


The Garden Path

Gifts from Japan

April/May 2022



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FRONT COVER  *Top right, Akiko Enokido, detail of Camellia 'Yukitsubaki', © 2015, watercolor on vellum.*
Bottom left, Artist Unknown, detail of Japanese Iris from The Yokohama Nursery Co., ink and color on paper.

BACK COVER  *Kenneth Offield*

HAIKU

A shower slips by
On a leaf, the sun
in a raindrop

– Peter Kendall

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THE GARDEN PATH

FOR QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS
Email marketing@japanesegarden.org



📷 Chris Ruggles

Dear Members,

I visit Portland Japanese Garden often. I frequent our magnificent Garden not just in my capacity as a Trustee, but to take advantage of the opportunity for reflection it provides. I have been reflecting a lot lately. This May, my term as Board President will conclude and a lot has happened in the past three years.

Entering 2020, the Garden was moving forward in its evolution. Already internationally recognized for our serene garden spaces, the promise of the future was ripe: our debts on our remarkable Cultural Village had been paid off and our programming and training centers were reaching new heights. And then the pandemic struck.

Typically, Board Presidents serve two-year terms. Faced with the uncertain terrain created by the pandemic, I was asked to remain in this position for an additional year. I am humbled by the trust that was afforded me. I am also honored to be among the stewards who helped the Garden not only navigate this misfortune but continue its growth. When I became President in 2019, I wrote that the Garden's future would be different from its past, but bright and exciting nonetheless. The sentiment remains.

The organization will thrive in the decades to come because of its most significant strength: people. Countless individuals treated the threat of the pandemic as a clarion call and saved their

Garden. This was not the work of just my colleagues on the Board of Trustees, but also our International Advisory Board, Golden Crane Society and Phoenix Legacy donors, generous Portland neighbors, and our world-class staff and volunteers.

Now this tremendous group of people, linked by a common cause, will venture toward an exciting future in the form of the Japan Institute. The Garden has been the bedrock for this organization, its limitations strictly physical. With our new campus, the Japan Institute will take our amazing programming and training and expand it so that we may export the ideals and values of Japanese culture to more people in more places.

Here at the Garden, we say “visit often.” These two words are not a slogan—they are a prescription. Here in the finest Japanese garden outside of Japan, the twin sensations of harmony and peace flourish. A visit to Portland Japanese Garden allows one to recapture tranquility among the din and flurry of our modern lives. In this place of serenity, I look back and feel gratitude. I also look forward and feel optimism.

Here's to the future,

Robert Zagunis



📷 Thomas Armeli

Annual Membership Meeting & Reception

May 2nd, 2022 / 5:30 pm

Back in person! Join us for the Annual Membership Meeting on Monday, May 2nd at 5:30pm. Portland Japanese Garden CEO, Steve Bloom, will give an annual overview for members and will present about the Garden's future. A reception will immediately follow the Annual Meeting.

This is a member-only event. Reservations and proof of vaccination are required.

Go to japanesegarden.org/events/annualmeeting2022 to RSVP by April 25th.

EXTENDED MEMBER HOURS RETURN

The Garden returned to Summer Hours on March 14th. Last Admission is 5:30pm and visitors have until 6:30pm to enjoy the garden. We are excited to also bring back Extended Member Hours throughout the spring and summer seasons.

Photography Member extended hours*

April 27, 2022 6:30-8am

**For Photography-level memberships only*

Member extended hours

May 19, 2022 6:30-8:30pm

May 27, 2022 6:30-8:30pm

For information on other Extended Member Hours throughout the rest of summer, visit japanesegarden.org/events or keep an eye on our weekly e-newsletters and future editions of The Garden Path.

Patron and Steward Members: Mark Your Calendars for Twilight Hours**

June 17, 6:30-8:30pm

July 8, 6:30-8:30pm

***For Patron and Steward-level memberships only. Reservations required*



Upcoming Exhibition

Gifts from Japan: A Horticultural Tale
Told Through Botanical Art

May 14 - July 4, 2022

Gifts from Japan illuminates the unique origin stories of many flowers that are now widely presumed native to the United States. Featuring a collection of richly captured botanical illustrations from the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Garden (CA), these artworks present a window into the Japanese American experience as immigrant families who cultivated gardens and helped naturalize such well-known flowers as orchids, camellias, and irises.

In addition to visiting this latest Art Exhibition during regular Pavilion hours (9:30am-5:00pm), members have special access to experience the art through these member events:

Golden Crane Society Reception

May 13th, 2022 / 5:30-8:00pm

Member Exhibition Preview

May 14th, 2022 / 9:00-10:00am



Kodomo no Hi – Children’s Day

May 8, 2022 / 10:30am-2:30pm

Children’s Day festival will return to the Garden for the first time in two years! *Kodomo no Hi*, also called Children’s Day, is celebrated each year in Japan on May 5 to celebrate the growth and good fortune of children. Come celebrate the beloved family tradition at Portland Japanese Garden.

A range of family-friendly activities, including *taiko* drumming, a scavenger hunt, and take-home craft activities, makes this the perfect festival for kids of all ages. In Japan, cloth carp streamers, or *koinobori*, are flown outside of homes and public buildings to bring good fortune to children. Koi symbolize courage and determination as they swim upstream and through powerful waterfalls.

Longtime partner of the Garden, Portland Coffee Roasters, will be preparing and serving complementary coffee to visitors during this event. Thank you, Portland Coffee Roasters!

Details for all events can always be found online at japanesegarden.org/events.
Sign up for member newsletters to stay up to date with all the latest information at japanesegarden.org/newsletters



Programming at the International Japanese Garden Training Center Returns in 2022

The International Japanese Garden Training Center was established in 2018 to teach traditional skills and techniques for creating and fostering Japanese gardens and acquaint learners with Portland Japanese Garden's cultural heart and soul. As the pandemic subsides, we are delighted to welcome back participants to our workshops, lectures, and flagship seminar, *Waza to Kokoro*. Here is what is coming the new few months.

American Public Gardens Association (APGA) Annual Conference

June 20 – June 24, 2022 | Portland, Oregon

Portland Japanese Garden is the honored to host this year's annual APGA conference, taking place in our very own Portland, Oregon. The theme is "CommUNITY," which speaks to the how gardens like ours are gathering place where visitors can lose themselves in the tranquility of nature and "create meaningful experiences together."

Over the course of the conference, Portland Japanese Garden CEO Steve Bloom and Chief Curator Sadafumi (Sada) Uchiyama will participate in separate panel discussions. On June 21, Sada will join design colleagues in a discussion of our award-winning 2017 Cultural Crossing expansion. This conversation will cover how a multicultural team collaborated to transform challenging terrain into a beautiful and engineeringly-sound center for cultural exchange. On June 23, Steve will moderate a panel of Japanese garden experts titled *Migrations: The Global Phenomenon of Japanese Garden Forms and Their Social and Horticultural Impacts*. Steve and his colleagues will discuss how the ideals of Japanese gardens migrated across oceans to make lasting social and horticultural impacts around the world. Steve will also be giving the conference's keynote speech on June 23.

Portland Japanese Garden joins our friends at Lan Su Chinese Garden, Crystal Springs Rhododendron, and Hoyt Arboretum as the Host Gardens for this event.

Registration is open now! More information can be found at <https://publicgardens22.dryfta.com>.



Waza to Kokoro: Hands and Heart Level 1 Seminar

June 23 – June 30, 2022 | Portland, Oregon

Waza to Kokoro is the International Japanese Garden Training Center's flagship program. This week-long program helps Japanese gardens outside of Japan find authentic, locally-appropriate solutions in design, construction, maintenance, and preservation. It is designed for professionals working in Japanese gardens but is also open to landscape design and construction professionals as well as students of landscape-related disciplines. The Training Center is certified by the American Society of Landscape Architects as an approved Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System (LA CES) provider.

Applications are now open for the *Waza to Kokoro*: Level 1 Seminar. For more information, go to our website: japanesegarden.org/thecenter

ADDITIONAL UPCOMING TRAINING CENTER PROGRAMS

Maple Pruning Workshops: July 2, July 9

Garden+ Lectures and a Pine Pruning Workshop also return this fall

Stay tuned for further programming updates later in the year.

Inspiring Harmony and Peace

The Mission Statement of Portland Japanese Garden and the Japan Institute Explained

When Portland Japanese Garden was created in the 1960s, it was met with opposition from those blinded by hate. Despite this, we became a beloved cultural institution with more than 500,000 visitors a year. This transformation is the result of our champions who embodied core values such as mutual respect, harmony, and cultural authenticity.

Those core values led to the creation of Portland Japanese Garden's first mission to "create, maintain, improve, and administer an authentic, world-class Japanese garden in the city of Portland and to offer compatible educational, cultural, artistic, horticultural, environmental, and charitable activities to people from all over the world."

That mission could be distilled down to four simple, but powerful words: **Inspiring Harmony and Peace.**

In 2017, the organization took a step back to ask itself why it exists and re-examine its mission so it could align with the needs of our communities. Driven by the same unshakable core values, the Garden felt it was time to update its mission to "bring the ideals of Portland Japanese Garden to the world: art of craft, connection to nature, experience of peace."

Over the past year, on the heels of the Pandemic, upon the launch of the Japan Institute, and on the verge of our 60th anniversary in 2023, we as an organization once again took time to re-evaluate not only the mission of Portland Japanese Garden, but to establish a mission for the Japan Institute as well. The results of this important soul-searching was first the realization that the Garden and the Institute could share a mission, and second, that mission could be distilled down to four simple, but powerful words: **Inspiring Harmony and Peace.**

With this refined mission providing a clear way forward, the Garden and Institute will take intertwining paths to inspire harmony and peace. The Garden will focus on achieving its mission through culture, art, and nature and the Japan Institute will make these gains with an emphasis on dialogue, diplomacy, and knowledge. Harmony and peace can only be achieved if it is sought. Our hope is to engage communities in dialogue about how, at the intersection of culture, art, and nature, we can help to build a better future.



The Japan Institute Logo: “Growing Together”

Often the first thing that comes to mind when thinking of any organization is its logo. Understanding the power of a first impression, the Japan Institute underwent a purposeful design process to craft something that would be memorable, meaningful, and complementary to Portland Japanese Garden’s iconic lantern.

As always, Japanese culture guided us forward and what resonated most was giving. In Japan, the act of giving a gift is emphasized more than the gift itself. Among the most important elements of this is *mizuhiki*, a traditional Japanese decorative cord used to tie around presents. Every single detail of mizuhiki is carefully considered and intentionally communicates different feelings.

The Japan Institute logo specifically resembles the mizuhiki technique *Awajimusubi*, a set of loose loops that become a knot when fastened. Awajimusubi shows a knot in process and symbolizes the idea of “growing together” in the hopes of eternal union and harmony. This creative expression of connection and empathy embodies the Japan Institute.



PORTLAND
JAPANESE
GARDEN



JAPAN
INSTITUTE



Fashion and Fantasy: the Art of Netsuke Carvings will be on display in the Pavilion Gallery until April 17

Heather Hawksford

Charming Childhood Figurines Become a Captivating Art Exhibition

The Coonan Family recently donated a collection of over 200 *netsuke* to Portland Japanese Garden. Gardening runs deep through the Coonan family roots. Jim Coonan, a new Garden Board member (pictured above), and his wife have been Garden members for years; his grandmother donated Filoli Gardens to the National Trust; his mother was a master gardener (her garden was archived by the Smithsonian); one sister is a trained landscape architect and the other continues the family tradition of being involved with her local garden club. When it came time to pass the netsuke collection on, Portland Japanese Garden was a natural recipient for the family.

The collection was amassed by Jim's great-aunt and uncle, Harold and Josephine Mortenson, beginning in the early 1900's and continuing throughout their lifetimes. It's not entirely clear how the passion for netsuke began. But it is known that Harold and Josephine were childless and lived a life that afforded travel around the world. There they developed a deep appreciation for Japanese culture and grew their expansive netsuke collection.

For Jim, seeing the collection publicly displayed for the first time was an incredible educational experience. When Jim was a child, the figurines always captivated him in their display cases; but for the first time he developed a greater understanding of the significance netsuke play in Japanese culture, the nuanced stories behind each piece, and the intimate connection each piece has to its original owner.

When Jim reflects about the history of the Coonan's netsuke collection, he sees a story parallel to Portland Japanese Garden. His great-aunt and uncle lived in a remote community in rural Oregon but developed a strong connection to Japanese culture. Their passion for netsuke opened a door to understanding a culture vastly different from any they could have encountered in their everyday lives. Jim says, "much like the experiences guests have at the Garden, there is just a greater good in understanding different cultures. It is these deeper connections that makes the Garden more than a garden. Our family is proud to pass this collection on and hope it continues to inspire for generations to come."

Opening Soon

Gifts from Japan: A Horticultural Journey Told Through Botanical Art

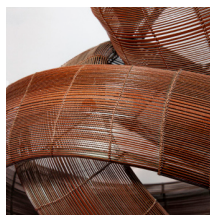
May 14 - July 4, 2022 | Pavilion Gallery

Gifts from Japan: A Horticultural Tale Told through Botanical Art showcases a selection of masterfully rendered botanical illustrations by historical and contemporary artists, illuminating the unique stories behind many plants with origins in Japan that are now widely grown throughout the world. Each artwork presents a window into the Japanese and Japanese American experience, from the roots of Japan's export of its rich horticultural history to the stories of immigrant families who cultivated public and private gardens. It also explores how the art of botanical illustration has evolved from scholarly documentation to a creative endeavor that inspires and unites cultures through the shared appreciation of nature. *Gifts from Japan* highlights the ancient reverence for floriculture in Japan and achievements by Americans of Japanese ancestry. The exhibition features original artwork from The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens; the Botanical Artists Guild of Southern California; the Pacific Northwest Botanical Artists; the Oregon Botanical Artists, Sokaen Bunko, and guest botanical artists from Japan.

Robert Hori is Gardens Cultural Curator and programs director at The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens, and guest curator of this exhibition.



2022 Exhibition Calendar



Through April 17, 2022 in the Tanabe Gallery

Art of Vitality: The Peter Shinbach Bamboo Art Collection

The Tanabe Gallery is honored to host an exhibition of works of selected from Portland resident, Peter Shinbach's fine art bamboo collection.



May 14-July 4, 2022

Gifts from Japan: A Horticultural Tale Told Through Botanical Art

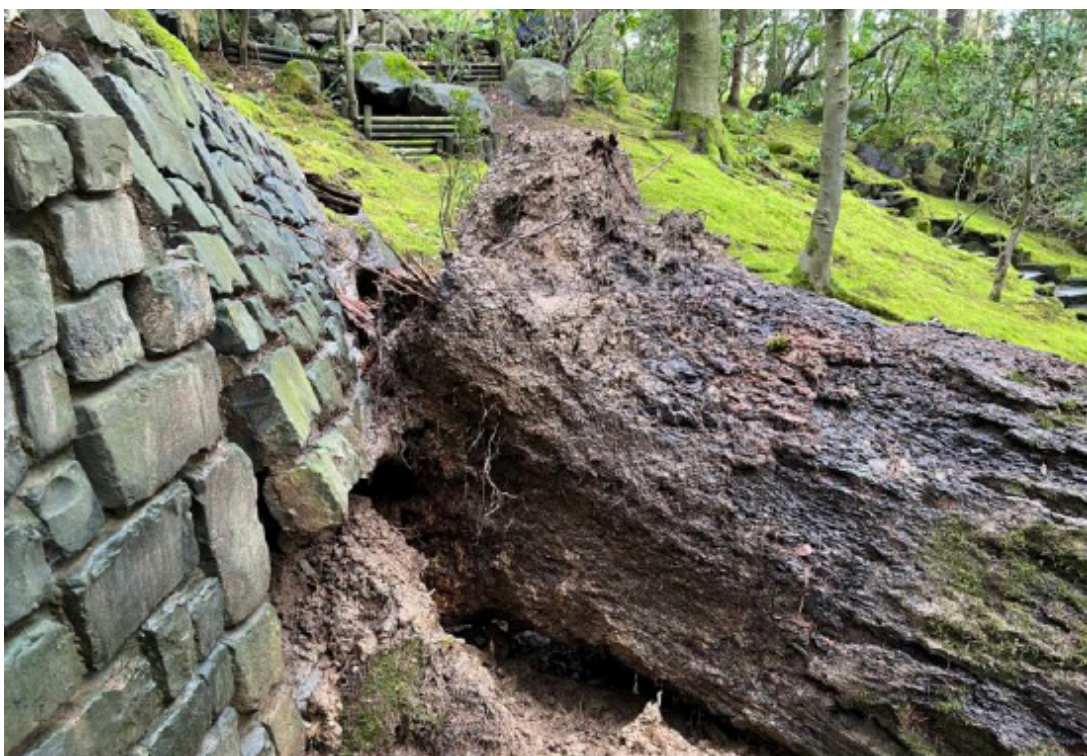
Visitors will embark on an immersive journey of changing cultures and horticultural technologies through art at the turn of the century.



October 1, 2022 – January 8, 2023

Garden of Resonance: The Art of Jun Kaneko

Kaneko's famously large and vividly colored outdoor ceramic statues will be installed across our spectacular garden spaces, creating a stunning juxtaposition with the fiery reds and oranges of our maples in fall.



Nature in the Natural Garden

Winter Storm Fells Massive Tree

Of Portland Japanese Garden's five historic garden spaces, the Natural Garden is the most contemporary in its design and, living up to its name, the garden that most resembles a natural area. Situated on a sloped terrain and featuring narrow walkways that bridge over water and weave through a tapestry of deciduous plants, the Natural Garden evokes the sense of being in the Columbia River Gorge. It is perhaps fitting then that this space felt the impact of untamed nature late last year.

Prior to the December holidays, a Douglas fir that had grown at least 80 feet in height succumbed to the harsh winter weather that fell upon the Portland metro area. A confluence of saturated ground from weeks of persistent precipitation and strong winds unmoored this friendly giant from its footing and all of its massive frame crashed to the ground. Its untimely descent caused temporary closure of the Natural Garden and otherwise disrupted its environs:





- The tree landed onto Kingston Drive, a road that bends and curves through Washington Park, requiring its temporary closure.
- A section of the border fence separating Portland Japanese Garden from Kingston Drive was cratered and warped.
- Trees near the Douglas fir were damaged; five incense cedars were deemed to be hazardous and had to be removed.
- A stone wall below a wooden deck and seating area was compromised and is currently being repaired.

Aside from some stumps left behind, visitors may not recognize any profound changes since it was only but a few trees that were removed. However, as Garden Curator Hugo Torii notes, , “For spirits in the garden, it may be a significant loss since it was one of the largest trees in the Natural Garden.”

“For spirits in the garden, it may be a significant loss since it was one of the largest trees in the Natural Garden.” - Hugo Torii, Garden Curator

Torii and his gardening staff will now have to assess how the absence of the removed trees will affect the balance of the Natural Garden. In Japanese gardens, views are carefully controlled, both within and what might one glimpse beyond its boundaries.

Whatever changes may come, it will not be the first time the Natural Garden has had to accommodate nature, the ultimate arbiter of how Portland Japanese Garden takes its form. In the 1960s, Portland Japanese Garden’s original designer, Professor Takuma Tono, had intended the Natural Garden to be a moss garden (*kokeniwa*). However, the hill set aside for this purpose was far too sunny and was redesigned in the 1970s and again in 1990 to take the form visitors and staff enjoy today.



📷 Tyler Quinn



\$100,000+

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Services
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📷 Mike Centioli

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Mary Dickson
Tom & Roberta Drewes
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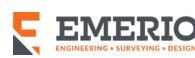
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Robert Trotman & William Hetzelson
Wells Fargo Advisors Fin Network, LLC
Richard & Ellen Wopat



📷 William Sutton

If you would like to make a donation or have any questions about the Golden Crane Society, please contact Director of Development Edwina Kane at (503) 595-5225 or ekane@japanesegarden.org.





📷 William Sutton



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 Director of Development Edwina Kane at (503) 595-5225 or ekane@japanesegarden.org.

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

Ruth Anderson & Michael Beebe
 Esther "Ricky" Appleman
 Carole Beauclerk
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Fashion and Fantasy Golden Crane Reception

On February 11, we celebrated our first art exhibition opening of 2022. The whimsical collection captivated reception attendees who enjoyed an evening of music, socializing, and learning more about the fascinating history of these miniatures.





DID YOU KNOW...?

The Vollum Library is Open Again!

Temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are pleased to announce that the Dorie & Larry Vollum Library has re-opened. Moving forward, the library will be open on Mondays and Thursdays from 1:00pm to 4:00pm.

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