

# 親善園だより

## Friendship Garden News "Shinzen En Dayori"

VOL. 20 NO. 1 SPRING 2010

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### SHINZEN GARDEN COMING EVENTS

#### Shinzen Run

Saturday April 24, 2010  
5:45 a.m. - Parking Lot

#### Spring Pruning Day

Saturday, May 8, 2010  
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Angel Abajian with her son Ralph Abajian and his wife, Debbie, in the Ume grove. All photos on this page were taken by Richard Kassabian.

Most members know Angel through her editorship of the Shinzen Newsletter which has always been a pleasure to read; her love and enthusiasm for the Garden practically jumped off the pages.

Rudy Castillo and Richard Kassabian dedicated a small island by the bridge "Angel's Island" with a plaque placed next to a lantern previously placed in memory of Angel's family.

Following the ceremony a birthday party (her 90th!) was held in the Azumaya where most of the guests gave personal messages of their association with and appreciation for Angel and her loving, caring spirit.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - ANGEL'S ISLAND Judy Shehadey

On a beautiful, clear, mild and sunny January afternoon following a cleansing rain, fifty admiring friends of Angel Abajian, long time Garden advocate and secretary to the Board of Shinzen, gathered in the Taira Ume Grove under the pink and white blossoms to honor her.

For more than twenty years Angel has championed the Garden and those who have supported the Garden with her time, efforts, expertise and other contributions. Over the years Angel provided the thread of continuity and has been an invaluable resource.



Angel with her 90th birthday cake



Angel's Island with new plaque honoring Angel Abajian.

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Here is a letter from Angel Abajian, your former Editor:

*Dear Board Members:*

*Was it all a dream? It was as if I were in a scene from TV's program, "Live from Lincoln Center," and family, friends and Shinzen Garden Society members were honoring me. As several individuals took center stage to offer kind words to me, all I could respond was to say, "Thank you, thank you"; and when the words could not come out aloud, I mouthed them, "Thank you."*

*The Pine Island in the Koi Pond where that small stone lantern is based in honor of my family, the Silvester Family, has been renamed "Angel's Island." As long as this beautiful, exotic Japanese garden exists, for years to come, and as time goes by, this special island will bear my name.*

*For all the planning and work involved; for all the tender words said on my behalf; and for the wonderful acknowledgment of my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday; all I can say is a true, heartfelt "Thank You, Thank You."*  
*Angel Abajian*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### INDIVIDUAL:

Kristy Garavello  
Marlene Kubota  
Lyn Peters

### FAMILY:

Michele & Stan Diebert  
Nancy Jones  
Natalia Permiakova

### STUDENT:

Austin Deweese

### REINSTATED:

Alan & Victoria Lopes  
Darrel & Cherie Stewart

### GOODBYE TO FRIENDS:

Dorothy Rohlfig  
Fred Taniguchi

## THANKS !

The Shinzen Garden Society expresses sincere thanks and appreciation to the following for their gifts to the Garden:

Patricia Berg  
Mary Dryden  
James & Coke Hallowell  
Gerald Hinkley  
Sophie Iwatsubo  
Lenore Karsted  
Richard and Edie Kassabian  
Roy and Julie Spina  
Fred Taniguchi  
Caroline Vasquez  
Anna Yamamoto

DOMO ARIGATO GOZAIMASHITA

## GARDEN RECEIVES \$5000

### GARABEDIAN GRANT

We thank the Bertha and John Garabedian Charitable Foundation for their 2010 award of \$5000. The Garden's association with the Foundation dates back to 1994. Since then, each year the Foundation has awarded the Garden a significant amount that has now accumulated to \$75,300. We are so appreciative of this consistent support.

In September of 2009 the Bertha and John Garabedian Charitable Foundation was awarded a Lifetime Membership to the Garden in appreciation of their many years of outstanding support.

*You may notice that the List of Garden Members, which usually appears in the Spring Issue, is not here. It will appear in the Summer Issue in July. We just had so many beautiful photographs of the Umes, Artist Day and the Spring Blossom Festival, we decided to delay printing the list for one Issue.*

## REMEMBERING FRED TANIGUCHI

On Feb 23rd, 2010, Fred Taniguchi, a long time Garden supporter and former Board member, passed away. He was active with the Garden since very early on and in Jan 1994, he became a member of the Board of Directors. He was elected Secretary of the Board starting in October 1995 and served for 3 years in that position. He remained on the Board through 2008 and has been on the Advisory Board since that time.

Fred was a gentle man, well liked by all. He will be greatly missed.

## PRUNING DAY Sat. May 8



Pruning Day is coming May 8th! All members of the Garden and the Community having an interest in aesthetic pruning are invited to attend this session. All levels of experience are welcome. We need your help to keep the Garden in top condition. Come for a fun and educational experience. Call Steve DaSilva at 834-5464 for details.

## TAIRA UME GROVE BLOOMS TAKE YOUR BREATH AWAY



Our beautiful Taira Ume Grove displayed its finest spring colors in January and early February. Not only are the variety of colors breathtaking, but their fragrance is sweet and lovely. When you arrive in the parking lot and smell a delicate perfume, you know the Umes are in bloom! Once you have let this Grove brighten your winter day, you will come back annually to experience Spring in January! Don't miss the blooms next year!

The 82 Ume trees donated by the Kikuo Taira family in 1992 were planted in an undeveloped area of the Garden. Since

then these trees have grown into more mature specimens, ranging in color from white to pink to a deep rose to red. Their buds start to swell in late December and peak about a month later. In inclement weather and late in the bloom period, the petals cover the ground in a pink carpet.



As the trees grew, additions were made to the Grove to make it the spectacular place it is today. The Taira Ume Grove now has paved walkways through the Grove, a stream with tumbling waterfall and a Garden shelter (Tembo Dai) overlooking a Koi

pond. A Torii-style entrance gate has also been added. Donations from the Terry Hinkley Family continue to assist with costs of maintaining the Grove.

The ume tree, *Prunus mume*, is a variety of Japanese flowering apricot. It is native to China and Korea, where it has been cultivated for 1500 years and is now widely grown in Japan where it is highly valued as an ornamental tree.



The three photographs on the left side of the page are by Richard Kassabian, Vice-President of the Shinzen Board of Directors. The two photographs on the right side of the page are by Diane Williams, a Garden member.

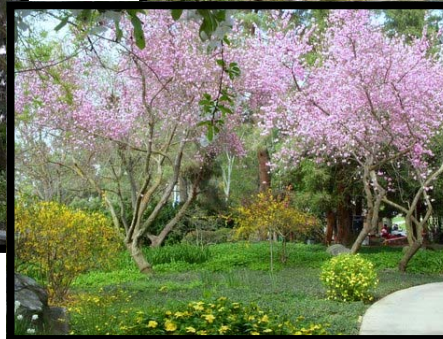
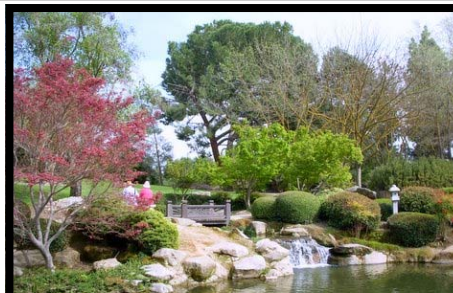
SPRING ARTIST IN THE GARDEN DAY

March 12, 2010

The day started quite crisp but clear as we opened the Garden for Artists' Day. We had an excellent turnout of more than 40 artists in various fields who came to paint, draw and photograph our beautiful Garden. Rain chased us away early in the afternoon, and the timing wasn't quite right for the cherry trees to be in bloom, but artists can see beauty anywhere and certainly found it in our Garden that day. Below are some scenes of the beautiful Garden and artists working that day.



*Photos of Artists in the Garden by Bob Johnson. Scenery photos below by Paul Saito were taken March 21st.*



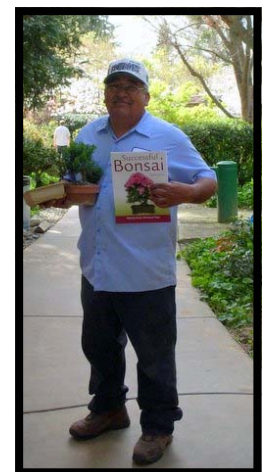
## SPRING BLOSSOM FESTIVAL AND BONSAI SHOW



Glorious weather turned out record crowds for our Spring Blossom Festival and Bonsai Show on March 20th. Timing was also perfect for the crab-apple and cherry trees, all bursting with color. The Fresno Gumyo Taiko Drummers opened the day, and visitors enjoyed the many artists, a wonderful bonsai display, and activities such as a tea ceremony, koto music, a martial arts exhibition, ikebana demonstration and bonsai raffles.



We have many people to thank for these beautiful photographs. Diane Williams gave us the daffodil and the reflected white trees in the upper right. Paul Saito sent us the photos of the art show, the bonsai display, the Iris Society, the Tembo Dai in the Ume Grove and the photo of Mario, our Shinzen Gardener who won one of the Bonsai tree raffles. Richard Kassabian photographed the close ups of the double white cherry blossoms, the tulip magnolia blossoms, the Entrance to the Ume Grove, the bonsai demonstration, the tokonoma and the Taiko Drummers.



# Spring Glory Forsythia - *Special Plant Series*

A visit to the Shinzen Garden in the spring naturally draws one entering the garden to turn to the right and head straight to the Spring section to enjoy the beauty of the season that lies before us.

A group of seven *Forsythia intermedia* "Spring Glory" planted near the top of the gentle rise that centers the Spring section anchors the landscape with flowing branches full of strongly yellow colored flowers.

A native of China, the Forsythia is named in honor of William Forysth, a royal head gardener and one of the founders of the Royal Horticultural Society in Great Britain. The heavy crop of flowers of the Forsythia blooms before leaves appear and these plants are among the earliest bloomers in the spring.



Forsythia flowers on stems and buds made the previous year and should be pruned as soon as possible after flowering. If this is done, then there will be masses of flowers the following year. It is a good idea to cut a few stems back down to within a few inches of the ground. This will encourage basal shoots to grow providing strong stems to flower in later years.

Forsythia grows and flowers most prolifically in full sun or light shade. They are sometimes given the common name, "golden bells."

*Forsythia photos by Richard Kassabian.*

**Richard Kassabian**



## JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA DISTRICT COUNCIL



The Central California District Council of the Japanese American Citizens League and The Big Fresno Fair have partnered to develop an improved Fresno Assembly Center Memorial to remember the 5,344 Japanese Americans who were interned at the Fresno Fairgrounds.



Personalized bricks will line the new memorial plaza.

The improved memorial will be in a prominent location in front of The Big Fresno Fair's Commerce Building. The memorial will share the story of the Japanese American internment experience through an interpretive wall and storyboards illustrated with photos and text focused on local stories. Banners featuring local photos from the period will underscore the site's historical significance.

For \$100 you can purchase a 4" x 8" brick that contains a personalized inscription.



Your brick can contain up to three lines, with a maximum of 14 characters (including spaces) per line.


**Make Checks**  
Payable to: **CCDC-JACL**

**Mail to: FACMUP**  
265 E. Moody Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93720

Sponsor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
phone: \_\_\_\_\_

For more information contact Travis Nishi at (559)281-6497 or Deborah Ikeda at (559)917-1427.

## 2009 Board of Directors

The Board of Directors and Advisory Board meet the third Tuesday of each month (except December) at the Tree Fresno Office on East Shaw Avenue, Fresno, at 6:00 p.m. Members are invited to attend all meetings.

### Board of Directors

Judy Shehadey <i>President</i>	Becky Adams Fred Biglione, Jr.	Art Munger Ron Nishinaka
Richard Kassabian <i>Vice President</i>	Rudy Castillo Steve DaSilva	Paul Saito Roy Spina
<i>Treasurer</i>	Dale Ikeda	Ikuko Watnick
Linda Priaulx <i>2nd Vice President</i>	Satoshi Kuwamoto Richard Marquez	

### Advisory Board

Angel Abajian	Bobbi Hanada	Tom Skelton
Steve Abe	Guy Johnston	Julie Spina
Bob Belcher	Hilary Kimber	Jenny Swenning
Bob Bly	Linda Lucido	Ken Takeuchi
Jackie Duncan	Betty McNair	Harold Tamura
Robin Greiner, Jr.	Dan Ronquillo	

## Garden Hours

The Garden is open on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays from 10 a.m. to dusk. In addition, from May 1st through September 30th, it is open daily Monday through Friday from 5 p.m. to dusk.

Admission: \$3 for Adults, 15 to 65 years;  
\$.50 for Seniors and Children 4 to 14 years;  
Children under 4 years, no charge. Garden Members enter free of charge with Membership Card.

City of Fresno charges \$3 per car entrance fee to Woodward Park for local residents; \$5 per car entrance fee for visitors outside City Limits (Seniors are exempt). Special Garden tours can be arranged weekdays. Permits must be obtained for Weddings and Photo Shoots. For tours or events, call City Parks Department 621-2900.



A publication of the Shinzen Friendship Garden

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Judy Shehadey  
Richard Kassabian

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Calligraphy courtesy of Reverend Keizo Norimoto

## NEW ENTRY STRUCTURE BEING BUILT

After being "in the works" for a long time, we are now in the process of building our new Entry Structure. Instead of the open air kiosk, we will now have an enclosed, lockable building, where we can keep brochures and maps for distributing to our visitors. It will be wheelchair accessible as well as heated and cooled for the improved comfort of our dedicated staff.



During demolition of the old kiosk, the roof was saved to be re-installed in the wedding area. Then the ground was leveled and the foundation framed and poured. The initial framed building is shown above.

Below is a photo of the current stage of the Structure - still a week or so from completion. Standing in front of the new Entry Structure are Board Members Richard Kassabian, Rudy Castillo, Roy Spina and Art Munger (left to right).



Top photo by Richard Kassabian. Bottom photo by Edie Kassabian.

Shinzen Friendship Garden  
P.O. Box 16178  
Fresno, California  
93755-6178

Non-profit Org.  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 940  
Fresno, CA

### ITEMS OF INTEREST

■ Do you have grant writing experience or interest? The Shinzen Garden Society is seeking volunteers to assist with grant writing. Call Mary at 440-0825.

■ The Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture in Hanford will hold its 10th Annual Spring Festival on Saturday, April 17th, 2010, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m..



Activities include an Art Show and Sale, a Taiko Performance by Fresno Gumyo Taiko, Hands-On Origami, a Tea Demonstration, a Bonsai Workshop for Adults and Kids, Kendo Demonstration and Bonsai Demonstrations, Lecture, Exhibition and Auction.

In addition, tours of the Clark's beautiful private Japanese Garden will be given by Landscape Architect Bob Boro and docents. This is a ticketed activity that requires pre-registration.

On April 17th-18th, the Clark Center will organize KAZARI, the second national competition on the

art of displaying bonsai in a *tokonoma* alcove.

For further informaion, call (559) 582-4915. The Clark Center is located at 15770 Tenth Acenue in Hanford CA, about 6 miles south of downtown Hanford.

■ VOLUNTEERS WANTED. If you love the Garden and would like to be more active, please consider volunteering to help! There are a variety of activities you can participate in. We want our members to feel personally connected to the Garden they support!

Contact Linda at 559-288-3568 for more info.

**"Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle ... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream."**

**Barbara Winkler**  
(Author and former Executive Editor of Family Circle Magazine)

### Yes, I want to join the Shinzen Friendship Garden!

#### Membership Categories and Annual Dues

Please check appropriate category:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (18 yrs.) \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business or Professional \$100 or More                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25        | <input type="checkbox"/> Donor \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$1000     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$35            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$250 <input type="checkbox"/> Gift Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$50        | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$500 <input type="checkbox"/> Donation     |

Name (Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss) \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check made payable to the Shinzen Friendship Garden. Contributions are tax deductible within the limits allowed by law.

As a member, I am interested in participating on the Committee for:

- Docents
- Fundraising
- Landscape & Maintenance
- Membership
- Planning & Projects
- Promotions & Publicity

I would like to see these events take place in the Shinzen Garden