

February/March 2024



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FRONT COVER  Kristine Karnezis

BACK COVER  Dr. Hiroshi Ueno

HAIKU

With clearing night skies
prisms of frost, deflecting
one sun to thousands

– Peter Kendall

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Carmen Wong



 Christina Sjogren

Dear Members,

In 2023 we celebrated Portland Japanese Garden's 60th anniversary and now 2024 presents another meaningful milestone: the 65th anniversary of Portland and Sapporo's sister-city relationship! In 1959, Portland and Sapporo joined in one of the earliest and most meaningful sister-city relationships known between the United States and Japan. At a time when memories of World War II remained fresh and raw on both sides of the Pacific Ocean, the establishment of this connection helped invigorate renewed interest in rebuilding the friendship Oregon and Japan once had. Among the most worthwhile results was our very own Portland Japanese Garden.

Sapporo has had deep interest in helping Portland build and maintain a world-class Japanese garden. In fact, one of the earliest watershed moments in the Garden's history predates the establishment of our organization. In 1961, Sapporo Mayor Yosaku Harada attended a groundbreaking ceremony in Washington Park that would instigate the transformation of the abandoned grounds of the Portland Zoo into what we know and love today.

A walk around Portland Japanese Garden will reveal many cherished elements we owe to the generosity of Sapporo and its people. Perhaps most notable is our magnificent Sapporo Pagoda Lantern you saw on our front cover, which you can read more about on page 6. It serves as a tangible reminder of our friends in Hokkaido, the northern island and prefecture of which Sapporo is the capital.

It's been our great pleasure to reciprocate the gestures Sapporo bestowed on us by offering a piece of Portland for their landscape. In 2019, I had the pleasure of joining Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler's official delegation to Sapporo. Among the many memorable events and gatherings we participated in was the donation of a handcrafted replica of our Peace Lantern. Today it is in the beautiful Japanese garden of Nakajima Park in downtown Sapporo. That year we also had the honor of welcoming Sapporo Mayor Katsuhiko Akimoto here at the Garden when we opened *Forest of Dreams*, an exhibition that featured indigenous art from both Oregon and Hokkaido.

2024 will see us embark on a series of exciting programming to celebrate the Portland and Sapporo sister-city relationship. All of us here at the Garden are looking forward to March when we will debut two new exhibitions that will bring Sapporo and Hokkaido here to Portland. One will feature photography of Hokkaido's stunning winter landscape by Sandra Chandler, a passionate advocate for Portland Japanese Garden and Chairperson of our Foundation Board. We will also debut a show from the The North Finder, a group that captures Sapporo and Hokkaido's beauty with the intention of raising its profile. More information can be found on the next page.

I look forward to celebrating all that our cities have achieved together and the promising future we share.

With gratitude,

Steve Bloom
Chief Executive Officer

Member News & Events

Hina Matsuri, The Doll Festival

March 3

The Doll Festival is a special time to pray for the growth and happiness of girls. It is also called *Momo no Sekku*, or "Peach Blossom Festival." Visitors can appreciate a traditional display of dolls representing the Emperor and Empress with members of the Imperial Court. The event will also feature storytelling, songs, and a family-friendly *ikebana* workshop.



A preview from Shashin: Photographic Frontiers of Hokkaido: Higashimokoto Shibazakura Park in Hokkaido, Japan.
 Yusuke Abe/Usk.com

Vision Of Place

March 16 – June 10

Featuring:

Shashin: Photographic Frontiers of Hokkaido & Quiet Reflections of Hokkaido Winter: Photography by Sandra Chandler

Portland Japanese Garden is collaborating with The North Finder, a Hokkaido group of photographers with a mission to "raise the image of Hokkaido through photography and help people to know Hokkaido more deeply." The show will exhibit photographs that capture the four seasons of Japan's northernmost island and represent Portland's sister city of Sapporo, from the perspective of the people who live there.

We will also feature a selection of photography by Portland Japanese Garden Foundation Board Chairperson Sandra Chandler in the Calvin and Mayho Tanabe Gallery and Jordan Schnitzer Japanese Arts Learning Center in celebration of Oregon's cultural ties with the Japanese prefecture of Hokkaido. Chandler has traveled the world using her designer's eye to explore minimalist compositions artfully captured from nature. Captured during the artist's travels to the region in February of 2023, this exhibit features artfully captured scenes of Hokkaido's iconic winter landscape that inspire reflection and contemplation.

In addition to visiting these latest exhibitions, members and those in the Golden Crane Recognition Society will have exclusive access to experience the art ahead of the exhibition's opening. For times and dates, go to japanesegarden.org/events



The Flat Garden and Pavilion from beneath a weeping cherry.  Jonathan Ley

Cherry Blossom Season Returns!

In Portland Japanese Garden, our Yoshino and Weeping Cherry trees typically blossom in mid-to-late March. While we will share bloom updates on our website and social media platforms, we recommend using your membership to visit often to witness this fleeting seasonal beauty. Updates will also be included in our weekly e-newsletters.

2024 Mindfulness Tours: Now with More Options

Portland Japanese Garden's popular Mindfulness Tours focus on centering one's self through intentional observation, awareness, and connection to nature. Because they are designed for small groups, we understand that it has been difficult for all those interested to participate. **In light of that, Mindfulness Tours will now be offered to members twice a month beginning in April to increase the number of opportunities available.** Additionally, in response to feedback about ticket-related challenges, reservations for all tours between April and December will be released in March. Reservations are restricted to a maximum of two per person, regardless of membership level.

Offering Garden Tours Exclusively for Members

Free, volunteer-led Garden tours will continue to be offered exclusively to members from 9-10am on the first Saturday of every month, starting in March. Our incredible volunteer guides will provide a wealth of information on the cultural, historical, and horticultural background of Portland Japanese Garden, making this a fulfilling and inspirational tour for new and longtime members alike.

This year, we are asking members to make free, advanced reservations, which will open 10 days in advance of each tour. Details and reminders will continue to be shared in our weekly e-newsletters.

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

Spring Hours Return

Portland Japanese Garden will have expanded hours beginning March 1st and will continue to be open Wednesdays through Mondays (remaining closed Tuesdays).

Member Hours: 8:00 - 10:00am

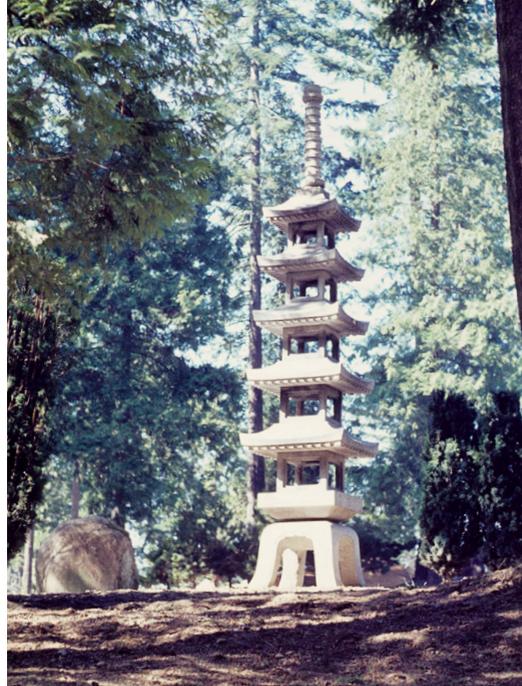
Public Hours: 10:00am - 4:30pm (guests exit by 5:30pm)

The Umami Café, Gift Shop, and Pavilion Gallery will be open from 9:00am - 5:30pm*

*Last seating for the Umami Café is 5:00pm



Portland Mayor Terry D. Schruck unboxes the top of Portland Japanese Garden's Sapporo Pagoda Lantern. 📷 © The Oregonian. All rights reserved. Used with permission.



The Sapporo Pagoda Lantern as seen in 1965. 📷 William "Robbie" Robinson

A Token of Good Will and Friendship

The Story of the Sapporo Pagoda Lantern

Of all the many stone lanterns throughout Portland Japanese Garden, none might be as visually arresting as the Sapporo Pagoda Lantern. No matter which way it is approached, through the Wisteria Arbor, the Camellia Tunnel, or along the slope of Cherry Tree Hill, its towering 18 feet draw the eye immediately. Grand and stately, the lantern's form is that of a *goju-no-to*, or five-story pagoda, an architectural style introduced to Japan along with Buddhism in the sixth century.

Thought to be more than 100 years old, the Sapporo Pagoda Lantern is an impressive two tons in weight and is composed of highly regarded granite quarried from the island of Shikoku. The lantern had been on the grounds of the Sugawara Mansion in the city of Otaru, a northwest neighbor of Sapporo, Japan. Founding Portland Japanese Garden Board Member Vivian Abbot wrote in a 1964 press release that the property had once belonged to Motosaburo Kaneko, the first mayor of Otaru Ward and an entrepreneur who ran fishery, shipping, farming, and banking concerns.

The lantern would eventually be purchased by a band of organizations in Japan so the City of Sapporo could donate it an American municipality, one it had just become sister cities with, one that was in the process of establishing a Japanese garden. That city was Portland, and we are that garden. Comfortably ensconced on its mossy hill since 1964, the Sapporo Pagoda Lantern is a physical embodiment of the sister-city relationship between Portland and Sapporo.

That Portland would seek friendship with a Japanese city marked a sea change in its perception of the nation and its people. During the WWII era, Portland had the distinction of being the only major American city on the West Coast to revoke municipal business licenses for *Issei* (first generation Japanese immigrants). Its City Council also passed a resolution in

favor of internment and the concentration camps its Japanese constituency would be condemned to. Attitudes had changed by 1952 when Mayor Dorothy McCullough Lee and Portland Chamber of Commerce President Edgar Smith accepted 2,000 cherry seeds from school children in Japan in a public event.

By the end of the 1950s, Portland was actively considering sister-city relationships in Japan. Two contenders were named in the pages of *The Oregonian*: the southern city of Shizuoka and the northern city of Sapporo. In the autumn of 1959, Mayor Terry D. Schruck and a cohort of Portland leaders visited both. It is no secret which city was chosen on November 17.

The cities also exchanged meaningful and permanent installations. Portland gave Sapporo a Benson Bubbler, its iconic drinking fountain with four bowls of perpetually bubbling water. Sapporo's gift would come to bear its name as the Sapporo Pagoda Lantern and it would similarly be situated in a place that happily welcomes visitors from around the world: Portland Japanese Garden.

In November 1963, after receiving Schruck and his visiting party in Japan, Sapporo Mayor Yosaku Harada, announced that his city would donate the Sapporo Pagoda Lantern to Portland for its Japanese garden. Harada, who had participated in groundbreaking ceremonies for the Garden in 1961, noted that it had been crafted by an artist of the Imperial Court at the end of Japan's Meiji Era (1868-1912). Later in a letter to Schruck, the Japanese leader wrote:

"I sincerely hope that this elaborated product modeled after a pagoda will be set in the Japanese Garden which, I am glad to bear, is being constructed in your City of Portland and that this gift from your sister city will remain for long as a token of our good will and everlasting friendship toward our sister city in the United States."

When all 13 crates holding its parts arrived in Portland in 1964, however, Portland Japanese Garden was not yet ready to receive it as they had to prepare a concrete base to support its might. The first place to display this highly articulated piece of handcrafted art in Oregon would fittingly be Portland Art Museum, timed to a new exhibition of Japanese screens. Later that year, it would be installed where it still resides today in the Strolling Pond Garden. Completing the tableau that features the Sapporo Pagoda Lantern are towering Douglas firs and cedars giving it shelter, evergreen hedges placed asymmetrically behind it, a maple that turns fiery red in autumn, and several stones, some large and several smaller ones laid in front, arranged to resemble the shape of Hokkaido, the prefecture which claims Sapporo as its capital.

Just over 80 years ago and in the throes of war, the idea of a longtime friendship between American and Japanese citizens would have been difficult to imagine, but a friendship blossomed despite it all. Even in the despair of World War II, there were enough people who sought the peace we have come to enjoy. In an increasingly divisive landscape today, we can look to the Sapporo Pagoda Lantern and be reminded of the quiet power of friendship and good will.

A full version of this article can be read at japanesegarden.org/pagoda-lantern



The Benson Bubbler that Portland gave to Sapporo as a gift. It is now in the Japanese city's Odori Park. 📷 Christopher Cotrell

The Importance of Connection

Portland Japanese Garden's Garden Curator and New Executive Director Talk Transition

At the end of 2023, Portland Japanese Garden saw the retirement of two seminal leaders: Chief Curator Sadafumi Uchiyama, who also served as Director of the International Japanese Garden Training Center, and Deputy Director Cynthia Johnson Haruyama. Taking over their responsibilities are two leaders who have been with the organization for several years.

Prior to 2024, Lisa Christy had served as Chief External Affairs Officer, overseeing the Garden's marketing, communications, membership, fundraising, and community relations. Now assuming the role of Executive Director, she'll continue to have oversight over these efforts and will guide the organization's day-to-day operations and guest experience. Hugo Torii, meanwhile, has served as Garden Curator since 2021 and will continue to oversee Portland Japanese Garden's physical landscape. Both Christy and Torii will continue to report to CEO Steve Bloom, who has led the organization since 2005.

Christy and Torii sat down to chat about this notable transition in staff leadership at Portland Japanese Garden.



Lisa Christy, Executive Director of Portland Japanese Garden. 📷 Portland Japanese Garden

Lisa and Hugo, what accomplishments are you most proud of during your tenure with Portland Japanese Garden?

Christy: I am really proud of how we have made the Garden more accessible for people. A phrase that I think about a lot from my previous job, is “walk in stupid every day.” I know that sounds a little silly or flippant, but it’s actually a north star for me – a reminder that I have to leave assumptions behind if I am going to understand our guests and community better. Starting on day one I was determined to know what it is like to experience Portland Japanese Garden—whether it’s literally walking through our gates or visiting our website. One significant change I took a leadership role in was the creation of a guest experience department that dives into their needs, studies them, and then, most importantly translates this information into change. I think this being the heartbeat of what I do was especially helpful during the pandemic. As we all know, it was an incredibly challenging and difficult time to navigate. I am really proud of how we kept the community connected to us when we had to shut our gates. It was a time when people needed Portland Japanese Garden more than ever and couldn’t be here. Hearing that our updates and photos and

videos helped provide a respite during such a tumultuous time was especially touching. I know our organization has more to do when it comes connecting with our community and that I will be largely responsible for satisfying those needs—I feel confident that we can because of our staff, Board members, volunteers, and the many incredible partners we have.

Torii: The first thing that comes to mind is that during the pandemic, the Garden Department was reduced to no more than four staff including myself. When we were able to open back up to the public, we had to bring in a whole new team, essentially. This meant more than just overseeing gardening, it meant hiring and training. I’m very pleased with the group we have been able to bring on board and am excited to help guide their professional growth and learn from one another.

Lisa, how does it feel to take on this new set of responsibilities?

Christy: It’s humbling, it’s exciting. This process has been in motion since 2022, so I’ve had time to think about how I might handle day-to-day operations. I’m so grateful to have received mentorship from [recently retired Deputy Director] Cynthia Haruyama, an incredibly thoughtful and wise leader. Something that Cynthia expressed that really resonated with me is that, as a woman navigating what can be a male-dominated field, there is strength that comes from being female. She, as well as Steve [Bloom, CEO] and Diane [Freeman, CFO] have given me invaluable guidance. I’m thankful for them as well as our amazing staff, volunteers, and members for the insights and support they’ve given me.

Hugo, you’ve been Garden Curator since 2021, but Sada’s retirement marks a notable change for the organization and for you. What thoughts are going through your mind ahead of this transition?

Torii: As Chief Curator, Sada provided guidance on holding to the essence of the Garden. He has guided us to ask ourselves “why” to any addition or new changes to the physical garden while keeping in mind the original intentions of the garden design and philosophy.

Our full interview with Christy and Torii can be found on our website: japanesegarden.org/christy-torii



Hugo Torii, Garden Curator of Portland Japanese Garden. 📷 Portland Japanese Garden

Vision of Place

New Exhibition Celebrates 65 Years of Portland and Sapporo Sister City Relationship

Portland Japanese Garden will be holding different exciting events and exhibitions to celebrate the 65th anniversary of Portland and Sapporo's sister-city relationship. Among the many offerings will be *Shashin: Photographic Frontiers of Hokkaido*, a show in our Pavilion Gallery of photographs from Northfinder, a group based out of Sapporo, the prefectural capital of Hokkaido. Joining this will be *Quiet Reflections of Hokkaido Winter*, an exhibition of photographs taken by Sandra Chandler in our Calvin and Mayho Tanabe Gallery and Jordan Schnitzer Japanese Arts Learning Center. Enjoy a glimpse at some of the photographs that will be on display.

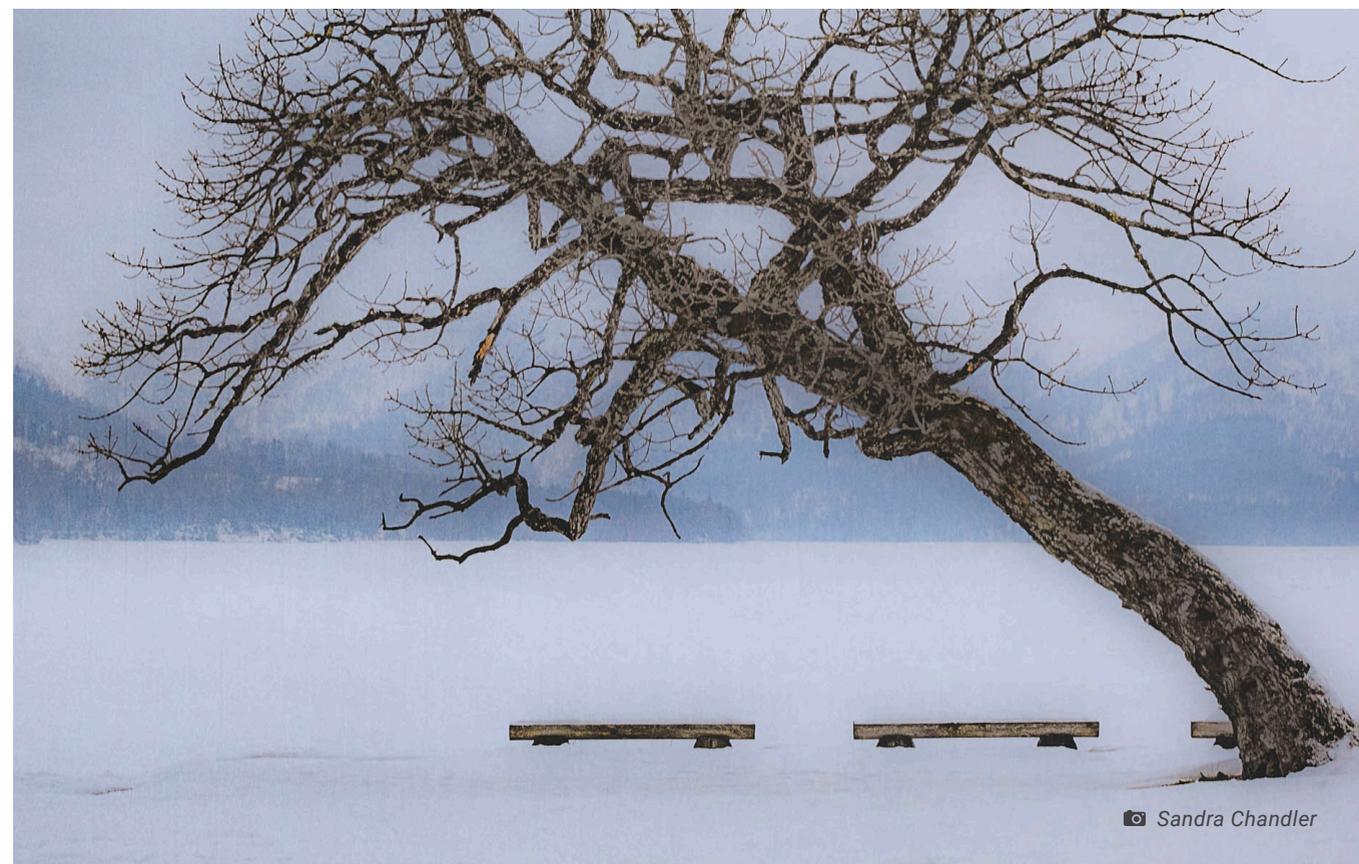
Shashin: Photographic Frontiers of Hokkaido and Quiet Reflections of Hokkaido Winter: Photography by Sandra Chandler open March 16th and run through June 10th.



© Hisao Asano



© Hiroki Tsuji



© Sandra Chandler



Japan Institute's contingency alongside members of the Johannesburg Botanical Gardens and larger community after planting a donated tree on the cultural institution's grounds in South Africa. 📷 Paula Zapata

Healing at the Individual Level To Achieve Lasting Peace

Japan Institute Brings Peace Programming to South Africa

Written by Deshnee Subramany

Years after former Constitutional Court Justice and anti-apartheid activist Albie Sachs lost his right arm and vision in his eye in a bomb that exploded in his car in 1988, he met the man responsible for planting the weapon. At the first meeting, when the judge was in his chambers, the man went to him and revealed his actions as an apartheid collaborator. He promised the judge he would be admitting to his crimes at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission - a tribunal to hear and record crimes relating to human rights violations during apartheid, where victims could receive reparations and rehabilitation while perpetrators could be granted amnesty.

Filled with recognition of the injustice done to him, Justice Sachs did not shake the man's hand. A few years later, the same man greeted him at a party. He told the judge that he followed through with his promise. The judge shook the man's hand then, which left the former soldier collapsed in tears in a corner of the room.

This story was part of Justice Sachs' closing remarks at Japan Institute's Peace Symposia in Cape Town and Johannesburg on November 30th and December 4th, 2023. The Peace Symposia in South Africa were the fourth and fifth in an international series exploring the evolving role of art, cultural institutions, and public spaces as platforms for peacebuilding and community engagement.

Taking place at the Kirstenbosch Gardens and Houghton Hotel respectively, each cultural conversation celebrated its unique location in South Africa, a country with a democracy of just 30 years after a history of colonialism, apartheid, and human rights abuses. Thanks to the efforts of Black South Africans and their allies, a democracy was established in the nation in 1994 and with it a constitution thought to be among the most progressive in the world.

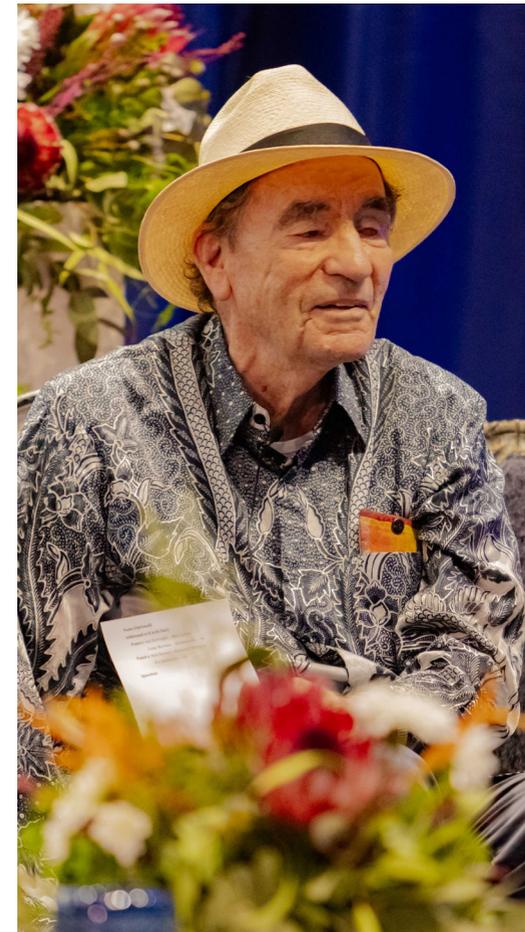
In collaboration with the Nobel Peace Center, the symposia carried themes of restoration, love, pain, and hope - and took place a few days before the 10th anniversary of the passing of Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first democratically elected president and Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

Japan Institute of Portland Japanese Garden CEO, Steve Bloom, discussed how a Japanese garden in the United States helped unite a community split along racial lines after World War II. "That garden that a community didn't want to the point of almost murdering its Garden Director has now become a cultural jewel of the city of Portland," Bloom shared, referring to the racist assault of Kinya Hira in the 1960s. "That same community that did not want this garden [in 1961] raised \$37 million in private donations to double the size of it. Art, love, and nature are as important as dialogue, peace negotiations, or treaties."

While each symposium embraced the two cities' unique energy, both installments were quintessentially South African. As a tribute to the lineage of the country's indigenous people, Liverpool Biennial 2023 curator and *sangoma* (a respected healer among South Africa's indigenous people) Khanyisile Mbongawa called in the ancestors of each audience member present. Her poignant chants and calls arose intense pride and respect throughout the room. Mbongawa stirred deep emotions and painful memories during her presentation about pain, that victims of violence are often left to carry the burden of peace, and how the isiZulu word "uxolo" means so much more at its core than the English word for peace. In a country still grappling with racial, economic and social justice, betrayal and hurt are regular emotional responses still today.

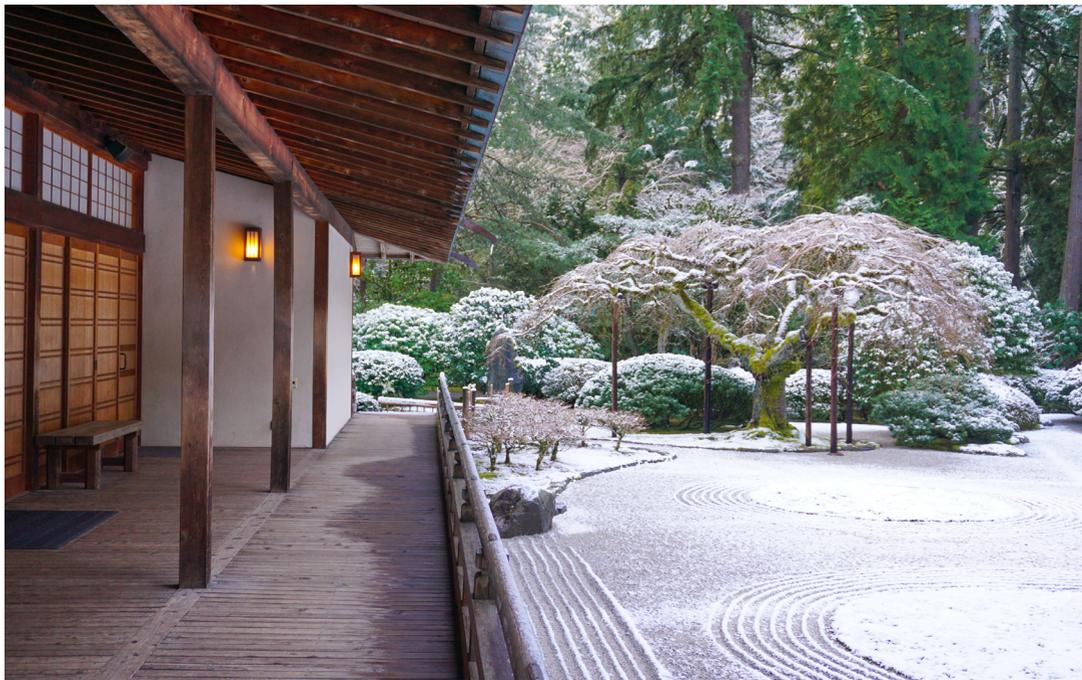
To read the entire article, visit japanesegarden.org/south-africa

Deshnee Subramany is a journalist and digital media consultant living in Johannesburg, South Africa.



Justice Albie Sachs speaking to attendees at Japan Institute's Peace Symposium in South Africa. 📷 Paula Zapata





Portland Japanese Garden



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 Philanthropy, at (503) 542-0281 or ceisenfeld@japanesegarden.org.

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Path to Peace Campaign for Japan Institute

Recognizing all those who have made a gift in support of our Path to Peace Campaign for Japan Institute, helping us be a leading global voice for cultural understanding, in pursuit of a more peaceful, sustainable world.

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 Generous Support from the Portland Japanese Garden volunteers for the Artist-in-Residence program
 Alice & Wim Wiewel
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Tribute Gifts & Donations

Memorials and Honoraria
 September 1, 2023 – November 30, 2023

GIFT IN HONOR OF SOPHIE BRACCINI

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GIFT IN MEMORY OF CAROL ANN DICKINSON

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GIFT IN HONOR OF DENTIST SHERYL WEISSMAN

David Pollock

GIFT IN HONOR OF ROBERT ZAGUNIS

Francoise Coppola

Portland Japanese Garden



Students who participated in Arts for All, a collaborative art project sponsored by Japan Institute to correspond with the organization's Peace Programming in South Africa, alongside Special Advisor to Japan Institute's International Exchange Forum, Paula Esguerra (second from left). 📷 Paula Zapata



Curator Emeritus Sada Uchiyama and his wife and Director of Environmental Services for the City of Portland, Oregon, Dawn Uchiyama, at Sada's last public event as Chief Curator before his retirement. 📷 Portland Japanese Garden



Cynthia Haruyama, who retired from her position of Deputy Director of Portland Japanese Garden and Lisa Christy, Executive Director of the Garden, at a Golden Crane Recognition Society event in December. 📷 Jonathan Ley



Judilee Fitzhugh (standing) leads learners in chikuchiku stitching during our winter textile workshop series. 📷 Portland Japanese Garden



Caleb Hendrickson, a gardener with Portland Japanese Garden, leads a demonstration on how to craft kadomatsu, a decoration made of pine, bamboo and plum that is displayed around New Years. 📷 Portland Japanese Garden



Portland Japanese Garden Chief Development Officer Jennifer Baumann and Board of Trustees Member Polly Lauser at the Golden Crane Recognition Society reception for Masterpieces in Miniature: The Art of Netsuke Carvings. 📷 Jonathan Ley



Dr. Peter Doebler, Guest Curator of Masterpieces in Miniature: The Art of Netsuke Carvings, goes in for a closer look at some of the netsuke on display in the Pavilion Gallery. 📷 Jonathan Ley



Aki Nakanishi, the Arlene Schnitzer Curator of Culture, Art, and Education for Portland Japanese Garden (far right) leads a panel discussion at Japan Institute's Cape Town Peace Symposium with panelists (left to right) Crystal Orderson, Ann Burroughs, and Lungi Morrison. 📷 Paula Zapata

DID YOU KNOW...?

Seen here are two photographs taken in 1989 by Portland Japanese Garden Board of Trustees Member, Dr. Hiroshi Ueno (1986-92). In the top photo, we see a water fountain that was commissioned and gifted to Portland Japanese Garden by the City of Sapporo in commemoration of what was then the 30th anniversary of Portland and Sapporo's sister-city relationship. The original piece of art was sculpted by Oregon-based artist Don Wilson, whose works appear throughout the Pacific Northwest. In attendance to celebrate this generous donation were Sapporo Mayor Takeshi Itagaki and Portland Mayor Bud Clark, also pictured below.

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