



Hilary Koreeda

My name is Hilary Koreeda, and I currently serve on the Executive Committee as a Director. This year, more than ever before, proved how complex our club is, and how crucial it is to have the right blend of talents on the EC, and I think we have succeeded at keeping the club financially stable and available to the members, in spite of the constant, changing challenges posed by the pandemic. I am running for vice-president. I am a graduate of Georgetown and Wesleyan Universities, and up until the pandemic hit, I was employed part-time with the Town of Fairfield. My husband Tatsu and I joined the club in 1996, and our daughter Kerry grew up in the club, and now she and her family enjoy coming here, too. So, I want the club to stay strong for the future. When we came to Fairfield, we were looking to become part of a community, and over the years we have found that community, and much more, here at the G.A.C. For me, it's walking through the doors and being among people who share the music and the customs and traditions that I grew up with, and, as an international family, it's being among friends who understand what it's like to come to a new country and make a life here, who know – especially now that the borders have been closed -- what it feels like to get a call from home and not to be able to get there quickly, or perhaps at all. So -- you build tight bonds here. One of our original sponsors was a founding member of the G.A.C., and before she put in our names, her daughter-in-law made sure to let me know how much this club meant to the people who started it, and how hard they worked to make it succeed. Later, I managed the Oral History Video Project, where we talked with members about their experiences coming here, and how much the club meant to them, and it drove the message home: To be accepted here was an honor, and the club's traditions - our shared Irish and Irish-American traditions - are worth carrying on. I have always tried to do my part, whether serving on the Executive Committee (as recording secretary, sergeant-at-arms, or director), or working on the social committee and other committees, or cheering for the various sports teams, or marching in a parade, or volunteering at the Irish festival, or simply showing up as a volunteer to dish out food or to take tickets for an event: the club succeeds because of its people, and the pleasure we take in being together, but it takes commitment. I am willing to make that commitment, and I respectfully ask for your vote.