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March 2023d Volume 24, Issue 2

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Mailing Page

Long Beach Japanese Cultural Center 1766 Seabright Ave Long Beach, CA 90813 www.lbjcc.org

LBJCC is a 501c3 organization and your donations are tax deductible as the law allows. Fed Tax ID: 95-3416456



Florence Kojima President 2022 LBJCC

Hi! Everyone....HAPPY NEW YEARS the Year of the (Black) Rabbit

The year of the Black Rabbit (supposedly) recurs every 60 years. So the next one will be in 2083.

This years Shinnen Kai was a great success, thank you to all who came out to support the Center.

It's been 3 years since our last Shinnen Kai and truth be told, we weren't sure if it was going to happen this year either. We didn't get the final go ahead until our last board meeting in January.

So everything was on hold until then. Then with the go ahead, we had to scramble to place the bento orders, shop for the raffle gifts, etc., etc., etc. But somehow it all came together and the event took place.

There are too many people, especially those behind the scenes, who helped make this years Shinnen Kai happen. June, Rene, Yoko, Kathy, Joanne, Ole, Mark, Osamu, Keiko, Atsuko, Anthony, if I forgot anyone else, I'm sorry.

But I would like to acknowledge the following: Joann Matsunsga ./Judo group: for setting up the tables and chairs the night before.

Joanne L - for ordering and picking up the 190+ bentos and desserts, Juli and Adri (Anthony's daughters) for coming down early with dad to help get the Hall ready. Especially Adri for placing all the table decorations on the table, all by herself....Randy (June's husband) who drove to the store to purchase cases of bottled water, when he realized there were none. Something I should I have done, but forgot...Thank you Randy. Amanda - for getting up to the podium and reading out the raffle prize numbers, Warren (Victor's grandson) and Morgan (Jay's granddaughter) for being raffle prize runners.

For those who were at the Shinnen Kai, I must apologize for the technical difficulties we had in the beginning. And also, for not having an MC or a set program to follow.

LONG BEACH JAPANESE

Thanks to my board members who kinda/sorta of know me, I was able to ad lib/wing things, with everyone following thru after me. Can't do anything without you guys....Thanx

This year, unlike the previous Shinnen Kai, we had to forgo the Potluck buffet. We had to ask our guest to preorder their bentos. But you all came through and 190+ of you came and enjoyed a very scaled back event. However scaled back it was, the Entertainment by the Koto Ensemble group, provided by the Judo group was excellent...very fitting for our 1st performance held in front of our newly painted Hokusai Mural. Thank you Tanabe sensei for giving a brief background history of the Mural and how it came to be our background painting....

As for the usual program (which we didn't have). I forgot to Introduce my board members. Joanne (Treasurer) reported that the Center is Healthy.

Ole informed us that our Summer Festival, another scaled back, one (1) day affaire. Will be on Sat. June 24 from 3:00 - 9:00 pm.

We had a very deserving applicant for the John Kashiwabara Scholarship - Ryan Wataru Armantrout. I knew him from when his mom would bring him in his stroller to the Center and now he's all grown up and ready to head for college...no wonder I feel soo old.

The Oldest Man & Woman - turned out Ole and I were said winners. Since I didn't think it was fun to have us win, and seeing how we had two (2) young people who had the joined us oldies, decided to make it The Youngest Girl and Boy. Warren was our young man. Sorry I didn't get the young lady's name, but I believe she was a member of the Koto Ensemble.

As for the Raffle drawing, I hope those who received their prizes enjoyed them. For those who did not, we hope you will come to our Summer Festival and try your luck again.

I would really like to give a Great big Thanx, Arigato, Mahalo, Gracias to all who came and joined in the Shinnen Kai. Thank you for making it such a successful event. Next year we'll try to go back to normal.

Take care, be safe, stay healthy. See you again around the Center.



Long Beach Japanese Cultural Center 2021-2022 Board of Directors <u>Executive Committee</u>

President –Florence Kojima (310) 997-4470 1st Vice President – Anthony Tanaka (562) 455-7470 2nd Vice President –Ole Nervik (562) 533-2994 Treasurer – Joanne Leivici (310) 214-6689 Secretary –Atsuko Yomogida (562) 425-6554

1766 Seabright Ave., Long Beach, CA 90813 Website: www.lbjcc.org

Member Organization Representatives

Beikoku Shodo KenkyukaiHiroko Ishiguro (562) 431-0820
Mondays – 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
Grace First Presbyterian Church*Victor Fukuhara (562) 424-0211
Services: Sundays 9:00 am & 11:00 am
Kimekomi Doll-Yukari KaiAtsuko Yomogida (562) 425-6554
3rd Sat of the month, 930 am to 12 pm at the LB Buddhist Church
Instructor: Mrs. Yukari Kanesaka
Kokoro Taiko Kai of Long Beach*.Joann Matsunaga (310) 387-8163
Practices: Saturdays 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Long Beach Buddhist Church*Keiko Shibata (562) 630-3258
Services: Sunday 10 am
Long Beach Harbor Pioneer Project*Joanne Leivici (310) 994-0553
Board Meetings: 2nd Tuesday 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Long Beach Ikenobo Ikebana*Izumi Minamitani (310) 292-0179
2nd, 3rd & 4th Saturdays: 1:30 pm (Call to confirm)
Long Beach Japanese Language School*.Ole Nervik (562) 533-2994
Classes: Saturday 8:45 am – 12:30 pm
LBJLS Alumni & Friends Association*Wanda Higaki 310-538-3020
LBJL Booster Association*Florence Kojima (310) 977-4470
Long Beach Japanese Ondo Group*Jay Shaheen (562) 305-8982
Practices: M/W Beginning June 3rd 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Long Beach Judo Dojo*.Anthony Tanaka (562) 455-7470
Practices: T/F 7 pm – 9 pm
Long Beach Kendo Dojo*Yusuke Sakuma
Practices: M/Th 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm
Long Beach Landscape Gardeners Association*Frank Harada (714) 821-3528
Nichiren Sangha AssociationLane Hayakawa (951) 315-1443
Services:1st Sunday 11 am – 2:30 pm
Shodo Kai Shigin*Michiko Honda (562) 426-6756
Mon. 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Long Beach Shotokan KarateOsamu Nishimura (562) 644-1443
Contact Person: James Watkins (562) 417-0584
Practice: W/7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Sumie GroupAnn Igarashi (714) 540-
8948

*Denotes non-voting member organization <u>Off Board Chairpeople</u>

Publicity & Web Page	Jay Shaheen (562) 305-8982
Newsletter & Membership	• · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Building Superintendent.	
Scholarship Committee	

LB Ondo practice begins Monday, May 1st, Mondays and Wednesdays 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm

LBJLS "FREE" Mothers' Day pancake breakfast. Saturday, May 13th from 8:00 am to 9:30 am

LBJCC Summer Festival Saturday, June 24th from 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm



The Long Beach Japanese Cultural Center Mission Statement

The Long Beach Japanese Cultural Center has served as the primary facility in the Long Beach Harbor area in furthering an understanding and appreciation of the Japanese culture and the Japanese American experience through its offerings of cultural and visual arts instruction, as well as Japanese language classes, events and activities for the benefit of citizens of all ages, ethnicity and religious affiliations. **Our Mission is:**

- To enhance the lives of the citizens of the Long Beach/South Bay area through accessible, quality instruction in the various Japanese cultural, visual, language and martial arts.
- To serve as a cultural resource of civic and community events, thus adding to the already rich cultural diversity of the area.
- □ To preserve and further the timeless cultural traditions which are our legacy by generations past.
- To collect, document and establish an archives library of historical artifacts, data, visual images and an oral history of the Japanese American experience in the Long Beach and surrounding areas to serve as a unique educational resource.

Special Screening & A Rebel's Outcry Book Talk

On Feb. 19th, The Little Tokyo Historical Society (LTHS) presented a special screening of the short film 'Lil Tokyo Reporter, conjunction with in panel discussion for the book "A Rebel's Outcry" at the Long Beach Japanese Cultural Center (LBJCC). The LBJCC was honored to be able to support the invent at the Center, as well as welcoming their panelists which included Actress Keiko Agena, Filmmaker/Publisher Jeffrey Gee Chin and artist Takashi Uchida.

As Feb. 19th marks the Day of Remembrance for Japanese Americans, it was fitting to be able to acknowledge and celebrate the efforts of Civil Right's Leader Sei Fujii through the stories that were carefully put together by the LTHS group for "A Rebel's Outcry".



Read More about the book below, and please visit <u>littletokyohs.org</u> for ordering details.

A Rebel's Outcry A Rebel's Outcry: Biography of Issei Civil Rights Leader Sei Fujii (1882-1954) is an illustrated biography and detailed look into the life of Japanese American civil rights leader Sei Fujii, known for overturning the California Alien Land Law in 1952 and founding the Japanese American newspaper Kashu Mainichi (California Daily News). His complex history reveals his intriguing journey as an immigrant, a social justice activist, unionizer, and a community leader. Fujii's story exemplifies the multitude of ways Americans have and may continue to fight for our civil rights.

The official biography on Sei Fujii is the source material written by author Kenichi Sato and was commissioned by manager Junko Maruya of the Kashu Mainichi. Following the work by Sato, LTHS conducted over ten years of extensive research. including countless interviews with community members, Fujii's family, and visiting his ancestral samurai home in the Takamori Village of Iwakuni. Japan. Publication of this book is sponsored by Union Bank and UCLA Asian American Studies Center and the George and Sakaye Aratani Community Advancement Research Endowment.

2023 Kashiwabara Scholarship Awarded

The Kashiwabara Scholarship was awarded to Ryan Wataru Armantrout.

Ryan is a Long Beach Poly High School senior getting ready to graduate in June. He is in the PACE program at Poly.



Ryan addressing the Shinnen Kai crowd.

He participated at the Long Beach Judo Dojo for 5 years, the Long Beach Japanese School for 13 years (winning the speech contest many times) and Long Beach Ondo, also for 13 years and counting.

He has applied to CSULB, Cal State Fullerton and Cal State Pomona wanting to get into their Engineering Programs.

Every applicant is required to submit a short essay on two topics: Cultural Center and an important person in your life. Below is the essay on the Center.

"I see the Long Beach Japanese Cultural Center as a hub for learning about and participating in different aspects of Japanese culture. You do not need to be ethnically Japanese to participate in anything at the Center, you just need a desire to learn about or participate in one of the aspects of Japanese culture offered at the Center. The Center strives to be multigenerational, with activities aimed toward many generations. Although the activities are multigenerational the leadership seems to only be the older generations. I would like to see younger people take more leadership roles at the Center. Internships for high school and college students could provide valuable and meaningful work experience for those interested in taking leadership positions in the community and provide the center with a new and fresh perspective. For example a social media intern could run a social media account to help with the dissemination of information about the Center".

Congratulations Ryan!



Or 1 of this size and 1 of the size of a quarter page (see the ad to the right) for \$180 per year - 4 issues.

For information contact Jay Shaheen at 562.305.8982 or email at jayshaheen3@gmail.com.

LAW OFFICE OF JOHN S. TORII

A general law practice with an emphasis in trusts, wills, powers of attorney, probate, estate and gift taxes.

> 406 Amapola Ave, Suite 125 Torrance, California 90501

> > Tel (310) 320-5450 Fax (310) 320-5140

JST@JTSALAW.COM

John S. Torii is certified by the Board of Legal Specialization of the State Bar of California as a specialist in Probate, Estate Planning & Trust Law.



Long Beach Japanese Cultural Center, Inc. 1766 Seabright Ave Long Beach, CA 90813 ANNUAL 2023 January 1 through December 31, 2023



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Thank you for your continued support!

The LBJCC is a 501c3 charitable organization and all donations are tax deductible as the law allows. Federal Tax ID: 95-3416426

Mother's Day

"ALOHA" Pancake Breakfast (FREE - DONATIONS WELCOME) May 13

8:00 TO 9:30 am



Location: Long Beach Japanese Cultural Center 1766 Seabright Ave.

Unique gifts and treats for sale!

Visit our Hand-made Crafts AND Treats table

All donations and sales help support the Long Beach Japanese Language School!

Thank you for your support!

LONG BEACH JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER 2023 MEMBERSHIP AND DONORS LIST

All listed have paid their membership for 2023. Donors have the following after their names: NB (New Buildina or Construction Donation), BM (Buildina Maintenance) and/or G (General) as of Februarv 16, 2023

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Long Beach Japanese

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please do so now. Either

mail the enclosed application

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- 94. Nakano, Kiyomi-G
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- 96. Nakasuji, Fritz & Zino-BM,G

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99. Nishimura, Osamu

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105. Okura, Frances-G

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107. Ouchi, Joyce

111. Phearich, Ty

115. Rapior, Theresa

117. Romo, Rudy

118. Ruth, Susan

116. Romeo, Christine









Pictures from the 2023 Shinnen Kai.

Large crowd in attendance. Fun had by all.









LONG BEACH OPTOMETRIC GROUP, INC.

Dr. Dennis K. Noda Dr. Shawn T. Yamamoto

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Long Beach Japanese Cultural Center 1766 Seabright Ave. Long Beach, CA 90813 <u>www.lblcc.org</u> lbjapanesecc@gmail.com Membership Matters JOIN THE LONG BEACH JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER TODAY MEMBERSHIP DRIVE STARTS NOW APPLICATION INCLUDED

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Keiro. 🎲

Increase your safety and security!

Join Keiro for these upcoming sessions held at Long Beach Japanese Community Center:

Wednesday, March 15 | 1-2 p.m. Emergency Preparedness

Wednesday, June 21 | 1-2 p.m. Making a Personal Go-Bag

To reserve a spot, contact Keiko Shibata.

About Keiro

Founded in 1961, Keiro improves the quality of life for older adults and their caregivers in the Japanese American community of Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura counties.

This project was supported by Grant Cooperative Agreement Number PH-002457-15 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its contents are adely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official view of the CDC and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Emergency Preparedness and Response Division. Long Beach Japanese Language School This is your invitation to join



PARENT

Saturday class hours 8:45 am to 12:30 pm

our community!

VOLUNTEERS ALUMNI FRIENDS Established in 1949, LBJLS will be 75 years old next year and we are still going strong. We thrive on community support and involvement and are always seeking

individuals to become part of our school.

Come join us as we fulfill our academic,

For more information, please contact: Mihoko Tanabe, Principal email: info@lbjls.org phone: (562) 285-3816

Long Beach Japanese Cultural Center 1766 Seabright Ave. Long Beach, CA 90813

Visit us at www.LBJLS.org

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cultural, and social mission.

