



www.lbjcc.org

DECEMBER 2025
VOLUME 27, ISSUE 1

Long Beach JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER NEWSLETTER



President's Message



Flo Kojima, President 2025

Hello Everyone,

Hope everyone is doing well and keeping yourselves healthy. As we're still 'enjoying' our summer like weather, here in SoCal, it's hard to believe we're heading into Thanksgiving... Christmas... Hanukkah... Kwanzaa... & New Years.

Hopefully, the weather will start to cooperate and get cooler so we can at least begin to enjoy actual Fall weather... like most of the other states/countries. Although, I often wonder if this is what the people who live Down Under (Australia, New Zealand, etc.) experience during their Christmas in the Summer. Maybe one day, I would like to go and experience Easter during their Winter (?).

With Thanksgiving comes the festive season. What do those who don't eat Turkey or Ham eat during these Holiday seasons... My son-in-law doesn't eat ham/pork (by choice). And he says he doesn't really care for turkey, also. This year we'll be spending Thanksgiving at my house - so there will be 10 adults, Alyssa and 5 dogs. It's been a while since the family will be gathering at our house... however, Christmas will be/should be a quiet affaire.

That's good because I will be busy with the events happening at the Center.

Japanese school's annual Holiday Pancake breakfast will be happening on Dec. 20.

All are welcome. Come join us for some pancakes with sausages and eggs. And also check out their Handmade Crafts items for sale - great opportunity to find some unique, one of a kind items to purchase. Maybe have the kids bring their 'allowances' to pick some gifts for family and friends. So have a relaxing Saturday with family and friends while enjoying a delicious Pancake breakfast.

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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: 95-3416426

**Long Beach Japanese Cultural Center
2025 Board of Directors
Executive Committee**

**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) 994-0553
Secretary – Atsuko Yomogida (562) 715-3949**

Organization	Contact	Phone	Meeting Time/Other Info
Beikoku Shodo Kenkyukai	Hiroko Ishiguro	(562)431-0820	Classes: Mondays 10am-1pm
Grace First Presbyterian Church	*Danny Nakagi	LBtunstrops@hotmail.com	Services: Sundays 9am & 11am
Kimekomi Doll-Yukari Kai	*Atsuko Yomogida	(562)715-3949	Classes: 3rd Sat of the month, 1:30pm-3:30pm at LB Buddhist Church Instructor: Mrs. Yukari Kanesaka
Kokoro Taiko Kai of Long Beach	*Joann Matsunaga	(310)387-8163	Practices: Saturdays 1-3pm
Long Beach Buddhist Church	*Keiko Shibata	(562)533-6431	Services: Sundays 10am at 2360 Santa Fe Ave Long Beach
Long Beach Ikenobo Ikebana	*Izumi Minamitani	(310)292-0179	Classes: 2nd, 3rd & 4th Saturdays 1:30pm (call to confirm)
Long Beach Japanese Language School	*Ole Nervik	(562)533-2994	Classes: Saturday 8:45am-12:30pm
LBJLS Alumni & Friends Assoc	*Nancy Kobata	(562)896-9537	
Long Beach Ondo Group	June Donovan	(562)708-3633	Practices: May-June Mondays & Wednesdays 7:30-8:30pm @LBJCC Ondo for exercise October-May, Friday 7:30-8:30pm @ LBBC
Long Beach Judo Dojo	*Anthony Tanaka	(562)455-7470	Practices: Tuesdays & Fridays 7pm-9pm
Long Beach Kendo Dojo	*Hayato Okawa		Practices: Mondays & Thursdays 7:30-9:30pm
Long Beach Shotokan Karate	Andy Ongos		Contact: Andy Ongos (562)810-7555 Practices: Wednesdays 5:30-7pm
Ueki Tree Trimming Club	Wanda Higaki	(310)897-6526	
			*Denotes Voting member organization
Website/Newsletter	Jay Shaheen	(562)305-8982	
Membership	Joanne Leivici	(310)994-0553	
Building Superintendent	Osamu Nishimura	(562)644-1443	
Scholarship Committee	Jeffery Inui	(562)666-1004	
Senior Luncheon	*Keiko Shibata	(562)533-6431	1 st & 3 rd Wednesday of the month, call for reservation

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.

President's Message continued from page 1

Dec. 20th will be the last day to place your order for Japanese schools Mochi Sales event on Dec. 28th.

The Japanese school will be cranking out fresh mochi (by machine) for all those customers who have pre-ordered their Mochi preference. Your choice - Plain or An (red bean) mochi - with pick up date Dec. 28.

The Mochi Sales will be the last event that will be happening at the Center for 2025.

Come February 2026 (year of the Horse) - our Shinnen Kai will be happening on Feb. 4 (1st Sunday). The Board is diligently working on finalizing our plan for the Shinnen Enkai. The board will again be providing the Main dish...everyone is welcome to bring their favorite dish - Salad, Sides, Desserts to share.

Please look forward to updates in the coming months. So make sure to keep Feb. 1, 2026 available.

Hope you all have safe Holiday season...Take care and see you all around the Center.

- Flo Kojima, President



Persimmon Pudding

Courtesy of Janis Dickinson

1/2 t baking soda
2 C persimmon pulp
1 1/2 C white sugar
2 eggs, beaten
2 C all purpose flour
2 t baking powder
1/2 t ground cinnamon
3/4 t vanilla extract
Pinch salt
2 1/2 C milk
4 T melted butter

-Preheat oven to 325 deg and grease a 9 x 13 pan
-In mixing bowl combine persimmon pulp, baking soda, sugar and eggs. Mix well.
-Add flour, baking powder, cinnamon, vanilla, salt, milk and melted butter. Stir to combine.
-Pour into baking pan and bake in preheated oven for 55 minutes. Pudding will rise but will fall when removed from oven.

Serve with whipped cream or vanilla ice cream.

Japanese Food Word Search

や	き	と	り	す	ご	は	ん
き	ば	て	し	み	お	ち	す
そ	そ	ん	た	し	べ	や	き
ば	ば	ふ	ま	さ	ん	は	や
た	べ	ら	ご	か	と	ん	き
お	に	ぎ	り	な	う	も	の

Tick if word is found.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ☐ ya ki to ri | ☐ sa ka na |
| ☐ te n pu ra | ☐ go ha n |
| ☐ su shi | ☐ pa n |
| ☐ sa shi mi | ☐ ta ma go |
| ☐ ya ki so ba | ☐ su ki ya ki |
| ☐ so ba | ☐ o ni gi ri |
| ☐ o be n to u | ☐ cha ha n |



- **Ongoing - Ondo for Exercise at LB Buddhist Church, Fridays 7:30-8:30 pm @2360 Santa Fe Ave Long Beach - LongBeachOndo@gmail.com**
- **December 20th - LBJLS Holiday Program - Pancake Breakfast & Craft Fair**
- **December -New Year's LBJLS Mochi Sale-order deadline December 20th & Pick on the 28th.**
- **February 1st -Shinnen Kai 12pm @ LBICC**



Save the date! We look forward to seeing you!

LONG BEACH JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL



HOLIDAY PANCAKE

Free BREAKFAST Free

&

PROGRAM

DECEMBER 20, 2025

8:00 – 9:30



SHOP AND BUY

**HAND-MADE CRAFTS AND GOODIES
OPEN DURING PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND
HOLIDAY PROGRAM**

ALL DONATIONS SUPPORT THE LBJLS



ロングビーチ仏教会

Long Beach Buddhist Church



The Long Beach Buddhist Church has been quite busy this season, and is looking forward to many additions to our church activities in the coming months. Keep your eye on the calendar at LongBeachBuddhistChurch.com for weekly updates. Also, see our daily Instagram posts @LongBeachBuddhistChurch for inspirational and informative messages.

On Sunday, November 9, the church celebrated our 68th Anniversary followed by a Bento lunch to all attendees. After the luncheon, an Otakiage Ceremony was held which retired the Manto-e Obon Placards and other Buddhist articles that our families wanted to have respectfully and properly disposed of.

At the December 8 service we will celebrate Jyodo-e, otherwise known as Bodhi Day, commemorating the day of the Shakyamuni Buddha's Enlightenment. Then on the 21st we will be having our annual church cleanup day in anticipation of the New Year.

In the New Year 2026 we will be starting a monthly Children's Service aimed at helping children (and adults) better

understand the ways of the Buddhist Church, usually the first service of each month.

January 18 we are having our first Hatsumairi Service, where we recognize children (and their parents) who were born within the last year, or are new to the church. Keep your eye on the calendar at LongBeachBuddhistChurch.com for weekly updates and details.

Sunday, February 8 will be a packed day. First, the morning will feature our Setsubun celebrating those born in the year of the Horse. And later that afternoon we will open the church up for our annual Superbowl Party from 2:30 - 7:00pm! Football, food, and fun for the entire family! These two events are open to everyone, church members or not.

On March 8th we celebrate the return of our much requested Chow Mein Dinner. Get your orders in early, as this year we are taking only pre-orders, no walk-ups. Keep your eye on the calendar at LongBeachBuddhistChurch.com and your mail for information and order forms.

And let's not forget our regular events, like Ondo for Exercise classes every Friday 7:30pm, Kimekomi Doll Making every 3rd Saturday at 1:00pm, Sunday and Wednesday Zazen and Dharma Discussions, monthly CSA Farm Fresh Vegetable Box orders, and Ikebana Classes. Refer to the website LongBeachBuddhistChurch.com calendar at LongBeachBuddhistChurch.com for weekly updates and exact dates and times.

We hope to see you at all of our future events!



NEW YEAR'S MOCHI



Do you like....no, love fresh mochi but don't want to make it!

Pre-order your **fresh** mochi for New Year's **TODAY!**

LBJLS will again be making **fresh** mochi on December 28th!

Plain mochi - **\$10 per dozen**

An (Red Bean) mochi - **\$12 for 6 pieces per package**

Orders Due By: December 20th

(Order early – Quantities will be limited!)

Pick up on, December 28th between 3 – 4pm

at

Long Beach Japanese Cultural Center

1766 Seabright Ave, Long Beach

Mail order forms to:

Jay Shaheen

3939 Linden Ave

Long Beach, CA 90807



Fundraiser supports
Long Beach Japanese
Language School

For Info: 562-305-8982 or lbjlsshahen@gmail.com

Include payment with your order form.

Checks made out to LBJLS or use

LBJLS' Donation PayPal for payment at lbjls.org.

Name: _____

Contact info - Cell Phone # and/or Email:

(You will receive a confirmation email or text for your order)

Plain # doz. _____ An Mochi. # pkgs _____

Thank You for your support

Order Total: \$ _____

☐ Check box - if paid
through PayPal - email or
mail completed form, so
we know what you
ordered

Pick Up Location:

**Long Beach Japanese
Cultural Center on
Sunday,
December 28th
Between 3-4 pm**



Save the date!
February 1st, 2026!
at 12pm

SHINNENKAI **2026**

Bring a savory side dish or salad to share!

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



Join us at the Senior Lunch
1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month
Call Keiko (562)533-6431 for Reservations



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CENTER**

Jay Hosoda
jay@printncopy.net



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

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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 2026



January 1 through December 31, 2026
MEMBERSHIP FORM & DONATION FORM

Name (First and Last): _____
Spouse (First and Last): _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Check enclosed _____
Paid by PayPal _____
Paid in cash _____

____ Check here if you would like to receive newsletter by email



Family Membership (Senior & Non-Senior)	\$30.00	\$ _____
Individual Membership	\$25.00	\$ _____
Senior Individual Membership (65+)	\$20.00	\$ _____
New Building/Construction Fund Donation		\$ _____
Building Maintenance Fund Donation		\$ _____
General Fund Donation		\$ _____
Senior Lunch		\$ _____
Total Amount Enclosed		\$ _____

Your annual membership and donations enable us to carry out various program throughout the year.

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



(562) 924-7769

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www.longbeachbuddhistchurch.us



japanese american
COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

(323) 731-9358 / (888) 527-9528

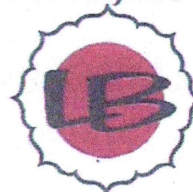
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Long Beach Judo Dojo

Advisor:
Wataru Namba
7-DAN



Head Coach:
D. Tsunawaki
6-DAN

Instructor: **Craig Takeshita** 6-DAN
1766 Seabright Avenue Long Beach, California 90813
Phone (562) 421-3976
PRACTICE HOURS: Tuesday & Friday 7:00-9:00

**THIS AD SPACE
AVAILABLE FOR \$100/
YEAR – 4 ISSUES –
ALMOST 500
HOUSEHOLDS**

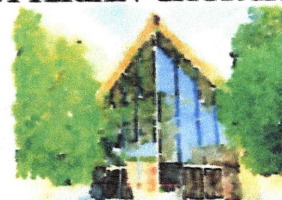
GRACE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3955 N. Studebaker Rd
Long Beach, CA 90808

www.gracefirst.org

Office: 562-420-3393

office.gracefirst@gmail.com



GRACEFIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Saturday, January 31, 2026

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Tanaka Farms
5380 3/4 University Dr, Irvine, CA 92612

ADMISSION
\$20

Plant and grow your horticulture knowledge with this hands-on gardening workshop at Tanaka Farms!



For more information or to register for the workshop, scan the QR code or go to keiro.org/glw.



Registration Closes: **Friday, January 16, 2026**
(or when capacity is reached)

Oshogatsu お正月

Japanese New Year - Oshogatsu お正月 is an important holiday in Japan that has been celebrated on January 1st since 1873 due to Western influence, rather than following the lunar calendar.

There are many traditions associated with and leading up to this holiday. Kado Matsu-門松- is a traditional decoration made of pine and three bamboo stalks, cut diagonally in varying lengths. Pine boughs symbolize longevity, while bamboo stalks symbolize prosperity.



Kado Matsu-門松

Another important traditional event leading up to the New Year is the Mochi Tsuki -餅つき. At this event glutinous rice is pounded with a wooden mallet while another person turns and wets the rice with a spatula to make mochi. The mochi is split and shaped in to small portions. After the mochi are made, some are set aside as offerings to the gods for good luck. This is called Kagami Mochi 鏡餅- two flat, round mochi placed on top of the other, with the lower mochi being slightly larger. Mochi is also enjoyed as part of the New Year's meal



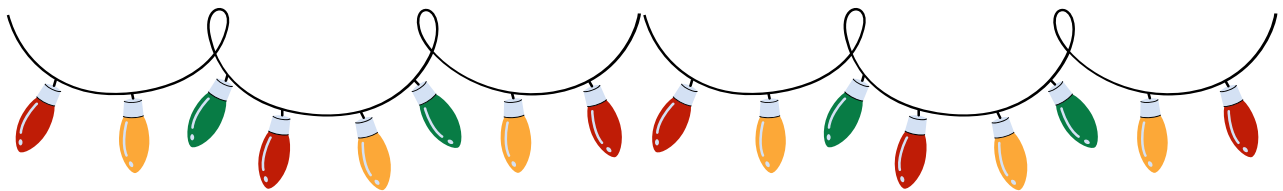
Kagami Mochi 鏡餅

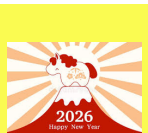
**あけまして
おめでとう**

LONG BEACH JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER 2025 MEMBERSHIP AND DONORS LIST

All listed have paid their membership for 2026. Donors have the following after their names: NB (New Building or Construction Donation), BM (Building Maintenance) and/or G (General) as of December 1, 2025

- | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Bayer, Gillian | 25. Kimura, Toshio-NB,BM,G | 49. Pontell, Ashley |
| 2. Bolanos, Janina | 26. Kurimoto, Dana | 50. Prokonicheva, Alina |
| 3. Cabrera, Homero | 27. Kuykendall-Mother Casey | 51. Ramirez, Mellisa |
| 4. Campos, Ibett & Molina,
Randolfo | 28. Lara, Melissa | 52. Richlin, Alicia |
| 5. Canedo, Christian | 29. Lee, JinHee | 53. Robbins, Rachel |
| 6. Chin, Angy | 30. Lopez Martinez, Cesar Israel | 54. Rodriguez, Grace |
| 7. Cho, Alex | 31. Louder, Jeff | 55. Rodraguez, Fransuhasi |
| 8. Cota, Esteban | 32. Ma, Kimberly | 56. Romo, Rudy |
| 9. Cotta, Adrian | 33. Macalinao, Camille | 57. Ruth, Susan |
| 10. Cruz, Rolando | 34. Matsumoto, Cheryl | 58. Sanchez, Anna |
| 11. Farwell, Keith | 35. Meripol, Paul | 59. Sugata, Ted & Coleen |
| 12. Fogarty-Smith, Therese | 36. Moon, Joey & Khoufy,
Bridgett-G | 60. Takano, Mae |
| 13. Fukuhara, Tony & Carol | 37. Morales, Jorge | 61. Tanabe Romeo, Christine |
| 14. Garrett, David | 38. Morris, Melina | 62. Tanaka, Anthony & Liu,
Jessica |
| 15. Gomez-Barboza, Bellanira | 39. Moye, Buffy | 63. Tang, Michael |
| 16. Gonzalez, Michael | 40. Nguyen, John | 64. Torigoe-Lai, Tiffany |
| 17. Henderson, Alisha | 41. Nieto-Ramiez, Saul | 65. Trejo, Brieana |
| 18. Higaki, Wanda | 42. Nishikawa, Lauen | 66. Turner, Michi |
| 19. Hirooka, Michie-G | 43. Oreilly, Joseph | 67. Ueshima, Monica |
| 20. Hirota, Lauren | 44. Ovid, Christian | 68. Valenzuela, Patricia |
| 21. Johnston-Ushijima, Tiffany
& Cameron | 45. Pahang, Gabriel | 69. Valles, Alex |
| 22. Jones, Charjani | 46. Parungao, Alyssa | 70. Yamada, Tex |
| 23. Kennedy, Audrey | 47. Pettitt, Joseph | 71. Zepeda, Rafael |
| 24. Kim, William | 48. Poblete, Jayden | |





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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Dr. John E. Kashiwabara College Scholarships

Applications will be accepted through
January 3, 2026.

Applications are available on the website at
www.LBJCC.org or follow the QR code below.
Applications can also be requested through
email LBJapanesecc@gmail.com.

Applicants must be enrolled in Grade 12 with the
intent to graduate in June 2026 and enter a 2-
year or 4-year college or trade school in Fall
2026. Student or family must be a member of
the Long Beach Japanese Cultural Center
(LBJCC) and/or one of its member groups.



Long Beach Japanese Language School

This is your invitation to join
our community!



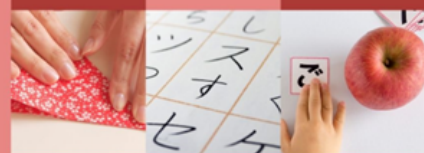
Saturday
class hours

8:45 AM to 12:30 PM

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ASSISTANTS

PARENTS



VOLUNTEERS

ALUMNI

FRIENDS

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

Long Beach
Japanese
Cultural Center

Seeking Teachers

Visit us at
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