

The Garden Path

Your Summer Sanctuary

Summer 2021



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HAIKU

Dapples of sunlight
The path of summer's sun
Seeking its own way

– Peter Kendall

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THE GARDEN PATH

FOR QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS
Email marketing@japanesegarden.org



 Christina Sjogren

Dear Members,

We have officially transitioned from springtime's vibrant color to a verdant summer sanctuary. The days are warmer, the sun shines longer, and we find ourselves in a lush paradise during this time of the year at Portland Japanese Garden. We're grateful to be returning to normalcy – all of our staff are vaccinated, we've eliminated many of our COVID restrictions, and we're finally able to reconnect with one another.

On-site at the Garden, we're thrilled to be able to bring back modified versions of in-person events – we've missed seeing everyone! This month, we'll be hosting our Golden Crane Annual Reception, *Behind the Shoji* Member Preview and Reception, and our Volunteer Appreciation event. On the horizon, we'll have our first in-person workshops from the International Japanese Garden Training Center in over a year.

But it keeps getting better.

For the upcoming summer Olympics in Tokyo, KGW, the local NBC affiliate, will be broadcasting live from the Garden every morning of the Olympics. Through their lens, we'll be able to share the beauty and tranquility of Portland Japanese Garden, our connection with Japan, and how we enrich our community through cultural understanding and experience of nature. To add to an eventful summer, we will have our annual artisan marketplace, *Behind the Shoji*. We also have plans to bring members together through our beloved summer festivals and celebrate *O-Bon* and Moonviewing in-person.

Above all, these upcoming opportunities help us continue to steward our world-class gardens and present vibrant cultural programming so that we, and those who visit us from around the world, can have a space to think about our shared humanity and common values, and to create a bit more peace in the world.

With gratitude,

Steve Bloom
Chief Executive Officer



Special Events, Festivals & Workshops

Annual Golden Crane Reception

July 10
6pm - 9pm

We are thrilled to welcome back members of the Golden Crane Recognition Society with our first in-person event in well over a year: the Golden Crane Annual Reception. This exclusive, open house-style evening entails light appetizers and refreshments, guided architectural tours, music, quiet strolls through the garden, and the opportunity to safely reconnect with friends surrounded by nature's peace and beauty. We've missed you and look forward to seeing you soon!

*Interested in learning more about the Golden Crane Recognition Society?
Contact Director of Development Edwina Kane at ekane@japanesegarden.org*

Behind the Shoji Member Preview and Reception

July 30
6pm - 9pm

Join us for a member-only preview to gain first access to our annual artisan marketplace, *Behind the Shoji*. See a sneak peek of the available items on pages 12-13.

Volunteer Appreciation Event

August 3
4pm - 7pm

In appreciation of our volunteers, we are hosting a private evening where volunteers can enjoy the Garden to themselves. RSVP required. Email cmotgomery@japanesegarden.org for more information.

O-Bon

August 13 & 14
7pm - 8:30pm

O-Bon is a Japanese Buddhist custom and festival that honors the spirits of the deceased. This year, we will host a hybrid event with a virtual and modified in-person component. Look for more details in the coming weeks through our weekly emails.

Upcoming Garden Workshop: Maple Pruning

August 21 & 28
9am - 3pm

Tickets on sale:
July 7 for Golden Crane, July 14 for Members

We will be hosting two in-person Garden workshops in August. As tickets are limited for these hands-on workshops, there will continue to be a lottery system for purchasing tickets. This provides an equal opportunity for participation among members.

Umami Café is Open!

We are excited to welcome you back to the Umami Café! We thank you for your patience as we navigate our re-opening and hope to continue to increase our capacity in the coming months.

All guests, including members, need to make a reservation for Garden entry in addition to reserving a table at the Umami Café. Reservations for the café can be made up to 10 days in advance. To reserve a spot, visit japanesegarden.org/umami-cafe

HAVE YOU ACTIVATED YOUR ONLINE ACCOUNT?

If you haven't activated your online account since February 2021, it's only a few simple steps! Activating your account will improve your online experience when reserving tickets, renewing your membership, purchasing event tickets, or making a donation. New members or if you had an existing online account with us, prior to February 2021, and haven't activated it yet, please visit japanesegarden.org/activate.

To receive the latest updates from Portland Japanese Garden, make sure you sign up for our weekly emails at japanesegarden.org/newsletters.



LEFT Jonathan Ley
RIGHT Hannah Steelman



📷 Tyler Quinn



📷 Michael Anderson

Nurtured by Nature

How Japanese Gardens Support our Bodies and Minds

At Portland Japanese Garden, we have been studying the ways in which Japanese gardens lend themselves to the same positive health benefits we experience by simply spending time in any natural environment. We know we feel good when we're in a Japanese garden. But why?

"When we are surrounded by nature, a feeling of comfort comes over us and our bodies become relaxed. Most of us would intuitively recognize this feeling, but until recently we haven't had any evidence to prove it."

Yoshigumi Miyazaki
Excerpt from his book *Shinrin Yoku*

Japanese gardens are designed to capture natural elements in their ideal form, which creates captivating and safe natural spaces for contemplation and tranquility. Some garden styles, such as the Strolling Pond Garden and Natural Garden, were designed specifically to offer visitors a place of respite – places where one can let their stresses fall away surrounded by the beauty of nature.

IMPROVE YOUR CONCENTRATION

Wandering through a garden renews your ability to stay focused. Researchers at the University of Melbourne found that looking at natural vegetation restores a person's attention span.

A recent study found that groups who walked in the woods for a brief period showed a 20 percent improvement on memory tests, while those who walked down a city street did not have any considerable improvement whatsoever.

While walking in the Portland Japanese Garden, allow your mind to wander freely as you observe seasonal elements. No matter the time of year, the Garden offers captivating scenery



📷 Mike Centioli

such as the vibrant fall colors of the Japanese lace leaf maple in Autumn, or the reflection of the Snow Viewing Lantern against the water during the winter.

GIVE YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM A BOOST

Various essential oils – emitted by plants and trees as a way to protect against germs and insects, not only make us feel refreshed. Breathing in these oils can improve our immune system health.

There exists a wide variety of trees inside our Japanese garden. Pause to breathe in the subtle aroma of Japanese Pines, as well as the scent of some Northwest natives such as Douglas Firs and Western Red Cedar trees. Notice how fresh the air smells as you walk through our Natural Garden enshrouded by trees. On a rainy day, draw in the rich, earthy smell of damp moss and earth that lingers in the air.

For the full article, and complete list of works cited, visit japanesegarden.org/nurtured-by-nature.



PHOTOS Jonathan Ley

Connected Communities

Olympics to be broadcast from Portland Japanese Garden

The summer Olympics this year are being held in Japan, so it's only natural that there is heightened interest in the connection that Portland, and more broadly, Oregon has with Japan. The connection is long and storied – everything from shared love of craft, nature, and architecture, Japanese companies that expand Portland, and of course, our Garden, the "most beautiful and authentic Japanese garden in the world outside of Japan" right in the community's backyard.

While the daytime and evening coverage is dedicated to athletics, the KGW's Sunrise team will be producing a few special pieces that highlight Portland Japanese Garden and our expression of Japanese culture, tradition, and aesthetics, and how we have become a hallmark of the local community.

This prompted us to reflect on our role and impact on our community, so we turned to our members to share their thoughts on the question:

How does Portland Japanese Garden allow you to feel connected with nature, with culture, or find an experience of peace?



"Over the past year, I have faced a sort of racial identity awakening. I am a *sansei*, third-generation Japanese-American and I am mixed-race [...] I grew up in an Americanized household that celebrated a few Japanese traditions, but I always held a creeping feeling of being an impostor in my mind. Now in 2021, I have connected with my family in Japan over Zoom, am learning Japanese, and am doing my best to learn more about Japan's history and culture. I am committed to understanding how I fit into my own culture as a mixed-race person in America. The Portland Japanese Garden has provided a space for me to connect and learn about my culture through the art and documentary exhibits, to be inspired by the care and beauty of Japanese landscaping, and to take a step back from world news and my thoughts to find peace among the trees."

Colleen Nakanishi

"[The Garden] allows me to feel connected with nature, culture, and peace through its ambience beginning with the walk up to the quiet and open courtyard, which signals the same in me. Furthermore, the purposeful placement of the many structures and their careful architecture, as well as the cultivation of the various plants, further signals to me that I deserve to be here. That this space is meeting me where I am, that I can take care of myself and my life with the same purposefulness, with the balance of letting things go that do not serve me, just like the passing of the flowers with the seasons. Lastly, it resonates with me that all of this was and continues to be possible through respect, stewardship, and alliances, despite the past and because of the past."

Alicia Moez Wayland

"Your beautiful garden offers peace and quiet and a total experience of tranquility. I try to visit often and also introduce friends to the magic of your grounds. Thank you for having this one-of-a-kind sanctuary in the heart of our city!"

Lynda Walker

Thank you to those who have shared their thoughts with us!



"Just because the trees are not from Japan, it doesn't mean the integrity and taste of the Japanese garden are compromised ... thinking like a Japanese gardener, practicing the composition of Japanese garden design, applying the practice, and the consistent fostering of the garden are what keeps the authenticity."

Takeshi Kato, Ueyakato Landscape Co. Ltd, Kyoto

LEFT  David Bostock
RIGHT  Michael Anderson



A Symphony of Green

Summer Sanctuary at Portland Japanese Garden

Visitors to Portland Japanese Garden frequently ask whether all our plants are Japanese natives. The answer is that many are, but some aren't. The Pacific Northwest Japanese garden is an original form with its own history and identity, and not merely a piece of Japan transplanted to an alien place. And this living cultural expression has been adapted and changed by its environment, while still maintaining its original integrity. The Japanese garden's heart and soul transcends borders and time.

While Pacific Northwest conditions are agreeable to most common Japanese garden plants, incorporating Northwest natives into the garden can add ecological sensitivity without sacrificing authenticity. Several Pacific Northwest natives grace our eight garden spaces.

Vine maples, for example, might not be common in the temple gardens of Kyoto. But thoughtfully placed as part of a design, and cared for over time by trained gardeners, their form and texture become an authentic and harmonious garden element.

Shore pines, too, help represent an idealized vision of nature and symbolize longevity along with their red and black Japanese counterparts. And of course, having large-scale native conifers such as Douglas fir around our Garden is a distinctly Pacific Northwest hallmark.

Citing plant names brings us to another question: why don't we label our plants? The absence of labels is not for reasons of economy. It's because this isn't a botanical collection meant to be understood scientifically as individual species. It's a composition, intended to be experienced as a single work, like an orchestra playing a symphony. But for those who like to have a program that describes the music, the Garden Gift Shop now offers an answer in the form of *The Tapestry of the Four Seasons*, the Garden's new plant guide. And if the guide's information on the natural and aesthetic aspects of plants in the Garden leaves you wanting to know more, that's where the Garden's Training Center comes in. The Center offers hands-on workshops, lectures, and other programs for learners at all levels, including the *Waza to Kokoro: Hands and Heart* professional training seminar in Japanese garden arts. The seminar's topics include stone setting and pruning techniques, bamboo fence construction, design, Japanese aesthetics, and garden history, all framed eloquently in the culture of tea and taught by visiting Japanese instructors and our own experienced Garden staff.

We invite you to come visit the Garden and learn with us – and think like a Japanese gardener.

This article was originally published June 4, 2018, on japanesegarden.org.



Kodamado Clocks

Upper Left to Bottom Right:
Seigaiha, Asanoha, Sippou, Kanji



Kamawanu
Furoshiki Cloth



Weather
Bingo Kasuri Stole



Seisuke Knife
Knives

Behind the Shoji Summer Marketplace

Sneak Peek of Curated,
Shoppable Goods

Our annual artisan marketplace, *Behind the Shoji* comes back on July 30. This year's collection will feature a curated selection of Japanese and Japanese-inspired ceramics, art, and lifestyle goods. And while Japan is revered for their exquisite craftsmanship and artistry, we also highlight goods made by passionate local artisans in the Pacific Northwest, who pull inspiration from the Japanese arts. We're honored to highlight and support both local and Japanese artists and bring our community together to share in the beauty of art and craft.



Unsodo
Woodblock Print



Jugetsudo
Apple Hojicha Tea



Cumulative giving to the Annual Fund from April 30, 2020 through May 31, 2021.



Jonathan Ley

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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.



Michael Anderson

Michael Anderson



PHOENIX
LEGACY
SOCIETY

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.

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

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.

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IN HONOR OF
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Dappled rays of light make their way through the dense canopy to shine on the Snow Viewing Lantern in the Lower Pond

Photo by Michael Anderson



Staff tour the new Japan Institute campus with CEO, Steve Bloom
-
Photo by Michael Anderson



Informational wall and mini boat on display in the Pavilion Gallery for "The Gates of Hope" exhibition
-
Photo by Michael Anderson



The ambling, mossy, stone staircase of the Natural Garden
-
Photo by Michael Anderson



The Moon Bridge amidst the verdant landscape of the Strolling Pond Garden
-
Photo by Hannah Steelman



Art exhibition "Painting Paradise: Art of Daisuke Nakano." Nakano uses the traditional painting technique Nihonga (日本画)
-
Photo courtesy of Shoko Aono

"Summer in the Garden," our special cocktail developed for the Painting Paradise Golden Crane reception
-
Photo by Hannah Steelman



Umami Café has reopened with curated teas and treats to be enjoyed in a serene setting like no other
-
Photo by Megumi Kato



DID YOU KNOW...?

We now have the Self-Guided Tour Book, which is a great resource, gift, or keepsake to learn more about Portland Japanese Garden. Purchase your copy for a donation of \$10 at our Fukuta Concierge Desk or Gift Shop.

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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.

