



**\*\* For Immediate Release \*\***  
**May 15, 2025**

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**EVENT NAME: 2025 GVJCI Matsuri Fundraiser**

**DATE:** Saturday, June 28, 2025

**TIME:** 10:00 am - 7:00 pm

**LOCATION:** Gardena Valley JCI, 1964 W. 162nd St., Gardena, CA 90247

**NOTE:** Our matsuri is cashless this year. Presale coupons (PSC), credit & debit cards, and scrip accepted. You can purchase food, plants & items with your credit card, debit card, scrip or PSC.

**DESCRIPTION:**

The GVJCI Matsuri has always been a festive time where our member organizations and supporters gather to volunteer, enjoy food, entertainment, games, community, and so much more while raising funds to support the GVJCI. It is one of the year's highlights we look forward to each June. It is 100% volunteer-run by our GVJCI Member Organizations and volunteers, with all proceeds benefiting the GVJCI. We hope to see you there!

Here's what we have in store this year:

- Delicious Food • Fun Games • Raffle Drawings • Bingo • Beer Garden
- Indoor/Outdoor Entertainment • White Elephant Sale • Plant Sale • Craft Sale
- Martial Arts Demonstrations

Here are some ways you can help support the GVJCI Matsuri!

1. PRE-SALE Matsuri Coupons. Coupon books will be distributed through our Member Organizations in April. You can also visit the GVJCI office.
2. Make an optional ADDITIONAL DONATION (\$50+ donations will be gifted a special 2025 GVJCI Matsuri Fundraiser t-shirt). Please visit our website to donate online.
3. Mark your calendar and attend the event!
4. Invite your family, friends, neighbors, & colleagues!

We are celebrating over 70 years! The GVJCI Matsuri Fundraiser is a South Bay tradition enjoyed by many generations of local residents. As the GVJCI's largest annual fundraiser, we invite you, your family, friends, and neighbors to enjoy this fun family weekend. Everyone is welcome! We thank our volunteers, member



organizations, sponsors, board members, staff, and attendees for the GVJCI Matsuri Fundraiser's continued success!

**Food & Game Booths** - Community organizations and classes that are housed at the GVJCI lend their volunteer support to run all of our booths, including fun games such as Bingo, or our ever-popular Pitch 'Til U Win, or cooking/selling tasty food like Chicken Teriyaki, GVJCI Hot Dogs, Chili Dogs, Spam Musubi, our famous Shaved Ice and Okinawa Andagi and more! Our community volunteers are the BEST---they help run all of the booths and are the heart of our Matsuri!

**Performances** - Get here early, get some food, grab a seat and be ready to be entertained by the many talented people here at the GVJCI! We showcase many classes and programs at our facility, such as Taiko, Hula, Japanese Traditional Dance, Singing, and Line dancing. See what these performers learn throughout the year, and maybe you'll be encouraged to join them at their weekly classes and perform next year!

**Martial Arts Demonstrations** - Ever wonder what these various martial arts disciplines entail? Now is the time to find out! GVJCI's Martial Arts classes will be featured: Naginata (pole weapon with single blade), Gardena Judo Club, Gardena Kendo, and Kyudo Renmei (Japanese Archery). This is the perfect time to catch a glimpse and see if one is for you and/or your family!

**Outdoor Plant Sale**—This is one of our most popular booths year after year. Supporting nurseries and gracious community plant enthusiasts donate beautiful plants from their businesses and backyards for our Matsuri. Nursery experts also volunteer their time at the booth to answer your most intricate questions about growing and maintaining your new plants!

**Holding Station** - Are your hands full of food items, white elephant treasures, and crafts...and you want to purchase a drink? Well, worry no more. Please take all of your belongings to our holding station, where we'll keep a watchful eye on your items. Now you can roam our Matsuri "hands-free." Then, drive your car by the loading zone and pick up your goodies!

**Bingo** - Try your luck at Bingo! Games begin at 4 pm with chances to win cash & prizes!

**Beer Garden** - From opening to closing, take a break and come to our Beer Garden! Grab a beer, relax, and catch up with friends.



**The Bridge: GVJCI Heritage Center** - Come upstairs and see what we have to share with you! Visit our Japanese Cultural Heritage Library and our educational Tokonoma Display. Do you want to inquire about our Japanese Language School? Pay a visit and receive the information you need to enroll in the upcoming fall session. Returning this year is the CERT display. Learn about Community Emergency Response, and visit the Tomo No Kai Art display! Come and see the Ikebana Class' Ikebana display! Do you love homemade crafts? Visit and purchase beautiful handmade crafts from our Tomo No Kai and Community Crafts! Who doesn't love a homemade crocheted scrubby? Yes, please!

**Pre-sale Coupons (PSC) for the GVJCI Matsuri Fundraiser:** These coupon books are only sold prior to the Matsuri. Each book contains (10) ten \$2.00 coupons that can be used as scrip at all Matsuri booths plus bonus hourly raffle drawing entries. Beginning in April, GVJCI Member Organizations will be selling these coupon books. You can also purchase them at the GVJCI Office before the Matsuri until sold out.

**The bonus Hourly Raffle ticket** adds value to each Pre-Sale Coupon (PSC)! Please return your completed raffle tickets to the GVJCI Office before June 28 or by 12:00 pm, June 28th, at the GVJCI Matsuri's Raffle booth for your chance to win prizes during our Matsuri.

**Mega Matsuri Raffle** - You can also purchase special tickets for the Mega Matsuri Raffle at the Matsuri Raffle booth. Be sure to visit our website for the Mega Matsuri Raffle drawing prizes. The drawing for this special raffle will be held on Saturday, near closing.

**White Elephant Donations Needed!** Also needed are NEW & LIKE NEW and CLEAN items for the White Elephant booth. White Elephant donation drop-off dates: May 12th - June 13th, weekdays, 9:00 am- 12:30 pm. The last Drop-off date is Friday, June 13th, at the GVJCI Office.

**Community Handicraft Donations Needed!** We know that there are many talented crafters in the community! We welcome any (NEW ONLY) handicraft items that you would like to donate to us for the Community Craft booth. Community Craft donation drop-off dates: May 12th - June 13th, 2025, weekdays, 9:00 am- 12:30 pm. The last Drop-off date is Friday, June 13th, 2025, at the GVJCI Office.

### **Community Plant Donations Needed!**

The outdoor plant sale has been a significant tradition at the GVJCI Matsuri. We want to keep it going and are reaching out to the community for plant donations. If



you have well-manicured plants you would like to donate, you can drop them off from May 12<sup>th</sup> – June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, weekdays, 9 am – 12:30 pm, at the GVJCI office. No plants will be accepted after June 13<sup>th</sup>.

Please visit our website for our entertainment schedule.

#### **Menu:**

**Food:** Andagi, Char Siu Bao, Chicken Teriyaki, Chili Hotdog, Chili Rice, Chili Rice Hotdog, Chirashi, Corn on the Cob, Hotdog, Inari, Shave Ice, Somen Salad, Spam Musubi, Tamale, Tamale & Chili, Udon, Watermelon

**Drinks:** Beer (Beer Garden), Hawaiian Sun, Iced Coffee, Water

#### **ABOUT THE GVJCI:**

From all of us at the GVJCI, we thank you for the support you give us throughout the year. We could not do all that we do without you. We were built by the community, and we are sustained by the community. In our busiest months, 3,000 people come to the GVJCI for classes, workshops, meetings, services, activities, and holiday parties. We are so grateful for all those who utilize our facilities and services, participate in our programs, and keep the GVJCI an active community center.

We were formally incorporated in 1967, but our roots in the South Bay trace back over 100 years ago through our Japanese Language School's legacy. We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the needs of the Nikkei and broader community of the South Bay through educational, cultural, social, and recreational programs. We need your support to make these programs possible and keep our facilities in good operating condition.

#### **Our Mission**

A space to engage, share, and embrace the Nikkei experience and culture.

#### **Our Vision**

The GVJCI envisions a vibrant network and a welcoming space for all persons interested in Japanese heritage and culture where history and tradition are



honored, people are inspired to create action and change, and cultural pride and respect for all humanity are promoted.

The Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute (GVJCI) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization, Federal Taxpayer ID: 95-6197597.

**Website:** [www.jci-gardena.org](http://www.jci-gardena.org)

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