

The Garden Path

Behind the Shoji

July/August 2019



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HAIKU

A soft light Joining a softer night air Obon once again –Peter Kendall

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THE GARDEN PATH

FOR QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS Email marketing@japanesegarden.org

Kon'nichiwa!



After more than six months living in Tokyo immersed in my second Japan residency, I am thrilled to be back home in Portland to share with you what I've learned and the connections the Garden has made while I was working across the Pacific.

First, it is worth noting that with the start of the new imperial era, *Reiwa*, there is renewed excitement around what's to come. At Portland Japanese Garden, we share in that excitement!

When I wasn't in Japan, I was visiting gardens in Suzhou, China; São Paulo, Brazil; and Cape Town, South Africa to deepen cultural understanding, discuss the potential for patron tours, and to pursue partnerships with scholars and lecturers.

In January, I was invited to speak at the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation in London, England. My goal there was to lead a global dialogue about Japanese gardens as a platform for spreading ideals of peace and mutual understanding by sharing some of Japan's greatest gifts with the world.

In April, I was honored to present to members of the Foreign Correspondent's Club of Japan where I took part in a presentation and panel discussion in Tokyo alongside world-renowned architect Kengo Kuma and philanthropist and community advocate Teruyo Yanai.

My work abroad focused (and continues to focus) on expanding Portland Japanese Garden's network throughout Japan as well as with Japanese garden and cultural centers internationally and cultivating an exchange with world-class gardens to bring awareness to the remarkable work being done here in Portland.

Only together can we respond to the increasing demand for the art of craft, excellence in authenticity, experience of peace, and connection to nature.

Sincerely,

Steve Bloom Chief Executive Officer Portland Japanese Garden

Jonathan Ley

weaving and embroidery by artist Maki Sekine

FRONT COVER **Cover** image of Ainu

BACK COVER

Ju	ly	Aι	ıgust
6/8 - 7/21	Art in the Garden: Forest of Dreams	8/3 - 9/15	Behind the Shoji: Hokkaido Marketpla
3	Member-Only Extended Hours	2	Behind the Shoji: Golden Crane Previe Reception (6pm - 9pm)
6	Member Exhibition Exclusive, Forest of Dreams	2	Behind the Shoji: Member Preview Reception (7pm - 9pm)
7	Tanabata, The Star Festival	3	Maple Pruning Workshop (\$)
10	Golden Crane Annual Reception	3	Origami Demonstration
13	Maple Pruning Workshop <mark>(\$)</mark>	9	
16 & 17	Art of the Table: In Praise of Time: Where Landscape Meets Gastronomy	9	Twilight Hours for Patron and Stewar Members
19	Twilight Hours for Patron and	10	Maple Pruning Workshop <mark>(\$)</mark>
	Steward Members	10	Shakuhachi and Koto concert, Marco Lienhard and Mitsuki Dazai
19 & 20	Indigo Workshop, <i>Judilee Fitzhugh</i> <mark>(\$)</mark>	11	Shamisen Performance, Kazutaka Fu
23	Photographer Member Extended Hours	15 & 16	Obon: Honoring Ancestral Spirits (RSVP required)
26	Member-Only Extended Hours	17	Obon: Sapporo Cultural Festival
26	Koto, shamisen, flute, and vocal concert, Kotorito	18	Shamisen & taiko performance, Wacocoro Brothers
27	Calligraphy Demonstration, Kihachiro Nishiura	19	Ikebana Demonstration, Cindy Hepwo
28	Ikebana Demonstration, Katherine Kuba	24	Member-Only Extended Hours
		25	Ikebana Demonstration, Megan Rothstein
		28	Art of the Table: Sake Tasting (\$)
N 1 1	tickets required. ther events are free with admission	31	Shakuhachi Performance, Alex Coole

RECURRING CULTURAL CORNER DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE CATHY RUDD CULTURAL CORNER

Tea Ceremony: July 3, 6, 10, 14, 17, 20, 24, 31; August 4, 7, 9, 17, 21, 28.

Bonsai: July 1, 15, 21, 25, 29; August 8, 22, 26, 29.

Koto: July 4, 13; August 23, 24, 30.

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

	Member Exhibition Exclusive:	Mark Your Calendars:
	Forest of Dreams	Moonviewing Festival
	<mark>July 6</mark> 8am - 10am	September 13, 14, & 15 7pm - 9:30pm
		, pin 3.00pin
	The Garden's curatorial team invites members to this exclusive look at <i>Forest of Dreams: Ainu and</i> <i>Native American Woodcarving.</i> This member-only tour of the exhibition will begin at 8:30am in the Pavilion. Hot tea will be served on the West Veranda.	While <i>O-Tsukimi</i> , the Moonviewing Festival, won't take place until September, members have early access to tickets in July and August.
		Tickets for Golden Crane Members will go on sale July 31st.
	Member-Only Garden Tours	Tickets for all Members will go on sale August 7th.
	July 6 & 20	
	9am - 10am	Behind the Shoji: Hokkaido
		Marketplace Preview
	On the first and third Saturday in July, one of our volunteer guides will be providing tours exclusively for members and their guests.	Reception
		August 2nd
	Our knowledgeable tour guides will provide members with interesting and informative cultural, historical, and horticultural information about the Garden. Guided tours can provide insights into the vision of the Garden and its place in the community.	Golden Crane Preview Reception: 6pm to 9pm Member Preview Reception: 7pm to 9pm
		Join us for the exclusive opening reception of our annual show and sale <i>Behind the Shoji</i> .
	Tours begin at the Nezu Gate starting at 9am and	RSVP Required

typically last about 45 minutes.

MEMBER NEWS





The Natural Garden, a Silent Wonderment

"Human beings are naturally drawn in like a forest." "In many ways, it feels like being in the Columbia River Gorge."

Statements from our members and garden staff always seem to have a common theme when we ask them what makes the Natural Garden such a special place.

"The Natural Garden is the closest experience to the Gorge and a native forest you can get, but visitors don't need to drive an hour to the Gorge to get it. They can just come here and immerse themselves in the forest," said Garden Curator, Sadafumi Uchiyama.

YOU CAN PRESERVE THE NATURAL GARDEN

If you would like to contribute to help renew the original *machiai* structure in the Natural Garden, please visit japanesegarden.org/donate

sunlight so gardeners were unable to successfully grow moss after several attempts.

Now?

The Natural Garden is considered the most quiet

and informal garden at Portland Japanese Garden.

It was designed to encourage visitors to slow down and stroll the meandering pathways. Uchiyama said

the passageways are intentionally designed for one person, so there are fewer people walking through

Prior to the Cultural Crossing expansion in 2017, the

tion, redesigned in the early 1970's and again in 1990.

Garden staff will tell you it is not only their favorite garden, but one of the hardest to maintain, especially with pruning. Pruning in a natural way, without

visitors noticing, takes an immense amount of skill.

"It's funny how you have to work so hard to make

see the work that I do, but they'll experience it.

something look natural. But that's what I love about it. People will walk through here and they won't

That's what it's all about," said Francheska Snyder,

the gardener tasked with daily maintenance of the

The most contemporary of the original five gardens,

the hillside in the Natural Garden has been a chal-

lenge for several garden directors. Since the terrain

is sloped, there have been irrigation issues over the

years. "Irrigation is a big deal in the Natural Garden.

Members will notice that the irrigation line work is

now complete, but it took three and a half years to

fix because there is only a short window when it's

not winter, we're working while the Garden is still

open, and we were dealing with the difficult slope,"

Many visitors might not know that the area was

originally planned as a moss garden. In the early

1970s, the Natural Garden was in direct, bright

Natural Garden was the most recent garden addi-

Like the name suggests, it's natural. Most of the

at a time, creating a more private experience for

each visitor.

Natural Garden.

said Uchiyama.

"Now it's a perfect environment for the moss," said Snyder. "The trees have grown up and around bringing in a lot of shade and dappled sunlight."

It took more than 40 years, but the trees and deciduous plants in the Natural Garden now envelope visitors as they walk through. But it's not just the plants and moss that our visitors love about the Natural Garden.

According to Uchiyama, the Natural Garden's *machiai* (shown top left) is the most popular spot in all of Portland Japanese Garden, particularly in the summertime.

"Some people just go straight there and sit, especially the members, first thing in the morning. That's where they go," he said.

Originally built around 1980, the machiai was handcrafted with traditional design and workmanship, without nails. This traditional design allows the structure to be replaced piece-by-piece rather than demolished, and it has been slated for renewal in 2020.

"We don't concrete everything together. That way, we can pull each piece out as needed to repair it. Everything is built with special care especially without nails the first time around, so you can pull things out and repair as needed," he said.

The roof will undergo a renewal as well.

"It's a very private shelter and really gives you a sense of ownership so you are totally immersed in that space. It's a key fixture in the Natural Garden."

Dina Avila Don Schwartz

3 Derica Heartquist



Obon: New Format Honors Flements of Traditional Festival

August 15 - 17

Obon (お盆) is a Japanese Buddhist custom that honors the spirits of ancestors. It has evolved into a festival that traditionally lasts three days, with the starting date varying in different regions of Japan.

Typically, a "spirit altar" is set up at Obon to welcome ancestors' souls, and a priest reads *sutras* (Buddhist scriptures). The summer festival also includes dancing and chanting.

While Obon still retains some of its original religious significance in many rural parts of



- 1-2 Jonathan Ley
- Ocurtesy of Suntory Spirits, Ltd.
- Seiichi Koshimizu, photo courtesy of Suntory

🖸 Naomi Pomeroy, photo by Chris Cou

Japan, in other places it has become largely secularized. Bon Odori dancing is usually performed by large groups of men, women, and children to music and song. Costumes vary, but loose cotton summer yukata (robes) are popular and still worn in Japan for Obon. Dancers move in circles around the musicians on a temporary platform set up in a large space.

Because Obon is such a beloved tradition at Portland Japanese Garden, we are expanding it to create a more authentic Japanese experience honoring spirits of our ancestors, while also celebrating Obon's lively festivities.

On Thursday and Friday, August 15 and 16 the Garden will host Obon: Honoring Ancestral Spirits (formerly, "the Spirit Festival"). Stroll the Garden in quiet contemplation before taking part in our toro-nagashi (灯籠流し/lantern floating). This traditional practice of floating lanterns in the water is thought to guide ancestral spirits back to the celestial world after their annual return. Guests are welcome to honor ancestors by lighting a floating candle in memory of a departed loved one.

Tickets are free (but must be reserved) and will go on sale on July 10 to Golden Crane members and on July 17 to members.

On Saturday, August 17, come to Portland Japanese Garden for Obon: Sapporo Cultural Festival, when the Garden will celebrate the more lively aspects of the festival with bonodori (盆踊り / Bon dance), including festive music, dance, beer, and Sapporo ramen. Be sure to check member emails, Facebook, and the Garden's website for more information.



In Praise of Time:

Where Landscape Meets Gastronomy

July 16 & 17

Portland Japanese Garden is proud to present the West Coast's first-ever official lecture and tasting of prime Japanese whiskies by Suntory's Chief Blender Emeritus and Whisky Magazine Hall of Fame inductee Seiichi Koshimizu.

The evening event will be coupled with a culinary art pairing by one of the Pacific Northwest's most prominent chefs, Naomi Pomeroy of BEAST/Expatriate (James Beard Foundation's 2014 "Best Chef Northwest") to bring out the best and most playful facets of the featured whiskies of the evening, the blend Hibiki Japanese Harmony and the single malt Yamazaki 12 Years Old.

Participants will join Steve Bloom (CEO), Sadafumi Uchiyama (Garden Curator), Aki Nakanishi (Curator of Culture, Art & Education), and Hugo Torii (Director of Garden Maintenance) on a private bespoke tour of the garden as part of the unforgettable gastronomic immersion.

This event produced in partnership with





the

Zagz







Behind the Shoji: Hokkaido Marketplace





Our popular show and sale event *Behind the Shoji* returns to Portland Japanese Garden on Saturday, August 3.

This year, in collaboration with the 6oth anniversary of the sister-city relationship between Portland and Sapporo (the capital of Hokkaido), *Behind the Shoji* will highlight some of Hokkaido's finest products.

CELEBRATING CREATIVITY

As the northernmost island of Japan, Hokkaido has long been considered a remote land of scenic beauty and rugged landscapes. The very remoteness of Hokkaido has allowed artists the freedom to create, innovate, and experiment.

Come marvel at the unparalleled wood and textiles from Hokkaido's native Ainu peoples, only available for purchase at Portland Japanese Garden.

ADMIRING AINU

Ainu embroidery artist Maki Sekine learned about Ainu culture and crafts from her grandparents while she was growing up, and her natural fascination led to her acquiring woodcarving skills, attus weaving, and Ainu pattern embroidery.

Sekine often creates her original works right in front of her customers, adding new features while still using traditional patterns and techniques. She says, "Ainu culture is based on love for the family. It would make me happy if works imbued with that sentiment bring feelings of happiness and joy to many people." Ainu weaving and embroidery by artist Maki Sekine
Coasters from Katoh Mokkou company in Hokkaido

Hand-thrown pottery from Kushiro City, Hokkaido

Another highlight will be intricate coasters, inspired by popular Japanese patterns, from the woodworking company Katoh Mokkou of the Kamikawa District of Hokkaido. Katoh Mokkou started making furniture out of solid wood more than 20 years ago. Three types of wood will be on display: Japanese oak, white birch, and American walnut.

Also available will be tiny clay pots, hand-thrown on a wheel, from Kushiro City in Hokkaido. The glaze is made out of cherry-tree charcoal from artist Asanomi's own fireplace. The studio where these pots are made uses clay exclusively from Shiga prefecture, where one of only six remaining kilns of ancient Japan is preserved till this day.

OTHER HOKKAIDO HIGHLIGHTS:

For the first time, *Behind the Shoji* will feature regional foods, including jams and chocolate from Hokkaido's Aichi Food, made with local wine.

From the contemporary jewelry of Sapporo to decorative glassware of the Otaru area, this show will have something for all tastes.

Come marvel at the incredible creations designed by Hokkaido artisans. *Behind the Shoji* runs until Sunday, September 15. *Sponsored by Hokusei North America*.



PEEK BEHIND THE SHOJI FOR AUTHENTIC GARDENING TOOLS FROM JAPAN

Our Garden Curator, Sadafumi "Sada" Uchiyama, personally selects his pruning shears and clippers from a traditional craftsman with a small shop in Tokyo. When the Garden was looking for authentic garden tools to offer in our Gift Shop, Sada suggested Mr. Ueda of Kikusue Cutlery.

Mr. Ueda's traditional store has no website, catalog, email capability, or price list. Thankfully, one of the Garden's corporate partners and this year's sponsor of *Behind the Shoji*, Hokusei North America, imports products to and from Japan. They were able to locate Mr. Ueda. Hokusei North America now facilitates an ongoing "pen-pal" relationship between Mr. Ueda and Portland Japanese Garden through the long-lost art of hand-written letters!

We are proud to say that these high-quality garden tools will also be featured during this year's *Behind the Shoji* show and sale.

RELATED EVENTS

GOLDEN CRANE PREVIEW RECEPTION August 2 / 6pm - 9pm

MEMBER PREVIEW RECEPTION August 2 / 7pm - 9pm



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Volunteers: The Heart of the Garden

Portland Japanese Garden volunteers are often at the heart of the Garden's mission to educate the public about Japanese gardens and culture.

They put a great deal of time and energy into learning about Portland Japanese Garden and preparing for their individual roles, whether that is studying the Garden's history, learning the craft of *bonsai*, or preparing to teach the public about four *Art in the Garden* exhibits each year.

1-2 🖸 Peter Friedman

"Our volunteers take part in all of the docent orientations. And this year, they attended an important cultural competency training for the current *Forest of Dreams* exhibition," said Catherine Adinolfi, Tour and Volunteer Manager.

During the *Ice & Stone* exhibition earlier this year, Garden volunteers contributed 300 hours of their time to successfully staff the exhibition and share the art of viewing stones with the public, Adinolfi said.

"They are incredible."

Our visitors have given feedback that Garden volunteers provide "insightful, knowledgeable, and useful information about art exhibitions and individual gardens that would have been otherwise lost."

Aside from participating in National Volunteer Week and celebrating the efforts of our volunteers, the Garden gives back through continuing education.

In 2019, there will be 18 trainings for volunteers with presentations by various experts, including the Garden's Deputy Director, the Director of Ground Maintenance, our Bonsai Consultant, the Garden Curator, as well as by other visiting experts, artists, and scholars.

Portland Japanese Garden will be hosting a volunteer appreciation reception on Sunday, July 21 from 6pm -8pm. The event marks an occasion for the organization to offer its gratitude for all of the contributions made by an exceptional and dedicated corps of volunteers. Recognizing Garden Volunteers by the numbers

\$230,000

2018 revenue equivalent when converting volunteer hours into dollars

9,000

Hours given by volunteer time last year

658

Public tours by volunteer guides (not including school and private tours)

200

Active volunteers contribute their free time

98

Docent volunteers

50

Docent volunteers needed for one *Art in the Garden* exhibition!

50

Hours per year most volunteers contribute

6

Garden volunteers have given 1,000 'lifetime' hours to the Garden!



WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A GARDEN VOLUNTEER?

Portland Japanese Garden is looking for volunteers to assist with the upcoming show and sale *Behind the Shoji*, to educate the public about the art and craft of *bonsai*, and volunteers for the Garden's *Haiku Alive* children's school program.

For more information, please visit japanesegarden.org/volunteers

If you're interested, email: volunteer@japanesegarden.org



The Golden Crane Society

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\$5,000-\$9,999

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Ray Pfortner

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14



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Including our Global Ambassador Members, Sponsors of our 2014 New York Launch Event, and Donors contributing \$500 in the past 12 months and residing more than 120 miles from Portland, Oregon.

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Golden Crane Legacy Society

Members of the Golden Crane Legacy Society have named Portland Japanese 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.

Barbara Bell Diane Benjamir Melanie Billings-Yun Steve Bloom Michael Blankenship Judy Bradley & Dave Mitchell Susan C. Brown Heida & Don Bruce Carla Caesar & Nora King Mora Chartrand & Linda Grant Mary Dickson David & Nancy Dowel

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

if you have already done so and would allow us to list you as a Legacy Society member, please contact Major Gifts Officer Matthew Maas at (503) 542-9301 or mmaas@japanesegarden.org

If you would like to include the

Garden in your estate plans, or

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

Memorials and Honoraria

1/16/2019 - 3/15/2019

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Forest of Dreams: Fostering Grassroots Cultural Exchange

A critical component of Portland Japanese Garden's mission is to promote the work and experience of peace. This mission is at the heart of the Garden's programming and activities and has been a pursuit since our inception: to foster understanding and friendship between cultures.

Our current exhibition, *Forest of Dreams*, has taken on that mission in full, promoting cultural understanding and peace at both an official level and grassroots level. The exhibition helps commemorate the 6oth anniversary of the sister city relationship between Portland and Sapporo (the capital of Hokkaido, Japan), a relationship that was instrumental in the establishment of the Garden. Mayors of both cities, Mr. Ted Wheeler of Portland and Mr. Katsuhiro Akimoto of Sapporo, were in attendance to celebrate the opening of this groundbreaking exhibition on June 7.



<image>

Tony Johnson, Chairman of the Chinook Tribe, addresses guests in the Cultural Village on opening weekend

Z

Mayors Katsuhiro Akimoto and Ted Wheeler receive a photo commemorating the 60-year friendship between Portland and Sapporo

3

Ainu performer, Hibiki Yamamichi, engages the crowd on the opening weekend at the Garden

4

Ainu guests and Garden staff arrive at the longhouse at the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde in Grand Ronde, OR

Bobby Mercier, Cultural Advisor of the

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, welcomes Ainu curator and teacher, Kenji Sekine, to the workshop at the Chachalu Museum and Cultural Center





During the opening weekend, native peoples from both continents--the Ainu of northern Japan and Native Americans of the Columbia River Basin--came together to share their songs, dances, and cultural and artistic practices in public events at the Garden. This stimulating exchange culminated in a daytrip of our visiting guests from Hokkaido to the headquarters of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. The visit was led by tribal member and Language and Cultural Specialist, Bobby Mercier. The day included sharing food and festivities, a visit to a language school teaching *Chinook Wawa* (the trade language of regional tribes), and a private tour of the Chachalu Museum and Cultural Center.

Portland Japanese Garden is honored to have helped bring these people, ideas, and cultures together for mutual appreciation and understanding and to have shared these encounters with visitors from around the world.

The exhibition continues through July 21.

See more photos of this important cultural exchange at japanesegarden.org/forestofdreams

1-3 Jonathan Ley 4-5 D Chris Ruggles



DID YOU KNOW? HOKKAIDO...

Forest of Dreams brings together indigenous artists from Hokkaido and the Pacific Northwest. Languages of these rich cultures are fighting for survival. The Ainu language is considered critically endangered by UNESCO, and some of our Ainu guests lead programs to preserve the language. Chinuk Wawa, the trading language of the tribes in the Pacific Northwest, was classified as extinct until 2014, when the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde established a language school for children, adult classes, and an ambitious publication program.





Official Winery of the Portland Japanese Garden



Official Sake of the Portland Japanese Garden



Official Airline of the Portland Japanese Garden

Our mission is to bring the ideals of Portland Japanese Garden to the world: art of craft; connection to nature; experience of peace.