

A Peaceful Presence Finds a New Home

Thanks to your support, the beloved aquariums at David Simpson Hospice House will soon find a new home. We're excited to share for the first time that in 2026, the two 300-gallon tanks, which are filled with rare and historic goldfish, will be relocated to the new Hospice Care & Community Center on Lake Erie, continuing their legacy of calm and comfort in a beautiful, state-of-the-art environment.

For years, the gentle gurgle and graceful motion of the fish have brought moments of peace to families and patients during some of life's most difficult transitions.

"It's more than an aquarium," says Dave Mandley, the longtime Cleveland-area goldfish breeder who has cared for and stocked the tanks five times over the past 15 years. "It's a source of healing."

Mandley's connection to Hospice of the Western Reserve is personal: His wife, Deborah, received care at David Simpson Hospice House before her death in 2016. To honor her memory, he began donating his time—and his remarkable fish—to enrich the hospice environment.

The fish themselves are anything but ordinary. Their lineage reaches back centuries and across continents, from sacred ponds in ancient China to goodwill gifts exchanged between President Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill during World War II. Mandley has worked for decades to preserve and hybridize these rare lines, many of which are nearly impossible to find in public aquariums.

Among them is the Tsugaru Nishiki, a fish cultivated by Chinese monks during the Ming Dynasty and once valued at \$5,000 for a pair. Then there's the Philly veil-tail line, whose ancestry dates to the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago. Mandley has spent years breeding them into distinctive colors—purple, yellow, calico—some named in honor of caregivers and personal connections. Each fish carries a story. One patient fulfilled her bucket-list wish of having a fish pond by sitting in the David Simpson Hospice House courtyard with her grandchildren, watching the koi swim. A mother visiting with her young sons captured their awe as they whispered "awesome" over and over, mesmerized by the fish tank on what may have been one of the hardest days of their lives. In our new Hospice Care & Community Center, the aquariums—and the stories they hold—will live on. They'll remain a quiet refuge, a symbol of

beauty and continuity, and a tribute to how small details can have a big impact on a family's experience.

Every fish in the aquariums at David Simpson Hospice House has a story—and in 2026, they'll all make the move to our new Hospice Care & Community Center. Hand-selected and bred by longtime Cleveland-area goldfish breeder expert Dave Mandley, these fish represent generations of care, culture and history.

Here's a look at the underwater residents continuing their journey:



Blue Phoenix

One of the oldest cultivated fish from China, the Blue Phoenix is revered and sacred. It is distinct for having no dorsal fin, little head growth, and a round body, making swimming a challenge.



image via goldfish-types.info

Broadtail Moor (Philly Line Hybrid)

A prized fish in both Europe and the U.S., this variety has been selectively bred for 50 generations. Its distinct features include a flowing veil tail and telescope eyes on the same fish.



image via [Bluegrass Aquatics](#)

Camelot Shubunkin

Developed by Mandley, this unique variety became a staple in the commercial fish market. Its calico color pattern, a signature of nacreous fish, makes it particularly striking.



image via [Bluegrass Aquatics](#)

Comet

First bred in Washington in 1883, the comet goldfish is one of the most popular tailed goldfish worldwide. The red-and-white Sarassa Comet predates Mandley's innovations, but he later introduced a yellow and purple variety.

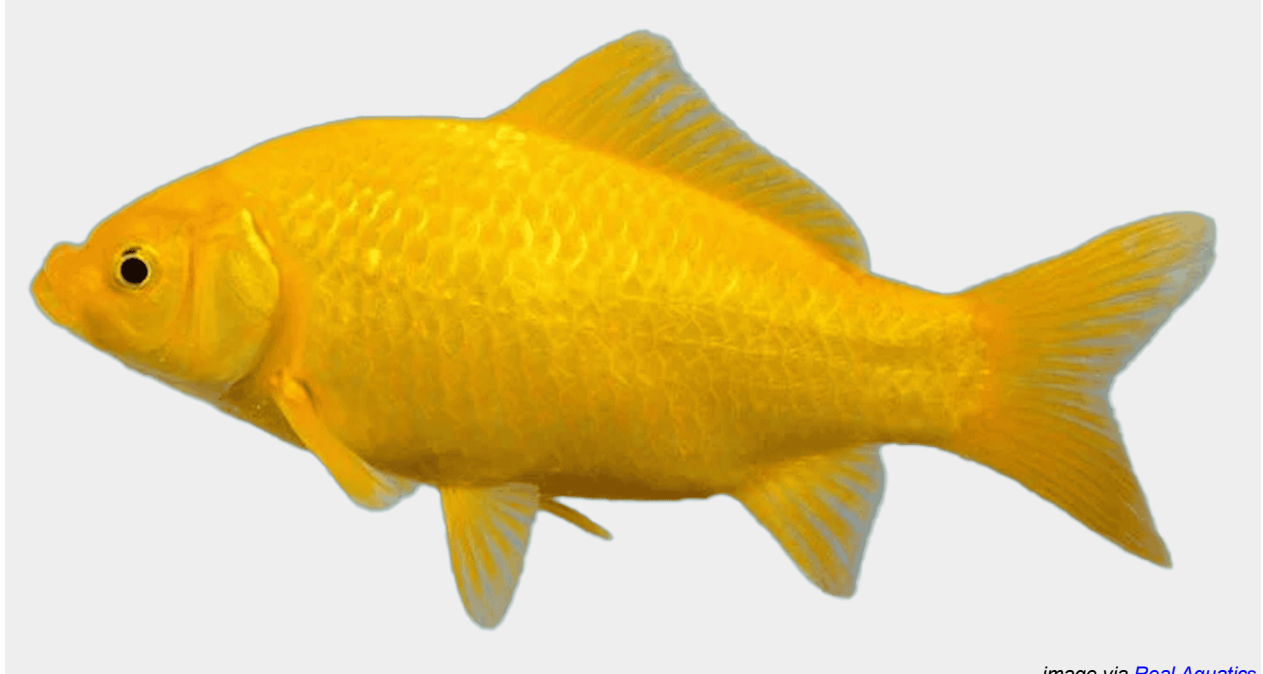


image via [Real Aquatics](#)

Yellow Comet

Originally bred in Italy in 1928, this variety became stronger after being hybridized with the Philly line. Mandley spent 20 years refining it, leading to the creation of the Sunburst Comet and other color variations. Nearly every yellow goldfish sold in America today can trace its lineage back to this line.



image via [Facebook](#)

Philly Veil

A historic breed dating back to the 1893 World's Fair, the Philly Veil was hybridized by Mandley to create a purple variation. He has also successfully bred yellow, black telescope, and white Philly Veils.



image via [Wikipedia](#)

Philly Veil (Yellow)

Mandley is the only known breeder to have produced the Philly Veil in yellow.

Philly Veil (Churchill Line) – “Pita”

A direct descendant of the goldfish given as a goodwill gesture from the U.S. government to Winston Churchill, this calico (nacreous) fish is named after Mandley’s grief counselor.



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image via about-goldfish.com

Calico Philly Veil (Churchill Line)

A variation of the Churchill line, this fish displays a more prominent calico pattern than Pita but retains the same ancestry.

Philly Veil (Purple)

Developed from the historic 1893 World's Fair breed, this fish showcases a deep purple hue.



image via goldfish-dictionary.com

Tsugaru Nishiki

Dating back to China's Ming Dynasty over 1,000 years ago, this rare and sacred variety was once valued at \$5,000 for a single pair. Mandley is one of the few U.S. breeders of the Tsugaru Nishiki, originally orange but now hybridized into a yellow variation.



Azumanishiki Japanese Oranda

A pure-line Japanese fish developed a century ago, the Azumanishiki Oranda is renowned for its perfect head growth and balanced form.



White Comeil

A Mandley original, this fish features a metallic white belly with exaggerated fins and a solid, unforked tail.

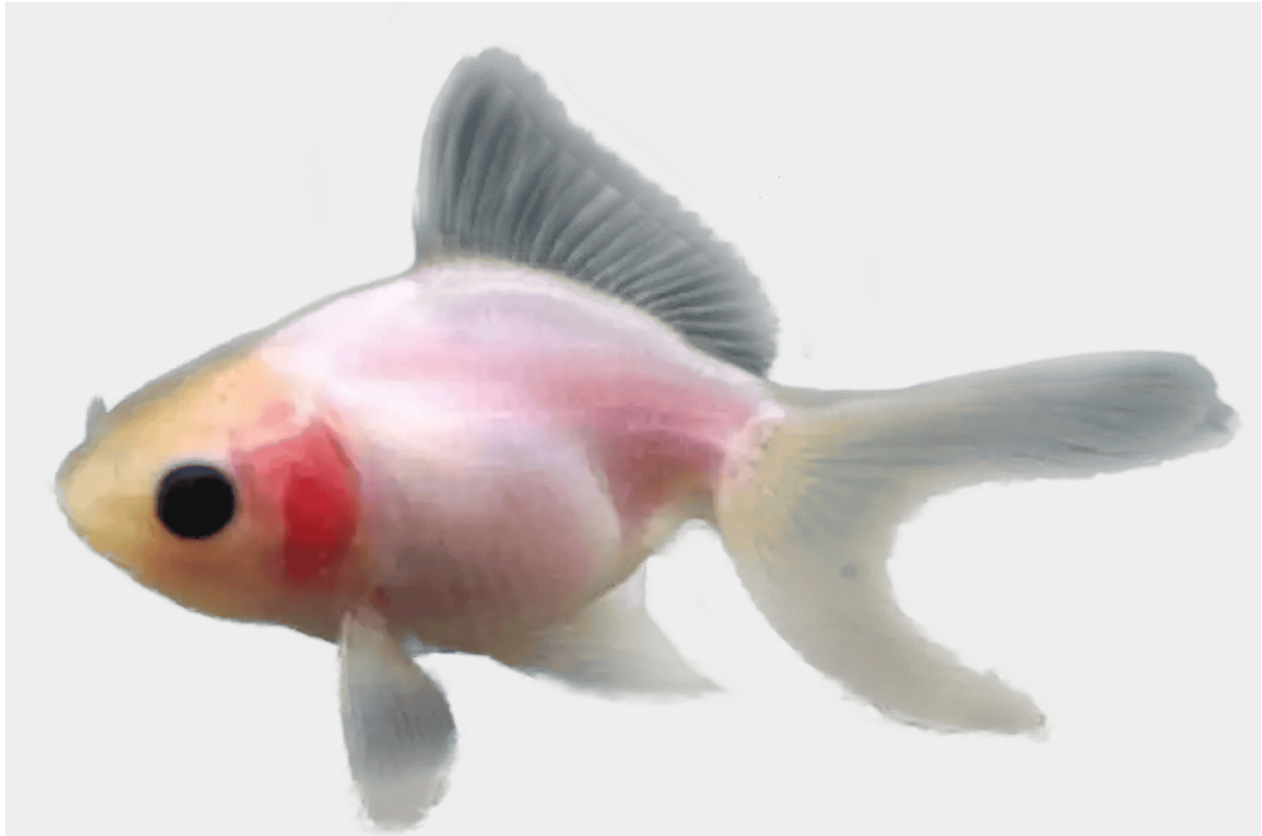


image via [Roxy Aquarium](#)

White Blue Belly Comeil

Another of Mandley's creations, this breed resulted from crossing a comet with a veil-tailed goldfish. Designed as a good pond fish, its oversized fins and solid tail make it a slower swimmer.

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