

The Garden Path

Generation to Generation

Summer 2025



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HAIKU

Grass bristles with glee
Birds chirping excitedly
Come to the gardens

– Peter Kendall

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Dear Members,

Summer is here! A season for reconnecting with friends, reuniting with family, or lingering a little longer in the company of someone special. I love how this time of year brings people from near and far to experience our serene oasis in the heart of Portland. I may be biased, but as the temperatures rise, I can’t think of a better place to be than Portland Japanese Garden. Perched above the city, beneath the shady canopy of Douglas firs, and accompanied by the calming sounds of flowing streams, the Garden offers a perfect retreat from the summer heat.

As I walk the grounds, I often speak with guests and the messages I hear most often, whether they are first-time visitors or longtime members, is how beautiful the Garden is and how fortunate we are to have a place like this in Portland.

That appreciation extends far beyond our borders. In May, I traveled to Japan with colleagues Aki Nakanishi, Director of Japan Institute & Arlene Schnitzer Curator of Culture, Art, and Education, and Hugo Torii, Garden Curator & Director of Japanese Garden Training Center. While there, we met with old friends and new partners across the country, laying the foundation for future collaborations. I was honored to meet with representatives from both the Japanese and U.S. governments, as well as leaders in the arts, culture, and garden communities. Regardless of our backgrounds, the topic du jour was a deep belief in the importance of *garden diplomacy*—finding common ground through art, beauty, and nature, something that feels more vital today than ever.

At the end of our trip, together with Misako Ito, Executive Director of our Japan Office, we hosted the second TEIEN Forum in Tokyo where speakers from a wide range of disciplines explored the global importance of Japanese gardens. A topic frequently discussed was how these gardens around the world are seeking new ways to create a sustainable model of membership with meaningful, engaging programs – and they are looking to Portland Japanese Garden as a model of how to do it.

Which is why here at home, we’re excited to offer a rich slate of programs for you this summer. Our popular *Behind the Shoji* marketplace returns with a beautifully curated selection of Japanese and Japanese-inspired wares. In July, we’ll host a Japanese food festival featuring favorite names from Portland’s food scene. Later in the season, look forward to more ikebana and kintsugi workshops, our Family Studio weekends, and the meaningful observance of *O-Bon* and *Bon-Odori* in August.

The Garden is alive with energy and beauty this season. I look forward to seeing you here!

With gratitude,

Lisa

Lisa Christy
Executive Director

Exclusive Member Events

July

- 7

Extended Member Hours
6:30 – 8:00pm
- 11

Twilight Hours
Featuring singer-songwriter Ben Graves
7:00 – 9:00pm
- 21

Photographer Extended Hours
6:30 – 8:00pm

August

- 4

Extended Member Hours
Featuring a presentation by exhibiting katazome (stencil dyeing) artist Karen Illman Miller
6:30 – 8:00pm
- 8

Twilight Hours
Featuring Portland-based ensemble Choro da Alegria
7:00 – 9:00pm
- 20

Photographer Extended Hours
7:00 – 8:00am

September

- 22

Extended Member Hours
6:30 – 8:00pm
- 22

Sakura Society Reception
Featuring a guided tour by Hugo Torii, Garden Curator & Director of Japanese Garden Training Center and a talk from Aki Nakanishi, Director of Japan Institute & Arlene Schnitzer Curator of Culture, Art, and Education
6:00 – 8:00pm
- 26

Golden Crane Recognition Society Opening Reception
For our fall art exhibition, Designing Nature: Elements of Harmony
10:00am – 12:00pm
- 27

Member Preview
Of our fall art exhibition, Designing Nature: Elements of Harmony
9:00 – 10:00am
- 29

Photographer Extended Hours
Featuring a low-light workshop from Portland retailer Pro Photo Supply
6:30 – 8:00pm

Japanese Garden Training Center Workshops & Lectures Return!

Our Japanese Garden Training Center teaches the traditional skills and techniques for creating and fostering Japanese gardens, while acquainting learners with a garden’s cultural heart. We’re delighted to bring back our slate of programming this year. Make sure you save the dates tickets go on sale, as space is limited and they always sell out quickly.

Bamboo Fence Workshop (October 11) Tickets Open

Golden Crane Recognition Society | August 27 Members | September 3

Pine Pruning Demonstration (November 8 & 9) Tickets Open

Golden Crane Recognition Society | October 1 Members | October 8

Learn More about our Member Events

Twilight Hours

These special evenings allow our Patron, Sakura Society, Steward, and Golden Crane Recognition Society Members to experience the Garden at its most serene, illuminated by the golden light of dusk, and accompanied by delightful music. You’ll also enjoy light fare and refreshments!

Photographer Hours

Photographer Members and the Golden Crane Recognition Society are invited to experience the Garden during special seasonal extended hours. Capture stunning photographs in the early morning and golden evening light, without the crowds.

COMING IN SEPTEMBER!
NEW ART EXHIBITION

Designing Nature: Elements of Harmony

For the first time, we’re pulling back the curtain to reveal the artistry and timeless traditions that shape Japanese garden design. We’ll be offering public tours and lectures off this exciting new art exhibition to Garden members so they can learn more about the inspiring history and philosophies that make up this iconic artform. Make sure to visit our website as dates get confirmed!

Extended Member Hours

Members are invited to experience the Garden during special seasonal extended hours. Take advantage of the longer evenings to enjoy our landscape without the crowds.

Sakura Society Reception

Join Aki Nakanishi, Director of Japan Institute & Arlene Schnitzer Curator of Culture, Art, and Education, and Hugo Torii, Garden Curator & Director of Japanese Garden Training Center, for a presentation on our upcoming new art exhibition, followed by a tour of our historic garden spaces. Cocktails will be provided by Freeland Spirits.

For all the latest details on Garden events, including dates and times, go to japanesegarden.org/events and for reminders and updates, sign up for our weekly e-newsletter at japanesegarden.org/newsletter

Learn more about pine pruning in the Japanese Garden Training Center’s special demonstration in November.  Peter Friedman





A guest takes a closer look at bonsai on the Ellie M. Hill Bonsai Terrace. 📷 Julie Gursha

A Generational Artform

Learn More About Bonsai At Portland Japanese Garden

When guests arrive to the Cultural Village of Portland Japanese Garden, the site many head to first is the Ellie M. Hill Bonsai Terrace. Here in this dedicated space, they're able to see stellar and award-winning *bonsai* (literally, "tree-in-a-tray"). Those who aren't done marveling at these small trees can also enjoy them near the rushing water of the Jubitz Oregon Terrace.

That these small trees would be captivating is unsurprising—they've dazzled people for centuries. They afford us the chance to see the grandeur of a tree within our field of view, a look both encompassing and intimate. They can captivate us because of their paradoxical quality—appearing to have the look of something we could only see in the wild and yet only having that appearance because of human intervention. But perhaps the most essential trait is that they are not confined to one moment. Bonsai are much like a garden—a work in nearly eternal progress, a tangible connection that binds generations. They are an expression of human care, a kind of love that can't be defeated, not even by time.

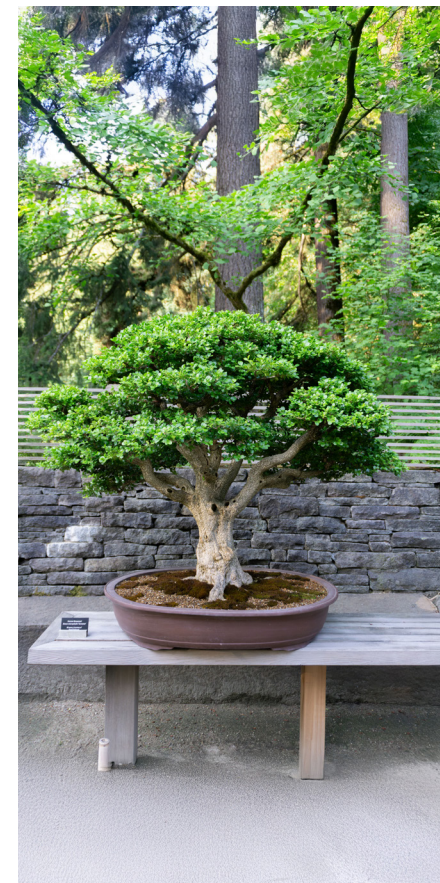
Bonsai (properly pronounced as "bone-sigh," not "bawn-zai") have had a presence at Portland Japanese Garden since at least 1969 when the miniature trees were exhibited in celebration of Mother's Day. Today, our bonsai are typically displayed from mid-April through mid-November, and rotated out based on what is most appropriate for the season both aesthetically and for the well-being of the trees.

Begin Your Bonsai Journey at the Garden!

Chat with our **Volunteer Bonsai Docents**! They are always happy to answer questions guests have. They're here and available every day the Garden is open from 10am to 4pm. Come find them at the Ellie M. Hill Bonsai Terrace.

View a demonstration in the Cathy Rudd Cultural Corner! We're proud to offer presentations on bonsai from highly skilled and admired practitioners like Andrew Robson, former President of the Bonsai Society of Portland.

Learn from the masters at the **Vollum Library** in our Jordan Schnitzer Japanese Arts Learning Center! We have several books by experts on the subject of bonsai. Members are welcome to visit and read up in one of the most beautiful spaces in the Garden.



Bonsai are typically displayed from mid-to-late April until mid-fall every year at Portland Japanese Garden.

Fun Facts About Bonsai

1

Bonsai are believed to have been introduced to Japan by way of China's *penjing*, or "tray scenery." For the similarities they may possess, penjing and bonsai are different artforms. Penjing, traditionally, will depict an entire scene within one dish, including physical features such as rocks and even figurines. Most bonsai have little more than the tree itself in their pot.

2

Remarkably, bonsai are indeed trees. They might've grown to the heights one could expect to see in the wild were it not for the circumstances they experience. Almost any tree can become bonsai. Some trees are easier to transform into bonsai than others, but you can do it with almost any tree. Though the care and design of bonsai are nuanced and complex, the explanation for why they remain small is relatively simple: the roots are reduced and the branches are pruned.

3

Portlanders are fortunate that the largest Bonsai Society in the United States is right here at home. Founded in 1966, the Bonsai Society of Portland promotes the art of bonsai through education, exhibits, and social activities. They welcome everyone interested in this unique and beautiful art form to share in the bonsai experience and develop both basic and advanced skills. Several Garden staff and volunteers are members!



(L-R) Andrew and Jeffrey Robson, cultural partners of Portland Japanese Garden.

Cultural Partner Spotlight: Father and Son Presenters Jeffrey and Andrew Robson

A Generational Practice

Portland Japanese Garden is honored to have the dedicated support of local artists, musicians, and practitioners who share their expertise and talents with our guests at cultural demonstrations and performances. They help us pursue our mission of *Inspiring Harmony and Peace* by shining light on Japanese culture as a form of cultural diplomacy. Two such individuals are Jeffrey and Andrew Robson, a father and son who have hosted demonstrations at the Garden over the past several years.

Andrew, the son, is an award-winning bonsai artist and former President of the Bonsai Society of Portland, the largest club in the U.S. Jeffrey, the father, began studying at the Ikenobō School of Ikebana in 2016, and has attained the rank of Kakyō, Assistant Professor third grade. Together, the pair run the Milwaukie, Oregon-based Rakuyo-en, a bonsai garden and living classroom. In honor of Father's Day this past June, we sat down with the Robsons to learn more about their background and how they've become such integral parts of the Portland Japanese Garden community.

Andrew moved to the Portland area in 2016 to apprentice under Michael Hagedorn, considered one of the foremost American experts in bonsai and a consultant to Portland Japanese Garden. It was through Hagedorn that Andrew connected with the Garden. "I would come seasonally through my apprenticeship, right before the Garden expanded [in 2017]," Andrew recalls. "When they [Ellie M. Hill Bonsai Terrace and Jubitz Oregon Terrace] were finished, Michael and I would bring the bonsai over when the weather warmed up. I then became one of the first cultural partners to do presentations in the [Cathy Rudd Cultural Corner]. It has been a lot of fun."

"We used to come out and visit Andrew regularly when he was apprenticing and so he used to take us around town," Jeffrey remembers. "When the Cultural Village opened, he took us up to see the bonsai terrace and then we walked through the whole landscape. When I got back to St. Louis, I changed my matched political action grant from the Missouri Botanical Garden to Portland Japanese Garden. I was a member of the Golden Crane Recognition Society for years before I moved out here."

Both Andrew and Jeffrey are now regularly seen in the Cathy Rudd Cultural Corner—Andrew presenting on bonsai, Jeffrey on ikebana—making them the only parent and progeny team to do so at Portland Japanese Garden.

"My theory is that most parents lose relationships with their sons during middle school and high school," Jeffrey offers. "And so with my two sons, I decided if I want to remain close to them throughout my life, I needed to be interested in things they were interested in. Andrew and I are wired similarly—so we both really clicked on the arts, music, and Japanese culture. It's been great to share this experience with him."

"Our lives were really strongly impacted by Japanese garden arts," Andrew agrees. "To be able to share our interest with other people through the Cathy Rudd Cultural Corner and exhibitions like the one the Bonsai Society of Portland holds here is really rewarding. Just getting to go the Garden regularly is a treat."

To read more about the Robsons, their life journeys, and their time with Portland Japanese Garden visit japanesegarden.org/robsons

"To be able to share our interest with other people through the Cultural Corner and exhibitions like the one the Bonsai Society of Portland holds here is really rewarding."

ANDREW ROBSON | CULTURAL PARTNER



Andrew Robson giving a presentation on bonsai during the Bonsai Society of Portland's April exhibition at the Garden.



Behind the Shoji Annual Summer Marketplace Returns

Introduce Authentic Japanese Wares and Goods To Your Home

For more than a decade, *Behind the Shoji* has been one of Portland Japanese Garden's most anticipated summer traditions. An annual show and sale of Japanese and Japanese-inspired wares, visitors can purchase from a variety of curated items that, even with a trip to Japan, might be difficult to come across. This year we're excited to be showcasing items that will bring the ingenuity and beauty of Japanese design to your home. Come by and peruse our stunning collection, featuring furniture, lighting, and décor. You'll be able to pick items like the handsome *tansu* seen above. From Portland-based antique retailer Shogun's Gallery, these tansu are handcrafted wooden chests made in Japan during the nation's Meiji period (1868-1912) and are a charming way to store your most valued items.

Previewing this Year's *Shoji* Highlights

Yagi and Tori Teapots



Ceramic Japan builds upon the 1,300-year history of its home city of Seto, Japan to craft charming vessels like this earthenware teapots. Designed with a goat or bird motif, these teapots have bamboo handles and are composed of red clay with a hand-applied glaze resulting in a charming aesthetic.

Mate Mono Tile Bags



From the curated collection of contemporary design by Ameico, these delightful tote bags feature the proprietary yarn of Ishikawa Prefecture's Komatsu Matere, a globally renowned fabric manufacturer.

Shigaraki-yaki Tea Cups



Crafted in a kiln in Koka City, the ceramic cups pictured are crafted in the traditional Shigaraki-yaki method of Japanese pottery and evoke the beloved aesthetic of *wabi sabi*, or an unpolished and rustic beauty marked by the passage of time.

Gold Leaf Bangle Bracelets



Kanazawa, Japan is an arts haven renowned for the its production of *kinpaku*, or gold leaf. Kanazawa-based Hakuza has transformed this precious metal in the delightful bangle bracelets you see here.

Come shop at *Behind the Shoji* from June 21 to September 1 in our Pavilion Gallery. To learn more, visit japanesegarden.org/bts-25



(L-R) W. Curtis Schade and Jacquie Siewert-Schade, members of Portland Japanese Garden's Phoenix Legacy Society. 📷 Courtesy of W. Curtis Schade and Jacquie Siewert-Schade

Phoenix Legacy Society Spotlight: Jacquie Siewert-Schade and W. Curtis Schade

Helping Future Generations Experience the Joy They Get from Portland Japanese Garden

Portland Japanese Garden has created the Phoenix Legacy Society to assist individuals who want to support the organization through their estate. Working alongside our Development Department, those in the Society are guided through a planning process to make sure that the end result aligns with their philanthropic interests. Joining the Phoenix Legacy Society is an incredibly generous and thoughtful way to honor the Garden and help ensure it remains able to pursue its mission of *Inspiring Harmony and Peace* for generations to come. We recently sat down with two members of the Society, Jacquie Siewert-Schade and W. Curtis Schade, about why they decided to make this meaningful gesture.

Curtis and Jacquie, married since 1977, hail from the Midwest. Both worked in education—Jacquie as a librarian and Curtis as a French language teacher before leaving the classroom to work in a variety of administrative roles. Their careers would take them across the U.S., seeing them eventually settle in the Portland area in 2012. Jacquie was accepted into the volunteer tour guide training program in 2013 and has been an active guide since—Curtis will sometimes join Jacquie and enjoy the beauty of the space.

While the pair have great affection for the aesthetics of Portland Japanese Garden, its history as a place of cross-cultural understanding and ability to provide visitors a moment of serenity resonates even more.

“We want to help make it possible for all of those other people to see and experience that kind of joy and wonder that we’ve experienced.”

W. CURTIS SCHADE | PHOENIX LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBER

“I think that the mission of Portland Japanese Garden to be a source of education and inspiration is a terribly important thing,” notes Curtis. “I would like the joy and rewards of visiting the Garden to continue on in the future for people who haven’t yet been there and for the people who are little children or not yet born, to have a chance to do that. And I think that then wraps around to one of the fundamental questions here, which has to do with the Phoenix Legacy Society. We want to help make it possible for all of those other people to see and experience that kind of joy and wonder that we’ve experienced. And people don’t have to give really a lot of money to join the Society. I think people need to know that, that no gift is too small.”

“The Garden needs people who love it as much as we do to stand with it and keep it strong,” Jacquie concludes. “I was thinking about the legend of the phoenix. The phoenix lives a long life, is consumed by fire, and rises from the ashes to live again. What could be more comforting and lovely than to keep that image in mind when people see this Garden and say, ‘I’m not going to be here forever, but I can make sure that it’s going to be here for other people.’”



To read more about why Jacquie and Curtis joined the Phoenix Legacy Society, visit japanesegarden.org/phoenix-2025

For more information about Phoenix Legacy Society, contact our Director of Development, Claire Eisenfeld, at ceisenfeld@japanesegarden.org or (503) 542-0281.



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\$100,000 +

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\$10,000-\$24,999

Bamboo Sushi
Bullseye Glass Co.
Delta Air Lines
Devil's Food Catering
Hampton Family Foundation
Hibler Franke Foundation
Hoffman Construction
Multnomah Whisk(e)y Library
National Endowment for the Arts
Portland Coffee Roasters
Quality Precision Cleaning Inc.
Toshiba International Foundation
Woodard Family Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

A Plus Tree, LLC
Bartlett Tree Experts
Becker Capital Management
Mike Bennett Art
Brown Printing Inc.
Creo Chocolate
Drake's 7 Dees
Freeland Spirits
Heathman Hotel

Cumulative giving to the Annual Fund from January 1, 2024, through April 30, 2025.

For questions regarding Corporate Golden Crane Society, please contact Nici Grigg,
Corporate Relations Manager, at (503) 542-9301 or ngrigg@japanesegarden.org.

Mercer Advisors
Obon Shokudo
The Oregonian
Donor Advised Funds of the Oregon
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Port of Portland
Regional Arts & Culture Council
Room & Board
The Standard
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Arden Event Collective
CIDA Architects and Engineers
Geffen Mesher
St. Honoré Bakery
Hotel Vance
The Jackson Foundation
The Mark Spencer Hotel
Northern Trust Charitable
Giving Program
NW Natural Gas Co.
The Paramount Hotel
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Wells Fargo: Employee
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DLR Group
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The Jasmine Pearl Tea Company
Nina Johnson Photography
Oregon Venture Fund
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Portland Garment Factory
Pushdot Studio
Thornton Design

Thank you



If you would like to make a donation or have any questions about the Golden Crane Society, please contact Claire Eisenfeld,
Director of Development, at (503) 542-0281 or ceisenfeld@japanesegarden.org.

If you live more than 100 miles from the Garden and would like to join our Global Ambassador Society, please contact Claire Eisenfeld, Director of Development at (503) 542-0281 or ceisenfeld@japanesegarden.org

Global Ambassador Society recognizes donors who give a total of \$500 or more annually and live more than 100 miles from Portland Japanese Garden.

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& Donations

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Scott Barnard
Peggy Barrett
Lara Bjork
Cleo Bloomquist
Myde Boles
Carla Bresnahan
Bonnie Castro

Memorials and Honoraria
February 1, 2025 – April 30, 2025

Sue Clayton
Richard Colman
Margaret Druml Boyle
Carmella Ettinger
Margaret Garner
Judy Graff
Yi-Hui Hill
Shiga IPO
Karl Kramer
Olivia Lischetti
Ann Lundberg
Midge Lundberg
Judy & Mike Melick
Elsa Menendez
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David Ripma
Barbara Radler
Rose Rodgers

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Joan Smith
Shane Story
Dave Sturgill
Kathleen Tegeder
Susan Vandenberg
Cynthia Weitz

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J Minott Kerr

GIFT IN MEMORY OF
JANICE HALTEMAN

Karen Pradhan

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SABINA SMITH

Margaret Murtagh

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF
WILLIAM WATERMAN

David & Debra Shinoda
Susie & Bob Summers

GIFT IN MEMORY OF
DAN WIEDEN

Priscilla Bernard Wieden



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.

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 Claire Eisenfeld, Director of Development, at (503) 542-0281 or ceisenfeld@japanesegarden.org.

Ruth Anderson & Michael Beebe
Esther "Ricky" Appleman
Carole Beauclerk
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Janice Bleibaum
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Drs. Mayho & Calvin Tanabe
Marsha Tomassi & Robert McConnell
Lavita Wai
Jim and Danelle Walker
Bruce & Susan Winthrop
Carmen Wong
Anonymous (5)

Monthly Giving is Now Even Easier
at Portland Japanese Garden!

By making a monthly gift to Portland Japanese Garden, you are providing a stable source of funding for the art, culture, and upkeep of this community treasure. Now with an online option where you can give through your credit card, bank account, or Apple or Google Pay, it's never been easier to make a recurring gift.

Plus, monthly gifts of \$125 or more qualify you for the Golden Crane Recognition Society.

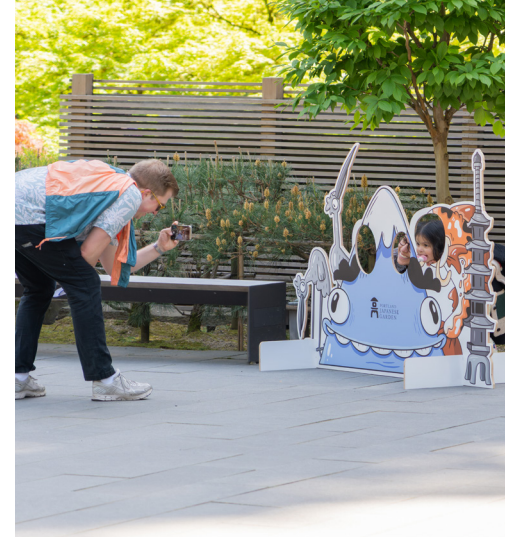
Thank you for supporting the Garden in a time when providing a place of peace has never been more important.



Scan the QR code to visit our Monthly Giving page!



In May, the Garden welcomed students from Hachinohe, Japan for a tour. 2026 will mark the tenth anniversary of us returning kasagi beams to a shrine in their city after parts of the wooden structure washed ashore in Oregon following the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake.



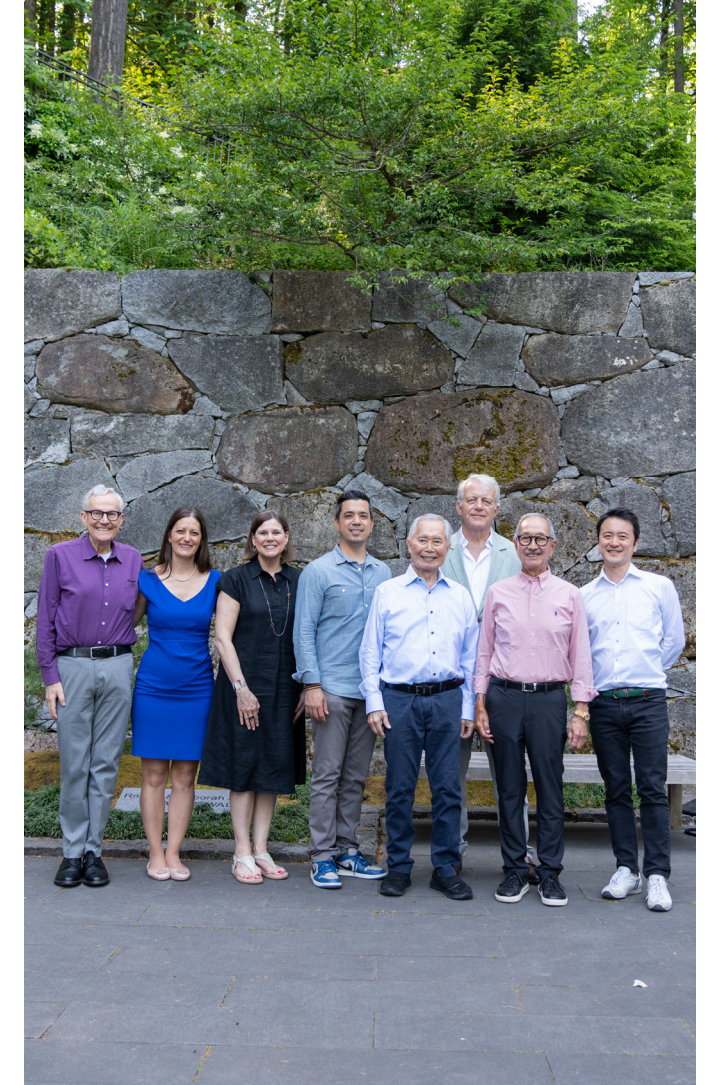
This spring the Garden introduced a fun new photo stand-in designed by beloved Portland illustrator Mike Bennett to its Cultural Village.



(L-R) Lauren Sadataki, Philanthropy Manager, and Maya McDarragh, Visitor Services Associate, of the Japanese American Museum of Oregon (JAMO) chat with a Garden member during our inaugural Members' Day celebration. JAMO is one of several local community partners that our organization was happy to welcome to participate in this special event. 📷 Jonathan Ley



(L-R) Hugo Torii, Garden Curator and Director of the Japanese Garden Training Center, and Aki Nakanishi, Director of Japan Institute and the Arlene Schnitzer Curator of Culture, Art, and Education, held another "Tea and Conversation with the Curators" event for our Golden Crane Recognition Society in April.



The Garden was thrilled to receive pioneering artist George Takei (fourth from right) and his husband Brad Takei (far left) ahead of his performance of *Lost Freedom: A Memory* in May. George Takei is also a member of the organization's International Advisory Board.



Staff from Portland Japanese Garden at the organization's table for an Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month event held by Oregon Rises Above Hate.



Rep. Mari Watanabe of the Oregon House of Representative and Portland Japanese Garden Board Trustee giving remarks at the Garden's Annual Membership Meeting. 📷 Jonathan Ley



Rep. Shannon Isadore of the Oregon House of Representatives tours the Garden with Lisa Christy, Executive Director.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Umami Café has removed reservations and has introduced counter service and to-go orders! Now you can pop in to enjoy the handcrafted *wagashi* (Japanese sweets), seasonal specials, and worldclass green tea available there every day! To see what items are on our menu, visit japanesegarden.org/umami

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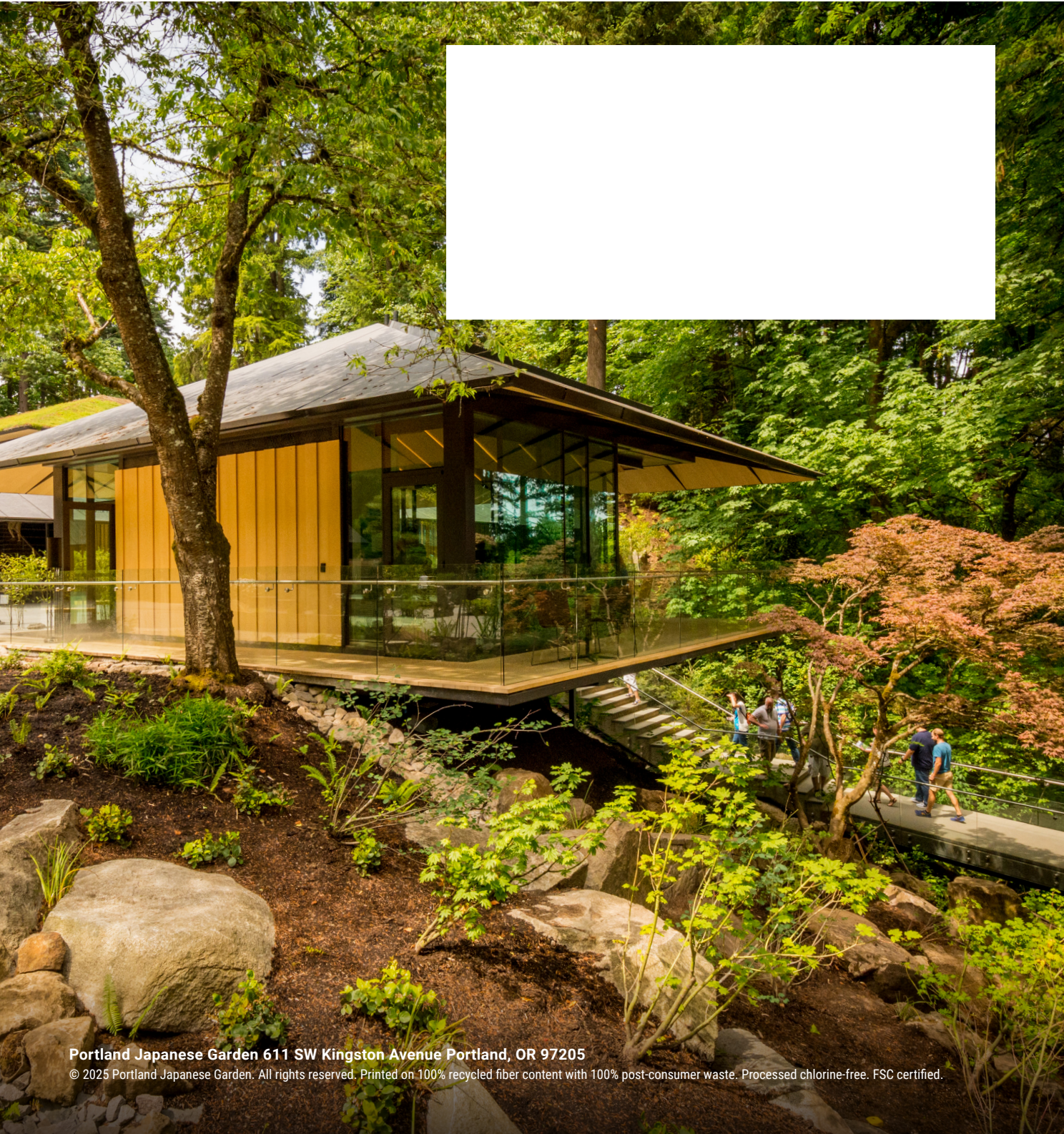
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