

JANUARY 2016 · VOLUME 15 · NUMBER 1

# NEW YEAR, NEW CONNECTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

## A Note from Board President Cathy Rudd



Happy New Year! We begin this exciting new year looking forward to what 2016 holds. As you know, the Garden is in the midst of an historic transformation. Last August, we broke ground on the new Cultural Crossing expansion, and I got to witness what the Garden and its many supporters are really capable of. It inspired me to see how Trustees, Members, and the Portland and Japanese communities came together to initiate

this once-in-a-lifetime event. As 2016 unfolds, we'll see the expansion's new buildings and landscapes—and the Garden's future—emerging before our eyes.

The Garden's changes will, most obviously, be visual. But it's also transforming within. Although the five garden spaces we all know and love won't change in any way, the Garden's connection to Japan has deepened and strengthened in recent years, due largely in part to the efforts of CEO Steve Bloom, the Arlene Schnitzer Curator of Culture, Art and Education Diane Durston, and Garden Curator Sadafumi Uchiyama. Through relationships built and a newly established international advisory board, our leaders have spearheaded the effort to elevate our beautiful garden to international prominence.

A great example of this is the Garden's recent participation in a Yabusame Ritual in Kamakura, Japan. Steve was honored with the Grand Marshall "Shogun" role, reenacting the original Shogun Minamoto no Yoritomo. As Garden CEO, Steve was invited to be part of the ceremony by leaders of the Tsurugaoka Hachimangu shrine. This is the same shrine that performed the Mikagura dance here in July 2014 and blessed the Garden's Cultural Crossing groundbreaking ceremony last August. The Tsurugaoka Hachimangu shrine is one of the oldest in Japan, and deeply honored the Portland Japanese Garden by asking Steve to take part in Yabusame. Steve is the first foreigner ever invited for this prominent role in the shrine's ritual, which has been conducted for 830 years. His involvement is a testament to the high regard this venerable shrine has for the Portland Japanese Garden, and indicates the Garden's position as an international Japanese cultural organization.

I know the Garden is positioned to have a very happy, healthy, and prosperous 2016. Please join me in saying otsukara-sama desu to our continued success in the new year!









#### Dear Garden Members,

Akemashite omedeto gozaimasu— HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The new year is an exciting time. It holds the promise of new experiences to be enjoyed and new friends to be met. As we enter 2016, I am also reminded of the importance of existing friendships.

2015 ended on a high note for the Garden, thanks to our many supporters – our members, volunteers, donors, visitors, staff and our many partners around the world. These people are the lifeblood of the Garden. Many of you made a year-end donation to the Garden, and I want to say thank you! Your contributions ensure that the Garden's outreach, education, and of course its beautiful landscapes continue to inspire people around the world.

The Garden's mission continues to evolve as we strive to share the Garden's beauty and resources with an ever-growing community. I am thrilled to see how our friendships around the globe bring new, authentic experiences to our members, from Japanese artist exhibitions to our gardener exchange program. Building and fostering these relationships with partners is an important part of my role as CEO. Every time I am called back to Japan, I am reminded how valuable it is to be there in person, and how much we gain as an organization. Japanese garden arts

are encountering unprecedented growth, and our Garden is at the forefront of that, thanks to our friendships around the world.

When I was last in Japan, the Portland Japanese Garden took its first step towards formalizing friendships with three organizations with which we have partnered for years. We signed a Cooperative Agreement with each group – the purpose of which is to contribute to the international advancement of Japanese gardens in research and practice through cooperation and exchange. These partnerships have already opened new doors for the Garden – from introductions to scholars and artists to quite literally opening the doors of Japanese temples with restricted, closed-off historic gardens. Put more plainly, we've formally honored our partnership through an agreement that will benefit everyone.

As we lay the framework for our next chapter, these open doors hold the kind of new opportunities that make a new year so exciting. So again I say Happy New Year and I wish you each a year full of promise, hope and opportunity!

Sincerely,

Steve Bloom

Chief Executive Officer



互協定調印式

The official Cooperative
Agreement with the International
House of Japan. This Tokyobased nonprofit promotes
cultural exchange and intellectual
cooperation between the peoples
of Japan and other countries.



CEO Steve Bloom with Reverend Daiko Matsuyama the Deputy Head Priest of Taizoin Zen Buddhist Temple, founded in 1404 in Northwestern Kyoto.

▲ CEO Steve Bloom with the President of Ueyakato Landscape Co., LTD, Tomoki Kato after signing the Cooperative Agreement. In recent years, Mr. Kato has facilitated gardener exchange programs and has agreed to serve as an advisor for the Garden's International Institute for Japanese Garden Arts and Culture.

▲ International House of Japan Chairman Yasushi Akashi with CEO Steve Bloom.

# GATEWAY MEMBER EVENTS COMING SOON

ALTHOUGH THE GARDEN'S GATES ARE CLOSED FOR TWO MORE MONTHS, WE'RE COLLABORATING WITH NEW PARTNERS THROUGHOUT PORTLAND TO PROVIDE EXCITING JAPANESE CULTURAL EVENTS FOR OUR GATEWAY MEMBERS. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OF THE EVENTS BELOW, VISIT JAPANESEGARDEN.COM/EVENTS

## JAPANESE MOVIE NIGHT AT OMSI

January 8, 2016, 7:30pm Oregon Museum of Science and Industry 1945 SE Water Ave Complimentary tickets available at japanesegarden.com/events

We're proud to partner with OMSI to host the Portland premiere of the 2015 Japanese film, *Kagurame*. Set in a small village at the foot of Mt. Fuji, the story centers around kagura, a traditional type of Japanese Shinto theatrical dance. Presented in Japanese with English subtitles, *Kagurame* explores the universal relationships of family, love, and the importance of passing down traditions to the next generation.



# OMSI STUDIO GHIBLI FILM FESTIVAL

January 12-18, 2016 Oregon Museum of Science and Industry 1945 SE Water Ave Tickets available on site, at omsi.edu/theater, or call the OMSI Box Office at (503) 797-4000

OMSI will present a Studio Ghibli Retrospective from January 12-18. This seven-day event will feature dubbed and subtitled screenings of 14 films from the animation company co-founded by renowned Japanese filmmaker Hayao Miyazaki. Enjoy classics such as *My Neighbor Totoro* and *Princess Mononoke* along with more recent releases like *The Tale of the Princess Kaguya*. Look for more information and ticketing through OMSI's website at omsi.edu/theater



Portland Japanese Garden members receive \$1 off ticket prices with the discount code JGM16.



# GATEWAY MEMBER NIGHT WITH PSU KABUKI

February 27, 2016

6:15-7:00pm—Reception and presentation with the production director Dr. Laurence Kominz, Professor of Japanese Language & Literature

7:00-10:00pm—Performance

Portland State University—Lincoln Performance Hall

Gateway Members receive 20% discount on general admission ticket prices:

- Gateway Members \$12.00
- Gateway Senior Members \$9.00

# Discount tickets available 1/5/16 to 2/12/16 at japanesegarden.com/events

The Portland State University School of Theater & Film will present *The Revenge of the 47 Loyal Samurai* as a Main Stage Production. This traditional Japanese play will be co-presented by the PSU Center for Japanese Studies with the support of the US-Japan Foundation. Performances of this seminal example of kabuki theater will take place from February 25th to March 5th. Join us for a special Gateway Member Night with food, drink, and a special presentation by director Dr. Laurence Kominz before the opening weekend performance on Saturday, February 27.

# ART IN THE GARDEN: FIRST-EVER KENGO KUMA EXHIBITION IN U.S. AT CENTER FOR ARCHITECTURE

February 4-29, 2016 Open daily 10am-5pm Extended hours on Fridays until 7pm Center for Architecture 403 NW 11th Ave, Portland, OR

This February, the Portland Japanese Garden will begin our 2016 Art in the Garden season with an off-site exhibition featuring the work of architect Kengo Kuma. Tsunagu: Connecting to the Architecture of Kengo Kuma will be the first-ever exhibition in the U.S. that explores the architecture

of Kengo Kuma. Tsunagu refers to connection (between people and nature, as well as between spaces), to continuity (within a location), and to looking forward (a link toward the next generation and the future).

The exhibition will be held at Center for Architecture in Portland's Pearl district and was developed by guest curator Balazs Bognar, Design Director at Kengo Kuma & Associates, in collaboration with Diane Durston, Arlene Schnitzer Curator of Culture, Art, and Education. Tsunagu will be a multifaceted investigation into Mr. Kuma's recent

work. On February 6, Members can enjoy a lecture by Kengo Kuma, a discussion with leading Kuma expert Botond Bognar, and a moderated Q&A session with Randy Gragg.

The centerpiece of the exhibition is Kuma's plan for the new Cultural Crossing. Mr. Kuma's design includes a Cultural Village with three LEED-certified buildings to house a learning center, a Garden House, gallery space, and a traditional tea café. The exhibition will feature actual project materials, construction drawings, and explorative images. A scale model of the new Cultural Village will be on display. Port Orford cedar shavings, samples of Baker Blue granite, tatami mats, and other project materials will be available for visitors to see, touch, and even smell.

Mr. Kuma's work emphasizes place, and a personal connection to nature. He drew inspiration for the Cultural Village design from the distinct landscape and environment of the Pacific Northwest. "Kengo Kuma is known for connective spaces, often putting nature and the human experience first," says curator Balazs Bognar. "His emphasis on light as well as locally sourced materials makes the Portland Japanese Garden's expansion project the perfect lens through which people can see and understand the guiding ideas of his work."

According to Mr. Bognar, "The design for the Portland Japanese Garden's Cultural Crossing benefited greatly from very distinctive conditions: an existing set of five gardens already curated by Portland Japanese Garden over five decades—very moving and quite spectacular even compared to some gardens in Japan—set against a backdrop of Pacific Northwest firs, cedars, and pines. This is a special combination that does not happen anywhere else." Mr. Kuma's design honors the



Japan and the United States.

Using simple concepts, Tsunagu will highlight the primary ideas behind the design, and explain three essential tenets of Japanese space employed in Mr. Kuma's designs. Within this spectrum of new ideas and updated tradition, Mr. Kuma's work emerges as a positive and crucial fusion of architecture, nature, society, and culture.

The exhibition, which is free, opens to the public on First Thursday (February 4) and runs until February 29, 2016. Reserve your tickets for the Member-only preview and February 6 event at japanesegarden. com/events. Tickets are available starting January 5, 2016.

### Gateway Member and Golden Crane Society Exhibition **Open House**

February 2 & 3, 2016, 5:30-8pm Center for Architecture Complimentary tickets available January 5 at japanesegarden.com/events Reservations required; space is limited

## Golden Crane Society Hosted Viewing Hours with Kengo Kuma

February 6, 2016, 5:00-7:30pm Center for Architecture Invitation Only

## LECTURE: Tsunagu, Kengo Kuma's Architecture of Relationships

February 6, 2016, 2:00-4:00pm Portland Art Museum, in the Fields Ballroom, hosted by the PAM Asian Art Council 1219 SW Park Ave Complimentary tickets available January 5 at japanesegarden.com/events Reservations required, space is limited





# KASAGI: GATES OF HOPE A JOYFUL HOMECOMING

In 2013, pieces of two *torii* gates—known as *kasagi*—washed ashore on the Oregon coast, casualties of the 2011 tsunami in Japan. Their origins unknown, the kasagi were entrusted to the Portland Japanese Garden in hopes of finding their rightful home. Garden Curator Sadafumi Uchiyama and Board of Trustees President-Elect Dorie Vollum worked with Garden leaders and a network of global supporters, scouring Japan for clues of where the kasagi originated. After two years of research, it was finally confirmed that both kasagi came from the small Itsukushima shrine in the village of Okuki—right outside Hachinohe in the Northeastern tip of mainland Japan.

On August 15 the kasagi began their long journey home with generous donated support from Pacific Lumber & Shipping LLC, Yamato Transport U.S.A., Inc., Yamato Global Logistics Japan Co, Ltd, and Uyeno Transtech Ltd. The kasagi arrived in Yokohama port where they were honored with a receiving ceremony led by priests from the Tsurugaoka Hachimangu shrine. The event was attended by Garden leaders as well as U.S. Ambassador to Japan, Caroline Kennedy. Ambassador Kennedy spoke in admiration about the Garden's work to return the kasagi saying, "These people are cultural ambassadors for America." Continuing, she reflected on the commonalities of our two countries with the poignant observation that "the Pacific ocean is not something that divides us but is something that connects us."

For the last leg of their travels, the kasagi were taken northward in October to celebrate a homecoming in the village of Okuki. Village elders and school children alike congregated around the kasagi to



marvel at their journey, grateful that these sacred artifacts—presumed lost for so long—had been returned home.

Now a local craftsman in Tohoku is working to restore the kasagi

and build two new torii gates upon which both the kasagi will once again rest. Once the cold ground of the northern city has softened, the two gates will be reinstated in front of the Itsukushima fishing shrine in Okuki and rededicated in a ceremony on May 2.

The Kasagi return project has been generously supported by: the Walter Clay Hill & Family Foundation, the Japan-America Society of Oregon, the Omomuki Foundation, and numerous individual donors.

# THE POWER OF PHILANTHROPY GEOFFREY HOEFER AND THE OMOMUKI FOUNDATION



The story of Geoffrey Hoefer and the Portland Japanese Garden lends credence to the saying that nothing happens by chance. Geoffrey is one of the Garden's Global Ambassadors, as well as a member of its International Advisory Board. These two groups form a network of advocates that extends the Portland Japanese Garden's reach around the world. Geoffrey

is also the founder and chairman of the Omomuki Foundation, which supports the arts and HIV education and prevention internationally. The Omomuki Foundation is one of the key funders of the Portland Japanese Garden's *kasagi* return effort.

Geoffrey grew up in the Portland area and was first introduced to the Portland Japanese Garden as a young boy—he remembers it as "strangely beautiful...like entering a different world." He even took three years of Japanese while in high school. But after that he lost contact with Japanese culture for almost two decades, during which he studied engineering, art history and business, and founded two successful companies. Geoffrey visited Japan for the first time in

2005 and his passion for the country was reignited. Since then, he has returned annually for both business and vacation.

Fast forward to 2014, when Geoffrey happened upon a group speaking Japanese at a favorite haunt in his adopted home of Manhattan. Among them was Portland Japanese Garden CEO Steve Bloom, who was searching New York for a place to hold the launch event of the new Global Ambassadors program. One thing led to another, a few more drinks were ordered, and by the end of the evening Geoffrey had offered to host the gathering—for 200!—at his home.

Following the 2014 New York event for the Garden, Geoffrey has raised more than \$600,000 for the Cultural Crossing Capital Campaign. He realized that he "received more satisfaction and had more fun doing this [philanthropic] work than any of his business endeavors." Soon thereafter he founded the Omomuki Foundation. Geoffrey now devotes his full energy to non-profit work. With the help of Steve Bloom, who is one of Omomuki's directors, the Foundation now has its 501(c)3 non-profit status and is pursuing its mission by building lasting partnerships, like the one that continues to grow with the Portland Japanese Garden.



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Golden Crane Legacy Members 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 thoughtful way.

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We are grateful to the following individuals and families for their generous estate/bequest gifts previously received by the Garden:

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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 Member, please contact Chief Development Officer Tom Cirillo at (503) 595-5225 or tcirillo@japanesegarden.com

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# THE CAMPAIGN FOR A CULTURAL CROSSING

Contributions received through November 15, 2015



The Portland Japanese Garden's Campaign for a Cultural Crossing chaired by Dorie and Larry Vollum began quietly in 2012 with the Board of Trustees, who have now collectively contributed over \$5,500,000 to its \$33.5 million goal. Individuals, businesses, and foundations here in Oregon, around the country, and in Japan have joined the Campaign with generous support. In July, the Campaign reached the 60% mark, at which point the Trustees approved the start of construction and public announcement of the Campaign. The new garden spaces, educational and visitor facilities, and entrance plaza will be completed by Spring 2017. We can't wait to celebrate the Grand Opening with you then! Over the coming months, we will be asking for your support for this historic project. Or, you can donate today at culturalcrossing.com. The Campaign for a Cultural Crossing needs and welcomes contributions of all sizes.

#### \$5,000,000 and above

Arlene Schnitzer in honor of Iordan D. Schnitzer's 20-year service to the Portland Japanese Garden

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Takeshi Yoro

# THE CASTLE WALL STORY: HUNTING FOR BLUE GRANITE IN OREGON'S EASTERN PLAINS

As part of the Cultural Crossing expansion project, one of the standout structures will be the Castle Wall at the west end of the Cultural Village. Twenty feet high and 140 feet long, the Castle Wall at the Portland Japanese Garden will be a monument to what many hands can accomplish, working together. As visitors approach the Garden, this wall will rise up to meet them, transporting their imaginations to another place and time. As a multi-part series, we are telling the stories of the people, traditions, and stones that make up this one-of-a-kind creation.

#### AN ANCIENT TRADITION

The Portland Japanese Garden's distinctive aesthetic is Japanese design, executed with Pacific Northwest materials. The Castle Wall project creates another opportunity to bring these two elements together. Suminori Awata, a 15th generation master stonemason from Japan, is building the Castle Wall, assisted by Edward Lockett, who leads a team of stonemasons. He'll use the *ano-zumi*, or "dry

stone" style.

Mr. Awata rarely creates new work of this scale. He often repairs or maintains existing walls, some of which were built by his ancestors. Some of these walls date back to the 17th century and have survived earthquakes that flattened more modern, high-tech buildings. The Castle Wall at the Portland Japanese Garden represents Mr. Awata's first opportunity to practice his trade on a grand scale. The project is the first of its kind in the United States.

### THE SEARCH FOR STONE

Oregon is rich in basalt, a type of lava-derived rock which can have an irregular grain and is considered too

fragile for larger projects like the Castle Wall, as it might crumble under the wall's weight. For the Castle Wall cornerstones, huge blocks of granite are needed.

Finding a source for stones of this size and hardness is no easy task—rocks that big don't grow on trees! Garden Curator Sadafumi (Sada) Uchiyama knew of a quarry outside of Pendleton, Oregon, which produces fine-grained, azure-tinted granite called Baker Blue. The property is managed by Dan Dunn, owner of Alpine Boulder Company, who only opens the quarry for very special projects, such as the Cultural Crossing expansion.

#### UNTOUCHED BY TIME

To select the stones needed for the Castle Wall, Mr. Awata made two trips to the quarry. He identified several massive boulders, weighing approximately 900 tons, to be used in the Castle Wall.

The selected stones were carefully handled by Smith Rock and taken to their facility in Milwaukie, Oregon—all 900 tons had to be selected and shipped before winter weather hardened the ground in Eastern Oregon. In our next installment, we'll talk about the





process of cutting the cornerstones that will make up the foundation of the Castle Wall. For more information, check out our blog at cultural crossing.com/stayupdated

# HAIKU BY PETER KENDALL

New Year's Day With last night's snow, today's snow

Trackless once again



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER..... Steve Bloom

Photo: David M. Cobb

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## **VOLUNTEERS SHARE THE GARDEN:**

# LEARNING TO SEE

The Portland Japanese Garden has come to mean many things to the many people who support it. From our 300,000 annual visitors, to our more than 8,000 Members, each person has a special connection to the Garden. The Garden is an exquisite, living example of Japanese garden arts. It grows and changes every time we see it. No one knows this better than our volunteers. They offer a unique perspective, helping visitors experience and see the Garden in a new way each time they enter the Garden's gates.

Our volunteers, in particular, get to know this special place from the inside out. Volunteers lead informational tours, assist gardeners with clean-up and plant care, guide visitors, answer questions, and help the administrative team with office and organizational tasks. "I appreciate the Garden much more than when I first went as a visitor," says horticultural volunteer Garth Massey. Through hands-on hard work and attention to detail, Massey learned that there's a lot more to the Garden than initially meets the eye.

Volunteer Barbara Bell says that in spite of her frequent contact with the Garden, giving tours keeps it feeling fresh. "The Garden and the people who come to see it are ever-changing," she says. When she takes people through the Garden's five landscapes, "I too am seeing the Garden as if for the first time. The Garden is a precious friend."

Understanding the Garden's aesthetics and its historical context adds another dimension. Massey points out, "The selection and arrangement of plants has more to do with texture and depth than most people realize. It's a deliberate effort to help the viewer see the Garden as it should be seen." Volunteers 'learn to see' so that they can share their knowledge with others—whether through pruning a pine tree or answering a new visitor's questions. Volunteer tour guide John Williams says, "I want guests to leave the Garden knowing they have experienced a true, authentic Japanese garden; that it has been considered by experts to be the best, most authentic Japanese garden outside Japan. I want them to know they have experienced a very special walk through a very beautiful place."

Massey says the Garden needs to be experienced from many different angles. "I think everyone should go through the Garden looking up, then go through again, looking down." He looks forward to getting his gardening gloves on again when the Garden reopens on March 1, 2016.





# 謹賀新春

# KIN-GA-SHIN-SHUN HAPPY NEW YEAR!

#### WELCOME THE HAPPY YEAR OF THE MONKEY!

Many traditional customs are observed at the beginning of the New Year in Japan. Especially for *O-Shogatsu*, the New Year celebration, entrances to homes and shops are decorated with pine and bamboo *kadomatsu* decoration or *shimenawa* braided straw ropes. This custom has its roots in the Shinto religion to wish for good luck. O-Shogatsu is also a time for family to spend quality time together eating *osechi-ryori*, and *mochi* soft rice cakes, the traditional foods associated with New Year celebrations.

Japanese New Year is the most significant festival of the year in Japan.

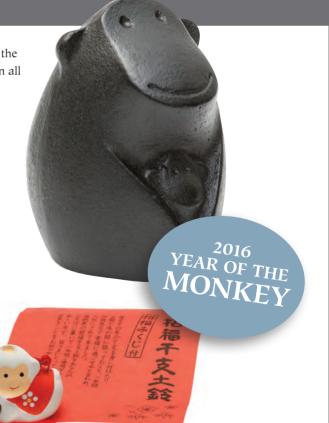
# FROM THE GARDEN E-STORE

Celebrate the New Year with these adorable monkey-themed items from the Garden's E-Store. And don't forget, Garden Members get free shipping on all orders until we reopen. Use promo code SHIPMEMBER at checkout.

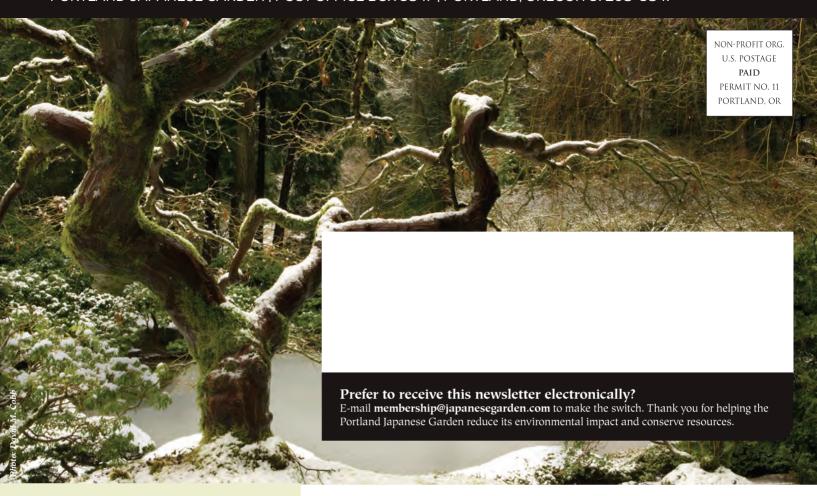
- The erratic geniuses of the Zodiac cycle, those born in the year of the Monkey are thought to be clever and skillful big picture thinkers. They are inventive, original, and able to solve the most difficult problems with ease. Celebrate (and help organize) the erratic genius in your life with this handsome iron paperweight.
- In Japanese the word for monkey, *saru*, is a homonym for the word "expel." For that reason monkeys are often associated with warding off thieves and evil spirits. Add a little protection to your new year with this hand painted clay charm. The inscription on its tag roughly translates to "Display this Monkey for one year to stay free of trouble."

As an extra New Year's gift to you, we're including a complimentary 2016 Portland Japanese Garden wall calendar with any gift store purchases over \$50 from now until March 1, 2016.

AKEMASHITE OMEDETO GOZAIMASU!



store.japanesegarden.com



# SAYONARA UNTIL SPRING (SEE YOU SOON!)

The Portland Japanese Garden will be closed from September 8, 2015–March 1, 2016 to lay the ground work for our Cultural Crossing expansion project. Follow the process at cultural crossing.com/stayupdated

## **Helpful Numbers:**

Main Gate	. (503) 223-1321
Membership Services	. (503) 796-9180
Development	. (503) 542-0299
Garden Gift Store	. (503) 223-5055
Events Department	. (503) 542-0280

### **Street Address:**

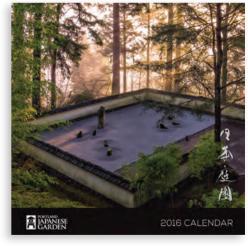
611 SW Kingston Avenue Portland, OR 97205

japanesegarden.com



# 2017 CALENDAR CONTEST

Every year, our talented Photographer Members capture breathtaking images of the Garden—from our famous Japanese maple, to our friendly, frisky koi. And, every year we so look forward to featuring a selection of these incredible images in the Garden's annual wall calendar. This bestselling item is a favorite of visitors and garden lovers around the world, and is a great opportunity for Photographer Members to see their work showcased in a gorgeous format. If you're a Photographer



Member interested in submitting work, please download the submission form at japanesegarden.com/photographers.

The deadline for submissions is **February 22**, **2016**. If one of your photographs is selected to represent a month in the Garden you'll receive ten complimentary copies of the 2017 calendar. If we choose to include your work as a smaller inset photograph, you'll receive two complimentary copies. Learn more about the benefits of being a Photographer Member, and get more details about the calendar contest, at japanesegarden.com/photographers. Thank you for your support!