

LONG BEACH JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER



to have forgotten her way around Torrance/SoCal.

But to have both my daughters near, even for a short period of time, has been a wonderful start for this year...

This is the year of the Tiger. Those born in the Year of the Tiger are: 1902, 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010, 2022.

Due to Covid, the LBJCC board members have been meeting virtually. It has been almost 2 years since the Center has had any events.

Beginning of this year, we wanted to hold our LBJCC Shinnen Kai in February, but due to the Omicron variant, it has been postponed.

We are now planning a fundraising event - a meet and greet bento fundraising.

We have a definite count to give to the restaurant. The pickup date will be April 9, 2022 (a week before Easter). This will be the 1st of our Centers events. It will be held at our LBJCC as a scheduled drive through pick up.

Therefore, we ask that you order in advance and have payment ready at pickup.

Please refer to the order form enclosed within the newsletter for specific details.

Please stay safe and healthy. We hope to see you all real soon....



*Florence Kojima
President 2022
LBJCC*

Hi! Everyone

Akemashite omedeto gozaimasu....Happy New Year!

The Weather has been soooo crazy, can't tell if we need summer clothing or fall/winter (heavy) clothing....I don't know how to dress any more every morning.

Oh well, guess this is SoCal.

My younger daughter, Nikki, who was 'studying' in Philadelphia is now back in SoCal.

Seems the school/program was not what she expected. She says she plans to eventually go back to her Masters program. So she's back in San Diego...was worrying so much while constantly checking the PA weather, it's great knowing that she's no longer suffering her 1st extreme Winter weather.

And my older daughter, Christine, and her husband (they live in Tokyo) have been visiting us for a month. Chris has been busy taking her hubby around. It's been a year since she left for Japan, but because she's lived up in Oakland/San Bruno for 5-6 years, she seems

March 2022
Volume 23, Issue 2

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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: 95-3416456

Long Beach Japanese Cultural Center
2021-2022 Board of Directors
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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 Kai.....Atsuko Yomogida (562) 425-6554
 3rd Sat of the month, 9:30 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 Association.....Lane 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 Karate.....Osamu Nishimura (562) 644-1443
 Contact Person: James Watkins (562) 417-0584
Practice: W/7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
- Sumie Group.....Ann Igarashi (714) 540-8948

Off Board Chairpeople

- Publicity & Web Page.....Jay Shaheen (562) 305-8982
- Newsletter & Membership.....Jay Shaheen (562) 924-2202
- Building Superintendent.....Osamu Nishimura (562) 644-1443
- Scholarship Committee.....Jeffery Inui (562) 592-0581 Ext 5196

Save the Date

See the enclosed order form for the LBJCC Fundraising food sale!



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.*

Kashiwabara Scholarship Awarded



Miya Yasumura

Congratulations to Long Beach Poly high school senior, Miya Yasumura, as the 2022 recipient of the Dr. John Kashiwabara Scholarship.

Miya will be graduating this June. At school she has been on the school's Student Commission for 4 years, holding positions such as Freshman Vice President, Commissioner of Photography, Commissioner of Organizations, Commissioner of Welfare and most recently Associated Student Body President.

She has also been a member of the Asian American Pacific Islanders Student Union, currently holding the position of Secretary. Among other things that the organization does, it most recently helped to make origami Hashi holders for a Japanese Senior Center.

Also, at the school, she is a member of the Japanese Club, learning more about the Japanese culture, its current events, and multiple Japanese traditions.

She has also ventured into the business world, working for Sussy Inc. helping with customer service and at the register. She is currently working at Bite Mi Asian Kitchen's Long Beach Hanger location as a food service team member.

In addition to all the activities listed above, she has been a member (along with her sister) of the dance group "Leiali'inani Polynesian Dance Academy" for the last 6 years. Performing at many venues including the LBJCC's Annual Festival multiple times.

Miya represented the Long Beach Poly Student Body as ASB President at the Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education on December 1st of last year. She gave a presentation on how the school and student body at Poly High School continued to partake in the social, charitable and sport activities in spite of the current pandemic.

While already being accepted at Cal State University at Long Beach, she has applied to many of the top universities in the state and hopes to be accepted at her "dream" university, UCLA.

Yasumura's part of the application process the student is asked to write two essays. One of which is to talk about "what has been the most influential event, activity or person shaping their life up to now". With that in mind we have reproduced her essay for you to read.

When I first started thinking about who or 'what has been the most influential event, activity or person in shaping my life up to now, I automatically thought of Student Commission at Long Beach Poly High School. But when I thought about it further, I realized that I wouldn't have even joined Student Commission, applied for a job or be the person I am today if it wasn't for Japanese School at the Long Beach Japanese Cultural Center.

It was a place where people came together to teach Japanese Language, arts, culture, and history. I'm proud to be a Long Beach Poly Jackrabbit, and I am proud to be part of the Long Beach community. I wanted to work together with others and help to make our school better and our community stronger. As an example, the annual speech contest gave me the confidence to speak in front of an audience. Every year we had to recite our speech in Japanese in front of students, teachers, and school board members. Public speaking is not something I love to do, but it doesn't scare me and I know that I can do it.

Working in the soda and game booths during the Japanese Festivals gave me a chance to interact with customers and handle simple money transactions. It gave me "work experience" and something to write on my applications. I listed and slightly embellished this

experience at food handling, coffee making, customer service, and working well under pressure. This helped me get my first job at Bite Mi Asian Kitchen. They took a change on me and I am their first high school employee.

I attended Japanese School at the LBJCC from kindergarten to middle school. It gave me a head start in my Japanese language classes at Long Beach Poly. I don't think I could have survived those classes if I hadn't had some foundation and knowledge of Japanese. Learning Japanese has also helped me get closer to my Bachan. She speaks very little English and she doesn't go out anymore or see anyone. She doesn't have many opportunities to talk to other people and she doesn't enjoy talking to my dad or my auntie. When I talk to her in Japanese she perks up and gives me a big smile. We sit, talk, and watch TV together. It doesn't matter what we talk about. K-pop, food, or what's on Tik Tok. She's always interested in what's going on in my life.

As much as I used to complain about having to spend my Saturdays at Japanese School, looking back I'm so glad I went. It ended up helping me in many different ways and influenced my life for the better.

Again, the Board of Directors of the LBJCC congratulate Miya Yasumura for all of her achievements.


Presentation of the Dr. John Kashiwabara 2022 Scholarship To Miya Yasumura; l-r: Atsuko Yomogida, Miya Yasumura, Jay Shaheen, Joanne Leivici and Keiko Shibata



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



Long Beach Japanese Cultural Center, Inc.
1766 Seabright Ave
Long Beach, CA 90813
ANNUAL 2022



**January 1 through December 31, 2022
MEMBERSHIP FORM & DONATION FORM**

Name: _____
(First) (Last)

Spouse: _____
(First) (Last)

Address: _____
(Street) (City, State, Zip Code)

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Check enclosed _____
Paid by PayPal _____
Paid in cash _____

Yes, I would like to receive the 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		\$ _____
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

Spring 2022
Bento Fundraiser

The LBJCC is having our first fundraiser of 2022! Use the form below to order your bento plates, and please send the form back to us by *Friday, March 25, 2022*. We cannot accommodate late orders. All Bentos are priced at \$20 each (including tax).

Drive-by pick up will be on *Saturday, April 9th, 2022*.

Please send your form only, back to us at the address below. We will email or call, if email is not available, to confirm your order and assigned picked time.

BENTO TYPE

QUANTITY

Grilled Teriyaki beef

Grilled Teriyaki chicken

Boneless fried chicken

Total ____ x \$20 = \$ _____

*All Bentos include Chinese chicken salad, macaroni / potato salad, and steamed rice

NAME _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

PICK UP TIME 3pm 3:15pm 3:30pm 4pm 4:15pm 4:30pm 4:45pm
(select 3)

Bring your payment, either cash or check (payable to the LBJCC), in a sealed envelope with your name on it when you pick up your order.



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

LONG BEACH JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER 2022 MEMBERSHIP AND DONORS LIST

All listed have paid their membership for aomi2021. Donors have the following after their names:
NB (New Building or Construction Donation), BM (Building Maintenance) and/or G (General) as of February 21, 2022


1. Abo, Ted-G
2. Aguinaldo, Donnie
3. Aguirre, Pricilla
4. Agustsson, Takako-G
5. Ahn, Tracy Lynn
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184. Washington, Brandon & Megumi
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186. Watkins, James & Cathy
187. Wells, Frank
188. Wong, Melissa
189. Woznik, Nick & Ellen
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191. Yamaguchi, Howard-G
192. Yamanaka, Toshinari & Mitsue
193. Yamasaki, Takashi & Kazuyo Hata
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Long Beach. Exit at Pacific Coast Hwy north
towards Wilmington.
2 blocks past Santa Fe Ave. turn left

LONG BEACH

JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL

Invites you to join our school community!

*TEACHERS *TEACHER ASSISTANTS *PARENTS
*VOLUNTEERS *ALUMNI *FRIENDS

Established in 1949, LBJLS will be 70 years old next year and is still going strong with nearly 100 students and 9 classrooms! We thrive on community support and involvement and are always seeking individuals to become a part of our school. Come join us as we fulfill our academic, cultural & social mission.

Saturday Class Hours 8:45 am to 12:30 pm
Long Beach Japanese Cultural Center
1766 Seabright Ave, Long Beach 90813

For information, please contact:

Mihoko Tanabe, Principal

Email: info@lbjls.org

Tel: (626) 964-5806

Website: <http://www.lbjls.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LBJLS>