



Cranes are an important symbol in several Asian cultures. In China and Japan, cranes are a symbol of longevity and good fortune because they live a long time. They are also a symbol of fidelity since they mate for life.

It is a Japanese tradition that a bride fold 1001 cranes for her wedding; this tradition is also practiced in Hawai'i. Many brides display the cranes at their reception, sometimes hung from the ceiling as if a huge flock of cranes came to visit for the occasion.

We'd like you to fold a crane for us in commemoration of our wedding. You may use the enclosed sheet of origami paper, or use any kind or size of paper. You may write wishes on the inside or the outside if you would like, and please write your name somewhere on the crane so we know it's from you. You may want to practice a few times before folding the final crane. Please note, you don't need to inflate your crane since you'll have to fold it flat to send to us. We would appreciate it if you would send us your crane by July 15th.

We will display the cranes at our reception and keep them afterwards as a remembrance of the friends and family who have supported us throughout the years and came to help us celebrate our wedding.

We are involved with the Thousand Cranes Peace Network; their goal is to have a million cranes by the year 2000. Please see their website for more information about their activities. You can also visit the Sadako Peace Project to read the moving story of Sadako, a little girl whose life and death inspired people all over the world to fold cranes for peace.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing your crane!

--Chi-An & Keith



RESOURCES ON THE WEB:

Directions on folding cranes (static illustration)

<http://www.sadako.org/foldingcranes.htm>

Directions on folding cranes (dynamic Shockwave illustration)

<http://www.io360.com/v4/yo/iogami/>

(choose the first bird on the left)

Thousand Cranes Peace Network

<http://rosella.apana.org.au/~mlb/cranes/index.htm>

Sadako Peace Project

<http://www.sadako.org/>