

The Way of Tea

茶の湯



SEATTLE JAPANESE GARDEN

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## Welcome to the Shoseian Teahouse

By Jessa Gardner

Have you ever experienced a tea ceremony in the Shoseian Teahouse inside the Seattle Japanese Garden? We are delighted to host one of the most robust tea ceremony programs in North America. While it's possible to visit the Garden without entering the teahouse and its roji (tea garden), attending a tea ceremony here is a unique and memorable experience!

Tea ceremony has been practiced in Japan for centuries. The art of tea ceremony—also called *Chado*, or *The Way of Tea*—is centered around four main principles: harmony, respect, purity, and tranquility. Sixteenth-century master Sen no Rikyu refined *Chado*, and the *Wabi-Sabi* aesthetic of simplicity and humility he taught had widespread influence, including on the architecture of Japanese gardens.

The Seattle Japanese Garden was built and designed around our teahouse. The original six-tatami mat teahouse was built by the Shimizu Construction Company and donated to Seattle by the citizens of Tokyo in 1958, before the construction of the Garden began. Juki Iida, Kiyoshi Inoshita, and their team created their plan for a garden meant to perfectly complement the teahouse.

In April of 1973, the original teahouse was tragically destroyed by fire. For several years, the Arboretum Foundation sought contributions to rebuild the teahouse using the original plans. Eventually, Hiroshima-born local craftsman Fred Sugita was hired to do an exact reconstruction of the teahouse. Mr. Sugita was able to interpret the plans, which were written in Japanese, and possessed the specialty tools and expertise to do the construction.

Then, according to Ken Sorrels, a longtime garden supporter and advocate: “On a beautiful spring day, 8 March 1981, Dr. Soshitsu Sen, 15th Grand Master of the centuries-old Urasenke Foundation of Japan, bestowed upon it the name, Shoseian, ‘Arbor of the Murmuring Pines’.”

Early development of the tea ceremony program in the Garden was supported by Dr. Sen and the Urasenke *Konnichian* of Kyoto. To this day, tea ceremonies in the Garden are conducted by Urasenke *Tankokai* Seattle, the local branch of the Urasenke school. It is now joined by two other local tea groups, *Chaboshu* and *Omotesenke*. Kyoko Matsuda, of the *Omotesenke* tea branch, has been hosting tea ceremonies in the Seattle Japanese Garden since 2015. The *Chaboshu* tea group is Seattle's premier men's tea group, and they have been hosting tea ceremonies in the Garden since 2016.

# The Shoseian Tea House Tea Demonstration



**Kyoko Matsuda**  
(Omotesenke)



**Chaboshu**  
(Urasenke)



**Tankokai**  
**Seattle Chapter**  
(Urasenke)

## Ichigo Ichie: One time, One meeting

一  
期  
一  
会

Ichi-go ichi-e ("one time, one meeting") is a Japanese four-character idiom that describes a cultural concept of treasuring the unrepeatable nature of a moment. The term has been translated as "for this time only", and "once in a lifetime". The term reminds people to cherish any gathering that they may take part in, citing the fact that any moment in life cannot be repeated; even when the same group of people get together in the same place again, a particular gathering will never be replicated, and thus each moment is always a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The concept is most commonly associated with Japanese tea ceremonies, especially tea masters Sen no Rikyū and Li Naosuke. (From Wikipedia)



# Wakeiseijaku and Rikyu's Seven Rules

和

Wa  
Harmony  
Create harmonious  
environments

一、茶は服のよきように点て

1. Make a good tea for your guest.

\* Do it in the way that your guests like,  
not the way that you like.

敬

Kei  
Respect  
Respect each other

二、炭は湯の沸くように置き

2. Hot charcoal should be arranged so the  
water will boil well.

\* Understand the key points to prepare  
well.

清

Sei  
Purity  
Purifying all utensils

三、夏は涼しく冬暖かに

3. Cool in summer, warm in winter

\* Be creative by using your five senses.

四、花は野にあるように

4. Arrange flowers as they are in a field

\* Capture the essence.

寂

Jaku  
Tranquility  
Create the sense of letting go

五、刻限は早めに

5. Do anything with time to spare

\* Have emotional leeway by  
having enough time to prepare.

六、降らずとも傘の用意

6. Prepare an umbrella even if it isn't  
going to rain.

\* Be prepared, calm and ready for  
anything that may happen.

七、相客に心せよ

7. Respect all guests

## 2023 The Shoseian Tea Schedule

Date	Group	Date	Group
4/02	Spring Cleaning	8/05	Tankokai
4/15	Chaboshu	8/12	Chaboshu
4/21	Omotesenke	8/20	Tankokai
4/22	Omotesenke	8/26	Omotesenke
4/29	Tankokai	9/16	Chaboshu
5/06	Chaboshu	9/24	Tankokai
5/13	Tankokai	9/29	Omotesenke
5/19	Omotesenke	9/30	Omotesenke
5/20	Omotesenke	10/07	Tankokai
6/10	Tankokai	10/14	Chaboshu
6/17	Chaboshu	10/20	Omotesenke
6/23	Omotesenke	10/21	Omotesenke
6/24	Omotesenke	10/29	Tankokai
6/25	Tankokai	11/05	Fall Cleaning
7/01	Tankokai		
7/15	Chaboshu		
7/22	Omotesenke		
7/30	Tankokai		