

# VOICE OF GLADNESS

*Gresham-Ebetsu Sister City Association*

Autumn 2016. Volume 1, No. 2



The exchange girls recount stories at the GESCA meeting in July. Left to right Tanith, Yasmin and Cassie.

Tanith and Cassie and Ebetsu classmates



Yasmin and Ebetsu classmate

## Our 3 scholars return from Ebetsu

In June, following the end of school, three high school girls from Gresham got on a plane to Ebetsu in the Hokkaido province of Japan to be exchange students. The girls: Yasmin Florez-Lopez, Cassie George, Tanith Horning returned in July with a rich set of experiences about their time in Japan.

At the August meeting of our organization, the three, dressed in the school uniforms they wore to school in Ebetsu told us some about their experiences.

Today, Cassie is going to school at Mount Hood Community College taking calculus and Japanese and preparing for a return trip soon to a Japanese university to finish her studies. Yasmin is a freshman at Lewis & Clark University. and Tanith has returned to high school with a big dose of fluency from her trip. She is planning to apply to Hokkaido University for college.

# Jim and Katy talk about a tree change at the garden. [from the Tsuru Island newsletter Sept., 2016]

**Y**ou recall some of the pine trees in the garden were attacked by “pine beetles”. 4 pines were lost and removed. They were to be replaced by Incense Cedars. Losing large trees as we did is a major game changer for the garden. Walking the path with the aged trees present gave a sense of longevity, and provided shade from branches and foliage effecting the temperature and micro-climate of the areas beneath. The Incense Cedar is a bit messy and can grow out of proportion. With more discussions, Incense Cedar was not a good fit.

A tree native to Japan, called *Cryptomeria japonica* "Yoshino" will be the star of this area. Only one tree will replace the previous 3. The new tree is about 6 feet tall, will grow about 12-15 inches per year and is manageable. The old stumps will not be removed. Re-arrangement of the existing plant materials may be necessary to balance the area. This tree will be trained to push upward and once the branching is at head height, it will be allowed to grown over the path way.

In place of the remaining 2 trees a Japanese umbrella- pine (*Sciadopitys verticillata*) donated by Toni and Barry Busse, has been planted. The one other spot was filled with a larger Japanese lace leaf maple (*Acer palmatum, dissectum*), donated by Cardscapes Creative Landscapes.



## Gresham Rotary Club

The garden cannot be successful without the help of significant partners. We are fortunate to have a great partnership with the Gresham Rotary club. For the past several years the garden has received a donation from the club in the amount of \$1000. The donations have gone to the Kaz Kids program, supply items for maintenance, additional plants as the garden develops, and has supported the construction of the azumaya.

The Rotary Club was introduced to Tsuru Garden through the efforts of Tad Tsuneyoshi and John Harold. Tad, John and other Rotary members have volunteered with the garden on many occasions from the beginning. They also have coordinated presentations to the Rotary membership.

To acknowledge the partnership a brief ceremony was given and a presentation of a plaque which was placed at the Azumaya. Participating in the annual Rotary Club Steak Fry has been a pleasure. Tsuru Island garden will contribute to the door prizes in the future.

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

# The Most Famous Tree in Gresham

**L** Mayor Bemis, Jim Card and Ron Ture during planting ceremony for the Ebetsu tree last year when the bridge to the island was dedicated, a representative from our sister city, Ebetsu, presented some money for us to buy a tree for the garden. Jim Card thought a long time about it and finally decided to chose a mountain ash---a hardy yet beautiful tree that likes living in Gresham. Recently, the Ebetsu tree was planted near the entrance to the island. In a brief ceremony attended by the Gresham's mayor Shane Bemis, a permanent plaque was installed by the tree in a place of prominence. We look forward to many years of enjoying its beaut

The tree is a mountain ash or *Sorbus aucuparia*, Cardinal Royal. The cultivar 'Cardinal Royal' has brilliant red berries, hence its name, as opposed to the more typical orange of the species. This birds love this tree for the berries.

[wow com]



Mayor Bemis, Jim Card and Ron Ture during planting ceremony for the Ebetsu tree.



---

### **GESCA VOLUNTEERS HONORED**

Tomiko Takeuchi, vice-president and sensational event planner who usually arranges our SKOSH programs held an appreciation party for volunteers, members, and supporters. More than 50 attended the festivities in the garden as well as took guided tours led by Jim Card and Ron Ture.

Grace Ishikawa and her students gave attendees a chance to experience a traditional tea ceremony. Mark Vossbrink demonstrated how to create your own moss ball bonsai plant. The party ended with a beautiful 13-string koto performance by Mitsuki Dazai of Portland Koto Kai.

Three of our members--Misuzu Sarver, Judy Yamauchi and Yoshiko Ture--made delicious dishes to add to the luncheon. Many in the community supported us with donations. We give a huge thank you to everyone who helped make the event possible as well as the following businesses that provided us with prizes and food:

Jazzy Bagel bagels; Rose City Funeral Home, water; Shari's East Burnside, pies; Café Delirium, coffee; Twisted Carrot, gift certificates; Boccelli Restaurant, gift certificate; Frenzi Yoghurt, gift certificate; Accent On Accessories, gift certificate; Sunny Han's, gift certificates; Local Cow, gift certificates and Sushi Moto Clackamas, gift certificate.

**GESCA**

PO Box 1652, Gresham OR 97080