

The Garden Path

Gion Matsuri

September/October 2018



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FRONT COVER *Akira Nakata*
BACK COVER *Heinz Holzapfel*

HAIKU

Moonviewing night
The closeness of the tumbling
waterfall
–Peter Kendall

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THE GARDEN PATH

FOR QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS
Email marketing@japanesegarden.org

Dear Members –



This October, it is with gratitude and excitement that I am embarking on a Japan residency for six months to advance the work of the Garden. This work abroad will focus on expanding the Garden's network throughout Japan as well Japanese garden and cultural centers internationally.

Longtime members may remember when I did a similar residency in 2006. It led to transformational changes in the Garden's programming as well as in the Japanese Garden field overall. The work at that time was instrumental in creating our International Advisory Board, establishing the North American Japanese Garden Association, and rekindling our relationship with Tokyo University of Agriculture, where original Garden designer Professor Tono once taught. It was also crucial in establishing the International Japanese Garden Training Center here in Portland, opening doors to living artists like Ray Morimura and Kunio Kaneko, and forging extraordinary alliances with preeminent cultural partners like the Tsurugaoka Hachimangu shrine in Kamakura.

Now, with new spaces, more cultural events, and a garden that is more beautiful than ever, it is time to open new doors for the organization. This residency will be centered in Japan where I will travel in pursuit of partnerships with scholars, lecturers, performers, craft specialists, and of course garden experts. As our Training Center continues to grow, it's time to deepen our network of people who can teach and refer students. In this way, we can continue toward preserving the art form of Japanese gardens throughout the world.

Looking beyond Japan, an important part of my work will be to share the Portland Japanese Garden's story with my counterparts who lead the great gardens of the world. From the Gardens by the Bay in Singapore to the Classical Gardens of Suzhou, China, cultivating an exchange with these world-class gardens will bring awareness to the remarkable work being done here in Portland. More importantly, this exchange will provide invaluable insights as we respond to the increasing demand for green spaces, the changing climate, and pursuing excellence in authenticity.

Finally, I'm incredibly excited to seek collaboration opportunities with Japanese cultural centers around the world. I'll be visiting Los Angeles, London, and Sao Paulo where the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has recently opened JAPAN HOUSE, a center dedicated to fostering awareness and appreciation for Japan.

The very capable and talented Deputy Director Cynthia Haruyama along with our senior executive team will oversee day-to-day operations of the Garden during this extended residency abroad. I look forward to sharing my journey with you along the way which you can follow on Instagram, [@stevebloomCEO](#).

I can hardly wait to discover what awaits our future!

Sincerely,

Steve

¹ Christina Sjogren

September

- 1 Cultural Demonstration: Tea Ceremony
- 3 Labor Day - Special Hours (10am-7pm)
- 9 Cultural Demonstration: Tea Ceremony
- 11 Photographer Member-Only Hours
- 14 Golden Crane Reception - Gion Matsuri
- 15-16 Gion Matsuri Festival
- 9/15-11/4 Exhibition - Gion Matsuri: The World's Oldest Urban Festival
- 15 Chado, the Way of Tea in the Kashintei Tea House
- 18 Lecture - Kasagi: Gates of Hope
- 20-27 Waza to Kokoro Training Seminar: Beginner Level
- 23-25 O-Tsukimi, the Moonviewing Festival
- 29 Cultural Demonstration: Tea Ceremony
- 9/29-10/1 2018 International Japanese Garden Conference
- 30 Cultural Demonstration: Koto, Shamisen, and Song
- Winter Hours begin

October

- 5 Cultural Demonstration: Koto
- 5-6 Ryuseiha Ikebana Exhibition
- 6 Member Exhibition Exclusive: Gion Matsuri
- Cultural Demonstration: Tea Ceremony
- 13 Cultural Demonstration: Koto
- 13-14 Ohara Ikebana Exhibition
- 19 Member-Only Extended Hours
- 20-21 Ikebana International Exhibition
- 20 Chado, the Way of Tea in the Kashintei Tea House
- 22 Photographer Member-Only Hours
- 25 Art of the Table: Sake Tasting with Joto Sake
- 27 Cultural Demonstration: Tea Ceremony
- 27-28 Sogetsu Ikebana Exhibition
- 29 Photographer Member-Only Hours

RECURRING CULTURAL DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE CATHY RUDD CULTURAL CORNER

Tea Ceremony: Every Wednesday from 1-2pm (Except 9/19 & 9/26)

Bonsai: September 2 & 17 & October 15 & 22

Ikebana: September 3 & October 7, 14, 21, 28

All events are subject to change based on the availability of our wonderful volunteers. Please check japanesegarden.org/events or call 503-542-0280 to confirm these events.



Jonathan Ley

O-Tsukimi, the Moonviewing Festival

September 23, 24, & 25, 2018

7:00-9:30pm

Experience the romance and mystery of the Moonviewing Festival. Start the evening with a peaceful stroll through the lantern-lit Garden. Take in authentic Japanese music. Observe a quiet tea ceremony in the Kashintei Tea House. Enjoy a cup of sake or tea as you watch the harvest moon rise above the city. Dinner by presenting sponsor Bamboo Sushi.

Proceeds from Moonviewing support the Garden's cultural and educational programming.

Learn more or get tickets at japanesegarden.org

Thank you to our presenting sponsor Bamboo Sushi.

Art of the Table: Sake Tasting with Joto Sake

October 25, 2018

5:00-8:30pm

Connect with the culture of Japan through its signature beverage: sake. Explore the structure, history, and brewing of a selection of sakes from Japanese microbreweries presented by representatives of Joto Sake. Japanese food pairings will be provided by Noraneko, a popular Portland Japanese restaurant focusing on ramen.

VIP ticketholders are invited to an exclusive hour of tasting in the Yanai Classroom, which includes a presentation on the history and crafting of sake from 5-6pm.

Sponsored by Joto Sake and Noraneko, with ticket proceeds supporting the Garden's cultural and educational programming.

Learn more or get tickets at japanesegarden.org

Member Exhibition Exclusive: Gion Matsuri

October 6, 2018

8:00-10:00am

The Garden's curatorial team invites members and your guests to this exclusive look at *Gion Matsuri: The World's Oldest Urban Festival*. This member-only tour will begin at 9am in the Pavilion. Hot tea will be served on the West Veranda.

Member-Only Extended Hours

October 19, 2018

4:00-6:00pm

Members and your guests are invited to extended evening hours to experience the Garden's fall foliage in quietude. For safety reasons, the Natural Garden will close early.

Last admission for this event is at 5:30pm.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Winter Hours begin
September 30, 2018

Monday: Noon-4pm
Tuesday-Sunday: 10am-4pm



1



Bringing the World's Oldest Urban Festival to the Portland Japanese Garden

September 15 – November 4, 2018

Gion Matsuri is a festival for the people, by the people. Named after Yasaka Shrine (known locally as Gion-sha) in the Gion District of Kyoto, it is said to be the oldest continuous urban festival in the world and one of the largest and most elaborate in Japan. *Gion Matsuri* is more than a thousand years old and has been held in Kyoto since 869. Originally held to appease the gods and scare away the plague during an epidemic, it continues to be a colorful and vibrant celebration that takes over the streets of downtown Kyoto each July.

1-3 Akira Nakata

The festival culminates with a procession on July 17 each year. Two kinds of elaborately decorated floats are pulled through the streets: *yama* and *boko*, with the latter weighing as much as 12 tons. The floats have unique themes, and are adorned with gilded carvings and priceless woven and dyed textiles from all over the world. They're so exquisite that they are often referred to as "mobile art museums."

Starting this month through November 4, the Portland Japanese Garden is bringing one of these authentic festival floats to Portland. The Ayagasa-Hoko float from Kyoto will be on display inside the Pavilion during this exquisite exhibition. The Ayagasa-Hoko has a lacquered cart that features a large parasol, atop which rides a gilded cockerel, representing one of the gods that presides over the festival.

Today, more than half a million visitors from all over the world come to Kyoto each year to participate in the festivities and marvel at the splendor of the more than 30 floats as they pass by, one after another. The Garden will be illuminating that experience for you through a video presentation that runs throughout the exhibition. Watch as the people of Kyoto pull these multi-ton, highly decorated wooden floats through the streets! Additional photographs by Akira Nakata, one of Kyoto's top photographers, will be on view in the Pavilion and Tanabe Galleries.

The Garden's celebration includes a troupe of 20 Gion Bayashi festival musicians from Kyoto. In the procession, they perform the unique festival sounds on brass chimes and flutes that accompany the Naginata-Boko lead float.

The performances will take place in the afternoons on opening weekend, September 15 and 16 in the Garden's Cultural Village. Come experience the lively Gion Matsuri festival as it fills the Garden's Cultural Village with the sounds of Japanese flutes and bells, just as it has filled the streets of Kyoto for more than a thousand years.



2



3

A Life's Passion is a Legacy of Art and Culture:

Honoring Diane Durston



1

From the moment she entered the antique gate at the Portland Japanese Garden, Diane Durston says she felt as if she was back in Kyoto, Japan, her home for 18 years.

At the end of December, Diane Durston will end one chapter of her life's work, and start another. She is retiring from her position as the Arlene Schnitzer Curator of Culture, Art, & Education at the Portland Japanese Garden.

Durston is the Arlene Schnitzer Curator of Culture, Art and Education at the Garden, a title she has held since 2007.

"It all started with Steve Bloom, (the Garden's CEO) inviting me to take a look at everything the Garden was doing and help him take things to the next level. He encouraged me to explore new directions in the Garden's programming—and in doing that, to seek out the full potential of the Garden itself as a vehicle for better understanding Japan."

With a background in the study of Japanese arts and culture, and having worked previously for five years at the Portland Art Museum, Durston was eager to introduce art as a window into the culture.

Durston launched the *Art in the Garden* series of four special exhibitions a year—one for each of the four seasons—that would reflect the intersection of art and nature and introduce the importance of seasonality in Japanese art and gardens. The exhibitions would celebrate work influenced by the aesthetics of Japan or created in response to the Garden itself.

"Attention to the beauty of the changing seasons is an important part of Japanese culture. This was the beginning of our exploration of themes from within the culture for us to explore over the coming years. We've done entire years of programming with artists and craftsmen whose work speaks to the importance of such concepts as living in harmony with nature, for example, and the idea of the 'healing garden' and other themes that Japanese gardens represent," says Durston.

"For many, a stroll through the Garden is the closest they will come to experiencing Japan—which is why what we do here is so important."

—DIANE DURSTON,

Arlene Schnitzer Curator of Culture, Art and Education

Now more than a decade later, the *Art in the Garden* program has successfully introduced the work of more than 75 artists representing Japan and its unique artistic traditions. The works come from internationally known artists—some of whom have been recognized as Living National Treasures in Japan, as well as rising young artists and artisans from all parts of the country.

Durston also oversaw the Garden's cultural programming, reorganizing the annual family festivals, planning annual lecture series, and reorganizing the Garden's library and arts collections.

"Rarely in any field of work has one person had such a profound transformational impact on an organization and in fact an entire global field," says Garden CEO Steve Bloom about Durston. "For more than a decade, Diane has created world class, innovative, thought provoking, and cutting edge art and culture programming unparalleled anywhere."

She served as the leading architect of the *International Japanese Garden Training Center* at the Portland Japanese Garden, which this year received the National Programming Excellence Award by the American Public Gardens Association at its national conference this summer.

The desire to introduce the values and philosophies within the Japanese culture and spiritual connections that are Durston's passion. "It's about seeing the world from a different perspective, connecting with nature in the Garden first, and through that experience, discovering the essential spirit and beauty of another culture. The Garden physically immerses its visitors in that culture, and provides

a context within which to understand its traditions and its arts," she said.

Durston is a lecturer, cultural consultant, curator, and educator. She is the author of three books and numerous essays and articles on the culture and traditional way of life in Kyoto. The New York Times has referred to her book *Old Kyoto* as a "Japan travel classic." Her book "*Wabi Sabi*" expresses her belief that such concepts can be shared universally, illuminating our own natural appreciation of the simple, imperfect beauty of nature.

As with all great scholars, Diane will not be fully retiring as she has been offered the opportunity to write a series of books on Japanese craftsmanship and aesthetics. She will continue her deep connection with the Garden in the years to come as *Curator Emeritus* for the Portland Japanese Garden.

"From helping with the preservation of traditional neighborhoods like Gion and other historic districts of Kyoto to her work as the Special Programs Producer for the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. she has truly, truly changed the landscape of Japanese culture throughout the world," said Bloom. "We all owe Diane Durston a debt of gratitude. In fact we will continue to find ways big and small to recognize, honor, and celebrate Diane and her life's work."



2



International Japanese Garden Conference:

A Global Perspective on Japanese Gardens



2 Zen buddhist priest Rev. Daiko Matsuyama

A Zen priest, a Russian botanist, a German cultural scholar – what could they all possibly have in common? They all have stories about Japanese gardens and will present them at the International Japanese Garden Conference here in Portland at the end of this month.

This inaugural conference, taking place at the Hilton Portland Downtown September 29 – October 1, brings a diverse group of creative, scholarly, and scientific minds from around the world for a stimulating three days of conversation on the art of the Japanese garden and its contemporary meaning.

Presenters include German scholar Christian Tagsold, whose recently-published book *Spaces in Translation* is a groundbreaking and somewhat provocative new work significant enough to make him, according to scholar Kendall Brown, “a central figure in the study of Japanese gardens.” Tagsold, whose perspectives on how the West shaped the concept of the Japanese garden even for the Japanese themselves, will share the stage with about 50 other presenters from Japan, Australia, the U.K., Europe, Russia, and North America. These also include Sergey Kalyuzhny, who will talk about the creation with professors and students from Hokkaido of the first Japanese garden in the remarkable location of Irkutsk, Siberia; and Rev. Daiko Matsuyama, who will elaborate on how a garden supports daily spiritual life at Taizo-in Temple in Kyoto.

- 1 Roman Johnston
- 2 Ashley Korslien
- 3 Jonathan Ley



1

Besides offering a global perspective on the Japanese garden's place in the cultural landscape, the conference offers a rare opportunity to hear significant original scholarship from Japan that is seldom available in English. Hiromasa Amasaki of the Kyoto University of Art and Design, considered one of the most formidable living scholars of Japanese gardens, will present his research on the life and work of Ogawa Jihei VII. Also known as Ueji, he was one of the most influential and prolific figures in modern Japanese garden history.

Besides the presentations, the conference also offers multiple opportunities for informal interaction with leaders, scholars, and practitioners from around the

world. Additional, optional programs include a half-day hands-on bamboo workshop at the Garden with visiting Japanese instructors, a pre-conference tour of designer Hoichi Kurisu's Willamette Valley landscapes, a banquet dinner, an after-hours evening reception at the Garden, and a post-conference tour of iconic downtown Portland landscapes.

The conference is organized by the North American Japanese Garden Association and hosted by the Portland Japanese Garden. Co-presenters are the Garden Society of Japan, the Japanese Garden Society of the U.K., and the Japanese Garden Society of Denmark.

Registration can be found at: najga.org/events



3

SAVE THE DATES FOR WAZA TO KOKORO 2019!

The Garden's Training Center will once again offer the *Waza to Kokoro: Hands and Heart* professional-level 12-day training seminar in Japanese garden arts in 2019. The beginner-level seminar is tentatively slated to take place in late July and the intermediate level in mid-September. Application and more details will be available next month at japanesegarden.org/thecenter. *Dates are subject to change.*

The Center is a recipient of the American Public Gardens Association's 2018 Award for Program Excellence and is supported by the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership.



1



2

Meet Akihito Nakanishi, the new Director of Programming at the Portland Japanese Garden

Akihito “Aki” Nakanishi is not only a cultural leader but a public diplomacy expert with 19 years of experience in government relations, public communication, artistic exchanges, and cultural programming in Japan. The Portland Japanese Garden is thrilled to have Nakanishi on its leadership team as the Garden’s new Director of Programming.

“If it wasn’t for the people, by which I mean not only the dedicated gardeners and staff here, but also the members of the community, who all invariably share the love and respect for the Garden, I would not have come here. It’s an amazing combination of mutual respect and reciprocal cooperation between individuals in the U.S. and Japan that has spawned this global cultural institution. I hope to add even more fun and educational dimensions to the holistic cultural art form that this world-class Garden proudly stands for,” said Nakanishi.

1-2 Jonathan Ley

3 Courtesy Aki Nakanishi

"The depth and breadth of experience and knowledge that Aki brings to the Garden is considerable. I don't think we could have found a better person to build on the foundation we have established over the past decade. I have complete confidence that his ideas and energy will enhance the experience for members and visitors alike."

—DIANE DURSTON

For the past ten years, Nakanishi has served as the Cultural Affairs Specialist at the U.S. Embassy in Japan, working to enhance the mutual understanding between the U.S. and Japan through a number of visit programs by high-level U.S. Government leaders including President Barack Obama; Secretaries of State Hillary Clinton and John Kerry; and Ambassador Caroline Kennedy. He oversaw the Embassy's involvement in cultural, creative, and educational activities which earned him multiple professional awards of excellence including *The U.S. Department of State Meritorious Honor Award*.

"While it is critical to focus on the growing needs of international visitors from all over the world, for whom Japanese ideals and aesthetics might be foreign, I would like to be cognizant of those regular visitors from our community who discover something new in the Garden each time they come as well," he said.

With his firm foothold in visual art and other forms of contemporary expression through personal ties



3 Caroline Kennedy, U.S. Ambassador to Japan (2013-17), conferring an award of excellence to Aki Nakanishi.

with a myriad of Japanese cultural icons, he has spearheaded numerous cutting-edge art exhibitions, as well as performing arts and literary programs internationally, crossing boundaries of culture, genre, and time.

"As Director of Programming, I will oversee the entire spectrum of the Garden's cultural programs totaling more than 250 events each year, and they are very diverse, with some of them being highly multi-disciplinary often involving high-tech media to enhance the experience design. This cross-genre approach with clear emphasis on Japanese traditions and creativity as they relate to other Asiatic cultures will provide multiple layers of understanding towards the culture and ethos of the Japanese garden," Nakanishi added.

Aki and his wife Mie and two daughters, Mina and Lisaki have moved from Tokyo to Portland so Aki could start work at the Garden, and we couldn't be happier that he's here.



The Golden Crane Society

Cumulative giving to the Annual Fund from July 16, 2017 through July 15, 2018

PLATINUM CIRCLE \$100,000+

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of the Harold & Arlene Schnitzer
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Dan Wieden
Susan & Jim H. Winkler
Carmen Wong & Arjun Chatrath
And those who wish to remain
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James Florio



James Florio

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Gregg Macy & Eric Steinhauser
saRah Mahler
Lisa & Richard Mann
Marshall-Shuler Charitable Trust
Anna & Van Mason
Maryellen & Michael McCulloch
Laura S. Meier
Thomas Mock & Michael Flanagan,
in memory of Carl Poston
Erin Moeschler & Robb Rathe
Linda Montgomery
Lindley Morton & Corinne Oishi
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And those who wish to remain
anonymous (3)



HAROLD & ARLENE
SCHNITZER



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5/16/2018 - 7/15/2018

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Golden Crane Legacy Society

Members of the Golden Crane 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.

Legacy Society Members receive invitations to Golden Crane special events and receptions.

Carole Beauclerk
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Ann & John Symons
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And those who wish to remain
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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 Society member, please contact Donor Relations Officer Matthew Maas at (503) 542-9301 or mmaas@japanesegarden.org

We are grateful to the following individuals and families for their generous bequests and estate gifts to the Garden.

Nancy Beamer
Clarence Bobbe
Barbara Cyrus
Stanley L. Davis Trust
Bill Findlay
Robert W. Franz
John R. Gatewood

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Annual Fund Donations

Contributions received
5/16/2018 - 7/15/2018

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Ann & David Taylor
Ernest Walker
Carolyn Winch
Work for Art
Suzanne Zarling
Brent Zenobia
And those who wish to remain
anonymous (1)



1



2

55th Anniversary Gala

1

Dinner under the stars in the Tateuchi Courtyard, with remarks by Oregon Governor Kate Brown.

2

From left to right: His Excellency Shinsuke J. Sugiyama, Ambassador of Japan to the United States; The Honorable Kate Brown, Governor of Oregon

3

Featured Gala Performer, pianist Junko Ichikawa



3

1-5 Jonathan Ley

Portland Japanese Garden's 55th Anniversary Gala on August 4, 2018 was a truly memorable evening, and thanks to our generous sponsors and attendees the event raised over \$350,000 to support the Garden's artistic and cultural programming. Thank you!

To view more images, please visit japanesegarden.org/gala



4
From left to right: 55th Anniversary Gala Co-Chairs: Robert Zagunis, President-Elect of the Portland Japanese Garden; Wayne Drinkward; Julie Drinkward

5
From left to right: Steve Bloom, CEO of the Portland Japanese Garden; His Excellency Shinsuke J. Sugiyama, Ambassador of Japan to the United States; The Honorable Takashi Teraoka, Consul General of Japan in Portland; Mrs. Junko Teraoka.

Thank you to our 55th Anniversary Gala Sponsors

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Carmen Wong and Arjun Chatrath
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Fran and John von Schlegell

DID YOU KNOW?

During Gion Matsuri, inside each float is an ensemble of musicians (a hayashi) comprised of drums, flutes, and bells from which the sonic identity of the festival is derived. The music is thought to drive away disease bearing spirits.

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