



## ***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,

Spring is in the air with the temps warming up and the plants, flowers and weeds in full bloom!

With Spring comes many events around the community. Thank to the volunteers who helped with the 4/07 facility clean up. Thank you also for your support of the the 4/21 Spring Pancake Breakfast.

On a sad note, our long time Judo sensei, Gary Freeman, passed in December at the age of 87. I first met Gary when I started judo at age 14 and when the dojo was located in a very modest open wood structure behind the Kakiba home on Westmoreland Avenue. Hollywood Judo Dojo was an-chored by several dedicated Senseis, including Kikuchi, Frank Watanuki, Frank & Art Emi and the late Sasaki sensei. Gary was a young Black belt back having honorably served in the U.S. Army. Gary remained devoted to Hollywood Judo Dojo as Head Instructor and Chairman of the Board un-til his recent passing. His devoted wife, Ann, was always by his side. Gary is also survived by two loving sons, their wives and a special granddaughter. Our sincere condolences to the Freeman and Judo family. Your love, kindness and smile, live on, Gary.

With best 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**

- Fall Facility and Gardening Cleanup | Date to be confirmed
- Smoked Salmon fundraiser | Save the date for Saturday October 12th

## **2024 Membership Applications / Renewals 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 change of fee amount of \$30 or a family with a minor participant. \$20 for adult member.
- The Membership app is for the 2024 calender year, January to December.

# DONATIONS: December 2023 - April 2024

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.

<b>NEW YEAR'S - DECEMBER - JANUARY DONATIONS</b>
HOLLYWOOD BUDDHIST CHURCH
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BRIAN & SUSAN YAMASAKI
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HAZEL & JOHN YOSHIDA
TED & LIDIA YOSHIDA

## **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 and is the parent art of Aikido. Daito Ryu is 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](mailto:kodoaiki@att.net) or 323-369-723

## **Hollywood Buddhist Church (HBC)**

### **The Eightfold Path**

The Eightfold Path is among the fundamental tenants of Buddhism.

The Eightfold Path is directly linked to the Four Noble Truths as a way to end suffering and gain peace in one's life.

The following are the eight interdependent categories of proper Buddhist practice along with a brief explanation of each category.

1. Right View – Knowledge about suffering, the causes of suffering, knowledge about the cessation of suffering, knowledge about the Way that leads to the cessation of suffering.
2. Right Thought - The aspiration towards renunciation, the aspiration towards benevolence, the aspiration towards kindness.
3. Right Speech – Abstaining from lying, slander, abuse and idle talk.
4. Right Conduct – Abstaining from taking life, taking what is not given, from carnal indulgence.
5. Right Livelihood – Supporting oneself by the right livelihood.
6. Right Effort – Applying the energy of the mind and body to subdue bad states that have risen or may arise, and applying the energy of the mind and body such that good states may arise and those good states that have arisen may continue to grow abundant, develop and come to perfection.
7. Right Mindfulness – To look upon one's body, feelings, thoughts and ideas and remain ardent, self-possessed and mindful while overcoming the hankering and dejection that is common in the world.
8. Right Meditation – Concentration, deliberation such that the mind grows calm and sure while dwelling on high.

Hiroshi Ted Yoshida

## 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.

We annually perform one or two concerts of superior choral works in multiple languages. Our next concert will be on June 22 at Altadena Community Church and November 16 at Zipper Hall in Colburn Music School. Attached photo was taken when we had Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 concert on Jan 7, 2024 at Aratani Theatre led by Dr. Bernstein.

L. A. Daiku rehearses at HJCI on Saturdays between 10:30am – 12:30pm.

As we have been practicing songs for a concert in August, now is the time to join and enjoy choral singing with its synchronized harmonies to improve our health and uplift our spirits.

L. A. Daiku offers camaraderie and pleasures of singing together. Try our weekly rehearsals. No experience necessary.

For more information, please contact [LADaiku@aol.com](mailto:LADaiku@aol.com)



Spring Pancake photos

(Photos by Tomi Mukai)

## **Hollywood Judo Dojo (ハリウッド柔道道場)**

Hollywood Judo Dojo, now a Non Profit Organization, our mission statement reads; “Our mission is to teach traditional Judo. We shall strive to provide a welcoming, safe and inclusive environment for people of all backgrounds, ages, and skill levels. The dojo will teach it’s members Judo principles to develop their physical and mental abilities, so that they may in turn benefit their families and communities”.

Our Judo Dojo now offer classes 6 days of the week. Beginners and intermediate for kids and for adults, advanced adults and competitors classes, and a new, twice per month Kata Master class led by Pamela Moye.

Our beginners program is led by Anthony Lau, who also received his Nidan black belt promotion. Intermediate instructors are Erick Mendez and Juan Rodriguez, while our Head instructor Philippe Morotti teaches the advanced and competitors program. Sensei Philippe was also featured in Voyage LA Magazine, with an interview about his life and of the history of Hollywood Dojo.

Our members are winning medals at local Nanka and Taishi tournaments, while preparing for larger tournaments later this year. We currently have 130 members.

For info and for signing up with any of our programs, go to [hollywoodjudo.com](http://hollywoodjudo.com)



## **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](mailto:mkawaiusa@netscape.net) or (310) 433-4314



## **Shotokan Karate (松濤館流空手道場)**

**松濤館**  
Shihan Tatsuya Naka, 7<sup>th</sup> Dan of Japan Karate Association came to Los Angeles and held karate seminar from 3/14/24 to 3/17/24. Shihan Naka has a history of winning at Japan national Karate championship events. He is known as a superb Karate practitioner and also known as Karate leader worldwide, including other martial arts groups. Shihan Naka has practiced together with other martial arts leaders to exchange and sharpen each other’s skills and increase awareness about martial arts as whole.

Karate practitioners from Oregon, Denver, Arizona, and even from Mexico participated in the Los Angeles seminar sessions. These participants all learned from Shihan Naka and from each other. They expressed the desire to hold the seminar regularly. The JKA Los Angeles seminar was a successful event.

Shotokan Karate, contact: T. Suzuki 626-731-7323

★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](mailto:hollywoodJLS5@gmail.com)

## Gardener's Association (ガーデナー組合)

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



Susan Yamasaki serves up steaming hot pancakes & ham & eggs to server Wayne Kohatsu.



Hot off the griddle pass from Girl Scouts to Check-in Table (Linda Ikegami).



## HJCI's Legal Hero, John F. Aiso by Susan Yamasaki

Have you ever been to Little Tokyo and wondered why a Los Angeles Street is named after Judge John Aiso? Who is Judge Aiso and what is his connection to our community center? During World War II, the Hollywood Japanese Cultural Center's site was taken over by the Los Angeles School Board of Education. Kindergarten classes were held at our facility during this time. After the war's conclusion, the school board refused to leave the property and held possession for an additional seven years. In March 1952, a young Nisei lawyer filed legal proceedings and was ultimately successful in restoring the ownership back to the Japanese American community. By September 1952 the Hollywood Gakuen (Japanese language school) was able to reopen. That brilliant lawyer was John Fujio Aiso.

John Fujio Aiso was born on December 14, 1909 to immigrant parents in Burbank, California. He was the oldest son of Frank Tokishi Aiso and Taki (ne' Ishikawa) Aiso. His family later moved to the Hollywood area due to his father's gardening route. Aiso attended the local area schools (Grant El-ementary, LeConte Junior High, and Hollywood High School) before heading off to college. He re-ceived his BA in economics from Brown University in 1931 and was the class valedictorian. In 1934 John Aiso received his law degree from Harvard Law School. He had also studied Japanese lan-guage at Seijo University and Japanese law at Chuo University.

Throughout his life, John Aiso faced anti-Japanese prejudice and discrimination but worked harder in his studies to counteract all the times he heard racial slurs. Aiso's interest in law and government was evident in his childhood. At his junior high, he was elected student body president but was not allowed to assume the position due to protests by the school's parents. Because of such opposi-tion, the student body would not have a student government until Aiso left LeConte Junior High School. In 1926 Aiso was also not allowed to compete in a national oratorical competition on the US Constitu-tion for Hollywood High School despite winning his school's contest. John Aiso ended up coaching the runner-up, who was chosen to represent the school. This incident drew national attention.

John Aiso was not just a private practice lawyer. Prior to 1952, Aiso was the director and head in-structor for the Military Intelligence Service Language School. He was the highest ranking Japa-nese American in the US Army during World War II. He eventually achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel. Aiso had set high academic standards in teaching the Japanese language and General Charles Willoughby credited the MIS graduates for shortening the war by two years, thereby saving almost a million lives.

After serving as a Superior Court commissioner in 1952 for one year, Aiso worked in the LA Munici-pal Court and LA Superior Court. On November 4, 1968 Aiso was appointed as an associate justice on the California Court of Appeal in the Second Appellate District by then Governor Ronald Reagan, thus becoming the first Japanese American judge in our state's judiciary.

In his lifetime, Judge John Aiso received the Legion of Merit from President Lyndon Johnson in 1965. He was later awarded the Order of the Rising Sun from the Emperor of Japan in 1984 for his contributions to promoting US-Japan relations. The one block segment of San Pedro Street between First and Temple Streets was renamed in his honor in 1997, ten years after his death.

Our legal hero passed away in a Burbank hospital on December 29, 1987 after being a victim of an attempted mugging at a Hollywood gas station. Two weeks prior, he had been attacked and knocked to the pavement, receiving a head injury.

So whenever you see the name of Judge John Aiso, please remember that the Hollywood Japa-nese Cultural Institute is here today due to his legal representation.



## 2024 SCHEDULE OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES (2024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: <a href="mailto:kodoaiki@att.net">kodoaiki@att.net</a>
L.A. Daiku (LA第九)	Saturday: 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 email: <a href="mailto:LADaiku@aol.com">LADaiku@aol.com</a>
Gardeners' Association (ガーデナー組合) Contact: Brian Yamasaki (323) 661-1649	Email: <a href="mailto:sanborn3693@gmail.com">sanborn3693@gmail.com</a>
Hollywood Buddhist Church (ハリウッド仏教会) Contact: Rosanne Takahashi, President email: <a href="mailto:tallbridge4@aol.com">tallbridge4@aol.com</a> Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple (213) 680-9130	Contact Rosanne or LAHHBT for more information
Japanese Language School (ハリウッド学園) Contact: <a href="mailto:hollywoodjls5@gmail.com">hollywoodjls5@gmail.com</a>	Website: <a href="https://www.hollywoodjls.com">https://www.hollywoodjls.com</a>
Jodoin (浄土院) Contact: Kent Kawai (310) 371-0321	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of month email: <a href="mailto:mkawaiusa@netscape.net">mkawaiusa@netscape.net</a>
Hollywood Judo Dojo (ハリウッド柔道道場) Contact: <a href="mailto:hollywoodjudo@gmail.com">hollywoodjudo@gmail.com</a>	Refer to website for schedule of classes website: <a href="http://hollywoodjudo.com/">http://hollywoodjudo.com/</a>
Karate (ハリウッド松涛館空手道場) Contact: T. Suzuki (626) 731-7323	Tuesday & Friday: 8 – 9 p.m.
Girl Scout Troop 3795 Contact: Patty Murakami (323) 528-40	Meeting date to be arranged email: <a href="mailto:pymurakami@gmai.com">pymurakami@gmai.com</a>



Mr. Okumoto-san with Junko-san



Otaka (karate) Sensei and karate members



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HOLLYWOOD JAPANESE CULTURAL INSTITUTE  
3929 Middlebury Street, Los Angeles, CA 90004  
(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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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.