

Setsuko Kosetsu Iwami was born in Kyoto and began her studies there. For the last two decades she has studied Ohara Ikebana and has a teachers certificate, 3d Term Master. She now studies with Suiko Maruyama. She is Workshop Chair of Ohara's Northern California Chapter and participates in flower shows presented by Ohara School and I.I. She also studies The Way of Tea with Omotesenke Domokai Northern California. She is a senior technical translator/interpreter at Nikon Research Corporation of America in Belmont.

Gloria Yokusei Lee began ikebana studies while in college. Her Taiwanese background will be seen in her demonstration. In 2007 Gloria received her Sogetsu teachers certificate and is now Sanyo (2nd) degree. An active member of the Sogetsu San Jose South Bay Branch, she also is affiliated with Ikebana Teachers Federation and demonstrates and exhibits for Sogetsu flower shows, I.I., the San Francisco Cherry Blossom Festival, Filoli Gardens, Asian Art Museum in San Francisco and the Triton Museum in Santa Clara.

Luciana Mazzola comes to us from her native Italy and hints of this background will show in her arrangement. In 1991 she began studying Wafu Ikebana and now studies with Sensei Fusako Hoyrup. She holds the Wafu Sanyo teaching certificate and exhibits in Wafu and I.I. flower shows. She also is a member of the Ikebana Teachers Federation and has exhibited in the Federation's flower show at the San Francisco Cherry Blossom Festival.

FINE START FOR NEW "IKEBANA FOR YOUTH" PROGRAM

Led by President Thanh Nguyen and her team of helpers, the chapter now has a flourishing new program to teach ikebana to schoolchildren. We have named it the Ikebana For Youth program (IFY). Cultivating the study and love of ikebana among young people has long been recognized as an urgent and continuing need to insure the future vitality of ikebana as a thriving art form. Rising to the challenge, this spring Ms. Nguyen contacted people in the school system in her community and was able to arrange teaching sessions in two schools before the summer recess. The results were overwhelmingly successful.

On Thursday, April 24, Thanh and Bernice Malizia prepared huge amounts of donated fresh materials and equipment. The next day, April 25, Thanh and Jeff Fine filled a car with flowers, oasis, containers, and equipment and drove to the Jane Lathrop Stanford Middle School in Palo Alto. They were greeted by middle school teacher Keiko Nakajima. Then Thanh taught 24 seventh graders in the first class, followed by 14 eighth graders in a second class. The students were 13 and 14 years old. They listened attentively as she explained the art of ikebana and taught them how to measure, cut and secure flowers in containers and the children were enthusiastic and enjoyed the workshop. Nadine Priestley was on hand to photograph the classes. Her photos will be added to the chapter's website.

Thanh reports "it was one of the most rewarding experiences in teaching ikebana I have ever had." If we have a good volunteer response from other ikebana teachers in Bay Area communities, we hope this valuable program can expand and continue to bring ikebana to a young generation and refresh our own enjoyment of ikebana.

Any ikebana teacher interested in participating in the Ikebana for Youth (IFY) program should contact Thanh for information at nguyeht@gmail.com or phone (650) 248-9127. Another in-school workshop is planned for May 9. We are still in need of hasami. Please bring a pair to donate at the May meeting. A big “thank” to a substantial donation from Soho Sakai, Agnes van Boeschoten, and Nadine Priestley.

HELLO FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

It’s never easy to bid farewell, especially to you, dear friends of ikebana. Two years ago I became President with a promise to myself to devote my time and ability to serve you and to strengthen and advance this chapter. Two years sped by, but with your great support and a dedicated board of directors, some noteworthy accomplishments were achieved:

The Chapter Constitution and By-Laws were revised to comply with the new legal status of I.I. Headquarters and these are now in place; fundraising from two holiday bazaars and the 2013 Flower Show achieved new records and more members participated; our website, newly revised and rich in content, was launched in January. Members can access private information in a protected section. The website also is linked to social sites. The website is designed to attract new viewers and to educate the public about ikebana; an Ikebana App is being tested to facilitate communication among members and bring cohesiveness to the group. It should be released soon for members to use; and the new Ikebana For Youth (IFY) project kicked off with great success in April. See more details elsewhere in this Newsletter.

I thank you for your kindness, support and friendship. My term in office has been an outstanding journey for me, following a tradition of great leaders before me and, undoubtedly, those of the future. I hope to see you on May 16 and my best wishes to you for a happy summer.

Thanh Nguyen

President

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

It’s time to renew your membership for 2014-2015! Our fiscal year ends soon and to avoid the considerable charge for late payment of dues, you must **renew before May 31**. You may renew in person at the Reception Table on May 16. The Membership Renewal Form is attached to this Newsletter and also available to download at www.ikebana.org.

Please complete the form carefully -- completely and legibly -- so we can communicate with you easily. Whenever you make any changes such as a new email address, home

address, phone number, etc., please remember to notify the Membership Chair, Jeff Fine. If you have any changes to report or membership questions, please contact Jeff at fefflfine@gmail.com or (650) 576-9528. The Membership Directory for 2014-2015 will be prepared during the summer months and be available to members in the fall

IMPORTANT CHANGES IN MAILING THE NEWSLETTER

US Postal Service fees have risen substantially in recent years. Beginning this month, to reduce expenses of printing and mailing the Newsletter by post (snail mail), it will be sent only by email to members who show an email address on the Membership Form. Members who do not show an email address will continue to receive the Newsletter by post. The former option of receiving the Newsletter both by email and post has been eliminated – now it is one or the other only. Any member who needs a printed, hard copy is encouraged to print it privately. This change in mailing procedure will save the Chapter considerable printing and mailing expense. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding of this necessary change.

THE TEA TABLE

Many members brought delicacies for the bountiful tea table we enjoyed last month. Their generous contributions were delicious and enjoyed. Donors were Yayoi Aoki, Ron Brown, Jeff Fine, Nancy Fogel, Sandra Hatcher, Shuji Ikeda, Mitsuko Maruyama, Jane Naito, Julie Nakatani, Thanh Nguyen, Louise Ow Ling, Ruth Sootaru, Gary Soto, Keeth Souza-Courpet, Joan Suzuki, Mieko Taketa, and Sophia Wu.

When the sign-up sheet for future tea table donations is passed around during programs, please sign up for a month of your choice and help to provide refreshments. We need the help of all members to continue providing the tea table after programs.

IKEBANA SUPPLIES

Once again we owe thanks to these donors to the Ikebana Supply table in April: Jeff Fine, Elan Rosenquist, Shioko Seab, and Kathy Toy. And James Crowther helped Katsuko Thielke with sales.

COMING EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR

May 8, 2014: “Spring Flower and Plant Sale” at City College of San Francisco, Horticultural Center. Perennials, shrubs, house and bedding plants, vegetable and herb starts will be on sale. Hours are 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. The Center is on the north side of the Phelan/Ocean Campus in the 300 block of Judson Avenue.

May 18-22, 2014: 17th I.I. North American Regional Conference in Asheville, North Carolina. Complete information at www.ikebanaasheville.org.

June 14, 21 & 22, 2014: “The Big Plant Sale” by San Francisco Succulent and Bromeliad Societies. San Francisco County Fair Building.

July 13, 2014: “Tanabata Flower Show” presented by Ikenobo Ikebana at the Kabuki Hotel, San Francisco Japantown, in the Sakura Room. Hours are 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Professor Yoichi Mizutani will demonstrate at 1:00 p.m. Admission is free.

September 27 & 28, 2014: “Sogetsu Artscapes 2014”. Sogetsu Bay Area Branch presents its biennial exhibition and demonstration program at the San Francisco County Fair Building Gallery. Exhibit hours are 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Demonstrations each day at 12 noon and 2 p.m. For more information contact kodobrown@gmail.com.

October 4 & 5, 2014: Ohara School’s 50th Anniversary Flower Show presented by the Ohara Ikebana School of Northern California. Jodo Shinshu Center; 2140 Durant Avenue; Berkeley. For more information contact Mitsuko Maruyama or Kathy Toy.

March 21 & 22, 2015: Ikebana International’s biennial Ikebana Flower Show in the San Francisco County Fair Building.