

# Tsuru 鶴 Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



## Origami for Everyone

In December's newsletter we talked about the origins of origami, and how it doesn't really matter where or when origami originated. What matters is it's a form of art many people around the world can practice and appreciate.

The Garden relishes the opportunity to be able to offer this enjoyable and (can be) challenging origami folding workshops taught by a qualified instructor.

Eileen Holzman is a retired art educator who taught art in the New Jersey public schools. She was also an art therapist who taught origami to all ages in schools, libraries, senior centers and in homes

where domestic abuse survivors lived.



Her next workshop is Saturday, February 12th from 3-4:15pm, adaptable for all level of students (8 years old and older). Cost is \$20. The theme is hearts! Sign up and join us on a creative journey of paper folding.



### PHOTOGRAPHER'S VIEW

.畠人の思ひの外や帰り花  
hata-bitō no omoi no hoka ya kaeri-bana  
surprising, the gardener...out-of-season  
blooms

*Out-of-season blossom" (kaeri-bana) is a winter seasonal expression*  
— Issa 1803

<https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/product/family-origami-folding/>.

If you're looking to learn more about origami, one of Eileen's favorite resources is Origami USA ([origamiusa.org](http://origamiusa.org)).

# Rejuvenating the Karesansui

by Mary Taylor

One of our goals at the GJJ this year is to rejuvenate the dry garden, or, as it is known in Japan, karesansui. You'll discover our karesansui to your right after crossing the moon bridge into Tsuru Island. It's tucked behind a planting of juniper and lace leaf maple with a overhanging deadora cedar tree situated along the Island's southern border.

This project will begin in February with sifting the existing gravel to rid it of pine needles and other debris that have fallen and accumulated over the past years. The task will be made easier by a sieve custom designed and crafted by one of our volunteers. When this first phase of restoration has been accomplished, maintenance will begin. We'll revisit the dry garden during Garden Saturdays to ensure that it remains pristine.

You may often hear our dry garden referred to as the "ocean" or the "sea." However, the word kare-san-sui translates to: dry/dead; mountain/rocks; water. Rocks and sand are important elements of a karesansui whereas plants are often nonexistent. An important Japanese aesthetic principle underlying the dry garden is yohaku no bi, which

means "the beauty of blank space." It is a style that was developed in Japan in the late Kamakura period (1185–1333).

Put another way, a dry garden is an area that does not employ actual water, yet may give the illusion of water, especially when gravel is raked into patterns that suggest movement. The foundation of our karesansui is the large rocks (ishi in Japanese) which have been strategically placed to represent mountains. In the future we will be raking gravel around our ishi to suggest water.

The traditional karesansui is often enclosed by a wall. We've chosen to use small sections of bamboo fencing and plants to obtain this characteristic. The openings between the fence pieces and the plants allow the viewer to appreciate the dry garden from different angles.

One of the features positioned in our dry garden is a black locust memorial column honoring Hal "Skip" White, who was a tireless volunteer here at Tsuru Island for many years. The column was crafted by Jim Card with kanji signifying "Friend of the Earth".

The next time you stroll through Tsuru Island be sure to check out the progress we've made on rejuvenating our kare-



Mary Taylor raking the dry garden

sansui. Sit a while on the nearby bench and enjoy the tranquility created by the dry garden. How is the gravel looking? Did we do well raking an illusion of ripples around the rocks?



Memorial column

Or, here's another idea, after viewing the karesansui, talk to us about volunteering at Tsuru Island! Both have the potential to rejuvenate your life!



## GARDENER'S TIP

February is the optimal time for trimming roses and many other shrubs such as clematis, viburnums, hydrangeas, grapes and other vines. Cool weather crops such as spinach, arugula and carrots can be started especially in cold frames.

Check for slugs emerging from the soil around hyacinths, tulips and other spring flowers.

— Jim Buck, Garden Volunteer  
and Organic Gardener

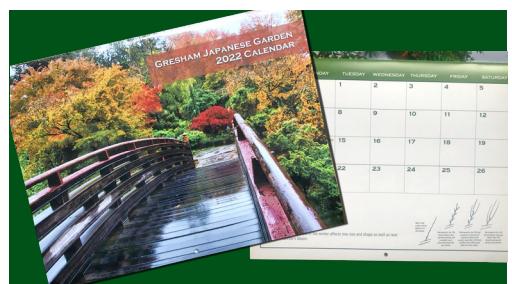
## Winter Color



In this month's Ask Jim ▶ video, [https://youtu.be/NaPsc\\_jbpA8](https://youtu.be/NaPsc_jbpA8) he talks about how golden euonymus and nandina varieties contribute to the beauty of a winter's landscape.

It's appropriate our photographer picked a splendid cover photo showcasing the golden euonymus on Tsuru Island.

## 2022 Calendars for Sale



\$10.00 EACH

Support the Garden by purchasing our Gresham Japanese Garden 2022 calendar, featuring spectacular photos of the Garden revealed throughout the seasons.

Send an email to:  
[marketing@greshamjapanesegarden.com](mailto:marketing@greshamjapanesegarden.com)

# Kadomatsu: Brings Happiness to Tsuru Island

by Mary Dickson

Mark Vossbrink believes in promoting Japanese culture in ways that Americans can understand. As a volunteer and bonsai instructor at the Gresham Japanese Garden, he built a kadomatsu at the sides of the Garden's bridge during New Year's. A kadomatsu is a decorative arrangement of pine, bamboo, and rope that is placed on each side of an entrance from late December to early January. Originally a Shinto practice, it is now mostly a cultural tradition. Kadomatsu are made a bit differently in various parts of Japan.

Although Mark's mother was Japanese and grew up in Honolulu, she was Methodist and didn't promote Japanese culture in the family, other than cooking Japanese foods and doing ikebana. Her parents came from Japan during the Meiji period (1868-1912). Mark is proud that they came from Japan as merchants, starting businesses, importing fine Japanese goods like art and things that Japanese residents of Hawaii wanted. His father was a member of the YMCA, and the family was well-respected by their neighbors during World War II. Following the war, his father's store sold items to American servicemen, including fine Japanese fabric. They also made some of the best aloha Hawaiian shirts and sold ukuleles.



Kadomatsu at entrance to Tsuru Island

Mark was born and grew up in Honolulu and graduated from the University of Oregon, majoring in plants and ceramics. He has an extensive bonsai collection which he has exhibited many places. He thinks it's important to bring back some of the Japanese arts and traditions, including the kadomatsu. He likes the idea of "nonverbal symbolism" in traditions such as the kadomatsu which greeted everyone entering the garden.

According to the website [kokoro-jp.com](http://kokoro-jp.com), "Kadomatsu is the landmark for the Shinto deity Toshigami-sama to enter your home. In Japan, it is believed that Toshigami-sama comes to each family to bring happiness on New Year's Day."

Pine and bamboo are the most important elements. Plum flowers bloom early in

the year, so they are seen as strong and durable. Other decorations are added.

We appreciate Mark's enthusiasm for continuing traditions such as kadomatsu and bonsai. In the future, he plans to become even more involved in the Gresham Japanese Garden.



Mark Vossbrink

## How Harmful is Ivy to Trees?

by Jim Buck

We are learning more from scientists on how trees depend on other trees, plants and fungi in the ground, to thrive. Native old-growth forests demonstrate that symbiotic relationships are critical factors in tree and plant health and how interdependent they are. This is the reason Douglas firs and cedar trees in our grassy

parks never equal the size you see in old growth forests—too many other symbiotic relationships are missing. Ivy roots are detrimental to a tree's health and when summer droughts occur, rob moisture and nutrients trees desperately need. Ivy also becomes a mono-culture destroying native plants that trees depend

on to grow. Ivy quickly climbs trees as it's exposed to light inducing flowering, followed by seeds that spread ivy further into woodlands, creating more havoc on the ecosystem.

While ivy may provide shelter to certain animals and insects, it's far more damaging. Please help the ecosystem and remove ivy climbing up your trees.

# The Garden has Been Busy

**T**rees may go dormant in the winter, but the people leading the organization have been working like hungry beavers.

Mary Taylor, a devoted volunteer, accepted the Treasurer's position, and joins Jim Card and Sue Hughes, as the third officer of the 501(c) (3) organization. And, the opportunity to create a 1 to 3 year strategic plan came to fruition with the fulfillment of this position. At the forefront on the officers' minds in the strategic meetings was, "Does the mission of the Garden nurture the needs of the community?" After reading this summary, let us know if we pass.

## WORKSHOPS

Our bonsai, ikebana, and origami cultural workshops have been well attended and we will continue offering them in 2022. (See schedule at: <https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/calendar>).

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

This summer, we need to reduce the number of cultural events we offer. Ten events last year during our Summer Cultural Series was rewarding, but a bit taxing on our volunteers. This year we're also using the time to research adding a large event such as: Winter Lights Festival, Obon Festival, or a Cherry Blossom Festival. Stay tuned as we figure it out.

## EDUCATIONAL CLASSES

We've received positive feedback from the community and our instructors to the free, educational classes we offered last year. We will continue them this year.

Our first class is *Spring Pruning*, taught by Jim Card, March 19th, 1:00pm-3:00pm, followed by *Organic Gardening Fundamentals*, taught by Jim Buck via Zoom, April 4th, 6:30pm-8:00pm. More will be announced soon.

## DONORS, PARTNERS, & VENDORS

GJG can not do what we do without donors and partners. We value everyone's support, whether through purchasing a touchstone paver, making a small, heart-felt donation, donating directly to the endowment fund at Edward Jones, being a City of Gresham liaison, or donating your services as a vendor, all help make the Garden what it is today.

## PROJECTS

Seems we're never short on projects. A few earmarked this year are: mural painting at the barn, redesign the sign in front of Tsuru Island, redo the stream bed on Tsuru Island, install pavers around the shade house, plant the Hiroshima Peace Tree, and research remodeling the outside of the Resource Center.

## PROGRAMS

The program you may be familiar with us talking about in the past is the Main City Flora Exploratory Program. The GBSD students are learning all about horticulture with our goal to help these students get a job in the industry.

Our newest endeavor in the works is to create a Pruning Club. We don't know what it looks like yet, but there is a need for the Garden to create viable, sustainable resources to maintain the beauty of Tsuru Island AND educate gardeners.

## VOLUNTEERS

In order to operate with the help of volunteers there are specific policies and procedures that must happen on a yearly basis, such as explaining where the fire extinguishers and first-aid kits are stored; the contents of the MSDS book, volunteer handbook policies, etc. Last month, we combined an orientation meeting with an appreciation meeting and invited 16 of our most dedicated



John Harrold, Hardscapes Coordinator

volunteers and Garden Coordinators. Gifts, food and a comprehensive agenda was well received!

As with many non-profits, The Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden functions solely on volunteers. The question many non-profits struggle with is how do we sustain a healthy volunteer base?

Through the feedback at our Orientation and Appreciation meeting, the officers discovered the need to take new volunteers through a more comprehensive orientation. We've grown immensely from just managing Tsuru Island. The Gresham Japanese Garden represents Tsuru Island, Ebetsu Plaza, Ambleside Annex, a greenhouse, shade house, pollinator garden, educational program, free classes, workshops, and more!

## Volunteer Orientation Meeting

February 17th  
5-6:30pm

Resource Center, Main City Park  
219 S. Main Street

The Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden volunteers collaborate and work as a collective group of knowledgeable individuals for the good of the Garden and the community. Please join us! Our first dedicated Volunteer Orientation meeting is February 17th from 5-6:30pm. Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to [Volunteers@GreshamJapanese-Garden.com](mailto:Volunteers@GreshamJapanese-Garden.com).