



HJCI Newsletter Vol. 2

Our Mission statement

Sept. 29th, 2013

<http://www.hollywoodjci.org/>

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

Dear HJCI members and friends. I want to let people know that the Community Center will be expanding our programs to include a new Aikido group which will be meeting weekly on Thursdays. Our nominal membership fee also helps with our operational expenses. Please join us in our first **Udon dinner fundraiser on Oct. 26th (Sat) 4-8pm (eat in or take out).** We will finish the year with our **HJCI Raffle drawing on Nov. 23rd (Sat) 3pm.**

Our membership fee of \$20 will continue for the upcoming 2014 calendar year. Our nominal membership fee also helps with our operational expenses. I also wish to thank current participants and members for your on-going support of the HJCI and its programs. Lastly, I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their tireless effort to help maintain the HJCI and its programs. Brian Yamasaki, President, HJCI

< Community Topics >

◆ **Udon Dinner Night :Oct. 26th (Sat), 4-8pm**

All of the proceeds will help pay for the repair work of upper parking areas projected by this fall. The estimate cost is about \$14,000.

◆ **Facility use** : Our classrooms and social hall are available.

For more info, call Brian Yamasaki at (323) 661-1649

◆ **Anyone who may be interested in advertising** their business card for a nominal donation, please contact Asao at (310) 413-6220 or asaomas@gmail.com. Donations will also help support our newsletter and its circulation.



Coming Events

Fall Pancake Breakfast: Sept. 29

**Udon Dinner Night Sat. Oct. 26th
4-8pm (eat in or take out)**

Raffle Drawing Nov. 26th Sat. 3pm

New cultural classes

★ **Adult Japanese class (Sept.)**

★ **Aikido Dojo (Every Thursday)**

★ **EM "bokashi" meeting**

Passed Events

Spring Pancake Breakfast: 4-29-13

Movie Night "The Manzanar Fishing Club" 3-2-13

New Year's Party 2-9-13

Cultural Group activities



ハリウッド

Hollywood Japanese Language School

日本語学園

Hollywood Gakuen is one of the oldest Japanese Language Schools in the L.A area. Students are assigned homework and participate in activities.



• **Children and teens class (age 5 and above)**

• **Credit Test for High School students:** California Association of Japanese Language School (CAJLS) administers the "Foreign

Language Credit Test for Japanese", with which students could earn high school foreign language credit. Contact: Ogino (323) 662-7195 or Kuwahara (818) 708-2871 e-mail: hkuwahara@socal.rr.com

★ **Adult Class (New) Everyone is welcome. · All classes: Every Saturday 8:45am -12:15pm**

Acting Dojo for Non-Actors

Acting craft for non-acting professionals for the purposes of improving self- presentation, communication skills, and self-confidence. Class sessions are six Mondays. Tuition is \$210.00. Next session (TBD)

(Acting Class of Dom Magwill is temporary closed. However he will come back soon to open the above class.) For more info, please contact dmagwili@yahoo.com

Adult classical beginning ballet (クラシック・バレエ 教室)

Every Wed night from 8:30 PM No experience needed.

Adult classical beginning ballet. Stay young and fit while having fun!

For more information, contact Sayoko at (323) 422-8880



AIKIDO DOJO (合気道道場)



AKI USA partners with Hollywood Japanese

Cultural Institute to bring traditional Japanese Aikido Dojo to LA area. Aikido Kenkyukai International, USA (AKI USA), a premiere non-profit Aikido organization, headquartered in Santa Barbara, announced the September 12th launch of its Hollywood dojo, Aikido Kenkyukai International, Los Angeles ([AKI-LA](http://www.AikidoLosAngeles.org)).



Lia Suzuki Sensei, is a 30+ year Aikido veteran who started the first AKI USA dojo in 1996 after living and training in Japan for nearly 10 years. "While living in Japan, my teacher Takeda Shihan and I spoke many times of our shared dream to not only impart Aikido skills to students, but also to foster cultural exchange. Partnering with the HJCI is the perfect stepping stone into the Los Angeles community."

Under Suzuki's direction and with Takeda Shihan's strong encouragement, board members, interns, and volunteers have been working hard for the last 2 years to bring their programs to Los Angeles.

Classes: Every Thursday, beginning September 12th. The schedule is as follows:

Children: 4:30 pm Tweens & Teens: 5:30 pm Adults: 6:30 pm. In addition to weekly, traditional Aikido classes, AKI-LA will also hold international seminars and events with various acclaimed instructors throughout the world. For information, please visit: www.AikidoLosAngeles.org or call/text: 424 209-2083.

EM "bokashi" making meeting (EMの集い～ボカシ作り他～)

EM is an abbreviation of Effective Microorganisms, which are same as probiotics. EM was invented by Dr. Higa of Ryukyu Univ. He discovered a way for over 50 probiotics to stay alive in a container for long time.

EM is an all-natural and eco-friendly substance. It is very useful for both your home and gardening needs. In our meeting, we will teach you how to make "bokashi" so that you can turn your kitchen waste to a natural fertilizer for your home garden.

Diluted EM has multiple usages such as killing toilet odor, cleaning kitchen and bathroom, adding to bath for extra warmth, etc. Mr. Takeuchi, instructor/ speaker, has been working voluntary to let people know about EM in the US for about 20 years. The meeting is free, but there is a material fee of \$2 per bag if you make the "bokashi" at the meeting. **Meeting: 4th Sunday 2pm-5pm every month at HJCI.**

For more info, contact Mr. Takeuchi at (714) 964- 9373, or Kuwahara (818) 708-2871



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. For more information, please contact

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



L.A.Daiku (L.A. 第九を歌う会)

Every Tuesday night, we have a chorus rehearsal under Dr. Jeffrey Bernstein's direction. We mostly perform Beethoven No.9 "Ode to Joy," and just performed for the Sadako's Event at JACCC in August. Our famous annual



event, the 32nd "Naruto Daiku" was held in June at Naruto city, photo: "Naruto Daiku" 2013

Tokushima Japan. This year, 42 of our members participated and performed with 620 singers from all over Japan and US. We will be performing our third fall concert in October. The New Year's Daiku Concert will be held in January, 2014 in Los Angeles and again in June in Naruto, Tokushima, Japan. Our mission is to sing for "Peace and Love" and to build bridges between US and Japan. We also perform Japanese songs, religious pieces, and many others. We also have two voice trainers every Tuesdays and private lessons are available. We believe that chorus is very good for our health and everybody is welcome to join us. We are registered and approved as a NPO 501(c) 3. **Weekly practice: Tuesday, 6:30pm to 9pm**

Contact: Yasu Tanano at (310) 625-4222 or LADaiku@aol.com

Hollywood Judo Dojo (ハリウッド柔道道場)



Hollywood Judo Dojo had a busy summer. We had Judo Clinics on June 29th and 30th which were led by Sensei Philippe Morotti, who also led many Saturday practices. These helped our students do well in the tournaments.

Here are the results.

- Barstow Tournament (6/9): Giovanni Ramirez took a gold medal, Aaron Brown took a silver medal and Jerry Alvarez-Sandoval took a bronze.
- Goltz Tournament (6/22): Jerry Alvarez-Sandoval, Charles Carpenter and Juan Rodriguez took gold, and Aaron Brown took silver.
- California State Games in San Diego (7/14): Aaron Brown took gold, Charles Carpenter took silver, and Adrian Vulgaris took bronze in the Masters Division.

- Nikkei Games (8/11): Ian Acton, Aaron Brown and Mateus Pare all took gold.
- Golden State Open (8/22): Aaron Brown took gold.

We are looking forward to the promotions of Aaron Brown, Erick Mendez and Juan Rodriguez. They should receive their black belts soon. We have also had promotions of students to yellow, orange and green belts during the summer.

Bo Svensen was named Chairman of the Masters Program for USA Judo for the United States. Philippe Morotti was appointed USA Masters Coach for the 8 western states.

★We are in the process of applying for a grant from the LA '84 Olympics Fund to teach after school Judo classes to Middle and High School students. Sensei Morotti is contacting the Principals of schools in this area, and several schools have already signed on to participate when the grant is approved.

Hollywood Buddhist Church (ハリウッド仏教会)

HBC is a branch church of the L.A. Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple.

HBC holds about 8 services a year to commemorate significant events of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist calendar.

HBC has held services in the Social Hall of the Hollywood Japanese Cultural Institute (HJCI) for over the past 60 years. HBC members are also members of the LAHHBT, which is located in Little Tokyo. Additional services, classes, and activities are available at the LAHHBT. HBC was originally formed and sustained by our Issei (1st generation) and Nisei (2nd generation) Japanese American ancestors living in the Hollywood area. For more information, contact Asao Masumiya at (310) 306-7463 or asaomas@gmail.com



Karate (松濤館流空手道場)

Shotokan Karate is one of the most widely practiced forms of karate in the world today. Introduced to Japan from Okinawa by Master Gichin Funakoshi, Shotokan puts heavy focus on kihon (basic techniques), kata (forms), and kumite (sparring) to develop a range of powerful and dynamic techniques. Our three dojos, "Venice, Sun Valley, and Hollywood," held a joint overnight training camp near the end of July. The training started on Saturday night at Sun Valley Dojo, and the students slept over at the dojo. Early next morning, we ran up the hills of Griffith Park. The camp was developed in order to bring the members closer together, and this marks the 25th year of its tradition. For more info, contact Yuki Otaka at (818) 618-6161



Gardener's Association (ガーデナー組合) Meeting: 1st Friday of month except on holiday.



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

Yoga (ヨガ・クラス) 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. Get fit and have fun! Class is open to people of all ages!

Class: Wednesday 7:00 – 8:30 PM with Takako Sato at (310)



Facility maintenance Our caretakers (George & Keiko Sandoval), and other hard working volunteers have contributed many hours to help maintain the HJCI property. ♦ **Parking lot repair:** Repair and repaved work on the lower parking areas was done in May. ♦ **SPECIAL THANKS: Kunio Tsuneyoshi** for shaping and trimming our Pine trees and other vegetation. **The Sandovals** for their daily caretaking duties and overseeing the property.



Flagpole restoration team

♦ **FLAG POLE RESTORATION:** Through the hard work of volunteers, the old rusting flag pole in front of the Social Hall (our original building) has been restored. The flag pole had not been used since the rope wore-out two years ago. In the good old days, the traditional Koi Nobori (carp streamer) would be hoisted on the flag pole in celebration of "Kodomo no Hi", which is known as Children's Day on May 5th. Under the guidance of HJCI member, **Tok Chida**, volunteers lowered the aged flag pole and over several days of hard work, the rust was removed with metal grinders and sand paper. Parts of the pole required welding repair work by Tok. Other volunteers, including **Brian Yamasaki, Kunio Tsuneyoshi, Masao Yoshida, Takashi Yoshida,** and **Asao Masumiya** helped to prime and paint the pole. New rope was attached, the metal pulley was refurbished, and a new concrete foundation was built to support the pole. Raising and resetting the long and heavy flag pole required about **14 volunteers**, including **8 strong members from the Judo Dojo**. Thanks to Tok and the many volunteers. (Asao Masumiya)

♦ **Metal cart :** Thanks to **Tok Chida and Masao Yoshida** for converting the metal cart in the Social Hall into 2 carts to store the 35 mats of the new Aikido group which started on Thursday, Sept. 12th. This job required Tok's extensive welding skills and a lot of sweat.

DONATIONS (May, 2013 – Present) – Thank you very much!!

Hollywood Buddhist Church \$5k, Judo Dojo \$1k toward parking lot repair,

Judy Dionzon (in April and Sept), Takashi Hoshizaki In Memory of Barbara Hoshizaki



 **HELP WITH TELEPHONE AND UTILITY BILLS:** At our last Pancake Breakfast in April, I met Yasue Clark. Yasue is a community worker with the Little Tokyo Service Center and Team Collaborative, a program funded by the California Public Utilities Commission. Yasue helped me to reduce the cost of my telephone bill by enrolling me in the Life Line program. I also qualified for a similar program for my gas and water and power services. Yasue speaks English and Japanese.

For more info, **The Little Tokyo Service Center** (213) 473-1649 Thank you Yasue! (Masao Yoshida)