

March 2000 Meeting ([Click here](#) for meeting photos)

MASTER STORYTELLER, GAIL TSUKIYAMA

What makes one a master storyteller? Perhaps one part of it is the voices **Gail Tsukiyama** heard at home with her Hong Kong-born Chinese mother and her Hawaiian-born Japanese father. Another part might be learning the discipline of poetry, her focus at San Francisco State University, where she earned her B.A., M.A. and the Academy of American Poets award. But the largest part must be the talent and dedication, coupled with a desire to share her heritage with others.



Her first work, *Women of the Silk*, ('91), was praised for the exquisite writing. *The Samurai's Garden*, ('95), tells the tale of Stephen and his recovery from tuberculosis, set against the backdrop of the Japanese invasion of China in the late '30's. *Night of Many Dreams*, ('98), is noted for "evoking how scent and aroma can jog the memory and clutch at the heart." *The Language of Threads*,('99), her latest work, tells the story of Pei, a former silk worker, and her struggle for survival during the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong. Her women characters struggle against adversity and yet, find the resources to prevail. Tsukiyama is also a part-time lecturer in Creative Writing at her alma mater and a freelance book reviewer for the **San Francisco Chronicle** as well as book review editor for [Pacific Rim Voices](#), a project of the KiriYama Pacific Rim Foundation. She lives in El Cerrito, California.

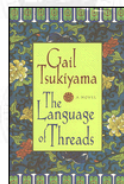
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Links to Gail Tsukiyama related material:

Her [web site](#) has a short bio, reviews of her books and other essentials.

[Interview](#) by Elisabeth Sherwin, Davis (CA) journalist.



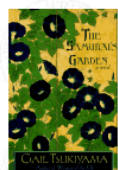
The Language of Threads

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The Samurai's Garden

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Women of the Silk

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