



Greater Los Angeles Chapter  
Japanese American Citizens League  
Newsletter 463 August 2024

**GLA Scholarship and Chapter Fundraiser Dance  
July 27, 2024 Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute**



**GLA annually awards the Hana Uno Shepard Memorial Scholarship. Applicants must be a graduating high school senior with a high achievement record, from a single-parent family, of Japanese descent, and a resident of Los Angeles or Orange County. The scholarship may be applied to any college, university, community college, fine arts, or vocational school. GLA provides the scholarship recipient with 4 years of JACL student membership.**

# GLA Scholarship and Chapter Fundraiser Dance



**Toru Nagao leading line dancing**



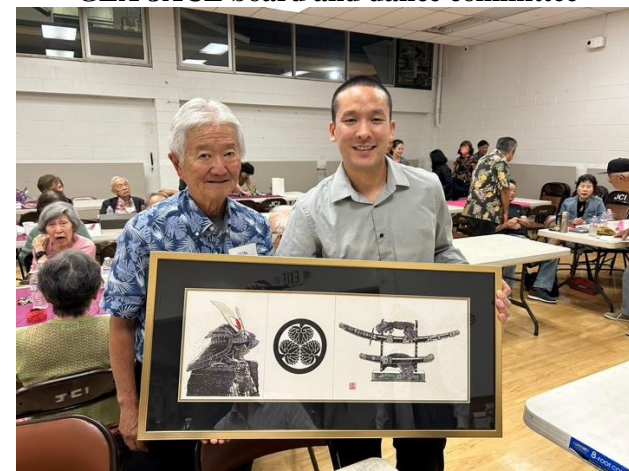
**"Asian Persuasion" vocal group**



**GLA JACL board and dance committee**



**Orange County Sansei Singles**



**Winner of Nob Yamabe reproduction "Samurai"**



**Winner of Robert Tamura reproduction "Planting Rice"**



## GLA Scholarship Recipients 2024

**Kylie Ng** of Mark Keppel High School will be majoring in Human Biology in order to pursue a career in physical therapy or athletic training at University of California, San Diego. She has been involved with the National Honor Society all throughout high school. Kylie has also been on the Varsity Basketball team for four years, where she was captain for three and earned CIF Scholar Athlete of the year.



**Gianna Matreaux** is a graduate of North High School. She will be majoring in Cognitive Sciences at the University of California, Irvine. Gianna has been involved in the North High School Saxon Regiment and has earned the 2023 statewide champion title through the organization. She has also been active in her community, volunteering and tutoring in the California Scholarship Federation and the English Language Multicultural Advisory Committee.



**Kane Kikuno** of Torrance High School will be majoring in business finance at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Throughout high school, Kane was involved in numerous clubs, including; CSF(California Scholarship Foundation), JCC (Japanese Culture Club), Maroon Monsoon, etc. He was also involved in high school soccer while qualifying for CIF all four years.



**Sean Shibasaki** from Bonita High School in La Verne will be an undeclared major at the University of California, Irvine. He has been involved with basketball and golf all throughout high school. Sean has also volunteered at a foster home for 7 years since he was in 5th grade. Sean got an internship during the summer before his senior year with the Superior Court in Norwalk CA where he got to work with judges and lawyers.



**Aoi Takahara** of South High School will study business management and finance at El Camino College and intend to transfer to the University of Southern California Marshall School of Business. She has been competing in karate for 13 years, earned her third-degree black belt in her freshman year, and coached at her studio throughout high school. She also spent her free time participating in lots of community service, such as local park cleanups and attending churches to serve hot meals to families in need. Lastly, she skipped her junior year of high school to start her higher education early and challenge herself with additional coursework.



**Sasha Tan** of Santa Monica High School will study Pre-Economic at University of California, Santa Barbara. During high school, she was the Vice President and later promoted to President of Zenshuji Youth Volunteer Club. She spent her summers volunteering for local camps and interning at a law firm. Additionally, she trained pre-professionally as a ballerina for 12+ years at Westside Ballet.



**Jamie Kim** of South Pasadena Unified High School will be moving to New York City to attend Barnard College of Columbia University. She is currently undecided on her major, but she knows that her future will involve immersing herself in Japanese culture as a study abroad student and by taking courses relating to Japanese culture and language.



**Lauren Masuda** of South High School will attend El Camino Community College with the intention to transfer to a 4 year university to study design. She has served as president in her school's art club and also co-founded a nonprofit creative digital magazine. Lauren has also been involved with the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Mobilize program. Most recently, she served as a volunteer ambassador and led discussions on the importance of AAPI involvement in political advocacy.



**Ethan Baltazar** of Palos Verdes Peninsula High School. He will be attending El Camino Community College and majoring in Geographic Information Science (GIS). He played for his high school football team for all four years, two of them in varsity, and plans to play at the college level.



**Emi Yamamori** of Santa Monica High School will study nursing. She was accepted to Drexel University but deferred the acceptance to take a gap year. She was involved in water polo throughout high school and earned Academic All-American USA Water Polo Proudly Award. She also participated in choir for the last two years. Additionally, she has been working as a volunteer at Providence Saint John's Health Center for the last year of high school.

## **GLA Scholarship and Chapter Fundraiser Dance MONETARY DONORS**

\$300 Miyako Kadogawa  
\$290 Joyce Okazaki  
\$200 Jeff Dohzen, Yasuko Hirokane, Douglas Ikemi, Louise Sakamoto, Mary Yamabe  
\$100 Joyce Inouye, Larry Kawamura, Layne Sakamoto, Cathy Shimamoto, Shirley Shishido,  
MARIAN SATA, LADYBUG CAFE  
\$ 65 DUFF OWENS WILMOTH  
\$ 50 Grace Masuda, Raye Shibasaki, BARBARA SHIROTA (in memory of Jon Shirota and Ed Sakamoto)  
Less than \$50 Larry & Barbara Takumi, Susan DeGracia, Mas Oshiro, M. SAKAIDA, Junko Ikeda,  
RICHARD OSAMU KATO, MITCH & ESTHER KODAMA, RICHARD NOGAWA  
Total: \$2,505

Capitalized names are non-GLA JACL members who generously donated to the fundraiser.  
GLA members, thank you for your generous donations.

Special thanks goes to PEGGY TOM of OCSS (Orange County Sansei Singles) who assembled 34 people to attend the GLA fundraiser. Her group consisted a third of dance attendees.

Mary Yamabe, GLA board member, solicited 3 tables of 8 for \$280 each from GARDENA BOWL (Hideki Obayashi), ZEN AND NOW (Mitch and Esther Kodama), KINECTA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION and \$100 from LADYBUG CAFÉ.

Thank you to GARDENA BOWL, ZEN AND NOW, KINECTA, and LADYBUG CAFÉ for their donations.

Thank you, Mary, for soliciting the donations, your donation and donation of an artwork by Noe Yamabe for the auction.