

# Tsuru 鶴 Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



## The Azumaya Receives a Gift

Ironically, this month's photo pick by our photographer, Bill Peterson, coincides with this month's cover story.

It's always a special moment when we're approached by a community member who wants to contribute to the organization. She came to Jim and asked why the Azumaya floor was dirt instead of finished with the beautiful blue stone. Jim's response, "we ran out of money."

Much to Jim's delight, this citizen donated the dollars to finish the floor. Her reason: so brides wearing beautiful wedding gowns won't get their hems dirty. So thoughtful and generous!!

If you're interested in the building of the our Azumaya (az u my a) and another generous donor, Carl Diebold Lumber Company, download the PDF from our website, [https://www.greshamjapanese garden.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Azumaya\\_history.pdf](https://www.greshamjapanese garden.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Azumaya_history.pdf)



Installation in 2016



### PHOTOGRAPHER'S VIEW

小庇や砂利打やうな秋の雨  
ko-bisashi ya jari utsu yōna aki [no]  
ame  
like pebbles pounding the eaves...  
autumn rain  
Kobayashi Issa 1816

— Haiku selection and Photo by  
Bill Peterson

# The Girl Behind the Turtle's Name

by Mary Dickson

**W**hen Hana Hashimoto visited Sea Turtle Inc., a turtle rehabilitation and conservation center at South Padre Island, Texas, in 2020, she learned how sea turtles get injured in the sea with marine debris or boat strikes. Some of the turtles receive surgeries and rehabilitation. Hana chose a turtle stuffie as a memory of her trip there and named it Kamekichi, which means "Lucky Turtle" in Japanese. When she learned that the turtle at the Gresham Japanese Garden needed a name, she immediately ran to her room, got her Kamekichi, and submitted her entry.

Hana is 8 years old, the granddaughter of Mary Dickson, a Garden volunteer. Her mother and father are doctors and came to the US several years ago from Japan. Hana was born in Pittsburgh, and the family now lives in Amarillo, Texas, where she is a third grader. She moves easily between English and Japanese languages. She has played the violin since she was 3 and the piano since she was 4. She has held her own summer virtual recitals, inviting her family and friends in Japan and the US (via Zoom) since the pandemic started.



She also loves art, especially drawing and painting. (She did all drawings and paintings on the wall behind her in the picture with a little help from her mother, Mariko. Some of them are "color by numbers," some of them are from YouTube art lectures.)

Her essay about caring for her neighbor's dog last Christmas was in a Japanese Newspaper (<https://nyseikatsu.com/editions/814/814.pdf> P15, Shukan New York Seikatsu April 10th, 2021). Hana has dreamt of getting her own dog for a couple of years, and finally her dream came true this spring, when she got a corgi puppy, Trixie. She really loves her and teaches her lots of tricks. She demonstrated her prowess when Grand-

ma Mary visited in August.

Just like the turtles being rehabilitated in Texas, the turtle area of Tsuru Island needed help to be its best, after the garden had been neglected for so many years. And visitors to the Garden are lucky to see such an interesting feature, now named by Hana Hashimoto.

Hana is excited that her name was chosen and looks forward to seeing Kamekichi the next time she visits Gresham and Tsuru Island.



*Hana Hashimoto, Turtle-naming winner*



## GARDENER'S TIP

Read this month article, **Organic Gardening To Do's** by Jim Buck. Fall is a very busy time of year for gardeners!

— Jim Buck, Garden Volunteer and Organic Gardener

## Dogs are Great



Landscaping with boulders can anchor a garden and they can also be utilitarian. When Jim Card designed Ebetsu Plaza, being the dog lover he is, he picked a boulder that had a natural concave side to hold water, making a natural water bowl for dogs. Find it on the Touchstone Paver path. And yes, we fill it when mother nature doesn't do it for us.

## Ask Jim!

### Plant Care Videos

**Ask Jim!** is a plant care video series featured on our Facebook page, [@greshamjapanesegarden](https://www.facebook.com/greshamjapanesegarden).

Submit your Ask Jim! question to <https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/ask-jim/>.

**Please subscribe to our YouTube channel - Gresham Japanese Garden. We need 100 subscribers before we can have our own URL!**



## Join Our Flock

Sign up on our website to receive the monthly newsletter.

# Organic Gardening To Do's For the Fall

by Jim Buck

**M**y passion for assisting at Tsuru Island emerges from my desire to “give back” to the community in which I live, and my strong belief that we are called to restore this Earth, that we as humans have tried to dominate and in the process have mismanaged with such profound consequences.

Organic gardening nurtures a sustainable environment that is more respectful of nature's intricacies and its original design. Tsuru Island embraces that same aspiration.

Fall is an incredibly busy season for an avid gardener. It is the time to both plan and plant. It is the optimal time to plant bulbs such as hyacinths, lilies, crocus, and tulips for spring color, as well as the best time to plant new trees so their roots can get established over the winter.

When planting bulbs, mix some bone meal in with the soil below the bulbs to foster more blooms. Tilting lily bulbs in the soil avoids water sitting in them and causing them to rot during winter. Many nurseries have fall sales for perennial plants to fill those empty spaces in your beds.

There is also so much trimming to accomplish, such as, removing the old raspberry and marionberry canes and then giving support to the new canes that have sprouted for next year. Trimming fruit trees to create suitable air

flow through the branches and removing suckers on limbs will improve fruit and spur production. It's advisable to trim tall rose stems back so the strong winds of winter won't uproot the bushes. Final rose pruning can wait until February.

Raking leaves and composting them will add wonderful nutrients to your garden. I was surprised touring world famous gardens in Europe to see so many gardens using this technique during the winter months. Professionals know the value leaves bring to soil health when turned into the garden in early spring—all for free. Add some manure to the top of the soil on rhubarb and asparagus so it can work down into the roots over the winter.

I have also learned that burying canes and other annual garden plants (such as tomatoes, squash and cucumbers) right into the garden bed allows them to compost right there and adds fertility to the soil for next year. You can add a cover crop over the top of these spots as well.

Fall is a wonderful time to plan as well. What plants will need a little extra protection this winter with more mulch or a relocation perhaps? What seeds can you collect to sow next spring? What planting scheme are you thinking about in your garden that may provide better micro-climates and better yields? What areas of your garden need different colors, heights (as in trellises) or textures



Jim Buck pruning his blueberry bushes

to add to the beauty of the area? Is there a different design to your raised beds you want to make to allow better access? Evaluate your garden successes and the not-so-great results and begin planning what seeds to purchase for planting next spring. Clean and sharpen shovels and other tools.

If you have retained some lawn, fall is a great time to aerate it and to apply a dolomite lime, so our clay soils can more easily release their nutrients to the grass. This will save on buying expensive commercial fertilizers. You can also reseed patches in your lawn that have died by loosening the top soil, applying seed and covering it with .25 inch of enriched soil. Be sure and keep this moist until the seeds sprout.

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## We're a Winner

**T**he Gresham Area Chamber of Commerce held its annual Business Excellence Award September 15th at Mountainview Christian Church. This year, the Gresham Japanese Garden won in the category of “Best Non-Profit.” We're humbled to receive this honor.

*It's all about the community.  
We do it all for you!*

In Jim Card's acceptance speech, he acknowledged the dozens of volunteers that put in time, and stated, “it's all about the community”, then added, “we do it all for you!”



# Bridge Reconstruction

by Hoob Hughes

A thousand years ago, during the Heian period in Japan, arched bridges were designed so that boats could travel under them. Japanese garden bridges are always made of natural materials like stone, wood, or earth. This style of bridge is called a “moon bridge” and, more specifically, “sori bashi,” which means wooden bridge.

Tsuru Island’s bridge was originally built around 1970. In 2013, after the Garden’s rebirth, Jim Card and many other volunteers built a new bridge. Inspired by Nishinomiya Tsutakawa Japanese Garden in Spokane, Washington, the Tsuru Island bridge was built of the same purpleheart wood (Peltogyne), a hardwood native to Brazil. Tsuru Island’s bridge is twice as wide and long as the one in Spokane, but all components were replicated by machining and meticulously assembled.

You may have noticed recently that it’s getting a facelift. Over the past seven years, the purpleheart wood has weathered into a beautiful silver gray, with the exception of the top handrails. They were coated with varnish to provide a smooth,



glossy finish. Unfortunately, over time, this coating has deteriorated to the point where it requires replacement. The old varnish was removed from the handrails and top beam of the bridge.

Volunteers John Harrold, Jim Buck, Frank (Hoob) Hughes, and Chuck Page removed the handrails in August and moved them into the city’s barn, where they were sanded smooth and reglued.

The top layer of the beam has also been sanded to remove the old varnish, then realigned and tightened. Soon, the top railing will be reinstalled, and both will

get a coat of Brazilian rosewood oil to protect them.

You may also notice the floorboards are uneven. The team plans to add bracing to the underside of the planks to even them out.

Work should be finished in time for visitors to enjoy the fall colors on Tsuru Island. The garden is open during this reconstruction, and we ask you to pardon the mess and be careful as you enter the garden at this beautiful time of year.

## Fall Workshops - Register on Website



### The Art of Bonsai

Learn the art of bonsai creations. Each month, instructor Mark Vossbrink, experienced bonsai teacher, will guide you through a project.

Third Saturday of the Month, 1-3pm  
\$35.00 - Includes instruction, starter plant, container, and all other material.



### Origami Folding

Eileen Holzman, an art therapist, horticultural therapist, and retired art educator will take you through the steps to creating a simple shape to ones a little more difficult.

Fourth Wednesday of the Month, 6-7:15pm  
\$20.00 - Includes instruction and supplies.



### Ikebana for Every Season

Instructor Nana Bellerud will cover the basic concept, techniques, tools and equipment, and care of ikebana (Japanese floral art). Participants will make 1 basic style and 1 freestyle arrangement with an emphasis on seasonal themes.

Tuesday, Nov 9th, 1-3pm  
\$55.00 - Includes instruction and plant material



### Christmas Wreath Making

Ring in the holidays with a personal touch? Choose from a variety of greens provided by Cherié Siegmund from Cedarglen Floral to create a 22” diameter holiday wreath.

Thursday, Dec 8th, 2-3:30pm  
\$22.00 - Includes instruction and supplies