

# Tsuru 鶴 Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



## We Are Done!



In the March 2022 newsletter we reported the need to redo the Touchstone pavers purchased between 2018-2019. We called the article "[Making It Right.](#)"

We are happy to announce that we are done! We had forms to refer to the ac-

curacy of the names on most of the 200 pavers, but we'd appreciate the donors from this time frame to check our work.

The Garden's Touchstone Paver campaign is still our main source of funding for the GJG endowment fund. This fund is managed through Dino Rocha at Ed-



### PHOTOGRAPHER'S VIEW

*Bright summer mornings,  
Melancholy autumn days,  
Echos while sitting*

ward Jones. Paver donations are tax-deductible and donations deposited into this account are for future maintenance and services to the Gresham Japanese Garden.

[Order a paver today](#) to influence the future of Gresham Japanese Garden for years to come!

# Mispronounced Japanese Words

**F**luency in the Japanese language takes years of study, and is not required to explore sukiya traditions. But we all have to start somewhere, and it doesn't hurt to know the meaning of words, AND how to pronounce them.

In general, Japanese is not a difficult language to pronounce once you learn the basic 46 sounds. Despite this, once you hear a word mispronounced so often, one forgets the correct pronunciation. Here are a few of the commonly mispronounced Japanese words:

## BONSAI

The word *bonsai* is pronounced "bone-sigh". BONE like the leg bone, and SIGH as in a sigh of relief. Bonsai means trees in pots. It doesn't matter if the tree is big or small, or if the tree has a fancy shape. If it's in a pot, it's technically a bonsai.

## KARAOKE

The word *karaoke* refers to singing along with popular songs. The word karaoke is pronounced "kah-rah-oh-kay". Spoken correctly, it sounds like this: KAH, as in the Boston automobile; RAH as in rah-rah of a cheerleader and; OH-KAY as in OK, we're good to go.

## SUKIYA

Sukiya is possibly the single most important word for Japanese gardeners and architects. The term is pronounced "su-key-ya." SU as in SUE, KEY as in car key and; YA as in ya better not forget it.

## SAKE

The word *sake* is pronounced "sah-kay". SAH as in Sahara Desert, and KAY as in everything is OK. When spoken by Westerners, the term usually refers to a clear alcoholic drink that is made by fermented rice.

In the Japanese language, sake refers to **any** alcoholic drink. The Japanese term for fermented rice wine is *nihon-shu*.

## RYOKAN

There is a lot to like about traditional Japanese inns. Known as *ryokan*, they offer impeccable meals and service in some of the most exquisite settings. Almost all ryokan feature sukiya-style architecture (see article: HELP US BUILD...) and interiors, with most guest rooms looking out upon beautiful gardens. Ryokan is pronounced

"ree-yoh-kahn." REE as in relaxed; YOH as in yogurt, and; KAHN as in James Cann. If you want to sound perfect, try to combine the ree and yoh into "ryo."

## IKEBANA

*Ikebana* is the Japanese art of flower arranging. Known for being simple and somewhat sparse, ikebana stands in contrast with Western flower arrangements that are often packed with flowers and fillers.

To pronounce the word correctly, start with EE as in eek I saw a mouse, KAY as in OKAY, and NAH as in ba-na-na.

Source: *Sukiya Living* - 2014



*Ikebana by GJG's instructor, Nana Bellerud*



## GARDENER'S TIP

After initial fall rains soften the soil, plant a cover crop (e.g., crimson clover or annual rye grass or combination) in your vegetable garden that you can dig in next spring.

Plant spring bulbs (tulips, hyacinths, etc.) working bone meal in soil around each bulb. Also put compost or organic fertilizer on rhubarb and asparagus. Trim back tall stems on roses after flowering to avoid wind damage later in winter.

— Jim Buck, Garden Volunteer and Organic Gardener

## New Title is Given



Over this past year Sue Hughes has been instrumental in many facets of the Garden's success, from stepping up our marketing, and growing our events, to fostering the relationship with our volunteers.

There's not a title that probably says everything Sue does, but Activities Director seems to fit the best and we welcome all her energy.

## We Thank LGI Homes



LGI Homes brought 15 staff on September 22nd to install pavers from our back gate to the greenhouse. This was part of their "Service Impact Day" focused on giving back to the community. The day culminated with lunch and a surprise donation to the Garden. [See September newsletter for article.](#)

Thank you so much LGI Homes!

# Help Us Build a Sukiya Living Environment



Fig 1: Draft of Resource Center's new façade



Fig 2: A Google image showing the concept of a sukiya environment.

In the world of Japanese architecture, there is a way of living called “sukiya”—a shared experience between the inside and the outside. This type of architecture has been Japan’s primary style of domestic architecture for the past 400 years. The Gresham Japanese Garden’s ambition is to remodel the Resource Center and the space in front of the building after one of Japan’s greatest treasures—a sukiya living environment.

The Resource Center sits at the south end of Main City Park. The City gives GJG permission to use the Resource Center for our purposes, which include running the organization, workshops, educational classes and renting for special events and weddings.

In the last few years, we updated the Resource Center with a new floor, a kitchenette, and a restroom. The rendering (Fig 1) shows the essence of the sukiya living building’s remodel. When you view Japanese architecture, you frequently see a broad expanse of glass, which permits someone inside to look out without walking over to a window. Our remodel calls for two 14 foot sliding glass windows.

In the design there is also a 6 foot round (moon) window strategically positioned so the viewer can see the red-crowned crane sculpture located in Ebetsu Plaza from inside the Resource Center.

Another major facet to a sukiya living environment is an “entrance garden”—a connection with the patterns and rhythms of nature successfully creating intimacy, well being, and a basic human need of communion with nature.

*The remodel of the building and its surroundings is GJG’s last major project to evoke Japan’s way of living to the Gresham community.*

For Westerners, this concept is not ingrained in our way of life. The remodel of the building and its surroundings is GJG’s last major project to evoke Japan’s way of living to the Gresham community.

## ONLINE AUCTION

As you can imagine, this is a large financial undertaking for the Garden, and we are asking for your help. On December 1-4, 2022, please sign in from your computer to our first ever fundraising event. For four days you’ll be able to bid on items through an online auction.

Our greatest treasures are the spaces we maintain, so on December 4th, in conjunction with bidding on some amazing items in the online auction, you will have the opportunity to join us at the Resource Center and Ebetsu Plaza for an in-person event with appetizers, beverages and the finale of the online bidding portion.

If you are interested in sponsorship for the event, we’d love to start the conversation.

[info@GreshamJapaneseGarden.com](mailto:info@GreshamJapaneseGarden.com)

## Online Auction: Dec 1-4, 2022

Join us for our first event to raise money for our sukiya living space.



### WHAT CAN YOU BID ON:

- 3-night stay at this quaint beachfront bungalow
- Aesthetic pruning of a specimen tree
- Landscape design complete with \$500 worth of plant material.
- Monthly homemade desserts for a year
- Live-edge coffee table
- Bonsai tree
- And much more

# Aesthetic Pruning Program Coming Soon

**A**re you a gardener, pruner wannabe, or landscape professional looking to broaden your skills in aesthetic pruning?

Is your first question, what is aesthetic pruning? Taken from the organization the Garden belongs to: <https://www.aestheticprunersassociation.org/>, "Aesthetic Pruning is the creative interpretation of small trees and shrubs. This living art form combines the artistic skill of the pruner, the essence of a tree, the science of horticulture and the needs of clients and surroundings.

"With its foundation in Japanese garden pruning, bonsai and arboriculture, aesthetic pruning incorporates visual art and design principles to work with plant material within its unique setting. Due to the universality of its approach, aesthetic pruning benefits all situations and garden styles.

"Aesthetic pruners focus their work on trees and shrubs under 15 feet tall. They are dedicated to the craft of pruning, versed in many styles and have a long-term vision with an emphasis on health and beauty."

The Gresham Japanese Garden is developing a series of aesthetic pruning classes designed for all levels of pruners. If there is one thing we've learned from the pandemic, it's the availability to broadcast information effectively via online classes. Aesthetic pruning classes are no different. In fact, the value of taking an online class is the ability of the teacher to show students

the before and after affect of a cut made the season before. Basically, the essence of time to see plant growth and plant changes is instantaneous through online classes.

GJG online classes will not replace the value and importance of hands-on learning. In conjunction with online classes, GJG will be offering all day, hands-on learning workshops taught by professional aesthetic pruners. These hands-on workshops will take place in

East Multnomah County with the goal to assist companies and homeowners with their pruning needs, teach gardeners a valuable skill and beautify our community—all at the same time. If you are interested in becoming a work site, [download our work site spec sheet](#) on our website.

If you're interested in signing up for a class, send an email to [sue@Gresham-JapaneseGarden.com](mailto:sue@Gresham-JapaneseGarden.com), and she will get you on our mailing list.



*In all these aesthetic pruning examples, there is a symbiotic relationship between the surrounding plant life, structures, and the microclimate.*

## Upcoming Classes

### **ORIGAMI FOR EVERYONE**

**Monday, October 10, 6-7:15pm  
IN PERSON with EILEEN HOLZMAN**

Eileen Holzman, artist, and retired art educator has taught origami to all ages. In this month's origami workshop, students will be making rhyming origami: foxes and boxes!

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

### **FALL PRUNING TIPS AND TECHNIQUES**

**Saturday, October 22, 1-2:30pm  
IN PERSON with JIM CARD**

Jim Card, Garden Director, will cover techniques of pruning with a focus on aesthetic pruning. He will demonstrate pruning techniques on shrubs and trees in the Garden.

<https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/class-registration/>



## Join Our Flock

Sign up on our website to receive the monthly newsletter.