

The Garden Path

Seasonal Transformations

June/July 2024



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HAIKU

For a companion
a patch of sunlight on the moss
of a shady nook

– Peter Kendall

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Dear Members,

When we talk about Portland Japanese Garden, it's often through the lens of the four seasons. But there is something to appreciate about the transitional periods between the seasons. We are experiencing this right now, as we see spring departing and summer approaching. It is special to see this take place, especially in Portland Japanese Garden, where the *moegi-iro*, or vibrant almost yellow-ish shade of new leaf green color, gives way to robust verdant tones. Beyond this, it's also a moment of transition for the Garden as we prepare for the retirement of our CEO, Steve Bloom, in January of next year.

Following the Annual Meeting of the Membership in May, I assumed the role of Board President. I am honored to take on this role during a significant moment in the organization's history. Steve's impact on Portland Japanese Garden and our community is immeasurable. Under his leadership, we have seen our membership and annual attendance grow exponentially. He also created a curatorial department that oversees more than 200 events annually and has kept the Garden grounds in world-class condition. Steve has transformed not only the physical footprint of the Garden, but his impact also extends to the broader landscape of Portland, the international field of Japanese gardens, and the global conversation around the art and importance of cultural diplomacy. Steve, I speak for everyone when I say how appreciative we are for all you have done and how reassuring it is to know that you will continue to be our champion and advocate as you transition into your well-earned retirement.

I am also honored to follow the leadership of the Immediate Past Board President, Drake Snodgrass, and join those who have helped steward the organization in this capacity over its more than 60 years. Our mission of *Inspiring Harmony and Peace* is deeply significant to me. Through the privilege of being a part of a third-generation family business, I have a deep appreciation for tradition of omotenashi (wholehearted service and hospitality) and excellent craftsmanship—both of which are shared values at Portland Japanese Garden.

I have had the pleasure of serving Portland Japanese Garden as a member of its Board of Trustees for ten years now. My family and I have found Portland Japanese Garden to be a place of respite and beauty. I personally have a deep appreciation for excellence in craft that the Garden exhibits through art, cultural programs, and nature itself. It is a point of pride that we attract visitors from around the world to our beautiful state and it brings me joy when I see my own friends and family experience it, whether for the first time or on return visits.

The Garden encompasses the best of Portland, bringing moments of wonderment to our community and to many visitors from around the globe—representing all 50 states and more than 90 nations. Walking through our grounds, you can hear snippets of conversations in a multitude of different languages. You quickly learn: the world visits Portland Japanese Garden. In an age where division and tension is all-too-present in our daily lives, it is reassuring knowing that so many people from so many places want to be somewhere that values the gifts of nature and cross-cultural understanding.

Portland Japanese Garden continues to grow and evolve and transition, just as we will, together. Because of the support of an incredible community: our members, donors, volunteers, staff, and Board members, the Garden will continue to be as vital and meaningful as it was when it was first founded.

With gratitude,

Paul Schommer
President, Board of Trustees

Member News & Events

Portland Japanese Garden to Partner with Nobel Peace Center in Presenting Interactive Artwork by Yoko Ono

June 7 - 10

Portland Japanese Garden will be partnering with the Nobel Peace Center, Yoko Ono's studio, and public gardens around the world to feature a global Wish Tree installation. The Wish Tree is an interactive artwork created by acclaimed artist and global peace advocate Yoko Ono. Ono, who was 12 years old and living in Japan when nuclear bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II, has spent more than six decades rallying for disarmament.



The Wish Tree.
 Christian Tunge/Nobel Peace Center © Yoko Ono

From June 7-10, guests to Portland Japanese Garden will be invited to reflect and write their wishes for peace that will then be tied to the Wish Tree's branches. After its presence here concludes, the wishes are preserved and continue on in connection with the IMAGINE PEACE TOWER in Reykjavík, Iceland, to join the chorus of global citizens calling for peace. Portland Japanese Garden, which has a mission of *Inspiring Harmony and Peace*, is honored to participate in this project that promotes peacemaking through culture, art, and nature.

More information can be found at japanesegarden.org/wish-tree



Fukusa from The Peter and Beverly Sinton Japanese Gift and Altar Cover Collection. © Nina Johnson

Lecture: Explore the Fascinating History of *Fukusa*

June 23

Peter Sinton will share insight into Japan's unique gift-giving traditions and the rarified art form of fukusa. He will discuss the themes, styles and the time-consuming artistic and technical skill of the fukusa that will be featured in the Painting with Thread exhibit on display in the Calvin and Mayho Tanabe Gallery (June 22 - September 16). Fukusa are ornate textiles of Japanese silk that were traditionally used in formal gift-giving rituals amongst prominent families in Japan 300 years starting in the Edo period. Peter and Beverly Sinton are appreciators and collectors of Japanese textile art who generously donated their extensive collection to the Garden for visitors to enjoy, and this is the first time these works of functional art have been displayed at the Garden.

Get Ready For Irises!

One of the horticultural highlights of Portland Japanese Garden in summer are the blooming of irises alongside the Zig-Zag Bridge in the Strolling Pond Garden. While every year is different, the Garden's irises tend to bloom in late June, just as it officially becomes summer. To help plan your visit to see them, we will be tracking the state of their blooms at japanesegarden.org/iris-watch

Mark Your Calendars!

Maple Pruning Workshop

July 13

The Garden's highly coveted Maple Pruning Workshop provides a basic understanding for Japanese maples and various types of maple pruning methods and techniques. Tickets for Garden Workshops are available to members only through a lottery system to ensure equal opportunity for those wishing to participate. The lottery for this special event will open to Members on June 12th. For those with Golden Crane Premium Membership levels, tickets will be on sale from June 5th through June 12th.

Enjoy the Garden During Extended Hours

June 6, June 16, July 1, July 18

In addition to regular member-only hours from 8-10am every morning the Garden is open, this summer Portland Japanese Garden members can enjoy seeing the Garden in its beauty in as the sun begins to set. All membership levels and their guests are welcome!

Tanabata, The Star Festival Returns to the Garden

July 7

Tanabata, the Star Festival, is one of five seasonal Japanese festivals that has been celebrated since the eighth century. Each summer in Japan, people prepare for the festival by writing their wishes on narrow strips of paper called *tanzaku* and hanging them with other origami paper ornaments on bamboo branches displayed at the entrance to their homes and public places. Guests attending Portland Japanese Garden's *Tanabata* celebration will be invited to write their own wishes on *tanzaku* and enjoy music and storytelling from Takohachi.



Guests writing on *tanzaku*, or wish strips, at the Garden's Star Festival Celebration in 2023.
 © Portland Japanese Garden

For all the latest details on Garden events, including dates and times, go to japanesegarden.org/events and for reminders and updates, sign up for our weekly e-newsletter at japanesegarden.org/newsletter



The new hinoki hedges in front of the tea house in the Tea Garden. 📷 Portland Japanese Garden

Bringing the Mountains to the Tea Garden

New Hinoki Hedges Replace Hemlock in Garden Space

In March, the Garden Department of Portland Japanese Garden and its leader, Garden Curator Hugo Torii, engaged in a project to improve the Tea Garden. The space is a beautiful depiction of a style connected to *Chado* (Tea Ceremony), a deeply meaningful practice that Murata Shuko (1423-1502) is credited as having founded; one that was heightened by tea master Takeno Joo (1502-1555) and his pupil, the individual considered to be the greatest tea master, Sen no Rikyu (1522-1591). However, its outer periphery of hemlock hedges had been facing continual decline. “Unfortunately, the hemlock was experiencing root problems and fungal issues and the area had some problems with its drainage,” Torii shared.

After the hemlock was removed and the drainage improved, the space was filled with nearly 20 new *hinoki*, a cypress native to Japan that has been known to have been a part of Japanese garden design since the nation’s Heian period (794-1185). While the work to replace the hemlock was initiated at the suggestion of the gardeners he oversees, Torii ultimately determined what plant would replace it. “There were several elements to consider,” Torii pointed out. “In addition to making sure we would choose a plant suitable for the aesthetics and authenticity of our Tea Garden, we were limited by what was available in the market and what’s best for the environment. After considering some other plants, we went with *hinoki*. It has a dark and rich green color and excellent texture. It also works well in the Tea Garden because it helps provide the space with a more mountainous aesthetic. Historically, tea gardens have been designed to resemble mountain hermitages.”

“This particular *hinoki*, *hinoki chabohiba*, can be pruned and shaped in many different ways,” Torii noted. One only has to look further into the Tea Garden past the hedges to find a taller version of the plant, in the innermost section of the space, next to the Oribe lantern and *tsukubai* (water basin). “It will likely take several years for the hedges to start to come into a more ideal form, but our plan is to show how different pruning styles can give a different presentation and feel of the same trees. This is a long-term project, so the gardeners will have to work to make sure they have a shared vision and the skills to incrementally develop the hedges to our ideal style.”

Another notable change to the Tea Garden was the removal of a weeping Japanese maple tree near the *Kashintei* Tea House, which was escorted to its new home on the western edge of the Flat Garden across from the Membership Center. “It was too beautiful,” Torii noted.

Tea gardens do not typically feature specimen trees, plants that catch and focus the eye for us to look inwards rather than outwards. “[A tea garden] must look natural so as to be in harmony with the spirit of Tea Ceremony and conducive to a meditative frame of mind,” the Garden’s original designer, Professor Takuma Tono of Tokyo Agricultural University wrote in his 1958 book, *A Secret of Japanese Gardens*. “Once in the garden, one may feel detached from the world and away from the hustle and bustle of life. A rustic looking lantern, water basin, or trees and plants are important features.”

Torii noted that more changes may come to the Tea Garden over the next few years, contemplating making adjustments to its entry and possibly adding additional areas for people to sit and enjoy the serenity of the space. He also would like to eventually add more trees to give the space a more intimate feeling.

“Ultimately, I’m very proud of our gardeners and how they worked together on this,” Torii concluded. “They came up with the plan to replace the hemlock, install improved drainage, and to place the weeping Japanese maple in a part of the Garden that suits it better. I hope to continue to empower them as they engage in *kaizen* [continuous improvement] throughout our landscape while holding its essence of authenticity.”

To learn other places where *hinoki* can be found in Portland Japanese Garden, go to japanesegarden.org/hinoki

The weeping maple gets escorted to its new home in the Flat Garden. 📷 Portland Japanese Garden





Jan Waldmann conducting a presentation of tea ceremony in recent years. 📷 Jonathan Ley

Cultural Partner Spotlight: Jan Waldmann

Longtime Garden Friend Has Helped Thousands Learn About *The Way of Tea*

Portland Japanese Garden is honored to have the dedicated support of local artists, musicians, and practitioners who share their expertise and talents with our guests at cultural demonstrations and performances. They help us pursue our mission of *Inspiring Harmony and Peace* by shining light on Japanese culture as a form of cultural diplomacy. One such individual is Jan Waldmann, who sat down with *The Garden Path* to talk about her nearly 50 years of collaboration with the Garden.

Waldmann is one of Portland Japanese Garden's beloved cultural partners and an expert and teacher in *Chado* and can often be found leading tea presentations in the Cathy Rudd Cultural Corner in the Jordan Schnitzer Japanese Arts Learning. But what is Chado? "It's the traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony that is a particular manner of preparing and drinking a bowl of tea," Waldmann shares. "More than just making and serving tea, this tradition is based in formality. In many ways, it is a microcosm of the Japanese sense of *omotenashi*, which translates as wholehearted hospitality."

"There are very few people, even in Japan, that I would consider a true connoisseur of tea as an art form—many become entrenched in the formalities and stylized etiquette," Portland Japanese Garden's Arlene Schnitzer Curator of Culture, Art, and Education, Aki Nakanishi shares. "Jan, though, possesses a unique quality of being able to internalize the refined beauty of Tea Ceremony, communicate the essence of being one with the art itself, embodying its tranquility and grace, and opening windows of self-reflection for others to feel. We're fortunate to have Jan as a partner. She has remarkable dedication and passion for tea, Portland Japanese Garden, and everything that exists in between."

Waldmann's passion for Tea began, naturally, in Japan. "Growing up, anything Japanese intrigued me and I had an aunt who shared my interests, so we'd talk about it," Waldmann recounts. "My mother took me to my first Tea Ceremony [in Tokyo]. There was no English translation. [My mother and I] just sort of sat there. The utensils and the way they walked intrigued me. I just had to know more—little did I think it would end up in a lifetime of study."

"I just had to know more—little did I think it would end up in a lifetime of study"

JAN WALDMANN | PORTLAND JAPANESE GARDEN CULTURAL PARTNER

Waldmann's nearly 50 years of association with Portland Japanese Garden began around this time in the mid-to-late 1970s. "It was so different then," she laughs. "I mean, obviously, buildings-wise, but also it was just a handful of people, a handful of gardeners. I just loved it; I was in another world. It was an oasis outside the day-to-day." Waldmann notes that her time at the Garden and the relationships she made in the Tea community of Portland led her to eventually studying and completing a three-year course in Kyoto. Afterwards she got her certification so she could teach it back home in Oregon. In addition to her contributions to Portland Japanese Garden, she is president of the Chado Urasenke Tankokai Portland Wakai Association, an organization that gets its legitimacy from the Kyoto-based Urasenke Foundation. She also teaches the subject at Lewis & Clark College.

Waldmann enjoys being able to provide Tea Ceremony demonstrations at the Garden. "I love it," Waldmann glows. "It gives people the opportunity, in a few minutes, to watch something and be able to ask questions. I don't mind if people get up and walk out, that's absolutely fine—at least one person is staying. I think everything [including performances of *koto* music, *ikebana* demonstrations, and more] at the Cultural Corner gives people an opportunity to look into something they might want to follow up with." If you've attended a Tea Ceremony demonstration and were hesitant about asking questions: don't be. Waldmann encourages them. "Yes, yes, definitely," she quickly affirmed when asked herself if people should approach to learn more after the demonstration ends.

"There are those who study and practice the tea ceremony, but very few who live the spirit of the Way of Tea every day of their lives," offers Diane Durston, Curator Emerita of Portland Japanese Garden. "Jan Waldmann is one of the few. Unpretentiously with humility and graciousness, Jan has been sharing her knowledge of *Chanoyu* [another term used for Tea Ceremony] with a compassionate and open heart as a guiding light at the Garden for decades. I personally owe her so much for all she did and all she continues to do to keep that spirit alive at the Garden."

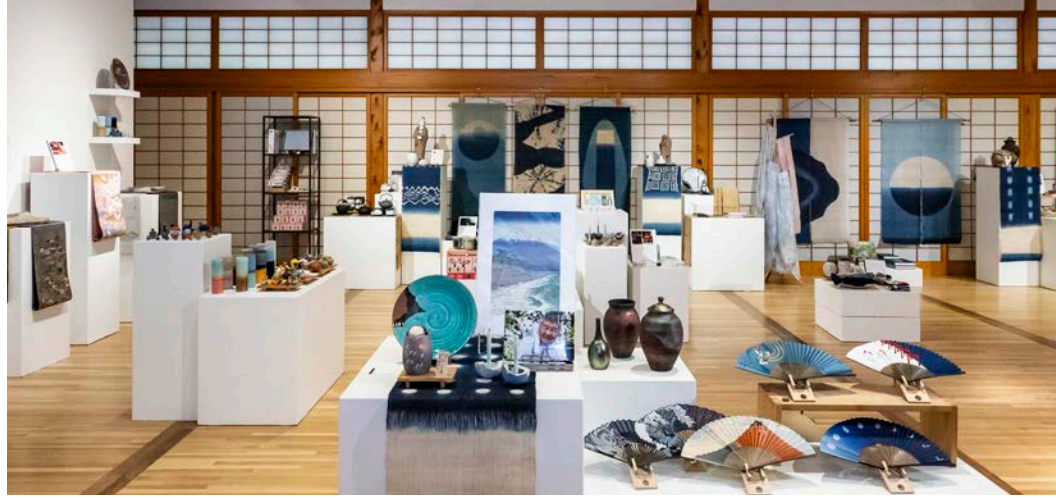
"Jan is a wonderful person and a great teacher," Portland Japanese Garden Curator Emeritus Sadafumi Uchiyama concurs. "The practice of Tea Ceremony is native to Japan, but her understanding is international. She has a practical approach that I appreciate—she can adjust to the setting and audience without compromising the principles of Tea. Not many can do that. We have to appreciate that she is a great representative for Portland Japanese Garden—people get to see who we are through her respectful and genuine personality."

To learn more about Waldmann's fascinating journey, make sure you read the full version of this article at japanesegarden.org/jan-waldmann



Jan Waldmann in 1976 in Portland Japanese Garden helping with a presentation of Tea.

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Behind the Shoji as seen in 2023. 📷 Nina Johnson

Behind the Shoji to Feature Bright Colors and Gold Leaf

Annual Summer Marketplace Brings the Art of Craft to Portland from Kanazawa, Tokyo, and More

For more than a decade, *Behind the Shoji* has been one of Portland Japanese Garden's most anticipated summer traditions. An annual show and sale of Japanese and Japanese-inspired wares, visitors can peruse and purchase from a variety of curated items that, even with a trip to Japan, might be difficult to come across. What makes this elevated and distinctive shopping experience stand out is the amount of time that goes into establishing relationships with craftspeople and vendors in communities across Japan and the careful research into making sure visitors to the Garden are indeed perusing goods that are authentically Japanese in their makeup and design.

Guests to *Shoji* this year will see a range of different goods and wares including some captivating new items. Director of Buying and Merchandising Ashley McQuade is particularly excited to share goods featuring *kinpaku*, or gold leaf, from Kanazawa. Gold leaf has been an art form practiced in the coastal city since as early as the sixteenth century—Kanazawa literally translates to “marsh of gold.” Today, the vast majority of Japan's *kinpaku* comes from here, which has been utilized for things as small as hand-fans and as massive as Kinkaku-ji, Kyoto's famous Golden Pavilion. Among the items available for sale will be incense holders, jewelry, and glass vases that showcase this stunning aesthetic.

For those interested in adding a bright pop of color to their home, a new item available this year will be *temari*, or handballs. *Temari* were introduced to Japan from China around the seventh century—they are cotton ball intricately hand-wrapped in threads. These delightful and lesser known Japanese crafts are from Kaga *Temari* Mariya in Kanazawa. They are reflective of a style that originated in Japan's Edo era (1603-1868) and are customarily given to daughters ahead of their wedding to wish them a long and happy marriage.

The *temari*, incense containers, and many other goods certainly make *Behind the Shoji* a shopping experience, but the motivation behind offering it ties directly into Portland Japanese Garden's goals of introducing authentic aspects of Japan to an unfamiliar audience. “I think it speaks to how we're more than a garden,” McQuade offered. “We're also a cultural organization, and this marketplace offers a tangible connection to Japanese culture.”

How the Unique Wares of *Behind the Shoji* are Curated

“I make annual visits to Japan,” shares McQuade. “I always attend the Tokyo International Gift Show, which is a large trade show that gathers thousands of gift and home decor vendors. It has been gratifying and humbling to learn that Portland Japanese Garden is becoming a well-known and admired organization in Japan's community of craftspeople at this show, to the point that our arrival is anticipated every year. I think it's due to the many years we have put into building relationships with people there—it helps encourage some artists who might be reluctant to partner with an American institution to work with us. Knowing that we are fostering friendships makes us want to work even harder to maintain this mutual trust and admiration.”

“In addition to the Gift Show, I also make sure to visit new regions each year to meet with craftspeople and the galleries and shops that offer their wares so every *Behind the Shoji* can be a fresh experience,” McQuade continues. “Including Tokyo, I spent about 10 days visiting dozens of shops and artist studios in Toyama, Takaoka, and Kanazawa. Kanazawa, in particular, is an important arts destination in Japan, joining Kyoto as a must-visit destination for those interested in the nation's craftsmanship and design. It's incredibly rewarding to connect with independent craftspeople in Toyama and Kanazawa and throughout Japan—we help keep interest in their work alive and support their livelihoods and simultaneously can offer our guests another avenue into understanding Japanese culture through art and design.”

From left to right, examples of the *temari* and gold leaf incense containers from Kanazawa that will be sold at *Behind the Shoji* in 2024.



Behind the Shoji opens June 29 in our Pavilion Gallery and runs through September 2. Members and those in the Golden Crane Recognition Society can enjoy a special preview on June 28. For more details, go to japanesegarden.org/shoji-2024



A Profoundly Portland Experience

Explore Portland Japanese Garden on Google Arts & Culture

Portland Japanese Garden was selected as one of 16 partners to celebrate its home city's thriving cultural scene through the Google Arts & Culture platform. The Garden is proud to be a part of this prestigious project and part of the Google world as it reinforces how we are an indelible thread in our city's fabric—its history, its culture, and its appeal.

Google Arts & Culture is a digital platform and free mobile app that puts the treasures, stories and knowledge of over 4,000 cultural institutions from 85 countries at one's fingertips. Alongside other local and renowned organizations such as the Japanese American Museum of Oregon, Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, and Portland Art Museum, we have collectively contributed content to "Profoundly Portland," a hub that celebrates and uplifts our community. Portland is the first city in the American Pacific Northwest to be highlighted on this platform.

The Oregonian reports that at an April event celebrating the launch of Profoundly Portland, Mayor Ted Wheeler noted that our home city is "a vibrant hub of arts and culture throughout the Pacific Northwest. It's part of who we are as a community, it defines—in the eyes of many around the nation, and around the world—who we are."

You Can Also Visit the Garden on Bloomberg Connects!

In partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies, Portland Japanese Garden offers another venue to access and experience the organization for those near and far. We're excited to have a presence on Bloomberg Connects, a free mobile app that offers access to more than 250 museums and other cultural organizations! Our guide allows one to immerse themselves in our garden spaces, our history, and our programmatic offerings.

Bloomberg Connects To learn more, go to japanesegarden.org/visitvirtually



Oregon Governor Tina Kotek with Portland Japanese Garden Marketing Director Megumi Kato (center) and Marketing Coordinator Ashley Peters (right) at the Garden's booth at the Oregon Rises Above Hate event at Lan Su Chinese Garden in May. 📷 Andie Petkus Photography

Celebrating Asian American Native Hawai'ian Pacific Islander Heritage

Portland Japanese Garden Joins Governor Tina Kotek and AANHPI Community at Oregon Rises Above Hate Event

Asian American, Native Hawai'ian, and Pacific Islander Heritage (AANHPI) Month is a time to reflect upon and celebrate the remarkable role of the AANHPI community in our nation's history. Founded in 1963 to heal the wounds of World War II, Portland Japanese Garden has served as an important reminder of history and is proud to exist as a place that can bridge cultures, communities, and generations so that we may continue to pursue our mission of *Inspiring Harmony and Peace*.

In May, Portland Japanese Garden once again proudly joined in Oregon Rises Above Hate's (ORAH's) annual event that kicks off AANHPI Heritage Month for our community. ORAH is a local organization that amplifies AANHPI voices while also connecting this community with each other. This year, a free and day-long celebration was held at Lan Su Chinese Garden and also saw participation from our friends at other cultural institutions including the Japanese American Museum of Oregon, Portland Chinatown Museum, and the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education.

The Garden set up a table so guests could write messages for peace, which will be brought back to the Garden and hung on the Wish Tree art installation our organization is hosting in June (see p. 4 for more information).

One of the many highlights of the day was a visit from Oregon Governor Tina Kotek. Aside from visiting the Garden's table at Lan Su, the Governor signed a proclamation commemorating May as AANHPI Heritage Month. "This month, and every month, Oregon celebrates Asian Americans, Native Hawai'ians, and Pacific Islanders for their central role in our society and we honor the vibrant cultural tapestry and collective history they bring to our state," the proclamation read in part.



To see this list online, go to japanesegarden.com/support-your-garden
For corrections, contact development@japanesegarden.org

Cumulative giving to the Annual Fund from January 1, 2023, through February 29, 2024.

\$100,000+

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Portland Japanese Garden

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



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SOCIETY**

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 Philanthropy at (503) 542-0281 or ceisenfeld@japanesegarden.org



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 Philanthropy, at (503) 542-0281 or 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.

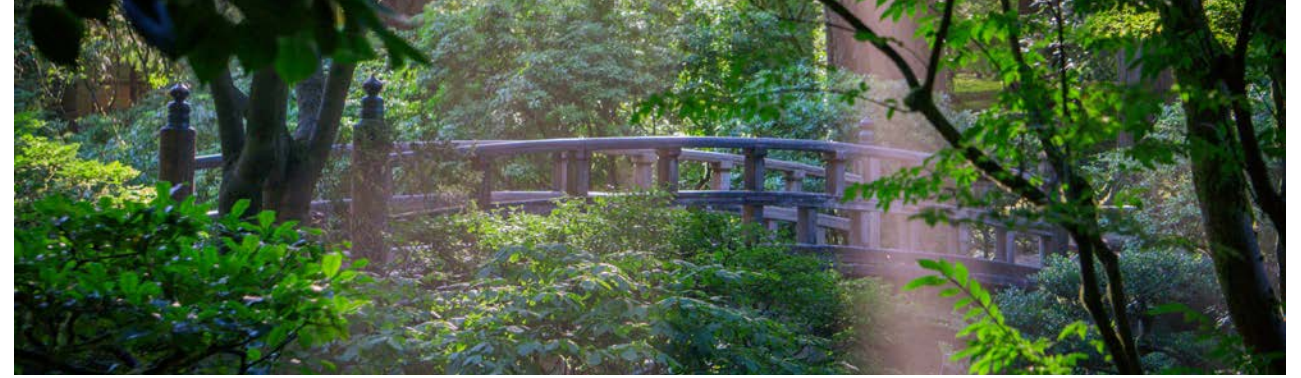
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Members of the Phoenix Legacy Society have named the Garden as the ultimate beneficiary of a planned gift. We are grateful to the following people for letting us know of their plans to support the Garden in this enduring way.

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Portland Japanese Garden

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For inquiries on supporting Japan Institute, please reach out to our Chief Development Officer, Jennifer Baumann, at (503) 595-5225 or jbaumann@japanesegarden.org

Recognizing all those who have made a gift in support of our Path to Peace Campaign for Japan Institute, helping us be a leading global voice for cultural understanding, in pursuit of a more peaceful, sustainable world.

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February 1, 2024 – March 31, 2024

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Portland Japanese Garden



Ann Burroughs, President & CEO of the Japanese American National Museum, and Board Trustee Emeritus Calvin Tanabe at the 2024 Annual Membership Meeting in May. 📷 Jonathan Ley



Garden volunteer Frank Castrina chats with guests during the Bonsai Society of Portland's exhibition in April, their first at Portland Japanese Garden since 2018. 📷 Portland Japanese Garden



EnTaiko performing at the Garden's Children's Day festival celebration in May. 📷 Portland Japanese Garden



Guests to the Golden Crane Recognition Society Reception for Vision of Place enjoy some of the art in the Pavilion Gallery in March. 📷 Jonathan Ley



Left to Right: Oregon State Senate President, Senator Rob Wagner, artist and Chairperson of the Garden's Foundation Board, Sandra Chandler, and Oregon State Representative Tawna D. Sanchez enjoy a moment at the reception for Vision of Place in March. 📷 Jonathan Ley



Naoki Kuze, Portland Japanese Garden Board of Trustees Member and President and CEO of St. Cousair, Inc., prepares takoyaki (octopus ball) for guests at our Kanpai Japan Series Kick Off Reception in April. 📷 Nina Johnson



Aki Nakanishi, the Arlene Schnitzer Curator of Culture, Art, and Education, and Hugo Torii, Garden Curator, at "Tea and Conversation with the Curators," a special event held for those in the Golden Crane Recognition Society in April. 📷 Portland Japanese Garden

DID YOU KNOW...?

Because Portland Japanese Garden is situated on steep and hilly terrain, it offers shuttle buses to those who wish to avoid the ascent or descent of our Entry Garden pathway. It has done so since the 1960s, though the form of transportation has changed quite a bit! In the black and white image, we see military veteran and retired attorney Chuck Fryer, who drove the shuttle during the summers of 1968-1971. Fryer recounts that the shuttle he drove had, "a wood superstructure built on a Volkswagen Transporter chassis and carried up to 15 passengers. People loved the whole concept, especially the fringe. I remember some weekends it was packed, going up the hill and back, from morning to night. Needless to say, the Garden was very popular." In the color photo we can see Chuck in the shuttle we use today, which is available by request and for ADA use.

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