

# The Garden Path

Celebrating Asian American Native Hawai'ian  
Pacific Islander Heritage

Spring 2025





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HAIKU

Suspended between  
flower and leaf, a cherry  
accepts the rain

– Peter Kendall

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Dear Members,

Spring is always a wonderful time at the Garden—the chill of winter begins to fade, leaves return to sight, and, of course, we get to witness once again the fleeting beauty of our *sakura*, or cherry blossoms. The energy of the landscape is matched by the energy of our organization—we're going to have an incredible array of programming in the coming weeks: culinary events, shows of ikebana and bonsai, workshops, musical performances, and of course our current art exhibition, *Earthen Elegance: The Ceramic Art of Bizen*.

It is also a meaningful milestone for me—this spring marks one year in the role of President of Portland Japanese Garden's Board of Trustees. To say it has been an honor would be an understatement. My appreciation for this amazing organization has only deepened during this time as I've gotten to meet many of you and hear the personal impact it has made on your lives. The beauty of the landscape is obvious and immediately recognized, but if you spend some time here, you'll recognize its awesome power for cross-cultural understanding, a gift our earliest leaders left for us to maintain and strengthen. The Garden brings home the point time and time again through nature, art, and culture: for whatever differences we may have, there is so much more that bonds us.

You'll notice that this issue has a theme of celebrating Asian American, Native Hawai'iian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month, which occurs annually in May. We're honored to highlight voices from this community, including Garden Board Member and Oregon Legislator, Representative Mari Watanabe, Garden volunteer Mona Ozaki, and Kerry Marumoto,

whose mother donated the remarkable weeping cherry tree you saw on the front cover. Every story is told from an individual's perspective but they all highlight universal messages: how representation matters, the joy of community, and how an act of care can ripple well into the future.

AANHPI Heritage Month holds personal significance for me as someone who is Asian American. More than the responsibility I feel to teach my sons about the cultural background they're inheriting, it is a pleasure. And that is something I've grown to increasingly appreciate about Portland Japanese Garden. Whether it's by taking part in the programming in the Cultural Village or walking its grounds, the Garden is continually engaging with you. Inevitably, it asks you to think more about *your* stories and *your* experiences and invites you to share them with others. I am deeply proud to be part of an organization that fosters this kind of community building.

I look forward to seeing you on May 6 for our Member's Day followed by our Annual Meeting of the Membership. It's going to be a great day where we will have family-friendly activities that highlight the many things to love about the Garden. We will also be looking back at the remarkable year we had in 2024 and providing updates on the state of the organization. We'll also be hearing from our leadership team that has helped provide deft guidance and rock-solid stability during this year of transition.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul".

Paul Schommer  
President, Board of Trustees



Seasonal Assistant Bonsai Caretaker, Masaki Shimada, attends to bonsai ahead of the Bonsai Society of Portland's exhibition at the Garden in 2024.

## Member News & Events

### The Beauty of Bonsai Returns

April 26 & 27

We're excited to welcome back the Bonsai Society of Portland (BSOP) for an exhibition in the Yanai Family Classroom this April. This show will include dozens of bonsai from BSOP members' private collections, including several world-class examples of this ancient Japanese art form. To learn more visit [japanesegarden.org/bsop-2025](https://japanesegarden.org/bsop-2025)



EnTaiko will once again delight Garden guests with a musical performance during this year's celebration of Children's Day.

### Celebrate with Kids! *Kodomo no Hi* Cultural Festival

April & May

*Kodomo no Hi*, or Children's Day, is observed in Japan as a time to honor all children in the hopes that they will grow up healthy and strong. Cloth carp streamers, or *koinobori*, are flown to bring good fortune to them. Come to the Garden with your family to listen to *taiko* music performed by children, create origami projects, and satisfy your curiosity about *koi*. Make sure you visit our website to learn how we'll be celebrating Children's Day through specially-themed demonstrations and performances throughout late April and early May. Go to [japanesegarden.org/childrens-day-2025](https://japanesegarden.org/childrens-day-2025)

### Gather With Your Fellow Members for an Afternoon Celebrating You!

May 6

Join us on a day we're opening exclusively to our members to show our appreciation! This open-house style gathering is fun for the whole family with activities highlighting our programming, events, and community partners. The afternoon will conclude with the Annual Membership Meeting! Leadership including Executive Director Lisa Christy and Board of Trustees President Paul Schommer will give an annual overview for members and will present about the organization's future. For more information, go to [japanesegarden.org/annual-meeting-2025](https://japanesegarden.org/annual-meeting-2025)



## Asian American Native Hawai'ian Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May

AANHPI Heritage Month is a time to reflect upon and celebrate the remarkable contributions of those who are of Asian American, Native Hawai'ian, and Pacific Islander ancestry in our nation's history. Founded in 1963 to heal the wounds of World War II, Portland Japanese Garden is proud to represent this community and exist as a place that can continue to inspire harmony and peace. We'll be sharing how we'll be celebrating the AANHPI community in our weekly e-newsletter.

### Member Exclusive: Enjoy the Garden During Special Extended Hours

All Members:

May 12, June 9, & July 7 | 6:30 - 8:00pm

Photographer Members:

April 2 | 7:00 - 8:00am

May 19, June 23, & July 21 | 6:30 - 8:00pm

During longer and warmer days, members are invited to visit during extended hours! Tickets can be reserved online or when you arrive. Dates and times are subject to change.

### Member Exclusive: Experience the Garden in the Beauty of Twilight

June 13, July 11, & August 8

In addition to the exclusive tours all members can enjoy on the first Saturday every month, Patron and Steward levels, as well as those in the Golden Crane Recognition Society and Sakura Society are invited to attend our special Twilight Hours. These special evenings allow you to experience the Garden, illuminated by the golden light of dusk, and accompanied by delightful music. pFriem Family Brewers will be here, offering free samples. Refreshments and light appetizers will also be provided.

### Explore Japan Alongside Your Fellow Members!

Registration opens April 16 for those in the Golden Crane Recognition Society and April 23 for all members

Those in the Golden Crane Recognition Society and Garden members are invited to join the Garden's tour to Japan this year! For 11 days in October 2025, this tour group will be accompanied by an English-speaking Japanese guide and will explore sites in the cities of Okayama, Osaka, Kyoto, and Tokyo. This journey includes a special focus on beautiful and historic gardens, temples, and shrines. Additionally, this year you will have the unique opportunity to visit EXPO OSAKA 2025, an illustrious gathering of representatives from around the world coming to Japan to explore sustainability through dialogue and the arts! For more details about the itinerary and how to register, visit [japanesegarden.org/member-tour-japan](https://japanesegarden.org/member-tour-japan)



*Garden Members enjoying a stroll through the grounds during our Twilight Hours.*

📷 Jonathan Ley



*The weeping cherry is the only one of its kind in Portland Japanese Garden—a directive issued by its original designer, Professor Takuma Tono of the Tokyo University of Agriculture.*

## Tana's Tree

### The Story of the Weeping Cherry and the Mother Who Gifted it to the Garden

In Portland Japanese Garden there stands one tree rooted in the significance of both what it means to be Asian in America and the strength of a mother's love: its weeping cherry. The story of this tree in the Flat Garden is especially appropriate to tell as May arrives, when we celebrate both Mother's Day and Asian American Native Hawai'iian Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month.

Like so many of Portland Japanese Garden's most revered trees, the weeping cherry lived elsewhere before it arrived here in the early 1960s. Planted in the front yard of a home on Portland's San Rafael Street, a mid-century street widening project necessitated the tree's removal lest it be destroyed or damaged in favor of asphalt and concrete. Simultaneous to this infrastructure work was a request broadcasted out by the Garden for donations of plant life. The Marumoto family would be among several that answered the call. More than 60 years later, Kerry Marumoto, the youngest son of the family, spoke about his family's generous gesture.

### Care Throughout History

"I have a faint memory of going to a garden center with my mom and buying [the weeping cherry]," Kerry offers. "It was just a little tree when she got it. When we went fishing or camping on weekends, we'd look for pretty rocks in rivers. My mom collected small ones that were about the same weight and would tie them to the tree's branches when it was mature enough to hold them. As the tree grew and branches became thicker, she eventually used heavier rocks to shape the limbs."

"I remember that one of my chores was to mow the lawn—we had one of those old rotary lawn mowers you had to push. I had to get underneath that tree and try to mow the lawn with all these rocks hanging down from strings. It was my least favorite part of the yardwork."

When the City came to further develop the land around San Rafael and better accommodate its growing population, the Marumotos learned that their cherry was in a perilous spot. "The tree was planted on the street corner of our property. We might have been able to keep it, but the roots were going to be underneath a sidewalk. It wouldn't have been healthy for the tree. I believe my Aunt Mary suggested that the Garden might be interested in it."



“...Every time I come back to Portland, I want to visit. I always spend time with my mom’s tree and walk through the entire garden and just enjoy it.”

KERRY MARUMOTO

Kerry is referring to Mary Nakadate, his father’s sister, who was a longtime member of Portland Japanese Garden’s Board of Directors (now named the Board of Trustees) from 1978 to 1994. Perhaps because its new host showed such obvious care and because she herself was a generous spirit, Tana Marumoto was satisfied with the weeping cherry’s new home. “She loved sharing,” Kerry shares. “She was a very generous woman. I think she appreciated that it found a home where it was enjoyed, respected, and cared for, a place where other people could appreciate it too. I think that [Professor Tono’s] vision on the setting was remarkable.”

Kerry and his family would make repeated visits to the Garden to see their family tree. “I have memories of being a teenager coming here with my mom,” he says. “We always tried to visit it in March and April when it was in bloom. But she loved the tree in all seasons.”

To read the full story, go to [japanesegarden.org/tanas-tree](http://japanesegarden.org/tanas-tree)



The Marumoto family looks on as their weeping cherry begins its voyage to the Garden in the 1960s. 📷 William “Robbie” Robinson



George and Tana Marumoto visiting the weeping cherry at some point in either the 1970s or 80s. 📷 Kerry Marumoto



Mona Ozaki, Garden Volunteer and Gallery Attendant.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Mona Ozaki

### Volunteer's Care for the Land and Others Makes the Garden Better

Portland Japanese Garden, with a mission of *Inspiring Harmony & Peace* is a lifeline. It tethers us to a common vision of a better tomorrow alongside like-minded individuals. This is perhaps best revealed in the organization's incredible group of volunteers, a group of more than 200 individuals from a diverse number of backgrounds. Remarkably dedicated, they provide richly detailed tours, guide guests through artwork on display in our exhibitions, and tend to the physical landscape of the Garden itself. They are passionate about their work and have what seems to be an endless reservoir of compassion and kindness and care.

One person who exemplifies these profound qualities is Mona Ozaki. Ozaki, who in addition to working as a Gallery Attendant since 2016 has given time as a Horticulture Support volunteer since 2010 and has made a lasting and positive impact. After reaching over 2,000 hours of service, she sat down to discuss her time with the Garden.

### From Hawai'i to Portland

"I remember visiting the Garden during my college experience," Ozaki recalls back to her first time here after arriving in Oregon from her native home of Hawai'i in the 80s. "I spent about a half hour in the Strolling Pond Garden, thinking about my grandfather and journaling. I didn't really connect with the Garden, though, until my son was in a Japanese immersion program. We bought a membership and that's when I started visiting more regularly."

### Volunteering at Portland Japanese Garden

Portland Japanese Garden is fortunate to have an incredible group of volunteers. In 2024 they dedicated more than 10,000 hours to the organization! To learn more about our volunteer opportunities, visit:

[japanesegarden.org/volunteer](http://japanesegarden.org/volunteer)

After retiring in 2010 from her career as a clinical psychologist, Ozaki began volunteering at the Garden. Instinctually humble, she is trepidatious about counting the number of service hours she has donated. "It's hard to feel like I help because I get so much back from volunteering here," she shares. "I get to learn so much. I get to be around such beautiful things—it just feels like being a volunteer around here shouldn't really qualify as work because you get so much, you learn so much."



## Supporting the Land

The bulk of Ozaki's time as a volunteer has been in horticulture support, commonly referred to as "hort support" around the Garden. In weather both balmy and foul, these individuals weed, rake, sweep, and clean, providing incredible support to the staff of the Garden Department led by Garden Curator Hugo Torii. Ozaki is among those trusted to help care for the inner section of the Tea Garden, closed to the public to help protect its delicate moss.

"After I retired, I started volunteering as a docent but what really caught my eye was the hort support," Ozaki recalls. "At first I thought I'd only do that maybe from May to September, but I loved it so much that I just kept doing it. I even made it a condition that if I were to be a gallery attendant, I'd still have to be allowed to take time volunteering and doing hort support—I just love it. Horticulture support volunteers are salt of the earth—they're the best people."

## A Community

"I've been appreciating just how many of the people I have met here are friendships and contacts that I'll have for the rest of my life. The people that are here not only love the Garden, but they're smart. You meet so many fascinating and wonderful people—the Garden winds up attracting them. I've been saying you can't throw a stone here without hitting someone with a PhD."

Being in a space that attracts intelligent people is a thrill for Ozaki, who still enjoys learning. "The Garden is a great place to learn about Japanese culture in a very digestible way—I'm third generation, *Sansei*, so there's a lot I didn't know coming in—I've gained a lot of knowledge by being here. And it's not just from other volunteers or staff—my favorite times in the Pavilion Gallery are when a guest will come in and they know more about the art than I do, and I get to learn from them. I love it."

When asked if she'd encourage others to join her as a volunteer, Ozaki gave an immediate and unsurprising answer: "Absolutely. Absolutely." She feels that those who will get the most out of volunteering are those who arrive willing to learn.

To read the full article, go to [japanesegarden.org/ozaki](https://japanesegarden.org/ozaki)



Ozaki helping during the toro-nagashi, a ceremony of floating lanterns that takes place during O-Bon.



Earthen Elegance: The Ceramic Art of Bizen, a new exhibition in Portland Japanese Garden's Pavilion Gallery, now open through June 9. 📷 Jonathan Ley

## An Age-Old Tradition, Reinvented

### *Earthen Elegance: The Ceramic Art of Bizen* Showcases Modern Interpretation of Ancient Practice

Portland Japanese Garden's first new art exhibition of 2025, *Earthen Elegance: The Ceramic Art of Bizen*, opened in February and is open now through June 9 in the Pavilion Gallery. This exhibition showcases some of Japan's leading potters, each presenting expert and contemporary renditions of a more than 800-year-old tradition.

Bizen ceramics, named for their place of origin in Okayama Prefecture, are subtle and asymmetric, rustic and textured, and can be shaped into any number of unglazed forms including vases, cups, jugs, or more sculptural and experimental forms. The pieces on display are on loan from the Collection of David Sneider and Naomi Pollock. Sneider, an international lawyer, and Pollock, an architect and author, are a married couple who lived in Japan for 30 years and assembled an extensive amount of ceramics representative of several different traditions and practices. Bizen is a style that stands out to them as particularly special.

"Among the numerous ceramic centers in the country, those with deep historical roots, such as Bizen, hold a special place because they have resuscitated and reinvented age-old traditions," Sneider shares. "Bizen is not the only historical ceramics center with medieval origins to experience a revival in the 20th century, but in my view the region has produced a particular abundance of ceramic artists who are creating highly original work that is yet grounded in traditional materials and techniques."



An example of hidasuki (scarlet cord) patterns in the ceramic art of Koichiro Isezaki.

The sensations of harmony and peace felt at Portland Japanese Garden are the product of 60 years of care. Whether it was procuring just the right stones from the cliffs of Terrebonne in the 1960s or sweeping the last black pine needle from a bed of moss, the efforts of multiple generations are too profound not to be felt by those who take the time to take the Garden in.

This dedication is also apparent from the potters of Bizen. Their craft is a time-consuming process that begins, as all things do, with the land. Potters combined different kinds of local clay depending on what they hoped to create. Then the potter would begin to form their desired shape, their work often the result of years of apprenticeship and decades honing their skills to achieve a particular look and feel to their vessels.



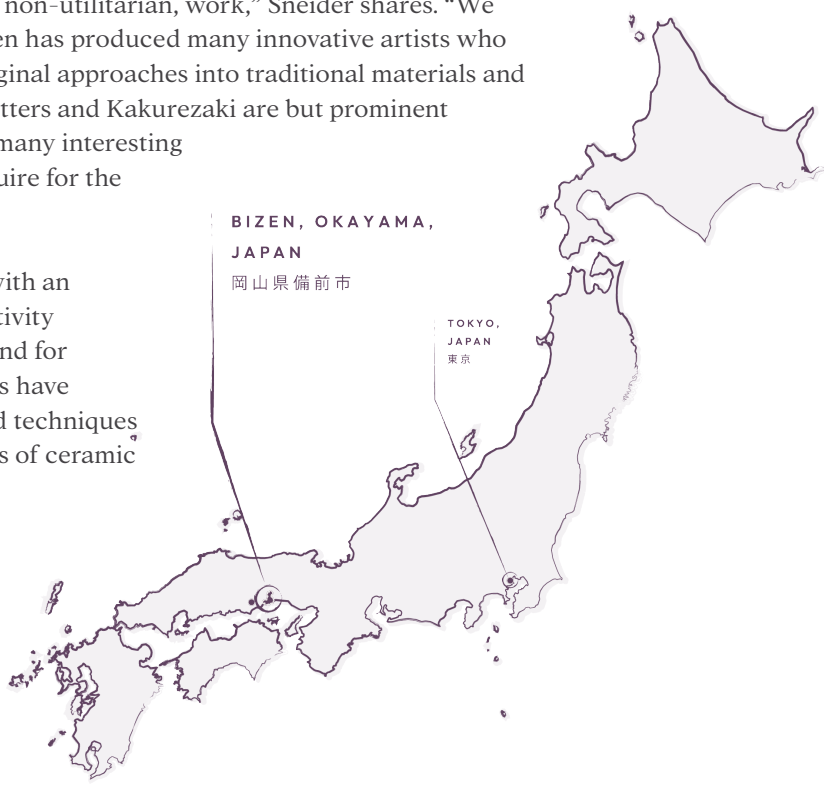
Artists place the pieces within the kiln, using natural elements like wood and straw to draw out specific effects. By loading pieces in specific locations, they can achieve distinct results due to differences in the proximity to flame and resulting ash. As the kiln heats up the craftsperson cedes artistic discretion to chemical reactions born in fire. For example: rice straw placed around the clay becomes molten as its potassium meets the hot temperatures, resulting in reddish hematite micro-crystals where the straw once sat creating a striking hue against the muted colors of the clay. These *hidasuki* (“scarlet cord”) patterns are seen in the work of Koichiro Isezaki (the son of Jun Isezaki) and are characteristic of the Bizen aesthetic. Whatever kinds of clay or materials are used, the vessel may spend at least two weeks being fired.

The final product never forgets the land it came from. Even the more colorful *sangiri* work as seen in the exhibited artwork by Shinichi Yokoyama or playful round marks in the botamochi of Shin Isezaki’s piece still have a decidedly earthy tone. “The rough, powerful and unglazed nature of Bizen pottery seems closer to nature than many other Japanese ceramic traditions, and therefore perhaps particularly suited to the Garden as a locale,” Sneider offers.

Visitors to *Earthen Elegance* will be able to see remarkable work from famous Bizen ceramicists, including the aforementioned Jun Isezaki, a Living National Treasure of Japan, and by Ryūichi Kakurezaki, one of Japan’s most innovative contemporary sculptors, named an Important Intangible Cultural Property of Okayama Prefecture in 2019. “The primary focus of our collection is flower vessels and sculptural, often non-utilitarian, work,” Sneider shares. “We found that over the past decades, Bizen has produced many innovative artists who have strived to incorporate highly original approaches into traditional materials and kiln techniques. The Isezaki family potters and Kakurezaki are but prominent examples. As a result, we discovered many interesting artists whose work we wanted to acquire for the Collection.”

“I hope that visitors will come away with an appreciation for the tremendous creativity of contemporary Japanese ceramics and for the brilliant way in which Bizen artists have incorporated traditional materials and techniques into highly original and modern works of ceramic art,” Sneider concludes.

To learn more about the history of Bizen ceramics, visit the Garden and read the rest of the article at [japanesegarden.org/bizen-story](https://japanesegarden.org/bizen-story)



## Exhibitions On Show

*Earthen Elegance: The Ceramic Art of Bizen* is now open in the Pavilion Gallery through June 9.

*Natural Patterns: Katazome Stencil Dyeing*, an exhibition that features Karen Illman Miller’s *katazome*, a method of using exquisitely cut paper stencils and resist paste to dye fabrics, is now open through September 15 in the Calvin and Mayho Tanabe Gallery.

For more details, visit: [japanesegarden.org/events](https://japanesegarden.org/events)



Mari Watanabe, Portland Japanese Garden Trustee and Oregon legislator, at an event held by the organization in 2024. 📷 Jonathan Ley

## Representation Matters

### Rep. Mari Watanabe, Board Trustee of Portland Japanese Garden, Makes History by Becoming First Japanese American Woman to Join Oregon Legislature

On January 19, 2025, history was made at Portland Japanese Garden when Oregon State Representative Mari Watanabe was sworn in by Justice Aruna Masih of the Oregon Supreme Court to fill a vacant seat for House District 34. Watanabe, who has served on the Garden's Board of Trustees since May 2024, is the granddaughter of Japanese immigrants and has been a Portland resident since 2000.

Representative Watanabe's appointment, certified by Oregon Secretary of State Tobias Read at the ceremony, makes her the first Japanese American woman to serve in the Oregon legislature, a body that held its first regular session in 1860. "I am so proud to be the first Japanese American woman in the state legislature," Watanabe shared. "I am a third generation Japanese American whose ancestors have been in America for over 120 years. This is historic."

Oregon's newest legislator took time the following day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, to discuss with us this important moment for the region's Japanese American community, the state of Oregon, and Portland Japanese Garden.

### A Milestone Moment Takes Place at the Garden

The creation of Portland Japanese Garden is most directly tied to efforts among the city's civic leaders and friends overseas in Sapporo, Japan in the aftermath of World War II. Its importance gains deeper significance when one considers those of Japanese ancestry were subject to government-sponsored cruelty as soon as they began immigrating to Oregon in the 19th century. While work remains to make the region a place where Japanese Americans, and all Asian Americans, can thrive and live without fear of discrimination, the Garden has been credited as having facilitated better understanding and friendship with a culture and people once dubbed "the enemy." The organization's mission of *Inspiring Harmony and Peace* is thus both a statement of deeds done and aspirations that propel it forward.

"I just thought of what place resonated with me, my values, and my heritage the most—it was Portland Japanese Garden," Watanabe says. "I thought, 'Wow, if I could have this ceremony there, that would make this a complete circle.' I was really happy when [Lisa Christy, Executive Director of the organization] said yes. Lisa was so gracious and the staff was so willing."



“When we have places that are of and share different cultures it makes the people from those cultures feel more welcome knowing they are represented,” Watanabe continued, explaining why places like Portland Japanese Garden are important to their communities. “It then allows others who do not understand or know about this culture to learn without having to fly to Japan. The Garden’s programming really helps people expand their perspective on Japanese heritage. I think this is very important—being able to have places to come together and be inclusive and encourage understanding. It really makes me feel good people love the beauty and culture of the Japanese.”



Watanabe (right) holds her right hand up as she is sworn in by Justice Aruna Masih of the Oregon Supreme Court (left). Beaverton City Council Member Nadia Hasan looks on.

## On Being the First

It is always a joyous moment when leaders from marginalized communities navigate a thrum of historic and still systemic persecution to achieve success in government, business, the arts, nonprofits sectors, and beyond. And yet, these watershed events are also tinged with regret—these individuals should not have encountered barriers in the first place. We should not have waited this long for such firsts.

“I didn’t want to be the first,” Watanabe notes. “I think the Japanese American experience during World War II created this cautiousness of doing something like this. When my family was incarcerated, they didn’t know why. They were told they were an enemy alien. They didn’t even know where Pearl Harbor was or had ties to Japan. They realized, ‘We are being thrown behind barbed wire because we look like this. We look this way, we look like the enemies.’ I have been thinking about those whispers and things that I heard all my life, based on their experience, that to be a good American, you have to keep your head down, don’t make waves. Being in politics is definitely going against all those things. I’m going to say that for me this is really stepping out of my comfort zone.”

*Watanabe’s Oath of Office, signed by her and Justice Aruna Masih of the Oregon Supreme Court.*



“Sometimes people will come up to me and say, ‘Oh my god, I came just to hear you speak because it’s the first time I’ve ever seen an Asian woman speak to this group,’” Watanabe concludes. “Even just last week I had somebody’s son who was born in Vietnam want to come work with me just because I look like him. Those things are not lost on me. I think that’s why I keep saying to myself, ‘Representation matters.’ We need to see ourselves in these positions so that we know we can get them if we want them.”

To read the full article, go to [japanesegarden.org/watanabe](https://japanesegarden.org/watanabe)



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*Cumulative giving to the Annual Fund from  
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## Corporate and Foundation Golden Crane Society

Cumulative giving to the Annual Fund from December 1, 2023 through January 31, 2025.

For questions regarding Corporate Golden Crane Society, please contact Nici Grigg, Corporate Relations Manager, at (503) 542-9301 or [ngrigg@japanesegarden.org](mailto:ngrigg@japanesegarden.org).

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Thank you



If you would like to make a donation or have any questions about the Golden Crane Society, please contact Claire Eisenfeld, Director of Development, at (503) 542-0281 or [ceisenfeld@japanesegarden.org](mailto:ceisenfeld@japanesegarden.org).

If you live more than 100 miles from the Garden and would like to join our Global Ambassador Society, please contact Claire Eisenfeld, Director of Development at (503) 542-0281 or [ceisenfeld@japanesegarden.org](mailto:ceisenfeld@japanesegarden.org)

Global Ambassador Society recognizes donors who give a total of \$500 or more annually and live more than 100 miles from Portland Japanese Garden.

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Members of the Phoenix Legacy Society have named the Garden as the ultimate beneficiary of a planned gift. We are grateful to the following people for letting us know of their plans to support the Garden in this enduring way.

If you would like to include the Garden in your estate plans, or if you have already done so and would allow us to list you as a Legacy Society Member, please contact Claire Eisenfeld, Director of Development, at (503) 542-0281 or [ceisenfeld@japanesegarden.org](mailto:ceisenfeld@japanesegarden.org).

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# Night of a Thousand Cranes Returns!

October 18

Portland Japanese Garden is excited to bring back its Night of a Thousand Cranes this year, an evening of appreciation for our leadership donors in the Golden Crane Recognition Society who contribute \$5,000 or more annually. You won't want to miss the return of this favorite fall festivity, with a cocktail reception followed by a seated dinner under the stars. If you would like to learn more, call Claire Eisenfeld, Director of Development, at (503) 542 0281.

Night of a Thousand Cranes in 2022. 📷 Nina Johnson





(L-R) Sada Uchiyama, Curator Emeritus of Portland Japanese Garden, Hitoshi Abe, professor and Director of the UCLA Paul I. and Hisako Terasaki Center for Japanese Studies, and Frank Feltens, Curator of Japanese Art at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art at the 2025 edition of Living Traditions, held at the World Forestry Center in Washington Park.



A family enjoying an ikebana workshop as part of the Garden's Hina Matsuri (Doll's Day) festival in March.



In March, Consul General Ken Todoriki (second from left) of the Consular Office of Japan in Portland toured the Garden. Joining him (L-R) are Lisa Christy, Executive Director of Portland Japanese Garden, outgoing Consul General Yuzo Yoshioka, and Misako Ito, Executive Director of our organization's Japan Office in Tokyo.



Lavita Wai, volunteer and a member of the organization's Golden Crane Recognition Society, exchanges a dollar for a good luck chomp during the Edo Kotobuki Jishi, celebratory traditional lion dance of Tokyo, at the Garden's celebration of Japanese New Year.





*Dr. Calvin Tanabe, Trustee Emeritus, watching Representative Mari Watanabe make history by becoming Oregon’s first Japanese American legislator. A Portland native, Tanabe was among those incarcerated at a concentration camp during World War II.*



*Guests enjoying exploring Earthen Elegance: The Ceramic Art of Bizen during the special preview reception for the Garden’s Golden Crane Recognition Society. 📷 Jonathan Ley*



*Naomi Pollock (center) and her husband David Sneider along with their daughter Abigail Sneider in the Pavilion for the opening of Earthen Elegance: The Ceramic Art of Bizen, an exhibition that features works from their collection. 📷 Jonathan Ley*



*Members of the Sakura Society, the Garden’s newest membership tier for emerging leaders, enjoying each others company at its inaugural reception in the Pavilion Gallery.*



DID YOU KNOW?

Visitors to the Garden can now enjoy the Family Studio, a dedicated space in the Cultural Village that invites families to sit down, pick an activity, and linger during their visit to the Garden. To know which weekend days it will be open, make sure you visit our website, [japanesegarden.org/events](http://japanesegarden.org/events)

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