Dear Members,

Let me begin the new year by saying thank you to all who support Portland Japanese Garden with your year-end gifts. Our members are truly the heart of this organization. No one knows better than you that each year and throughout the seasons visitors to Portland Japanese Garden find their hearts and minds are opened, and they immediately experience a sense of peace simply by walking through our Garden’s gates.

By now you’ve heard that this year we are commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II by celebrating 2020 as the “Year of Peace” and honoring the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Half of our visitors come from around the world, half come from our own backyard. While their reasons for visiting may vary, our goal has always been to provide an exceptional experience for any and all who seek it. During this Year of Peace, we will be introducing an extraordinary line up of artists and art forms with exhibitions and programming that will reflect on ways we experience peace through connections to art, nature, and one another. Your end-of-year support has contributed to making this type of programming possible. So again, thank you.

More than a half century ago, Portland residents like you recognized the value that Portland Japanese Garden contributes to our city. Now you are part of that community and have helped sustain what the Garden provides its guests through your memberships and donations. Thank you for being a part of the Garden’s legacy. It is the generosity of individuals like you that helps to preserve and sustain the Garden’s physical and intangible assets, nurturing the Garden into such a special place.

In closing, and on behalf of everyone at Portland Japanese Garden, let me wish you and yours health, joy, and peace in 2020! I hope you are as excited as I am for what is to come.

Akemashite omedetō gozaimasu! Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Steve Bloom
Chief Executive Officer

From the CEO

Events Calendar
January – February

Feature
First Memories: A Childhood Interned

Haiku
Winter moon
rising whole, swallowing
the darkness
–Peter Kendall

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Chief Executive Officer
New Member Discounts

Our hotel partner Dossier Hotel will provide a 10% discount on overnight accommodations for Garden members all year round. Whether you need a mini staycation or have out-of-town visitors looking for somewhere to stay, you can use the promo code “GARDEN” to receive this discount while booking. Dossier will also donate 5% of the room rate back to the Garden.

Kyoto Journal will provide a 40% discount off the 1-year (4-issues) subscriptions for Garden members. This premium, award-winning quarterly magazine showcases life, culture, and society in Japan and throughout the Asia region from myriad perspectives. Order on kyotojournal.org and use promo code “KJxPJG” to receive your discounted subscription any time.

Mindfulness Tour

Each tour will be limited to 10 members. Reservations are required.

This intimate tour focuses not on meditation, but instead on learning to bring mindful awareness to oneself, and the world around us, through intentional observation and connections.

An experienced guide will provide a foundation of the art of contemplative exploration throughout various Garden spaces and gently guide awareness away from the business of everyday life back toward the connection to nature and experience of peace.

For more information on tour dates and to reserve your space, please visit japonesegarden.org/events.

February

1 Koto Performance, Mitsuki Dazai.
7 Curator’s Talk: Spirits Rising, Golden Crane, Patron and Steward Members only, 5pm-7pm
8 Cultural Workshop: Exploring the World of Koto, Masumi Timson, 1pm - 3pm ($)
9 Mindfulness Tour, Members only, 9am-10am
9 Ikebana Demonstration, Diane Dixon.
15 Lecture by Michiko Kasahara, Vice Director, Artizon Museum ($)
16 Japanese Ensemble Performance, Takohachi
17 President’s Day - Garden Hours: 10am - 4pm
22 Cultural Workshop: Textile Workshop Series - Winter, 10am - 2:30pm ($)
27 Mindfulness Tour, Members only, 9am-10am

($) = Tickets required
All other events are free with admission

January

1 New Year’s Day: Members Only, 10am - 2pm
5 O-Shogatsu, New Year’s Festival, 11am - 3pm
17 Golden Crane Exhibition Preview: Spirits Rising 5pm-8pm
18 Member Exhibition Preview: Spirits Rising, 9am - 10am
18 Spirits Rising: Film Screening of Things Left Behind, followed by a panel discussion with the artist, director, and curator. Co-presented with NW Film Center, 3pm ($)
19 Koto Performance, Mitsuki Dazai.
20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Garden Hours: 10am - 4pm
25 Shakuhachi Performance, Alex Cooley.
26 Ikebana Demonstration, Diane Sayrizi.

RECURRING DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE CATHY RUDD CULTURAL CORNER
Sponsored by Dossier Hotel

Tea Ceremony: January 4, 10, 18 February 7, 15, 21.
Bonsai: January 12, 20 February 17, 24.

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

Jonathan Ley
About how old do you think you were when you had your first memory? Three-years-old? Four? Try to remember what it was and where you were.

Calvin Tanabe’s first memory goes back to some time in the middle of spring 1942, when he was a three-and-a-half-year-old Oregon boy.

Portland Japanese Garden philanthropist and current Board of Trustees member Calvin Tanabe says while he doesn’t remember the house where he was living with his parents on a little farm in northeast Portland, he does remember being rounded up by the government and having to leave that house.

“I remember a little bit of what the government called the ‘assembly center,’ which was a livestock pavilion. And they put up these canvas partitions, rounded us up and put us all in there.”

Tanabe, now 81, will never forget it.

“Cal” Tanabe was born in Portland. His mother, also born in Portland, had moved to Japan but came back after high school. His father came to Oregon from Japan when he was 14 years old. After his parents were married, they moved frequently around Oregon as transient farmers wherever they could find work.

In 1942, the Tanabe farm was located where the Portland airport currently sits. It was small by farm standards, about 20 or 30 acres. They were truck farmers who raised vegetables and drove them into town like most farmers did in those days. Many in that area were Japanese and Italian.

Cal’s parents had recently purchased a 1941 Chevrolet truck, they owned a horse and a tractor. His father drove vegetables around in their new truck, and things were looking up until World War II changed the course of their lives forever.

AN EXECUTIVE ORDER
Between 1942 and the end of World War II, in the single-largest forced relocation in U.S. history, nearly 120,000 Japanese Americans were forced from their homes and transported to internment camps across the western United States.

The policy was the direct result of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Executive Order designating all West Coast residents of Japanese ancestry — whether citizens or not — as “enemy aliens.”

FAMILY NUMBER 16133
After the Tanabe family was forced to live in Portland’s livestock pavilion, Cal says he remembers a tag being placed on his shirt. The tag had the number 16133.

“All the families had numbers. Ours was 16133. I remember they made me wear my family number because I was little and would wander off. That way, someone could help me back, because it was just a maze of partitions, canvas partitions everywhere.”

He and his family lived in the livestock pavilion for three months before they were put on a train to Idaho. To a three-and-a-half-year-old boy, being on a train was exciting, he said. They ended up in Minidoka, Idaho.

“I don’t know if they told us where we were going or if I was just too small to really know. But that’s where my memory really starts, [it] is in that concentration camp in Idaho.”

Today he says he distinctly remembers everything about it, from walking from the barracks where he stayed to his first-grade school room.

He and his family were interned for three years…

To read more about Cal Tanabe and A Childhood Interned, visit japonesegarden.org/tanabe

L A N G U A G E  M A T T E R S
There is no universal agreement on what we call the camps or the process that created them — ‘incarceration,’ ‘internment,’ and ‘concentration’ are a few of the terms that were interchangeably used. While some might find ‘concentration’ misleading because these were not extermination camps, the term predates the Holocaust and is by definition a place where large numbers of people are detained or confined under armed guard. We believe that awareness of the historical import of these words; as well as care in using them, is an important way to respect the collective memory of the victims and grants us greater power to confront injustice and cultivate peace.
The tiles were shipped to Portland Japanese Garden from Japan, and the Cultural Village roofing constitutes the first project of its kind in the United States to use this material.

“We performed multiple studies for installation and growing best practices prior to construction, and now a few years in, we are still learning how to best maintain our living roof,” said Desirae Wood, Garden Asset Manager.

To date, Wood says, maintenance has involved planting, weeding, re-vegetation, sedum trimming, and fine tuning the irrigation.

“We continue to learn a lot and are happy to encourage the visual transition of the buildings into the native forest environment – something architect Kengo Kuma strove for in his design of our Cultural Village.”

The Ecoroof, or “living rooftop,” tile maintenance is something the garden team must do at least a few times a year. But since it requires safety equipment and machinery, it takes much more time than most tasks on the garden’s grounds.

Nature evolves constantly, and the dozen or so sedum species initially installed on the rooftops in the Cultural Village have self-selected their microclimates and have now settled in with the inevitable moss.

The material used for the Ecoroof is a porous ceramic paver called ‘Greenbiz’ made from a by-product of the Komatsu Matere Co., Ltd. fabric industry, who also donated half of the roof tiles used.

DID YOU KNOW?
The garden and the creek capture and clean the water as it winds its way around the Umami Café and down the native hillside to the Entry Garden.

Staying on Top of Maintenance:
The Art of Caring for Green Rooftops

While visiting the Garden at the end of the year, you may have noticed our gardening team on lifts, caring for the plants growing on the Garden’s Cultural Village rooftops.

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Garden Happenings

As we welcome a new year, our gardeners have been hard at work completing projects that are rooted in Japanese tradition and symbolize the start of a new beginning.

- Created handmade Kadomatsu arrangements, which can be seen and enjoyed throughout the Garden in the beginning of January
- Organized and cleaned the entirety of the Garden, from the eight gardens to the gardener’s garage, and beyond
- Replaced old bamboo spouts throughout the Garden
- Cleaned all of the pine trees to prepare them for new growth
Hoichi Kurisu served as one of Portland Japanese Garden’s early Garden Directors and has been a close friend of this organization for nearly a half century. He’s a prolific designer of transcendentally lovely hospital healing gardens and public Japanese gardens like Florida’s Morikami. But his newest creation, unveiled in November at the Oregon State Penitentiary in Salem, was a first: a Japanese-style prison garden, designed and constructed in collaboration with the maximum security facility’s inmates, a few of whom are in for life.

There’s a Japanese concept called mitate-mono. It can be loosely translated as recycling or reuse, but the truest translation is to see an object anew— for a thing to gain a new meaning and purpose. Our own garden has lots of beautiful examples of this, mostly involving old roof tiles, or stones taken from a long-demolished Portland landmark.

But there is also such a thing as mitate-mono of human beings. The same hands that once visited terrible harm on another person can become the hands that plant and carefully prune a pine tree. The mind that once decided to commit acts of violence can become the mind that chooses to make a place of tranquility and restoration. And the heart that once harbored rage can become the heart of the gardener: patient, humble, and selfless enough to see itself as only a small part of something greater that will outlast it. Gardens not only heal us. They teach us to see ourselves anew— connecting us to the better angels of our nature and elevating us to be our best possible selves.

The Power of a Garden:
To See Anew

To learn about the Japanese garden is to dive headlong into the deep waters of a culture’s heart and soul— learning not just about compositions of stone, plants, and water, but also about spirituality, poetry, aesthetics, architecture, applied arts, and so much more.

Our International Japanese Garden Training Center offers learners of all levels the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the garden and its connection to other art forms. The Center is a unique kind of school with its own distinctive teaching philosophy – the only such program in the world outside of Japan. We teach the traditional skills and techniques for creating and fostering Japanese gardens, while acquainting our learners with the garden’s cultural spirit and placing the art form in vibrant new contexts. Learners in the Center’s programs range from elementary school students studying haiku to accomplished garden professionals learning how to construct the stone components of a tea garden.

Workshops, themed tours, school programs, lectures, professional seminars, and design intensives take place at the Garden and offsite venues. Visiting and permanent faculty include Garden staff (like Director of Ground Maintenance Hugo Torii, pictured) and renowned practitioners, designers, and academics from the U.S., Japan, and other countries. The Center is a proud recipient of the 2018 Program of Excellence Award from the American Public Gardens Association.

Find more information including 2020 programs with ticket sales and application deadlines at: japanesegarden.org/thecenter
The opening exhibition of our 2020 Year of Peace, Spirits Rising, presents works from the monumental photographic series ひろしま/hiroshima by Ishiuchi Miyako (b. 1947). Thirty-three haunting works will be displayed as a way of connecting the collective past of not only the Japanese, but also of all world citizens, to one of the most traumatic episodes in our shared history: the atomic bombing of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945 at the end of World War II. Seventy-five years after that fateful day, Ishiuchi uses her photography as both a forensic tool of discovery and as an instrument of mourning and recollection to bring this event to life, instilling our sense of history with a newfound humanity.

Beginning with an unprecedented invitation in 2007, Ishiuchi has returned to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum for over ten years to photograph newly-donated personal artifacts and articles of clothing from victims of the bombing. She focuses on the possessions of those who perished, specifically, as she has stated, “things that at one time had touched skin and bodies.” Creating images that are both casual and intimate, Ishiuchi’s practice involves building a relationship with each object she decides to depict. Through her use of vivid color and larger-than-life scale, Ishiuchi seeks to establish and expand the contemporary viewer’s connection to the personal lives and experiences of the victims of the bombing. Testaments to a profound trauma, her images at once illuminate the beauty and complexity of individual lives, and the weight of collective history.

Notably, many of the objects she selects to photograph were owned or worn by women. Ishiuchi emphasizes this point in the intentionality of the spelling of the series title, ひろしま/hiroshima, in which Japanese hiragana characters spell out the name of the city, which is reflected in lower case Roman script. The hiragana writing syllabary was first popularized by court women during the Heian Period (794–1185) for composing personal communications, diaries, and literature, eventually becoming known as “women’s hand,” or onna-de (女手). The use of this syllabary emphasizes a rich connection to the continuum of Japanese women in history and her own personal connection to the works.

Careful not to fall into the restrictive category of documentary photography, Ishiuchi resists including detailed information with her photographs, eschewing the histories of the objects or stories about the victims or their donors. Instead she prefers to portray these objects as distinct, contemporary forms. Actively involved with the precise layout and design of her exhibition spaces, Ishiuchi is clear in her vision of creating an experiential realm in which visitors are brought face-to-face with the articles she has come to know intimately. She considers the placement of each image, hanging photographs at various elevations to suggest that the objects have been imbued with life spirit, invigorating each piece with the relevance and urgency of now.

In conjunction with the exhibition, Portland Japanese Garden will present a film screening of Things Left Behind (2012), a documentary on the emotional response to her first North American exhibition of this series, on January 18 at the Whitsett Auditorium of the Portland Art Museum, as well as a lecture by one of the foremost experts on post-war Japanese photography, Ms. Michiko Kasahara (Vice Director, Bridgestone Museum of Art, Tokyo and former chief curator of the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography), on February 15.

THE GARDEN PATH

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JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2020

January 2020

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JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2020
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Memorials and Honoraria
9/16/2019 - 11/15/2019

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 Annual Fund Manager Beth Levy at blevy@japanesegarden.org or 503-542-0281.

Constance Weimer
Robert & Marilyn Sugarbaker
Lawrence L. Secor
Robert & Marilyn Schuberg
Jeaneatta Satter
David E. Wedge Trust
Constance Weimer

Legacy Society Members receive invitations to special events and receptions.

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

Nancy Beamer
Clarence Biboie
Barbara Cyrus
Stanley L. Davis Trust
Bill Frisday
Robert W. Franz
John R. Gates
Barbara W. Gome Trust
Estate of Stanley W. Greenhalgh
Elizabeth Ann Hinds
Judy D. Jones Trust
Neil Jordan
Estate of James Kesler
Duke Mankertz
Beverly Merrif
Jack D. Nickell

American Endowment Foundation
Beverly
Joan & Bill Bailey
John Benson
Craig Borotz & Rachelle Jacover
Lisa Bresnoffe
Ginnie Cooper
Stephen Cross
Kamiko & Alexander de Weese
Brian & Kelly DeHaven
Dr. Ted & Marilyn Depew
Mary Dickson
Carla Caesar & Nora King
Heida & Don Bruce
Judy Bradley & Dave Mitchell
Susan C. Brown
Mori Chantard & Linda Grant
Mary Dickson
David and Nancy Dowell
Mrs. Marguerite H. Drake

Annual Fund Donations

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Year of the Rat

Happy New Year & Happy Year of the Rat!

To help celebrate the New Year and this beautiful season in the Garden, we’re sharing a collection of photos of snow in the Garden over the years.

In the Japanese zodiac, January 1, 2020 marks the beginning of the Year of the Rat.

The rat is the first sign of twelve animals in the Japanese zodiac. According to one myth, the Jade Emperor decided that the order of the animals would be set by a race. The rat tricked the ox and rode on the ox’s back, jumping across the finish line at the last moment.

People born in the Year of the Rat are known to be clever, quick thinkers and to prefer living a quiet life. They also are optimistic and energetic, leading to success in endeavors and relationships.

Bring in the new year with a charming Year of the Rat figurines from our gift shop!

Year of the Rat

Attract good luck with a Year of the Rat figurine from the Garden Gift Shop.
As you welcome the New Year and consider the year ahead, planned giving can be a great way to support a cause and an organization that shares your values. Portland Japanese Garden is happy to support your estate planning process with resources and a giving program through our Phoenix Legacy Society. Learn more at japangarden.org/planning or call 503-328-0050.