

**Nobuko Saito Cleary** is the President of Cross-Cultural Communications, an international business consulting firm that specializes in US-Japan business relationships. In 1997, she joined the Japan Society of Northern California Board of Directors. She served as Chair for many galas, especially the 100<sup>th</sup>, 110<sup>th</sup>, 115<sup>th</sup>, and the 120th Anniversary Galas and raised a significant amount of money. She also brought four prime ministers of Japan, diplomats, business leaders, world famous entertainers and Nobel Peace Prize winner scientists to the annual gala as recipients of the Award of Honor.

Nobuko serves on the Board of Directors for the Community School of Music and Arts in Mountain View, CA where she brought and raised 13 million dollars to build a school and donated the Cleary Ensemble Room, as well as the Tateuchi Hall. She serves as Chairman for Japanese Programs at Hidden Villa in Los Altos Hills where she started Japanese Cultural Days, and for the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation, where she served on the board and as Gala Chair.

Since 2009, Nobuko has served as co-chair with her husband, Dr. Gary Cleary, of The Glaucoma Research Foundation (GRF) Gala. Nobuko was a Trustee for Northeastern University in Boston and was an initial donor of the University's Asian American Center, where she established two Nobuko Saito Cleary Trailblazer Scholarships for Asian Women.

Dr. Gary and Nobuko supported Rikuzentakata when the Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami hit northeast of Honshu on March 11, 2011. They brought funds each year until Rikuzentakata was able to have a plant ceremony in June, 2017, a promise for its future. They planted the pine tree at Takata-Matsubara Pine Forest on the beach with the Governor of Iwate and the Mayor of Rikuzentakata and 400 people.

Nobuko has received numerous awards, primarily recognizing her efforts in promoting Japan and U.S. relationships. Her dedication to peace-building and cultural remembrance has earned her recognition from various organizations, including the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and WTO in Geneva in 2025. She was recently honored with the Rising Sun with Silver Ray Award from the Emperor of Japan in 2022. Other recognitions include a Certificate of Commendation from the Consul General of Japan in San Francisco, Certificates of Appreciation from the Consul General of Houston and Los Angeles, a Congratulatory Message from Mr. Yoshihiko Noda and Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, the Nagoya Mayor's Award and the San Francisco Mayor's Award, and the Foreign Minister Award in 2015. In 2025 she gave a talk with former Prime Minister Fumio Kishida at United Nations University in Tokyo about nonproliferation and disarmament and received a Certificate of Appreciation from Rector Tshilidzi Marwala. In 2025, she received the Humanitarian Award from the Japan Society of Northern California, the West Coast's leading forum on US. Japan relations since 1905.

In 2016, she produced Barry Frechette's Documentary, "Paper Lanterns" -- again bridging U.S. and Japan bonds. In 2018, the U.S. screenings culminated in her speech at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco and at the United Nations in New York. In 2023, the film screened at APEC in San Francisco and in 2026, at the San Francisco Public Library. Additionally, she has screened the film at many universities such as Harvard, Northeastern, Boston, Tufts, Rice, and Stanford, as well as many universities in Japan.

She has produced two other films, "Challenged" - about performers with limited abilities and "Dr. Bala" - about a humanitarian physician providing medical care and instruction in southeast Asian countries. In 2019, she served as the Director of the American River Conservancy Japanese Committee on Wakamatsu Fest 150 that celebrated the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the U.S in 1869. Recently, Nobuko and her husband, Dr. Gary Cleary donated his 19th Century collection of Pharmaceutical Equipment to the newly rebuilt Hospital Museum at the Angel Island Immigration Station in San Francisco.

Nobuko graduated from Tokai Gakuen Women's College in Japan, received her BA in English from Northeastern University (becoming their first Japanese graduate), and was awarded an MA with Phonology and Linguistics from SJSU. She has done postgraduate work at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business and at the University of Alberta, Canada – a Japanese and Canadian governments-sponsored honors program.