

Spring 2021



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*Steve Bloom*

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**HAIKU**

Falling with the rain  
a white camelia blossom  
The moss darkens

– Peter Kendall



Christina Sjogren

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**THE GARDEN PATH**

FOR QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS  
Email [marketing@japanesegarden.org](mailto:marketing@japanesegarden.org)

Dear Members,

Spring is here! With it comes joy, lightness, and sense of renewal unlike any other time of year, and I am excited to embrace this season of new beginnings. By this time last year, the global pandemic had forced us to close our gates and the much-anticipated highlights of the season — like our cherry blossoms — bloomed beautifully, yet quietly. But nature is resilient and cyclical, and together, we have persevered through the year to see spring again. This season, we have much to look forward to.

First, is our Annual Membership Meeting, which will be virtual. In addition to general updates about Portland Japanese Garden, this meeting will be an opportunity to discuss the exciting announcement of our evolution with The Japan Institute and how this allows us to expand on the existing cultural and educational programs. We'll also talk about the purchasing of a 3.65-acre satellite campus to serve our long-term needs. Within this issue, you'll find more information on both important announcements.

In commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, later this month we will be showcasing a documentary exhibition that follows the journey of two Japanese artifacts (*kasagi*) that were swept away by the tsunami, traveled across the Pacific Ocean, and washed ashore on the Oregon coast. The effort of returning these *kasagi* to their homes in Hachinohe, Japan, taught us invaluable lessons of what connects us as humans: empathy, perseverance, and compassion. We're honored to be able to share the story of how these found objects unexpectedly, but fatefully, brought together two peoples connected by the vast Pacific Ocean.

In the Garden, spring is in the air as buds are coaxed open by the sun, bare branches transform with new growth, and bright pops of color catch your eye from afar. As the Garden comes alive with the signs of spring and our city gradually and safely lifts restrictions, we plan to slowly bring back modified versions of our cultural and International Japanese Garden Training Center's programs. After such a long pause, we're excited to be able to restore the essential elements that makes Portland Japanese Garden so unique and special.

Our Garden Curator, Hugo Torii, recently shared the Japanese phrase, "*shin shin tomo ni*," with our staff. In the context of spring, this phrase means to welcome the season with the mind and body in harmony. These days, where good health feels especially precious, I wanted to share this sentiment as we step into a new season.

With deep gratitude,

Steve Bloom  
Chief Executive Officer



David Bostock

## Spring in the Garden

While the subtlety of different shades and textures of green are thought to promote the tranquility and harmony sought by a Japanese garden designer, flowers are treasured by the Japanese and the seasonal blooming of trees and shrubs is highly celebrated. Spring, in particular, brings bright pops of color and contrast that can only be enjoyed during this moment in the year.

The cherry blossoms or *sakura* (the national flower of Japan) and camellias tend to bloom in Portland Japanese Garden early, but soon, start looking for pieris (also known as andromeda) in bloom near the Upper Pond in the Strolling Pond Garden and in the Natural Garden. Soon, we will start to see dogwoods, azaleas, and rhododendrons in bloom. Visit often to see the everchanging scene and enjoy the fleeting beauty of flowers.

### FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

In assessing the landscape and continuing to abide by the city's safety regulations, we started to dip our toes into scaled back in-person events, starting with the intimate Curator's Tour of the Ishimoto Yasuhiro exhibition for our Golden Crane Society in late March. We're planning to gradually bring back modified in-person events and experiences in a limited capacity, so stay tuned on the latest opportunities through our weekly newsletters and social media!

You can sign up for our newsletters at [japanesegarden.org/newsletters](https://japanesegarden.org/newsletters).

*Signed up for our emails, but haven't received anything? Check your spam or promotions folder, and make sure to whitelist us as a sender!*

## Annual Membership Meeting

May 3  
5pm

Kindly RSVP by Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at [japanesegarden.org/amm](https://japanesegarden.org/amm)

Our Annual Membership is going virtual this year! Portland Japanese Garden CEO, Steve Bloom, will give an annual overview, introducing current Board Members, and will present about the Garden's evolution as The Japan Institute.

This is a member-only event and reservations are required.

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

#### Technology Upgrade

In February, we upgraded our technology to create an improved online experience for reserving tickets, renewing your membership, purchasing event tickets, or making a donation. To gain access to your updated online account, you'll first need to activate it by going to [japanesegarden.org/activate](https://japanesegarden.org/activate).

Don't have an account? You can create one by going to [japanesegarden.org/create](https://japanesegarden.org/create).

#### Membership Cards

In the coming months, we'll begin mailing out membership cards for a smoother entry when you visit Portland Japanese Garden during member hours. Active members will automatically receive these cards in the mail.



Mike Centioli



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



## Advancing our Mission

### The Japan Institute and Satellite Campus

Portland Japanese Garden was created in 1963 by Portlanders who sought to create a world-class Japanese garden for the community. The Garden was founded to honor the business ties and friendships across the Pacific that had been nurtured since the mid-19th century, to rebuild peace and understanding between our nations after World War II, and in response to the incarceration of Japanese Americans during the war. It was a citizen-led effort to create a world-class asset and legacy for the community of Portland.

From the inception, Portland Japanese Garden set a precedent by seeking a designer and a lineage of curators from Japan in order to create and continually nurture the most authentic and finest Japanese garden outside of Japan. After nearly 60 years, Portland Japanese Garden has become a cornerstone of the Portland community, and as Portland has become a significant national and international tourist destination, the Garden's influence has expanded to include all 50 states and more than 90 countries.

Through the decades, our mission has always remained the same — to bring the ideals of Portland Japanese Garden to the

world through art of craft, connection to nature, and experience of peace.

To advance our mission for the next 60 years and beyond, we recently announced the evolution of Portland Japanese Garden as *The Japan Institute*. This new path formalizes the concept of how we continue to share and expand on the existing programs from the Garden by building on our current foundation with global collaborations, experiential education, and innovative programming. It will create a more inclusive and expansive canopy allowing more of Japan's greatest gifts to be explored, more robustly, with more people around the world. The goal is to formally launch The Japan Institute in 2022.

LEFT Robbie Robinson, 1973  
RIGHT William Sutton

Continued on pages 8-9



This expansion of programming means the need for space. We are currently in the process of purchasing a 3.65-acre satellite campus to serve The Japan Institute's needs. The property, previously owned by the Salvation Army, is located in Forest Park in NW Portland, just 3 miles from Portland Japanese Garden. It is a beautiful setting with buildings designed by one of Oregon's most prolific architects, A.E. Doyle. Much like the Garden, this property is tucked away from the busy everyday world, surrounded by towering trees, and feels like an urban oasis.

This campus will provide the necessary space for administrative offices as well as our programs, allowing us to meet audience demand that exceeds our capacity at our

current and main site in Washington Park. The new space provides a host of opportunities, such as housing artists-in-residence with studio space, conducting hands-on classes and workshops, offering demonstrations and lectures with renowned artists, cultural practitioners, and scholars, holding multi-day seminars for Japanese garden enthusiasts and professionals, creating a greenhouse space for the bonsai collection – the list goes on.

The purchase of the property is made possible by numerous and generous Garden donors and fundraising is still ongoing. To learn more, check out [japanesegarden.org/JapanInstitute](https://japanesegarden.org/JapanInstitute) for a video recording of our CEO, Steve Bloom, hosting a Q&A on The Japan Institute and satellite property from March 18, 2021.

LEFT  Oregon Historical Society, circa 1970  
RIGHT  Jones Lang Lasalle Inc.

“All gardening is an optimistic act, for gardens are visible evidence of hope.”

Kenneth Helphand

## The Secret Lives of Gardens

*Written by Kenneth Helphand, University of Oregon's Philip H. Knight Professor of Landscape Architecture Emeritus and a friend of Portland Japanese Garden.*



📷 Mike Centoli

The coronavirus has fostered new and revised habits. People are baking bread, painting, learning a new instrument, reorganizing files, cleaning basements, and millions are gardening. Why? Gardens are close to home, easily accessible with free admission. They are outside and a safe place to be unmasked.

Gardens are places of pleasure. In times of crisis or difficulty gardens defy our expectations. Many of us have a friend or relative whose company we appreciate or find congenial who then, in time of need, responds with unexpected aid or depth of compassion, caring and empathy. Gardens are like that: comfortable companions whose capacities lie dormant, awaiting a crisis to catalyze a wellspring of possibilities previously unimagined.

The gardens created during this pandemic are akin to the gardens I described in my book "Defiant Gardens: Making Gardens in Wartime," which examined gardens and gardening — garden is both a noun and a verb — in the most extreme of human circumstances. Gardens were created behind the trenches in World War I and in the ghettos under the Nazis; gardens were made by POWs during World War II; they were built by Japanese Americans interned in this country in World War II. I called these gardens “defiant” to assert gardens’ power not as pastoral retreat but a place of deep engagement and positive action.

As garden designer and poet Ian Hamilton Finley said, “Certain gardens are described as retreats when they are really attacks.”

I concluded that gardens incorporate five deceptively simple, yet profoundly important, ideas. Gardens are about life, home, hope, work and beauty, meanings that have been dramatized as people confront the coronavirus.

We are not fighting a conventional war, but a disease, an invisible and insidious foe that we struggle to mitigate and control but are not yet able to defeat. Gardens can offer food and for many its produce is essential, but gardens also offer other forms of sustenance. They offer us contact with the natural world and a degree of control at a time when the fear of disease and death hangs over us.

Gardens are about the stability, rootedness and the caring of home. Gardens activate the positive associations of home: a place of family, of friendship and life activities for all generations’ play and enjoyment, of digging in the earth, of just sitting in the sun, or enjoying the coolness of shade. A garden can help us anticipate a home life we hope for when coronavirus time has ended, when life can return to, if not normal, then a revised, and even improved, condition. Perhaps, as the virus upends familial and cultural patterns, we may have new definitions of home.

Gardens are about work: not labor, but the pleasures of “working in the garden.” Gardening keeps us busy, offering the promise of a reward, a place to enjoy the pleasure of watching the production of vegetables and flowers. All gardening is an optimistic act, for gardens are visible evidence of hope.

Gardens are beautiful. Normally measured by a seasonal cycle, garden time has been interrupted by the season of the virus and its — *our* — indefinite future. Sequestered, we observe gardens closely, with a more careful inspection: watching plants germinate, buds becoming flowers, perennials reappearing, grasses going to seed, the emergence of fruit, the spider's web. We note the rich palette of colors, of day-to-day changes. The size is insignificant. A potted plant is as meaningful to its owner as a luxuriant backyard. The emotions — and the hope — are the same.

In this pandemic the reality of the coronavirus has accentuated the gradual replacement of face-to-face interactions with the virtual meeting place of ZOOM. The realization that the direct encounter with the material world, with its full panoply of sensory richness, has become even more fundamental to human experience is apparent. This essential need is epitomized in the practice of making, nurturing and being in the garden. We want the virus destroyed and our gardens to thrive.

Gardens are our new friends, but friends we always had. It has taken a crisis for us to recognize and appreciate their presence in our lives.

*This article was originally published December 3, 2020, in The Register Guard.*



📷 David Bostock



## The Gates of Hope: Connecting Cultures

New Art Exhibition this Month



TOP & BOTTOM  City of Hachinohe

Opening later this month, from April 24 through May 31, is a documentary exhibition, “The Gates of Hope: Connecting Cultures.” This retrospective commemorates the 10th anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami and the devastating nuclear disaster that followed in its wake.

The exhibition will take visitors through the journey and aftermath of Portland Japanese Garden’s efforts in returning two lost artifacts (*kasagi*) that had been swept away by the tsunami. These *kasagi* traveled across the Pacific Ocean for nearly two years, eventually washing ashore on the Oregon coast.

Returning the *kasagi* to their hometown of Hachinohe, Japan, after two years of transpacific coordination, community detective work, and a few strokes of luck, became a lesson of what connects us as humans — empathy, perseverance, and compassion. 10 years ago, Portland Japanese Garden had no ties with the people of Hachinohe. Today, our friendship with this community remains as strong and vibrant as ever, even though we are an ocean apart.

This exhibition will bring the story to life through exposing the magic in the details. From the photos documenting each step of the journey to the heartfelt letters from city officials and students at the local school in Hachinohe, this is a story of fate and human connection.

Alongside this exhibition is a photography exhibit in the Tanabe Gallery, “FISH-MAN” featuring photographs by Tatsuki Masaru. These photos capture the essence of the fishermen and their lives in Okuki Village in Hachinohe, where the *kasagi* gates were returned. Masaru is an award-winning Japanese photographer who has also spent six years photographing the people of eastern Japan (Tohoku region) shortly after the earthquake, to capture and its people and landscapes that reflect ancient Japanese culture.



“During my time as the United States Ambassador to Japan, I was honored to take part in the homecoming ceremony at the gates in Yokohama in 2015, after nearly two years of search efforts by the Garden and many collaborators on both sides of the Pacific ... A decade later, in the midst of a global pandemic, the exhibition is a reminder of the power of goodwill across cultures.”

*Caroline Kennedy, former United States Ambassador to Japan (2013-2017)*

### COMING IN JUNE

#### Painting Paradise: Art of Daisuke Nakano

JUNE 11 - JULY 18

Daisuke Nakano is a *Nihonga*-style painter, who captures scenes of wildlife and the seasons, in a method of expression that brings a flat, 2-dimensional painting to life. *Nihonga*, a traditional, centuries-old style of Japanese painting is distinct in that it is created using solely organic materials — such as pigments from vegetables or animals, silk, wood, and gold. In his first-ever West Coast exhibition, Nakano infuses traditional techniques with a unique use of color found in Western Naturalism styles to create



*Hikarisakazuru, 2021*

a whimsical interplay between humans and nature. This exhibition is organized in conjunction with an internationally acclaimed Japanese art gallery, Ippodo.



Cumulative giving to the Annual Fund from February 15 through February 14, 2021



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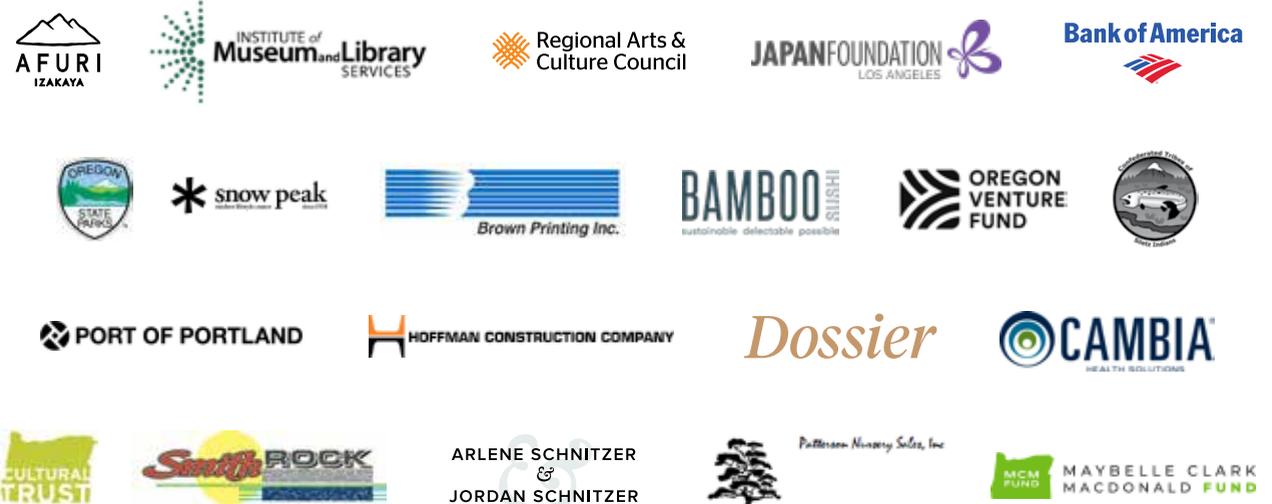
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Shiro Wakui & Masako Kubo  
Kassie Westmoreland  
Danny & Chien Lung Wu  
And those who wish to remain anonymous (5)

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.



David Bostock

## Global Ambassadors

Including our Global Ambassador Members and Donors contributing \$500 or more in the past 12 months and residing more than 120 miles from Portland, Oregon.

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And those who wish to remain  
anonymous (2)



📷 Megumi Kato



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.

## Tribute Gifts & Donations

Memorials and Honoraria  
December 16 – February 15, 2021

### IN MEMORY OF HER MOTHER, GRACE

Pamela Still

### IN HONOR OF ROSS T. BLOOM

Lily & Sam Domingo

### IN MEMORY OF LYLE BUCKINGHAM

Anonymous

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### IN HONOR OF MARTHA CORONA

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### IN MEMORY OF MARI MUKAI

Doug Smith

### IN HONOR OF LYNNE NAUGHTON

Nicole Grayson

### IN MEMORY OF PER SWEETNAM

Janet Schibel

### IN MEMORY OF ANN M. WILSON

Bentwood Tree Farm

### IN MEMORY OF DAVID ZAGEL

Samuel Adams

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

Esther "Ricky" Appleman  
Carole Beauclerk  
Barbara Bell  
Diane Benjamin  
Melanie Billings-Yun  
Steve Bloom  
Judy Bradley & Dave Mitchell  
Susan C. Brown  
Heida & Don Bruce  
Carla Caesar & Nora King  
Robert Caragher  
Mora Chartrand & Linda Grant  
Mary Dickson  
David & Nancy Dowell

Mrs. Margueritte H. Drake  
Elaine West Durst  
Yoko Fukuta  
Ms. Susan Halton  
John Hembroff & Shari Macdonald  
Ron & Jenny Herman  
Geoffrey Hoefler  
Albert Horn  
Ann & Jerry Hudson  
Mary Kay Johnson  
Elizabeth M. King  
Valerie Lau  
Ron & Polly Wall Lauser  
John & Lisa Lehman

Linda & Don McNeill  
Gordon Olson  
Jeannie & Ron Prindle  
Wayne M. Quimby &  
Michael Roberts-Quimby  
W. Curtis Schade &  
Jacquie Siewert-Schade  
Richard C. Stetson Jr.  
Ernie Stoddard  
Ann & John Symons  
Drs. Calvin & Mayho Tanabe  
Carmen Wong  
And those who wish to remain  
anonymous (4)

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.

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

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

Elizabeth Ann Hinds  
Jerry G. Jones Trust  
Noel Jordan  
Estate of James Kesler  
Duke Mankertz  
Beverly Merrill  
Jack O. Rickli  
Jeaneatta Sautter  
Robert & Marilyn Schuberg

Jeanne Schramm  
Lawrence L. Secor  
The James W. Skog Trust  
Toya Family Trust: George,  
Sonoya, Georgene, & Evelyn  
David E. Wedge Trust  
Constance Weimer



*Ice-encapsulated plants in Strolling Pond Garden  
Photo by Caleb Hendrickson. February, 2021*



*Snowy Zig-Zag Bridge  
Photo by Caleb Hendrickson,  
February, 2021*



*Ishimoto Yasuhiro  
art exhibition, made  
complete with a  
bonsai installation  
Photo by Aki Nakanishi,  
March, 2021*



*Pine needling in the garden  
Photo by Megumi Kato, March 2021*



*Ducks visiting the  
Upper Pond  
Photo by Megumi Kato,  
March 2021*

**DID YOU KNOW...?**

Top Chef, an Emmy-winning national food show, starts their new season in April. In one episode, you may spot familiar scenes of Portland Japanese Garden!

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Official Winery of Portland Japanese Garden



Official Sake of Portland Japanese Garden



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

Portland Japanese Garden 611 SW Kingston Avenue Portland, OR 97205

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