

親善園だより

Friendship Garden News "Shinzen En Dayori"

VOL. 19 NO. 4 WINTER 2009

21st Annual Membership Dinner September 10, 2009

Our Annual Membership Dinner this year was held inside the garden on the lawn just below the Azumaya. Soft Japanese music played in the background while we dined on delicious bento trays from Sakayana Restaurant. The paths were lit with luminarias and lanterns were placed among the tables, offering a delightful ambience to the experience. Tables set with red tablecloths and white napkins glowed in the waning light. Everyone appeared to enjoy the mild summer evening dining in the Garden. In addition, for the first time, our Honorable Mayor was able to attend the social hour and was given a tour of the Garden by Rudy Castillo, Dale Ikeda and Richard Kassabian. We were extremely pleased that she took the time to show her appreciation for the Garden.

Many thanks to Linda Priaulx and her committee for organizing the event. Thanks to Ken Takeuchi for the music, to Fred and Susan Biglione for the wine, to Steve Abe for the water, to the Nisei Farmers League for the fresh fruit, to Florian Tan and his Aikido group for entertainment. Thanks to the Board and Docents who contributed so much to the dinner's success.

An Honorary Lifetime Membership to the Garden was awarded to the Bertha and John Garabedian Charitable Foundation to thank them for their long-term commitment to and support of our Garden. The award was accepted on behalf of the Foundation by Nancy Steitz, Grants Assistant.



Richard Kassabian, Mayor Ashley Swearengin, Rudy Castillo

Annual Spring Bonsai Exhibit

The Fresno Bonsai Society will hold its annual exhibit on March 20 & 21, 2010. Over 75 trees will be displayed, some over 100 years old. Bonsai care and pruning will be demonstrated both days. Grooming and keeping the trees healthy through the year is a challenge here in the valley. The Fresno Bonsai Society, now 55 years old, is a dedicated group! Come and see this wonderful exhibit!



SHINZEN GARDEN COMING EVENTS

Spring Artist Day in the Garden

Friday, March 12, 2010

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Spring Blossom Festival & Annual Spring Bonsai Exhibit

Saturday, March 20, 2010 &

Sunday, March 21, 2010

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Judy Shehadey

Because our lovely Shinzen Garden is truly a gem, it is perplexing to realize that there are so many who are either unaware of its existence or simply have not visited it.

One of the priorities of the Board is to increase awareness of the garden and to increase attendance. Our plan is to make the garden an important destination for those who live in the Central Valley and for tourists who are attending conventions or visiting friends and relatives.

One way we plan to do that is by partnering with other community groups to hold special events in the garden; some possibilities include classes on rock placement in the residential landscape, bamboo fencing, pruning demonstrations, lighting your garden. We hope to host flower shows in the garden such as Rose, Camellia, Iris shows. Other ideas include a Kimono Show and Full Moon Viewing in the garden. We'd like to host art and music events in the garden, and expand the number of docent-led tours to groups.

We are also in contact with Japanese gardens in other cities like San Diego and Portland to learn which activities have proven popular in their communities.

As we develop more events and activities, it will be necessary to invite supporters to lend a hand (or two) to join in the fun and efforts to plan and implement these events. The Board is hopeful that you as members will submit ideas for bringing more visitors to Shinzen and also help with some short term tasks.

Please call me at 226-3480 or email me at judyshehad@aol.com with any comments, ideas and/or offers of help. I hope my phone rings off the wall (it is a land phone and it is on the wall !)

Thank you for your support of this special garden. Best Wishes to you for peace, beauty, joy and contentment in 2010.

THANKS !

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

Angel Abajian - in memory of
Doris Thomas
The JAACL- from the Shinzen Run

Gifts in kind:

Steve Abe
Fred and Susan Biglione
Rudy Castillo
Manual Cunha
Starbucks
Ken Takeuchi



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

INDIVIDUAL or FAMILY:

Geri Avedesian
Aggie Breedlove
Lynda Brown
George & Jackie Folsom
Jennifer Martin
Norma Matfinez
Anita Shaw
Terri Songer

SUSTAINING:

Marsha Auchard

DONOR:

Michael Mello

LIFETIME:

Bertha & John Garabedian
Charitable Foundation

REINSTATED:

Bob & Marilyn Dwyer
Kitty McManus
William & Rosary Soares

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Mary Dryden

With the gorgeous and busy fall season behind us, we enter the quieter but just as beautiful winter. One doesn't always think of coming to see the beauty of a garden in the winter. But in a Japanese garden winter can be spectacular. Starting in late December and going through mid-February, the Taira Ume grove blooms in white, pink, red and magenta. The glow of pink on the trees begins early and reminds us that the rebirth of spring has begun. Soon the blossoms cover the trees and even the grayest and foggiest of days can't prevent a smile on your face when you see them. Later the petals begin to fall and the ground turns hot pink, as if there is a mirror on the ground reflecting the trees above. I urge you not to miss this spectacular sight.

Then comes our busy Spring season. Once again we invite artists to come work in the garden when it is open only to you (Friday, March 12th). The wonderful Spring Blossom Festival follows a week later with two days of cherry blossom viewing and lots of art and Japanese cultural events (Saturday, March 20th - Sunday, March 21st).

Our Annual Shinzen Run is Saturday, April 24th. This event's proceeds are shared by the Japanese American Citizen's League, the Nikkei Foundation and the Shinzen Friendship Garden. Come participate or cheer on friends to support this worthy event.

The last but not least of our Spring events is Spring Pruning Day, to be held on Saturday, May 8th. This event is open to the public and is a great opportunity to learn from experts in the field. No experience is necessary and it is a wonderful way of giving back to the Garden.

Come and enjoy your Garden !

KOCHI CITY, KOCHI PREFECTURE, on the island of SHIKOKU, JAPAN

What do you know about our Sister City in Japan - Kochi City? Here is some information from Wikipedia.org that may be of interest. Kochi City is the capital city of the Kochi Prefecture and is located on the island of Shikoku. Its population is approximately 350,000 people.

History: The river plain now containing the city centre was originally settled as a castle town and was called Kochi Castle. The castle site was chosen by Lord Yamauchi Katsutoyo in 1601. The city takes its name from that of the castle. As the centre of administration for the province, and the prefecture which succeeded it, the town rapidly grew to become the largest settlement of the region. The city was incorporated on April 1, 1889.



Kochi Castle
Photo taken by Taisyo

Tourism: Kochi Castle still exists in its pre-restoration form and is one of the main tourist attractions. Another place of interest is Harimaya-bashi, a bridge featured in a famous Kochi song about the forbidden love of a Buddhist priest.

Education: Kochi City is home to Kochi University (a Sister University to California State University Fresno), Kochi Women's University and 4 junior colleges.



Harimaya-bashi
Photo in public domain

KOCHI SISTER CITY VISIT



October 29th through November 1st the Fresno Sister City Organization hosted a delegation of 27 visitors from Kochi City, Japan. The Mayor of Kochi, Seiya Okazaki, members of the City Council, Akira Fukui, the Sister City Committee Chair, and others came to tour the Garden on Saturday, October 31. They were welcomed by many members of the Shinzen Garden Society's Board of Directors including the current President and Vice-President, Judy Shehadey and Richard Kassabian and past President Rudy Castillo. Each member of the delegation was presented with our Garden T-shirt as a souvenir of the visit.

Left: Kochi group and hosts on Double Moon Bridge, Bottom, L to R: Touring the garden, Mayor Seiya Okazaki and City Council Member Yoichiro Okazaki, Viewing a Garden Lantern
Photos by Paul Saito



FALL ARTIST IN THE GARDEN DAY

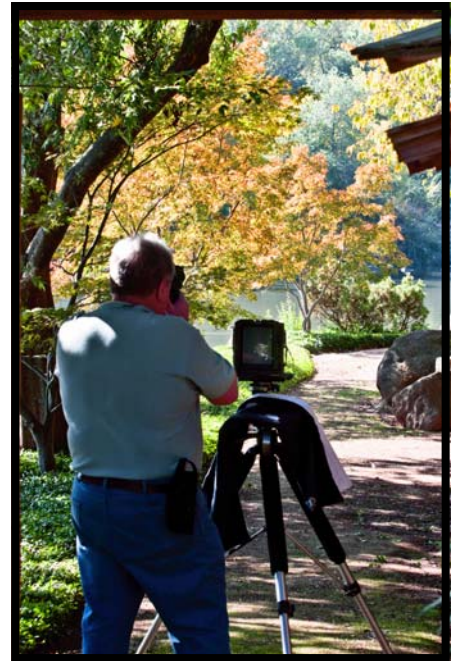
October 30, 2009

The day started crisp and clear as we opened the Garden for Artists' Day. The wind picked up a bit but the sun was warm and the day glorious. We had an excellent turnout of more than 30 artists in various fields who came to paint, draw and photograph our beautiful Garden. Several of the attending artists were then able to participate in selling their work at the Shinzen Cultural Faire and Fall Color Festival held a week later.

Below are some scenes of the beautiful Garden and artists working that day, as well as the notice for the upcoming Spring Artist in the Garden Day.



Photos of Artist in the Garden Day by Bob Johnson



Haiku Contest Winner - Eva Gleizer (age 12)

*Shimmering water
cascading down stony walls
Replenishing life.*

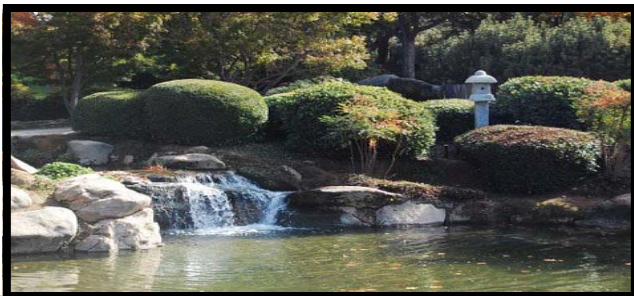


Photo by Samantha Rogers

Spring Artist in the Garden Day

On Friday, March 12, 2010, the Garden will be open to all artists with equipment from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Docents will be available for assistance. Admission to the Garden will be free, but Woodward Park charges an admission fee. The Garden will be closed to the public.



SHINZEN FALL CULTURAL FAIRE AND FALL COLOR FESTIVAL

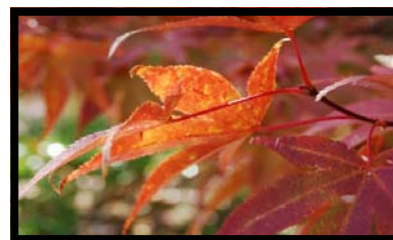


The Cultural Faire was held on Saturday, November 7th on a bright, sunny day. The wonderful weather and other events happening in the park brought attendance to over 300 people throughout the day. The Faire opened to the thunderous sounds of the Fresno Gummy Taiko Drummers. Activities throughout the day included Koto Music played by Kiyoko Nosker, a tea ceremony demonstration led by Kana Nakayama, a bonsai exhibit and pruning demonstrations by Steve DaSilva, and a martial arts demonstration by Florian Tan and the Aikido of Fresno.

A beautiful Bloodgood Japanese maple tree (donated by Steve Abe's Selma Nursery) was raffled and was won by Fresno City Groundskeeper, Mario Estrada, our own Shinzen gardener. There were drawings for free 1 year memberships to the Garden, and Haiku contests for chil-

dren and adults (see winning entries in this newsletter). A koi breeder was there to sell koi and give advice on caring for them properly. A local bamboo expert attended and was able to provide advice for lovers of bamboo. Delicious rice bowls from Dai Ichi Restaurant were enjoyed for lunch and 10 local artists displayed their wares, including award winning photographs, children's puzzles, delicate oriental collages, books, drawings and watercolor paintings. The Iris Society brought a selection of beautiful irises for sale.

We thank Richard Marquez and his committee for organizing the event, the Docents for their service throughout the day, Ralph Mason (Woodward Park Supervisor) for the assistance of his crew setting up for the Faire, and the artists, vendors and entertainers for making this such a special day.



Panorama by Jim Rudholm, Double Moon Bridge by Richard Kassabian, Taiko Drummers by unknown, three other photos by Samantha Rogers.



Special Plant Series: In this newsletter, we are beginning a new series about interesting and unique plants that we have in our Garden. Each quarter, Richard Kassabian, Board Member and Horticulturalist, will write an article about a plant important to that season, with information about the plant's location in the garden as well as general information about the plant. We hope you enjoy these articles.

Chinese Witch Hazel

When we visit the Garden to enjoy the sight and scent of late winter blooms, we naturally head to the Ume Grove to take in the beauty of the Ume trees in full bloom. There is also an explosion of golden yellow color to be found in the winter garden to the west of the shelter near the lantern. A planting of several small Chinese Witch

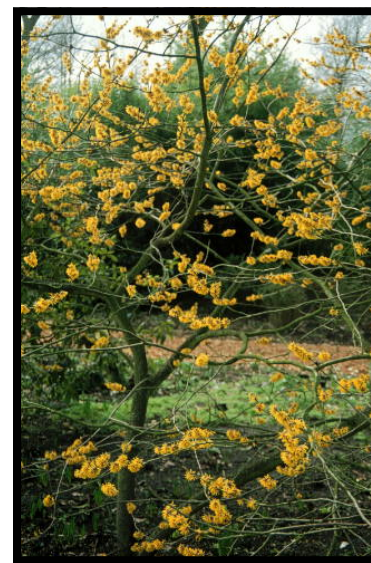


Hazel *Hamalelis mollis* are usually in bloom the first weeks of February with their spidery golden yellow flowers and long lasting sweet fragrance. Not as spectacular as the Ume, these natives of Central and Eastern China are still worth a stroll up the hill to the winter shelter for a closer look.

In the spring soft grayish leaves form, giving way to a brilliant yellowish apricot in the autumn. Happiest in partial shade and with few insect and disease pests, this remarkably tolerant plant plays an inconspicuous but important part in the diversity of plants within the Garden.

Richard Kassabian

Photos by Mark Brand, ©
Copyright Mark Brand (1997-
2001). Used by permission.
www.ipm.uconn.edu/Plants



JUDIE BROWN, Chair of Kochi Sister City Committee

Judie has been a member of the Shinzen Garden Society for the past 20 years. She became the Chair of the Kochi Sister City Committee after the previous Chair, Eddie Kubota, stepped down 18 years ago. During her tenure Judie welcomed close to 15 delegations from Kochi City to Fresno, including this year's visit of the Mayor of Kochi City, City Council Members and other interested citizens. She also organized and participated in 5 delegations from Fresno to Kochi City. On her first visit to Kochi, she was invited to participate in the 100th anniversary celebration of the rescue by a New England whaling captain of a young man from Kochi who was shipwrecked during a storm.



Judie Brown & Akira Fukui, Chair of the Japan Kochi Sister City Committee

Photo by Midori Tani

The captain brought the young man to the United States and gave him the name, John Manjiro. He was the first Japanese to set foot on US soil.

The Sister City relationship was developed back in 1965 by Kenzo Ohstubo, an attorney from Kochi who was instrumental in getting the City of Fresno to agree to be Sister City with Kochi. Before he passed away about 6 years ago, he had made 35 visits to Fresno. He owned a golf course and Country Club in Kochi that had a room named "Fresno" and even wrote a book about our city. The book is written in Japanese, but contains many pictures of his various visits to Fresno.

As part of the Sister City program under Judie's leadership, many school/student exchanges between the two sister-cities have materialized. Kochi University and Fresno State are Sister Universities and many students from the Kochi area attend CSUF.

Last month Judie retired from her position as Chair for the Kochi Sister City Program. We thank Judie for her years of dedicated work and wonderful spirit which has allowed our Sister City Program to grow and develop into the successful program it is today. Dale Ikeda will be replacing Judie as Chair. We wish Judie and Dale much success in their new ventures.

Angel Abajian

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.	Richard Marquez Art Munger
Richard Kassabian <i>Vice President</i>	Rudy Castillo Steve DaSilva	Ron Nishinaka Paul Saito
<i>Treasurer</i>	Dale Ikeda	Roy Spina
Linda Priaulx <i>2nd Vice President</i>	Satoshi Kuwamoto Linda Lucido	Ikuko Watnick

Advisory Board

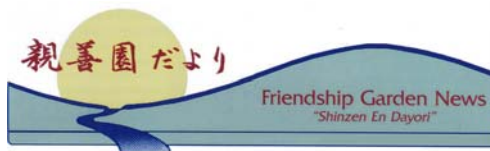
Angel Abajian	Bobbi Hanada	Julie Spina
Steve Abe	Guy Johnston	Jenny Swenning
Bob Belcher	Hilary Kimber	Ken Takeuchi
Bob Bly	Betty McNair	Harold Tamura
Jackie Duncan	Dan Ronquillo	Fred Taniguchi
Robin Greiner, Jr.	Tom Skelton	

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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Calligraphy courtesy of Reverend Keizo Norimoto

Adult HAIKU Contest Winner - Donna Aravanis

*Falling, floating leaves
Ginkgo turns from green to gold
Colors reflect Fall.*



Ginkgo Leaves turning from Green to Yellow
Photo © (2009) By Cor Kwant, Used by permission. www.xs4all.nl/~kwanten

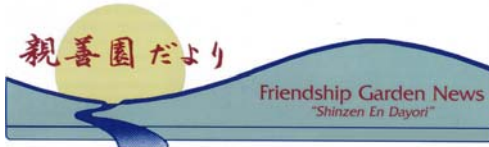
Garden Received \$1000 Gift from JAACL

The Board of Directors of the Shinzen Friendship Garden sincerely thanks the Japanese American Citizens League for the gift of \$1000 to the Garden as a result of the 2009 Shinzen Run. We are so grateful for this close association with the JAACL and offer our support for all your endeavors. The entrance area (Mon) of the Garden is rightly dedicated to your organization. Thank you again so much for your long-time, continued support of our Shinzen Japanese Garden.

New Board Members and Officers Elected

At the 21st Annual Membership Dinner on September 9, 2009, the following six current Board members were elected to serve another three year term on the Board of Directors: Richard Kassabian, Linda Lucido, Richard Marquez, Paul Saito, Judy Shehadey and Ikuko Watnick. Each year one-third (six) of the Board positions are open for election.

At the regular Board of Directors meeting in September, Judy Shehadey was elected President, Richard Kassabian retained his positions as 1st Vice-President and Treasurer, and Linda Priaulx was elected 2nd Vice-President.



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

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ITEMS OF INTEREST

■ Spring Pruning Day is coming on Saturday, May 8th, 2010. 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.

■ A big THANK YOU to the volunteers who spent November 14th pruning in the Garden. Our plants look trimmed and lovely for the winter.

■ 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.

■ **LOST & FOUND:** Two items were found after the membership dinner: a beige McIntosh-style hat and a pair of bling-y sunglasses. The owners can call Mary at 440-0825 to identify and retrieve your lost item.

■ A Day of Remembrance Dinner and Groundbreaking for the Fresno Assembly Center Memorial Upgrade

Project will be held on Sunday, February 21, 2010 at the Fresno Fairground. Groundbreaking is at 4:30 at the Commerce Building. The Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. in the Education Building. Please contact Bobbi Hanada at 559-434-1662 or bhanada@aol.com for further information or a reservation form. Seating is limited. Please RSVP by February 5th. Distinguished American Awards will be presented.

■ How do you like this newsletter? There were a number of changes in this issue: it's longer, there are lots more photos, there are new topics. We'd love to hear your comments and suggestions. Email them to :

shinzensgarden@yahoo.com

People usually consider walking on water or in thin air a miracle. But I think the real miracle is to walk on earth. Every day we are engaged in a miracle which we don't even recognize: a blue sky, white clouds, green leaves, the black, curious eyes of a child - our own two eyes. All is a miracle.

Thich Nhat Hanh

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