



Our Mission statement

The specific purpose of the Hollywood Japanese Cultural Institute is to preserve, share, and promote the Japanese and Japanese American culture and heritage through education, cultural programs, and activities.



President's Message

On behalf of the HJCI Board, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Mr. Brian Yamasaki, who persevered through twenty-five years as President of the Hollywood Japanese Cultural Institute. Those years, past and present, reflect the changing demographics of the Japanese-American community. The area has been affected by the passing of many of our Nisei leaders and supporters. Throughout these years, the Sansei and Yonsei have moved to other parts of the city or county. Although the distance for travel to the HJCI has grown, a steadfast and dedicated core of individuals and families have still continued to support the foundations and ideals started by their parents. It is my hope that we can meet the challenges ahead by extending our outreach and continuing to honor the legacy of the founders and our parents by providing a place for the community to gather, preserve and learn about the Japanese culture and martial arts. Most importantly, I would hope for the HJCI to continue as a center for fostering spirituality and a sense of community.

I am especially thankful for your support and participation in celebrating HJCI's 70th Year Anniversary last October. Your support and participation remain a vital part of the continuation and future of the HJCI. Asao Masumiya President

< Community Topics >

HJCI Officer name

- President: Asao Masumiya
 - Vice President: Aaron Brown
 - Treasurer: Jerry Naito
- (Newsletter editor: Hideo Kuwahara)

If you have any questions or need information, contact hollywoodjci@gmail.com or the office phone #

Hollywood Japanese Language School

"Let's learn Japanese"

- We have a new teacher "Maiko-sensei". She teaches "Teen" and "Adult" class.
- We have weekday Skype class, so you can learn from your home.

Textbooks: "Japanese for busy people",
"Japanese for young people",
"Marugoto" and others

3929 Middlebury St. Los Angeles, 90004

Classes located on 2nd floor of the two story building in the back. For more info, please contact to: hideo.kuwahara@gmail.com

Coming Events in 2018

- ★Pancake Breakfast: 9/23 Sun. 8-11am
- ★Udon Night: 11/3 Sat. 3-7pm
- ★HJCI New Year Party: Feb. 2019



□Adult /Teen Beginner 1 & 2 Class

- Sat. morning 8:45-10:15 & 10:30-12:00

□Adult (Skype class) (Saturday)

- Intermediate class 10:30 - 12:00
- Advanced class 8:45 - 10:15

□Weekday Skype class from your home:

- Mon, Wed, Thu, night
Time: 7:00 to 8:15 pm or 8:30 to 9:45pm

- Tuition: \$60 per month +registration fee \$25 and Annual community fee \$20

AIKIDO DOJO (合気道道場)

Europe's first International Aikido Festival. Over 120 participants from 25 nations gathered to glean knowledge from this star-studded line-up. For those of you who remember him, Nick Barnett, who formerly trained at our HJCI location, was also in attendance. With Suzuki Sensei's support, Nick is in the process of establishing Aikido Kenkyukai Bristol in England. The event was a big success, extending our "Aikido family" to even further boundaries. We look forward to next year's event, where we can make even more new friends.

Please enjoy this press release www.aikido-summer-berlin.com

World-class martial arts in Berlin. Europe's first International Aikido Festival with 16 highly qualified teachers from 12 nations.

Aikido Masters from around the world present and teach the Japanese art of self defense in Berlin for 5 days in early August. Over a hundred of Aikidoka from Asia, Europe and America attend Europe's first Aikido Festival.



L.A. Daiku (第九を歌う会)

L. A. Daiku is a mixed choral group established in 2009 to sing Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 as well as other songs from all over the world.

In August, we participated two Ninth concerts with PAMC and Cal Phil which were held in Walt Disney Concert Hall. Having had Dr.

Jeffrey Bernstein direct us since 2009, we are happy to announce that we will have our 10th Anniversary Concert singing "Carmina Burana" a very distinctive piece by Carl Orff in early 1935 on November 10 at Herbert Zipper Concert Hall in Colburn Music School from 1:30pm.

We have two rehearsal venues, one at HJCI from 6:30 t 8:30 pm on Tuesdays and the other at Bridge USA Studio in Torrance from 7:30 – 9:30pm on Thursdays.

Come and join us, our door is open to anyone who enjoys choral singing.

LADaiku@aol.com www.ladaiku.org



Hollywood Buddhist Church (HBC)

Almost five years have passed since HBC 100th anniversary celebration was held at the HJCI. How time flies! In these fleeting moments where years, weeks and days lump into a black hole, we are so grateful for all that we have because our forebears had the courage, discipline and tolerance to build Japanese institutions like HBC and the HJCI to maintain a positive moral compass.

When we see a familiar face, we exchange pleasant greetings; when we notice someone in trouble, we lend a helping hand; and when we send someone off, we wave and stand by until their car is no longer visible. These are wonderful, immeasurable gifts we were given.

HBC is one of a handful of truly community churches where everyone knows everyone and connectivity/accountability to one another is our strength. This strength is called upon again on September 29th when HBC holds its 3rd Brew Ha Ha event to support Nishi's 50th fundraising campaign.

Will you please join us for this fun event! We will have six distinctly different beers with matching appetizers and alternative beverages for non-drinkers. This will be a guaranteed memorable night!

On a side note, the 2018 HBC Hanamatsuri service was held away from our home base →next

and conducted at Tanaka Farm in Irvine. The morning started with 50 or so of us on a hay wagon making stops at various vegetation sections and tasting freshly picked veggies. The Dharma talk was held on the hill overlooking the farm below. A grilled chicken lunch, side trimmings and freshly picked salad were served afterward. This was an amazing experience for young and old alike.



Today there are many JA community organizations that are struggling for their survival.

There is no doubt that some have outlived their relevancy, and others lack the vision and imagination to attract younger generations. Despite it all, a few things remain constant. That is, we must appreciate our audience/customers and be truly grateful for our supporters (individual and businesses). Foremost, to continue to exist, we must become the type of organization that our society wants.

(Submitted by Hitochi Morimoto)

Hollywood Judo Dojo (ハリウッド柔道道場)

Hollywood Judo Dojo began the exceptionally hot summer at the California State Games in San Diego with 6 participants, achieving 3 Gold medals and 2 silver medals. Bravo to Charles, Sofia, Korali, Ivan and Sam. This summer we also had 4 of our younger students practicing in Japan at the Kodokan and at various high schools and universities. Chikara, Raita, Taira and Emmanuel gained a



lot of experience practicing in Japan, while holding their own and representing our dojo in the best possible way. In August, we participated in the Nikkei Games with 4 students. Charles, Korali, Ivan and Mateus. They all received Gold medals in their categories. Hollywood Dojo continue to do very well on a local and national level, occasionally participating at training camps and competitions in the international arena. Our dojo has gained an excellent reputation on social media. We therefore receive guests from all over the world coming to practice with us. Our students can also enjoy our Fitness for Judo class every

Tuesday 7-8 PM. The enthusiasm, the friendships and the bond that exist amongst our members is truly unique. We also welcome a new group of beginners, all eager to learn.

Hollywood Judo Dojo practice ; Adults - Mon/Wed/Fri 7-9 PM.

Kids - Tue 6-7 PM, Fri 6.30-7.30 PM. Saturday Open Randori 1-2.30 PM.

<https://www.facebook.com/Hollywood-Judo-Dojo-117642594918858/>

<https://dojos.info/Hollywood-Judo-Dojo/>

Jodoin Buddhist Temple of California (浄土院)



Jodoin is a local temple that is providing services in Pure Land Buddhism at the Hollywood JCI on the third Sunday of each month. Jodoin can trace its history back to 1936, when the late Bishop Reikai Nozaki first established Jodoin in Little Tokyo. Jodoin has continuously provided Pure Land Buddhism to the community since its founding.

Services are conducted in both English and Japanese and everyone is welcome to attend. Refreshments are served after the service.

Contact: Kent Kawai at mkawaiusa@netscape.net or (310) 433-4314

Karate (松濤館流空手道場)

This has been a very busy year for the Hollywood Karate Club.

We are a member of the International Shotokan Karate Federation (ISKF) in the Southwest Region and we have supported many events during the year.

To name a few events, there was the Obon Festival at the Valley Gakuen in Sun Valley.

At the Venice Japanese Community Center, there was the ISKF Southwest Regional Tournament and the ISKF Southwest Regional Summer Karate Camp.



Reina is preparing to break a board using a front snap kick.

Upcoming events include the Pancake Breakfast to be hosted here at the Hollywood Japanese Cultural Institute in September. In October, there will be a Kyu and Dan Test to be held at the Venice Japanese Community Center.

We have a couple of students that are planning to take their Dan (Black Belt) exam.

Reina Kobayashi is one of the Dan test candidates performing in a demonstration at the Sun Valley Dojo. (by Gary Wong)

★Classes are held in the Social Hall on Mondays and Fridays, from 8:00PM to 9:00PM.

For more info. contact Yuki Otaka at (818)-618-6161

Gardener's Association (ガーデナー組合)

Contact: Brian Yamasaki (323) 661-1649 email: byama@sbcglobal.net



New Year's Party

Nagauta shamisen and voice ensemble Class (長唄教室)

三味線、唄、小鼓、大鼓、太鼓教室

Time: Saturday afternoon

Let's play Japanese Kabuki Music!

Shamisen, voice, kotsuzumi, otsuzumi, and taiko.

taught by Mariko Watabe licensed in Japan.

Classes are held on Saturday afternoons.



fujijapanesemusic@gmail.com, <http://fujijapanesemusic.org/>

Phone: 805-6207287

Yoga (ヨガ・クラス) **Class is open to people of all ages!**



The class focuses on breathing and toning/sculpting your muscles throughout your entire body.

The class is low-impact although highly enjoyed by those who participate.

Practice: Wed. 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Contact: Takako Sato at (310) 387-4904 Get fit and have fun!

BUILDING & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Spring Cleaning and Gardening was held on Sunday, April 22 from 8 am to lunch. One group of volunteers helped to clean and dust the Social Hall and Annex buildings. Another group helped to move out the furnishings from the office for installation of the new flooring. A third group helped with gardening work in the planter areas around the Social Hall. Caretakers, Keiko and Jorge Sandoval, and Aaron Brown painted the office and kitchen prior to the new floors going in.

Painting of the 2nd floor of the Multipurpose building (hallway and 3 classrooms) was completed in the month of May by hardworking volunteers. An estimated total of 100 volunteer hours went into the prepping, priming, and finish work. Keiko and Jorge completed the painting of the hallway on the 1st floor of the M.P. building.

The MP building was completed in 1997 to accommodate the Gakuen Japanese Language school and judo dojo. Painting work was overdue. The pleasant spacious classrooms would welcome more Japanese language students of all ages as well as groups needing a meeting place.



If you would like to become a volunteer to share a skill, learn a skill, or just to lend a hand, please leave a message at hollywoodjci@gmail.com or with Masao at (562) 447-6729.



Suzan Oiwake performed "Koto (琴)" at New Year's Party

Rev. George Aki, 103, Former Hollywood Japanese Independent Church Minister, Dies, on July 4

CLAREMONT--- In Page 1 obituary in the Rafu Shimpo on Thursday, July 10, it was reported that the Rev. George Aki, 103, passed away on July 4, at his residence here.

Rev. Aki served as the Chaplain of the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT) – Go For Broke -- in Italy.

In the summer of 1943, the Rev. Aki volunteered for the U.S. Army. He told his wife, Misaki, “My primary reason is not to fight for America, but to be with the volunteers which will be my church, and wherever they are sent, I want to be with them.”

In March, 1944, Chaplain Aki joined the 442nd RCT at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. As the last chaplain to serve the unit, he stayed behind to train replacements and was later deployed to Italy.

While in Los Angeles, the Rev. Aki served the Hollywood Japanese Independent Church*. From the church’s history, it was written that “In the spring of 1960 the H.I.C. extended a call to the Rev. Aki, of Christ Congregational Church of Chicago, Ill. This contact was made through Jim Ishizawa, who became acquainted with the Rev. Aki as his jeep driver in Italy with the 442nd R.C.T.

The Rev. Aki accepted the call to minister on September 15, 1960.

During his years at the Hollywood Japanese Independent Church, the Rev. Aki was on the first board of the Hollywood Community Parents Association (HCPA) sponsored by the Hollywood Japanese Cultural Institute (HJCI). HCPA was the parent organization for the sports program known as the Hollywood Dodgers*. In 1958, the Hollywood Dodgers was sponsored by the Hollywood JACL Chapter when Mr. Hideo Izumo was the president. When the Hollywood JACL Chapter was getting ready to close, it was then the HCPA began at the HJCI.

The Hollywood Dodgers began to grow and began with the Optimists and later with the new Community Youth Council (CYC) in both baseball and basketball and later expanded with a girls sports program.

The Rev. Aki’s first board members on HCPA were: Jits Teruya, Yo Hosozawa, Babe Nomura, Koji Matsushige, Jim Uyemura, John Uyeda, and others.

HCPA’s first month newsletter for the Hollywood Dodgers began with the Rev. Aki. The newsletter was called the “Hollywood COMPASS” and “COMPASS” Hollywood Community Parents Association. Among the churches in the East Hollywood and Virgil areas, the Rev. Aki was on the original board of the Southern California Young People’s Christian Conference known as the S.C.Y.P.C.C. This was modeled after by the N.C.Y.P.C.C. already serving in the Bay Area.

The Rev. Aki served three Japanese-American churches in Fresno, Chicago and Los Angeles before becoming the 1st Japanese-American minister to serve a primarily Caucasian church in San Luis Obispo. In 1966, the Pacific School of Religion conferred upon the Rev. Aki an honorary Doctor of Divinity (D.D.) degree.

The Rev. Aki survived by his daughter, Joanne (David) Gabel; sons Galen (Cynthia) Aki and Jim (Anna) Aki; five grandchildren and five great grandchildren. He is pre-deceased by his wife Misaki, who passed away in 2003.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, August 18, at 3 p.m., at Pilgrim Place, Decker Hall, 625 Mayflower Road, Claremont, California 91711.

*Note: Hollywood Independent Church and the Hollywood Dodger sports organization are former affiliate groups of the Hollywood Japanese Community Center which became Hollywood Japanese Cultural Institute. (Article was contributed by Hollywood resident, Bruce Uyemura, who was born and raised in the HJCI neighborhood)



(From RAFU SHIMPO)

Short story of Toshinori Sakai who died at 87

Toshinori Sakai was the last of the Japanese gardeners that understood how plants grew and what if anything ailed them. Toshi as he was known to his customers migrated to the US in 1960 at the age of 29 with his late wife Shizuko and son Yoshikatsu. In Japan, Toshi had learned to be a farmer, a woodcutter, worked in the mines and apprenticed in Hyougushi (表具師) which is an art form making Japanese crafts from wood. He was one of the lucky 165 out of 100 million people that was chosen in Japan to get a green card to come to the US. Toshi was chosen for his craftsmanship.

As the family came to the US they lived with their grand uncle where Toshi helped fix Japanese antiques. One of his first jobs was also being a short order cook at the Holiday Bowl and he saved enough money to buy his first car and then a truck to start his gardening business. Toshi learned gardening by taking classes in Glendale.

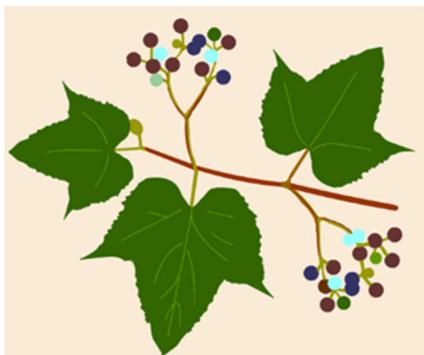
Toshi bought a home on Dillon Street in Los Angeles and raised 4 children: Mary, Ruby, Yoshi and Ken.

Along with his gardening and landscaping work, Toshi's love of his work was surpassed by his love of the sea and fishing. He was handy with tools and built cabinets at home and also built his own fishing tackle box which was made totally out of wood. Toshi would take off from work once a year and go on a long range trip to Mexico. He once came back with 2 large black sea bass over a hundred pounds each which were sitting in the back of Virgil Square market where he would go visit after work and have a beer. Toshi and his buddy Mr. Yamamoto would head down to San Diego and get a fishing boat for rock fish, yellowtail and white sea bass and albacore. They both belonged to a fishing club which would hold a tournament down in San Diego or a local lake. Sadly, most of those same guys in the club are gone but remembered through their love of the ocean and fishing.

Besides running his gardening business and Toshi also attended volunteer work at Hollywood Japanese Language School. Toshi did a little of everything from carpentry, plumbing, to helping to repaint the entire language building and became a board member. He helped bring fish caught on his trips and prepared foods at festivals. He also pounded rice on new year's and help make pancake breakfast for the school. He enjoyed singing karaoke and danced obon on stage. On New Year's, he'd make a colorful array of sushi for the family along with his lucky Oden stew.

But as he got older, his health got worse. After a bad accident, the doctor had examined and diagnosed him with congestive heart failure. Toshi had to retire from his gardening service. 5 years after his diagnosis, his heart which was once strong and fit finally failed at the age of 87. Toshi lived a full life on his terms and we will miss him dearly but he will live forever in our hearts.

(Contributed by Yoshi Sakai)



DONATIONS (February to August 2018) -Thank you for your generous support!!

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SACHI & SCOTT WADSWORTH
FRANK YAMANI
MASAO YOSHIDA
VALLEY JAPANESE COMMUNITY CENTER

70th YEAR FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN UPDATE

- 1] The previously unused Boy's restroom, attached to the Social Hall, was converted into a storage room;
- 2] Installation of a new tile floor in the Social Hall kitchen and vinyl floor in the office was made possible with a generous donation by Mrs. Emiko Takahashi;
- 3] The old stove in the kitchen was replaced with a new stove;
- 4] An additional handrail was installed along the steps between the lower and upper lot.



HJCI 70th Anniversary Committee and HJCI Board of Directors extend our sincere appreciation for your generous donations which made these and many other improvements possible for our 70th Anniversary celebrated in October 2017!

☆NEW YEAR RAFFLE PRIZES

Hollywood Judo, Jodoin, Karate
Judy Izumo, Asao & Kim Masumiya
Mutual Trading, Gary Kawaguchi
FLOWER POTS FOR NY GUESTS
- SUNSET NURSERY
PANKO FOR NY GUESTS - Gary Kawaguchi



New Year's Party at HJCI 2/18, 2018

2018 SCHEDULE OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES (2018年度の定例文化活動)

ACTIVITY (団体名/連絡先)	DAY/TIME (週/月の定例活動)
Acting Dojo (アクティング・クラス) Contact: Dom Magwili email: dmagwili@yahoo.com	
Aikido Dojo (合気道) Contact: (424) 209-2083 call/text website: http://aki-usa.org/	Monday, Thursday and Saturday Kids, Tweens & Teens, Adults
L.A. Daiku (LA第九) Contact: website: www.ladaiku.org	Tuesday: 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. email: LADaiku@aol.com
Gardeners' Association (ガーデナー組合) Contact: Brian Yamasaki (323) 661-1649	email: byama@sbcglobal.net
Hollywood Buddhist Church (ハリウッド仏教会) Contact: Rev. Koho Takata, HBC Advisor c/o Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple (213) 680-9130	Service are held 8xs a year to commemorate special Buddhist traditions email: Rosanne Takahashi, email: tallbridge4@aol.com
Japanese Language School ハリウッド学園 Contact: hideo.kuwahara@gmail.com	Saturday: 8:45 – 10:30 am /10:45 – 12:15 pm (Sat.) (323) 664-2070
Jodoin (浄土院) Contact: Kent Kawai (310) 371-0321	3 rd Sunday of month email: mkawaiusa@netscape.net
Hollywood Judo Dojo (ハリウッド柔道道場) Contact: hollywoodjudo@gmail.com	Mon, Wed., Fri, Sat. 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. website: http://hollywoodjudo.com/
Karate (ハリウッド松涛館空手道場) Contact: Yuki Otaka (818) 618-6161	Monday & Friday: 8 – 9 p.m.
Nagauta shamisen and voice ensemble class (長唄教室) Contact: 805-620-7287, Mariko Watanabe	Sat. afternoon 3 times a month email: fujijapanesemusic@gmail.com ,
Yoga (ヨガ) Contact: Takako Sato (310) 387-4904	Wednesday: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.



Kizuna Summer Day Camp held at HJCI June 28th, 2018

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Hollywood Japanese Cultural Institute

3929 Middlebury Street, Los Angeles, CA 90004

Contact: (323) 664-2070

Website: <http://www.hollywoodjci.org> e-mail: hollywoodjci@gmail.com

2018 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual Membership: \$20 per individual / family

Please check appropriate box(s)

- NEW
 RENEWAL
 ADULT MEMBER PARENT OF MINOR PARTICIPANT
 SENIOR EXEMPTION: 80 YEARS AND OVER

PLEASE PRINT

LAST NAME		FIRST NAME			
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CITY		STATE	ZIP CODE	PHONE () -	
OTHER WAYS TO CONTACT YOU		CELL PHONE () -		E-MAIL	
EMERGENCY CONTACT			RELATIONSHIP	EMERGENCY CONTACT PHONE () -	

Please notify:

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2. _____
3. _____

Please check Organization(s) you and your family belong(s) to:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aikido | <input type="checkbox"/> Karate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardeners' Association | <input type="checkbox"/> LA Daiku |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hollywood Buddhist Church | <input type="checkbox"/> Nagauta Shamisen & Voice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese Language School | <input type="checkbox"/> Yoga |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jodoin | <input type="checkbox"/> General supporter of HJCI |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judo | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cash | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check no: _____ | |

LIABILITY RELEASE AND WAIVER

For and in consideration of my being permitted to use the facilities and equipment of the Hollywood Japanese Cultural Center and any class that I attend at this location, and further to be allowed to enter, remain, and be on the premises owned, operated, supervised, or managed by the above-stated organizations, or any other place in the course of the activities of the above stated organizations, or any other place in the course of the activities of the above-stated organizations.

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, DO HEREBY EXPRESSLY WAIVE AND RELEASE all and any rights, claims, demands, actions or judgments, which I, the undersigned, ever had, now has, may have, or claimed to have, against the above-stated organizations, their officers, members, agents, or employees of any and all personal injuries to property real or personal, which might be caused by the, arise out of, or result in connection with my presence on the premises of the above stated organization or otherwise by my participation in any activity organized, supervised, or conducted by the above-stated organizations or wherever located.

I HAVE READ THE CONTENTS OF THIS RELEASE AND WAIVER AND UNDERSTAND ALL ITS TERMS.
 I EXECUTE THIS RELEASE AND WAIVER VOLUNTARILY WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF IT SIGNIFICANCE.
 I AGREE TO HAVE MEDICAL INSURANCE FOR EACH PARTICIPANT.
 I HEREBY CONSENT TO THE USE OF MY NAME, PHOTOGRAPH AND ITS PROMOTIONAL PURPOSES.
 I AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE HJCI RULES AND REGULATIONS AS PRINTED ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS PAGE.

DATE _____ ADULT'S SIGNATURE _____

RELATIONSHIP TO MINOR PARTICIPANT _____

Check no: _____ Make check payable to "HJCI"

Dues collected by _____ (class/org.)