

VOICE OF GLADNESS

Gresham-Ebetsu Sister City Association

Summer 2016. Volume I, No. 1



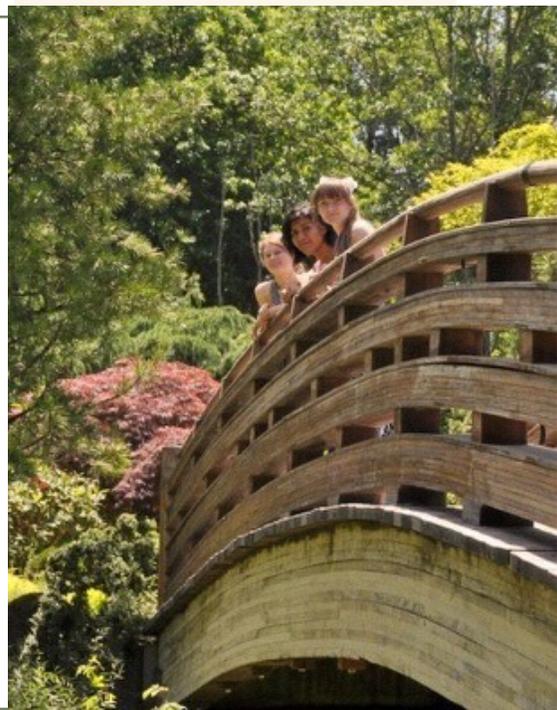
The Ebetsu scholars seem to be hard at work on the azumaya. Left to right: Cassie, Tanith, and Yasmin.

OUR THREE SCHOLARS ARE OFF TO EBETSU

For three Gresham girls, school isn't going to be over this year in June as it is for their classmates. Instead the girls are packing their bags, getting on a plane and attending school in Gresham's sister city, Ebetsu, in Hokkaido, Japan. They will be continuing a long tradition between the sister cities that first began in the 1980s. The girls will arrive in Ebetsu and attend Ritsumeikan and Towanomori Sanai high schools for the next month. Japanese schools don't get out until the end of July. While the Japanese students will be winding down

their school year, Cassie, Yasmin and Tanith will be joining them.

Tanith Horning, a rising senior at Gresham High has been studying Japanese for the past 3 years. Yasmin Florez-Lopez, a 2016 graduate of Gresham, for 4 years, and their teacher, Ms. Hieggelke, says she thinks they are ready for the exchange experience. Cassie George is a 2016 graduate at Reynolds High and her teacher is Ms. Bieker. She too has been taking Japanese language for her whole high school career.

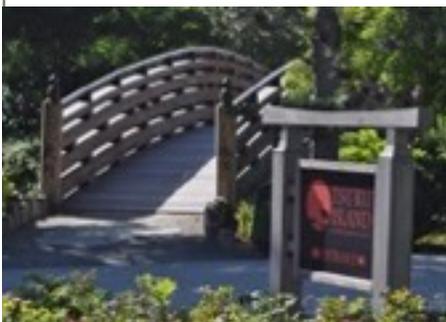


Jim and Katy talk about the history of our garden.

[from the Tsuru Island newsletter June, 2016]

June 30th 2016 completes the 5th year of the adoption of Tsuru Island garden. This spring has been amazing for the garden in more ways than expected colors. New growth is on every plant and some of the growth includes the new fruits coming onto the plants for fall color. When looking at the list of accomplishments over those years, seeing something like "building the bridge" reminds us of how many volunteer hours were given and how many months it took to accomplish the task. Five years...think what will happen in 10 years. One of the things that will happen is maturity of the garden and our understanding of how to foster it for what we will leave behind in 30, 40 and 50 years for the community that follows us. One gets a glimpse of the maturity of some of the plant materials by looking at the plants that were original to the first garden 42 years ago. You are not looking for how tall or wide but the training of the shrubs, trees, vine or ground cover. How well we have done to make it perform as we intended through observation, pruning, general care and the role that it plays with the rest of the garden. Right along with this perspective we will also be watching through the years how we place and groomed the plant materials in reference to the other surrounding plant materials and the textures, size, colors and shapes as they blend together. After five years we have just finished the start. Now our goals include the fostering of the garden, that gem that all of us have worked so hard to make one of a kind, special, and something everyone can choose to enjoy in some way.

We hope to do this by establishing the endowment that along with volunteer programs we can establish available monies to allow for the garden to be given the care and attention that it will need. The "garden endowment" program will be established with the assistance of the board and other volunteers, over the next few years. It is necessary so that the deterioration of the garden over the past 42 years does not happen again. Sadafumi Uchiyama told Tomiko and I in the first 90 days of our journey that "if they like what they see, they will follow". I can only hope our job has accomplished that sentiment.



Garden Highlights

2011

Developed island design. Raised funds and gathered support. Adopted by GSCA (Gresham Sister Association) Started pulling weeds and other invasive plants.

2012

Revised garden design, installed drainage and irrigation.

Built 2 foot-bridges

2013

Paver walkways designed and built by Jim's son. Placed many boulders and planted many trees.

Began plans for azumaya*.

2014

Carved stream bed, created zen rock garden, finished paths and reopened the garden.

2015

Rebuilt bridge to island using purple heart wood.

2016

The azumaya project completed.

* An **azumaya** is a traditional arbor or summer pavilion found in formal Japanese gardens.

2016 Election; Same officers, new secretary. (Thank you, Denise Lopez)

The board meeting on June 26 saw a continuation of the officers from 2015 with the exception of Denise Lopez who kindly gave of her time to act as secretary while in the throes of being a senior at Gresham High School. Thank you, Denise, for being so generous to our organization.



Ron Ture was reaffirmed as president for his second year. **Tomiko Takeuchi**, Vice President; **Barry Busse**, Treasurer; **Jim Card**, Member at Large. **Byerly Woodward** was elected as the new secretary. **Tad Tsuneyoshi** continues as Ebetsu city liaison. The new Gresham High student rep is **Tanith Horning** and the Reynolds High rep is **Hailey Freeman**. **Lori Stegmann** is the Gresham City Council liaison.

The Membership Committee announced that renewal letters have been sent out to current membership. The greatest challenge according to the chairman of the committee, **Janet Lee**, is to develop ways to grow the membership. The committee will be addressing the question in a lot of novel ways.

Tomiko Takeuchi, Vice President and Events Planner announced that Scosh this year would consist of a smaller private party honoring volunteers in the garden and in the sister city activities. The event is scheduled for **July 16** on the garden island.

Even though the event will not be open to the public, all GESCA members, volunteers and their families are invited to attend. The event will include tea ceremonies presided over by Grace Ishikawa, bonsai demonstrations by Mark Vossbrink and koto performances by Mitsuki Dazai followed by lunch and refreshments. One of the main events is dedication of the azumaya, which has just been completed. RSVP to Tomiko by

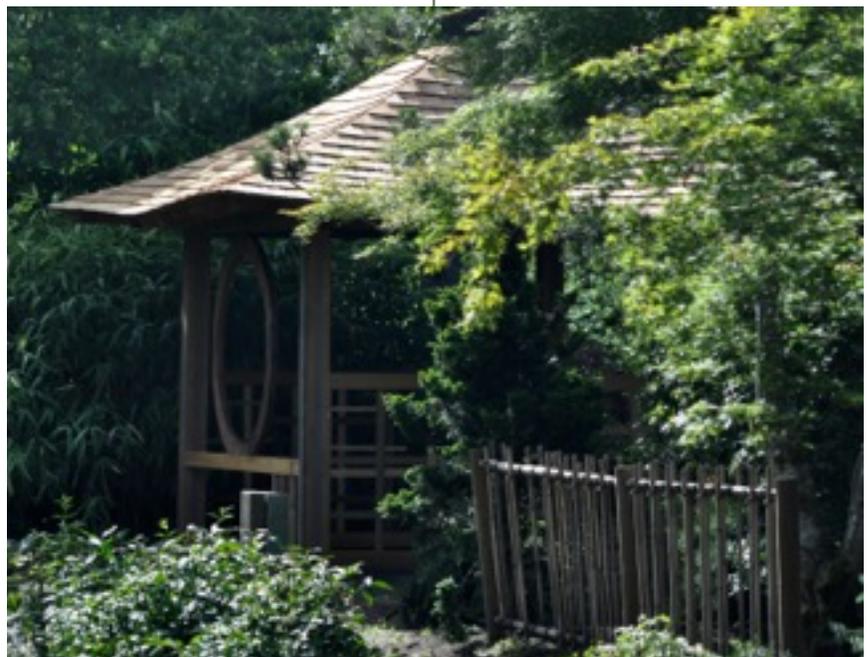


Tad Tsuneyoshi smiles happily from atop the azumaya. Tad is usually the photographer but not this time!

Interested in becoming part of our organization? Go to our website at <http://www.greshamsistercity.org/> for information and application

If you have any news you would like to add to our newsletter, please feel free to contact me at byerlyca@gmail.com.

Byerly Woodward, Editor



HONORING GESCA VOLUNTEERS

Mark your calendar for July 16th 2016, 10am to 4 pm, at Tsuru Island

This is also the completion of our 5th year fostering the Gresham Japanese Garden.

GESCA members and volunteers and their families are invited to attend. The garden will be closed to the public for this event. RSVP to Tomiko at <tomiko@frontier.com> by July 9.

Some of the day's events will include:

- **Dedication of the azumaya**
- **A drawing with prizes**
- **Lunch**
- **Tea ceremonies with Grace Ishikawa**
- **Koto performances by Mitsuki Dazai**
- **Bonsai demonstrations by Mark Vossbrink**
- **A lecture and tour of the garden**
- **Tea and coffee at the close of the day**

GESCA

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