



HJCI Newsletter Vol. 21

Dec. 2023 <http://www.hollywoodjci.com/>
3929 Middlebury St. L.A. CA, 90004

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

Dear Members and Friends,

As we approach the close of 2023 and eagerly anticipate the dawn of 2024, I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering support of the HJCI. Your active participation in our classes and groups, generous contributions to our fundraising endeavors, and monetary donations have been instrumental in sustaining the vitality of our community. I am sincerely grateful for the commitment and enthusiasm demonstrated by our Senseis and group leaders, who selflessly dedicate their time to ensure the continuity of our classes and activities.

A special acknowledgment is owed to Bruce Ibusuki for his invaluable contributions in planning the menu and coordinating the success of our recent Smoke Salmon fundraiser. The enthusiasm and generosity exhibited by our volunteers and friends who not only relished the delightful meal but also extended additional support through donations are truly commendable.

As we enter the holiday season and stand on the threshold of a New Year, I extend warm wishes for joy and good health.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support, and I look forward to the continued success and prosperity of the HJCI community in the upcoming year.

Warm regards,

Asao Masumiya, HJCI President

HJCI Officers for 2024

- President: Asao Masumiya • Vice president: Hiro Casey Ogino
- Vice President/Fundraising Coordinator: Jerry Naito • Treasurer: Linda Ikegami
- Recording Secretary: Susan Yamasaki • Newsletter editor: Hideo Kuwahara

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2024

- Saturday January 27th, at 3pm, HJCI's New Year celebration. RSVP required by 1/15/2024
- April - Spring Clean up
- Spring Pancake Breakfast fundraiser

2024 Membership Application / Renewal are now due.

-Please submit your application (p11) through your organization or send directly to HJCI with your check if you are not meeting in person. Membership apps are available in the Social Hall and Annex. The app is also available on the hollywoodjci.org website.

-Please note a fee amount of \$30 for an adult with a minor participant, and \$20 for each adult member.

-The Membership app is for the 2024 calendar year, January to December, and due by 3-31-24.

DONATIONS: JULY 1, 2023 - NOVEMBER 30, 2023

HJCI depends on your generous donations to sustain our facilities, and to ensure the community center is available to the groups who support us. We thank everyone who contributed by supporting our fundraisers and who generously made additional donations.

JULY DONATIONS	TOM & YUKI JIMBO
ANONYMOUS "IN MEMORY OF KIM MASUMIYA"	GARY KANEMOTO
GARY & JUDY IBUSUKI	KARL & JEAN KAWAKAMI
	MR. & MRS. TOSHIYUKI KAWAMOTO
AUGUST DONATIONS	BRUCE & LORRAINE KIMURA
GARY & JUDY IBUSUKI	NANCY KURIHARA JOHNSON
BRIAN & SUSAN YAMASAKI	DIANE KUBOTA
	MICHITAKA & JUNKO MAEDA
SEPTEMBER DONATIONS	KEN HELMES & AMY MASUMIYA
MURIEL BERGLUND "IN MEMORY OF KIM MASUMIYA"	VIVIAN MATSUSHIGE
CLARK IBUSUKI	KEN & RUBY MAYA
GARY & JUDY IBUSUKI	MEL MIYAMOTO
GARY ICHINOSE "IN MEMORY OF KIM MASUMIYA"	KEN & JOANNE NAKANO
BRUCE & LORRAINE KIMURA "IN MEMORY OF CHISATO YAMAGUCHI"	CASEY & LORETTA OGINO
MASUMIYA FAMILY "IN MEMORY OF KIM"	KAZUE OGINO & CAROL KOGA
	SUSAN OIWAKE & FAMILY
DONATIONS FROM SMOKED SALMON FUNDRAISER	TAD & KAREN OKUMOTO
REC'D FROM SEPT-OCT	YOSHIHARU OKUMOTO
ELAINE BARBOD	JOANN & GEORGE ONO
TOMI BERGLUND	LILLIAN SASAKI
NAOMI CHANG	GENE & CATHY SATO
ATSUKO DONLEY	ICHIRO SHIMIZU & JULIA ROBINSON SHIMIZU
SAYOKO FLUSTER	HARRY & HARRIET TAGUCHI
ELAINE HARADA	HARRY TANIKAWA
KEN HELMES & AMY MASUMIYA	NICHOLAS TU
GRANT & TERESA HIRAHARA	KIYOSHI & MAY YONEMURA
YASUMASA & HIROKO HIRAYAMA	HAZEL & JOHN YOSHIDA
JAMES & CAROL HIROSHIGE	OCTOBER DONATIONS
GARY & JUDY IBUSUKI	GARY & JUDY IBUSUKI
GARY ICHINOSE	ASAO MASUMIYA & FAMILY "IN MEMORY OF KIM"
	NOVEMBER DONATIONS
	CLARK IBUSUKI
	GARY & JUDY IBUSUKI

Daito-ryu Aikijujutsu Kodokai, Los Angeles Branch Dojo

(大東流合気柔術幸道会)

Teaching Traditional Japanese Koryu Aikijujutsu

For those not familiar with our art, Daito-ryu Aikijujutsu Kodokai is an ancient Japanese art of self-defense that involves throws, controls, strikes, and blocks. It is in fact one of the most well known forms of jujutsu in Japan, and the Kodokai is one of only a handful of orthodox branches. Having been developed and refined over many generations, our methods center on the practical application of “aiki” (harmonized energy), which is why our art is known as “aikijujutsu”. In short, aikijujutsu is an advanced style of traditional jujutsu that is both fascinating and effective.



Those interested in joining are encouraged to make an appointment to meet us and view a class. Friday evenings 6:30- 8:30pm. Contact; kodoaiki@att.net or 323-369-7234

Hollywood Buddhist Church (HBC) - Submitted by Hiroshi Ted Yoshida

The Middle Path

I am sure it has happened where you find yourself driving through downtown Los Angeles and you pass by a homeless encampment that looks as if it is a scene from a Hollywood science fiction movie of a dystopian world that is the aftermath of the collapse of society as we know it.

Or you might be online to read the latest news and see too many headlines about war and unyielding destruction. It is in these moments when I am thankful for the wisdom found in the fundamental tenants of Buddhism which are the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path.

The Four Noble Truths are:

1. We all experience suffering;
2. The cause of suffering are the Three Poisons of hatred, ignorance and desire;
3. The end of suffering is nirvana;
4. The path to nirvana/enlightenment is the Eightfold Path.

The Eightfold Path is made up of:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Right view | 5. Right livelihood |
| 2. Right thought | 6. Right effort |
| 3. Right speech | 7. Right mindfulness |
| 4. Right conduct | 8. Right meditation |

The following is an excerpt from a talk given by Shakyamuni Buddha:

“Monks, these two extremes should not be followed by one who has gone forth as a wanderer. What two? Devotion to the pleasures of sense, a low practice of villagers, a practice unworthy, unprofitable, the way of the world; and devotion of self-mortification, which is painful, unworthy, and unprofitable.

— Continue to next page —

— Continue from previous page — “By avoiding these two extremes the Tathagata has gained knowledge of that middle path which giveth vision, which giveth knowledge, which causeth calm, special knowledge, enlightenment, Nirvana.”

The following books can help broaden your understanding of the Four Noble Truths and the Eight-fold Path:

Ocean by Kenneth K. Tanaka

Buddhism Edited by Richard A. Gard



L.A. Daiku (第九を歌う会)

L.A. Daiku is a chorus that has been rehearsing weekly at HJCI since September 2009. Dr. Jeffrey Bernstein, a top ranked community chorus director in the U.S., has been leading L. A. Daiku since then. Both men and women are invited to join without an audition. L. A. Daiku's signature piece is Beethoven's Symphony No.9 (Daiku in Japanese) that extols the brotherhood of all peoples.

As shown in the attached invitation, our next concert is the Daiku on January 7, 2024, at the Aratani Theatre in Little Tokyo. Dr. Bernstein will lead the performance with a full orchestra, four soloists, and 150 singers from L. A. Daiku, Pasadena Choral, and other chorus groups. The occasion also celebrates the 200 th anniversary of the first performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

L.A. Daiku rehearses at HJCI on Saturdays between 10:30am – 12:30pm; the rehearsals lead to two concerts of superior choral works in multiple languages. L. A. Daiku offers camaraderie and pleasures of singing together. Also, as singers synchronize their rhythm and blend their voices in harmony, their spirits are uplifted and even their health seems to be improved. Try our weekly rehearsals. No experience necessary.

For more information, please contact LADaiku@aol.com



Hollywood Judo Dojo (ハリウッド柔道道場)

Hollywood Dojo has one of the best programs in the country. All our instructors are certified coaches, background checked, CPR and AED trained. Sensei Anthony runs a fast growing and very popular beginners course for kids and for adults, while Sensei Erick and Sensei Juan teach our intermediate program with great progress.

Sensei Philippe, who heads our advanced classes, was featured in the Wall Street Journal, promoting judo. This year, we have had more belt promotions than previous years, and we have won numerous medals at Nanka and Nikkei tournaments, the California State Games as well as on a national level. We held judo demonstrations at a local school. Hollywood dojo is currently the 6th largest club with the US Judo Association. We aspire to have a friendly and fun environment. We get together for BBQ's and events on a regular basis. Visit our website hollywoodjudo.com where you can sign up, and be a part of a unique judo program while making new friends



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



Shotokan Karate (松濤館流空手道場)

Shotokan Karate was founded in 1928 by Gichin Funakoshi. Shotokan Karate promotes respect, compassion and both inward and outward calmness. As Funakoshi said, "The ultimate goal of Karate lies not in victory or in defeat, but in perfection..." It also promotes perfection of character, be faithful, endeavor to excel, respect others and refrain from violent behaviors.

Under the guidance of Sensei Yukitoshi Otaka, students learn:



Kihon: basic techniques in Shotokan Karate, including stance, block, punch and kick.

Kata: described as a sequence of Karate moves organized into a prearranged match against imaginal opponents.

Kumite: principal application of **Kihon** and **Kata** to real opponents.

Shotokan Karate fosters self-discipline, physical fitness, spiritual wellness and enhancement while respecting others and following Shotokan traditions.

★Classes are held in the HJCI Social Hall on Tuesdays and Fridays, 8 – 9pm.

Hollywood Japanese Language School (Hollywood Gakuen)

“Listening” “Conversation” “Reading”
for adults, teens & children above 9 yrs. old



- ★We are one of the oldest community Japanese Language Schools in the State
- ★Our experienced teachers were born and educated in Japan.
- ★Our online classes are easy, fast, and inexpensive! (We don't have regular class in a class room now)

Tuition: Classes (2 to 5 people) \$60 for four times + \$20 for registration

Private tutoring \$100 for four times + \$20 for registration

Our website for more information: <https://www.hollywoodjls.com/>

Any question, please contact : hollywoodJLS5@gmail.com

Gardener's Association (ガーデナー組合)

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



☆Spring Facility and Gardening Cleanup –

Special thanks to the members and organizations who helped with the cleanup of each of our 3 buildings and spruce up of our Landscape.



Photos from October's Smoked Salmon fundraiser by Tomi Mukai

Health Message by Rosanne Takahashi, R N

Happy Holidays!

As we enter our holiday season for 2023, we are also entering our flu and cold season. Both the flu and COVID numbers are rising again, so please take special care to stay safe and healthy during these cold winter months.

Even though you have had all the COVID vaccinations or had COVID in the past, you can still contract COVID at any time.

Some reminders for staying safe:

Stay home if you are not feeling well.

Wash your hands regularly especially after going out shopping or to the grocery store

Wear a mask if you feel that you are compromised and need to go out shopping.

Get tested or use a home kit if you're not feeling well and suspect that you may have COVID

If you test positive for COVID-19, **stay home for at least 5 days and isolate from others in your home.** You are **likely most infectious during these first 5 days.**

Wear a high-quality mask if you must be around others at home and in public.
Do not go places where you are unable to wear a mask.

[Do not travel.](#)

Stay home and separate from others as much as possible.

Use a separate bathroom, if possible.

Take steps to [improve ventilation](#) at home, if possible.

Don't share personal household items, like cups, towels, and utensils.

Monitor your [symptoms](#). If you have an [emergency warning sign](#) (like trouble breathing), seek emergency medical care immediately.

End isolation based on how serious your COVID-19 symptoms were. Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation.

If you had no symptoms

You may end isolation after day 5.

The symptoms for the flu may be similar to COVID, so testing would be suggested if you have any of these symptoms. It is not too late to get your flu vaccination. Costco, CVS, Rite Aid all have free or very low cost vaccinations available. It will take a couple of weeks to be effective.

Continue to stay safe and healthy this year and wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season with family and friends.....

Rosanne Takahashi

Stay home



Get mask



Wash hands



Get tested



2023 SCHEDULE OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES (2023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)
Daito-ryu Aikijujutsu (大東流合気柔術幸道会) Contact: Destrie Roy	Friday evenings 6:30pm to 8:30pm Adults Email: kodoaiki@att.net
L.A. Daiku (LA第九)	Saturday: 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 email: LADaiku@aol.com
Gardeners' Association (ガーデナー組合) Contact: Brian Yamasaki (323) 661-1649	Email: sanborn3693@gmail.com
Hollywood Buddhist Church (ハリウッド仏教会) Contact: Rosanne Takahashi, President email: tallbridge4@aol.com Los Angeles Hompa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple (213) 680-9130	Contact Rosanne or LAHHBT for more information
Japanese Language School (ハリウッド学園) Contact: hollywoodjls5@gmail.com	Website: https://www.hollywoodjls.com
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	Refer to website for schedule of classes website: http://hollywoodjudo.com/
Karate (ハリウッド松涛館空手道場) Contact: T. Suzuki (626)-374-4119	Tuesday & Friday: 8 – 9 p.m.
Girl Scout Troop 3795 Contact: Patty Murakami (323) 528-40	Meeting date to be arranged email: pymurakami@gmail.com



Photos from October's Smoked Salmon fundraiser by Tomi Mukai

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HOLLYWOOD JAPANESE CULTURAL INSTITUTE

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(323) 664-2070 E-mail: hollywoodjci@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR YEAR _____

Annual Membership: \$20 Adult Individual \$30 Family (including minors under 18 or students under 24)

Check One:

☐ NEW ☐ RENEWAL

Check One:

☐ ADULT MEMBER (18 or older) ☐ PARENT OF MINOR PARTICIPANT

☐ SENIOR EXEMPTION: 80 YEARS AND OVER

PLEASE PRINT LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____ SPOUSE _____

Minor Participant _____ Birth Date _____ Class/Org _____

Minor Participant _____ Birth Date _____ Class/Org _____

Minor Participant _____ Birth Date _____ Class/Org _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE () _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Semi-annual newsletter & HJCI related messages will be sent via email. (Note: You can also decline at a later time.)

☐ Decline If you also want a hardcopy of the newsletter, check one: ☐ U.S. Mail ☐ Pick up

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ Phone () _____ Relationship _____

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

☐ Daito Ryu Kodokai

☐ Judo

☐ Gardeners' Association

☐ Karate

☐ Hollywood Buddhist Church

☐ LA Daiku

☐ Japanese Language School

☐ Other _____

☐ Jodoin

☐ General supporter of HJCI

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 and damages and any and all 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 ITS SIGNIFICANCE.

I AGREE TO HAVE MEDICAL INSURANCE FOR EACH PARTICIPANT.

I HEREBY CONSENT TO THE USE OF MY NAME, PHOTOGRAPH AND/OR IMAGE BY THE HJCI FOR ITS PROMOTIONAL PURPOSES.

DATE _____ ADULT'S SIGNATURE _____

RELATIONSHIP TO MINOR PARTICIPANT _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO "HJCI"

PLEASE NOTE: CHECK # _____ DATE OF CHECK _____ DUES COLLECTED BY _____ (org/gp)

☐ CASH ☐ FEE WAIVER / SENIOR EXEMPTION 80 YEARS & OVER

HJCI RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS OF CLASSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

1. Each participant, parent of a minor participant (child under the age of 18 years living at the same address and/or a full time student up to the age of 23 years) and instructor must be a member of HJCI.
2. Each adult and minor participant must be covered by medical insurance.
3. Anyone suffering an injury must immediately report this to the instructor or responsible adult.
4. Each organization must have a responsible adult (instructor or organization officer) present during all practices, meetings or classes. If a responsible adult is not present, the class shall be cancelled.
5. The responsible adult shall have the authority to cancel all activities when the building, dojo, classrooms or other facilities are found to be unsafe.
6. The responsible adult shall see that each participant is in only authorized areas of the building. Unauthorized areas are those areas that are not pertinent to the activities, such as the stage, stairways, etc.
7. Each participant shall be responsible for leaving the room clean and in order.
8. As class or organization members, each participant is encouraged to help in HJCI- sponsored events, fundraisers, clean-up, etc.
9. The HJCI Membership/Waiver form must be completed annually by each participant and instructor for each calendar year, January to December.