

## **Contributions to Japan by Mrs. Michiko Kubota (Michiya Hanayagi)**

### **1. Life-long dedication to Hanayagi-school Japanese Classical Dance**

Madame Michiya Hanayagi began studying Japanese classical dance very early in her life, and earned the title of a “Shishou” (Grand Master) from the Hanayagi-school in 1947. She continued her own training even after she started her career as a teacher, and her life-long dedication to Japanese classical dance has been very well recognized by the headmaster who has awarded her with “Ryu-hou-shou” in January 2007.

### **2. Contribution as a teacher of Hanayagi-school Japanese classical dance**

Her passion for Japanese classical dance continued even after Madame Hanayagi came to the United States in 1951. She established the Michiya Hanayagi Dance Studio two years later in 1953, and has presented more than 50 recitals. She has taught not only at her studio but in various locations in Northern California including the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC) where she currently teaches every year.

Her students come from a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds, including Japanese, Japanese American, Mexican, Vietnamese, Chinese and European, and 16 of her students have been recognized as “natori” from the head master of the Hanayagi-school.

### **3. Contribution through active engagement with the Japanese and Japanese American communities in the Bay Area.**

Madame Hanayagi has not only contributed significantly to the introduction of Japanese classical dance in the Bay Area, but she has also played significant and invaluable roles on various occasions introducing Japanese culture. It would be difficult to talk about promoting mutual understanding between Japan and this region over the last half century and of how Japanese identities were preserved and maintained in the Japanese and Japanese American communities in the Bay Area without mentioning her name.

### **4. Developing Future Art Experts through Educational Programs**

Madame Hanayagi’s activities have gone beyond the Bay Area and Northern California. She has presented performances at various Expos abroad and she has also performed at the Kabuki-za in Tokyo.

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