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Healing Garden to Be Built Inside Oregon State Penitentiary

"Transformative Spaces Within Prison Walls: The OSP Healing Garden," a special program about a unique Japanese garden project at Salem's Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP) will be presented at 4:00 pm on February 11, 2018 at Willamette University's Hudson Hall.

The vision for the Healing Garden originated with inmate members of the OSP Asian Pacific Family Club nearly four years ago. Working through community supporters, the Club secured donation of a Japanese garden design from internationally known designer Hoichi Kurisu. The Club has undertaken funding to install the garden through efforts such as selling commemorative mugs and bracelets within OSP, and continues seeking grants and other monetary donations from multiple sources.

Mr. Kurisu will be a featured speaker at the event. In the words of his daughter Michiko, he will address how "Japanese gardens today have transcended simply cultural representation to play a role as healing, restorative spaces." Other speakers include Willamette University Professor Melissa Michaux and a former prisoner.

It is believed that the OSP Healing Garden will be the first of its kind in the nation. Groundbreaking for the project is scheduled for spring 2018.

The event is free and open to the public. A reception including light refreshments will immediately follow and offer a Q&A opportunity. Original prisoner art also will be available for purchase; all proceeds will help fund the Healing Garden project.

For more information, please contact Melissa Michaux at: mbuis@willamette.edu

Visit the Asian Club Webpage@https://www.oregon.gov/doc/OPS/PRISON/docs/Asian_Club.pdf