipment or natural athletic ability.

The Pasadena Dojo was founded in April 2015. Practices are held Saturdays from 1:30 to 3:00 pm and Mondays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Practices are lead by Evan Viera and Ron Lee, who are both third-degree black belts. You can visit our website at <http://pasadena.ska.org/>. It is easy to join – just visit us at one of our practices in the PJCI gym. We invite you to join us any time.