



San Francisco Bay Area Chapter #31

Internet website: www.ikebana.org
E-mail: Ikebanasfo@gmail.com
Postal mail: P.O.Box 549; Cloverdale, CA 95425
Telephone: (707) 894-2952

Spring departs
Rustle, rustle,
In the grasses of the field.....Issa

Date and Time: **Friday, May 15, 2015 at 12:00 noon**
Program: **The Circle of Ikebana: Teacher and Student**
Demonstrators: Kika Shibata and Ron Brown
Program Chair: Gloria Lee
Location: San Francisco Co. Fair Bldg., 9th Ave. & Lincoln Way
Admission: Members admitted free. Non-members: \$5.00 admission.
Parking: Very limited. Please carpool with members near you.

SOGETSU TREAT FOR SEASON FINALE

The Chapter's final program of the season arrives on May 15 with a program featuring two of Sogetsu Ikebana's leading Bay Area artists. Sensei Kika Shibata and her student Ron Brown, a teacher himself, will bring ikebana magic to the stage for a gala finale to the 2014-2015 season.

Kimi Kika Shibata observed 50 years of teaching in 2014. During five decades she has helped her students experience the joy of ikebana. Kika's love of ikebana easily flows to enthusiastic audiences and her students. She has taught, demonstrated, and exhibited throughout the USA and abroad. Her dedication to the art has brought her many honors. In 2001 she was awarded the prestigious Sogetsu Kaigaisho, one of only two such recipients outside Japan. In January 2015 she received the Bunka Hall of Fame Award for Ikebana from the Japanese American Association of Northern California.

Since the age of our Kika's life has focused on ikebana. Taught by her mother Shoka Narimatsu, a Sogetsu master teacher, Kika achieved her teaching degree in 1967 and in 1989 earned the rank of *Riji*, the school's highest degree. The late Iemoto Hiroshi Teshigahara appointed her Sogetsu's Regional Director for North America and in 2006 she became Director of the Sogetsu San Jose-South Bay Branch. She received Sogetsu's International Award during the school's 80th anniversary celebrations. She maintains a vigorous teaching schedule and often is asked to appear at events across the state and country.

Ron Kodo Brown brings innovation and inspiring enthusiasm to his ikebana audiences and students. He holds the Sogetsu rank of *Komon*. He received his teaching degree in 1988 and was named *Kodo*, aptly describing a person on an open path with unlimited potential. Ron regularly teaches ikebana classes in Sonoma and Marin and also has conducted workshops for the Panamanian Chapter of Ikebana International in 2010 and for the Sao Paulo, Brasil, Hatsuike Exhibition of the Sao Paulo Branch of the Sogetsu School. In 2014 Ron chaired an outdoor workshop at the 17th North American Regional Conference of Ikebana International. It was attended by participants from the Americas, Europe and Asia. In 2015 he demonstrated and taught for the Ikebana International Melbourne, Florida chapter.

Ikebana is a second career for Ron. While working as a professional winemaker for 35 years in Sonoma and Napa Counties, he also began ikebana study in 1979 with Burleigh Fedanzo. He continued studying with Shuko Kobayashi in 1985 and achieved his teaching diploma and ikebana name *Kodo*. Currently he studies with Kika Shibata. Ron is noted for ikebana using discarded objects or rusted metal pieces. He likes the contrast of the rusted, pitted metal with fresh plant materials. In addition to his teaching schedule, Ron currently is President of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of Ikebana International and Director of the Sogetsu Bay Area Branch. He has chaired several of I.I.'s Ikebana Flower Shows as well as Sogetsu Branch flower shows.

A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last month it was exciting to see how various ikebana schools handle the same materials. The program was fascinating and educational and my thanks to all who participated in the program. And special thanks to Nadine Suyehiro, our Hospitality Chair, who arranged a bountiful tea table for us to enjoy after the program. This month I will team with my sensei, Kika Shibata, to create Sogetsu ikebana. I have been privileged to study with Kika-sensei since 2007.

Once again we will be sharing part of the building on May 15. Another group will be using the Recreation Room and the Garden Room Patio. They arrive at 8:00 a.m. so parking will be tight. Please contact members near you and arrange carpooling. Also, paid parking is available in the de Young Museum garage which is only 2 blocks away.

On May 31 Strybing Arboretum will celebrate its 75th anniversary. From 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. there will be festivities with music, food and special exhibits by many organizations affiliated with Strybing, including our chapter. All events will take place in the Great Meadow of the Arboretum. Please plan to attend and enjoy this special event.

We send our best wishes to Consul General and Mrs. Watanabe as they leave for their new assignment this month. They have shown great commitment and enthusiasm for our chapter and we shall miss them.

Summer is nearly here and I wish you all a wonderful season. Let's enjoy May's program together before our summer recess. I wish you good health and safe travels until we meet again in September.

Ron Brown

President

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DEADLINE THIS MONTH!

Renew your membership before May 31 and avoid the late payment fee. Dues and benefits are the same as this year. Renewal Forms must be received by May 31, 2015 to avoid the additional \$15.00 late payment fee. Please carefully complete the Membership Renewal Form attached to this Newsletter and mail it with your check to our Treasurer, as shown on the form. Or you may deliver it in person at the May 15 meeting. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

LET'S VOTE

In May we will elect and install officers for the board of directors in 2015-2016. Nomination Committee members Mitsuko Maruyama, Thanh Nguyen and Jane Naito have assembled the following slate of nominees:

President	Ron Brown	Sogetsu
1 st Vice President	Kathy Toy	Ohara
2 nd Vice President	Sandra Hatcher	Ikenobo
Recording Secretary	Ashrafa Anik	Sogetsu
Treasurer	Louise Ow Ling	Ikenobo
Corresponding Secretary	Heida Bruce	Ikenobo
Membership	Pauline Pezzolo	Sogetsu
Nominations	Mitsuko Maruayam	Ohara

DO YOU HAVE.....?

Historian Keeth Souza-Courpet has been assembling the chapter's collection of I.I. magazines which are so helpful for research. She still needs three magazines to complete the collection. If you have and can donate the following issues, it will be much appreciated. Please see Keeth at the May program or contact her at (408) 733-1110 or email thecourpets@Comcast.net.

- #139 volume 52, issue 1, from 2007-2008.
- #101 volume 39, issue 2, from 1994-1998
- # 78 February 1987

DONATIONS

A big Thank You to Ellie Eisner and Thanh Nguyen for their generous donations to the General Fund, and to Pauline Pezzolo for her contribution for the Garden of Fragrance. Also, we thank Fiona Li for her gift in memory of three "Ikebana Husbands": John Hoyrup, Howard Krawetz, and Bill Toy.

Our chapter is able to present excellent programs with monetary gifts from members. Donors may name their gift in honor of family or friends who have passed away, to celebrate

anniversaries, birthdays, graduations, support of our programs, maintenance of the Garden of Fragrance or the Moon Viewing Pavilion in Strybing Arboretum, etc. These gifts are a special way to commemorate personal events. All are acknowledged with a letter.

If you would like to make a gift, make your check payable to “Ikebana International”, write the purpose in the memo section of the check, and mail it to Louise Ow Ling, Treasurer; 2764 McAllister Street, #5; San Francisco, CA 94118-4101. Your gift will be acknowledged in the Newsletter and by the chapter’s Corresponding Secretary. Monetary gifts may be tax deductible if permitted by law.

IKEBANA SUPPLIES

In May please bring flowers and branches, potted cuttings, containers, clean flower pots, and old issues of the I.I. magazine to sell at the Supply table. And of course, come ready with cash to buy. In April these members helped to supply the table: Heida Bruce, James Crowther, Irene Jenkins, Rayko Kurosaki, Mieko Taketa, and Agnes van Boeschoten. Thank you!

REFRESHMENT DONORS

In April these members donated tea table refreshments and helped to serve: Yayoi Aoki, Ron Brown, Joan Heblack, Kazuko Kajisa, Grace Murata, Louise Ow Ling, Gary Soto, and Nadine Suyehiro. Servers includes Shuji Ikeda, Grace Murata and Louise Ow Ling.

Belatedly we wish to thank these members who supplied refreshments in the staff room during the flower show in March: Phyllis Au, Diane Coughtry, Jeff Fine, Bonnie Gou, Carole Gray, Irene Jenkins, Gladys Low, Luciana Mazzola, Jane Naito, Julie Nakatani, Thanh Nguyen, Louise Ow Ling, Gary Soto, Nadine Suyehiro, and several other anonymous donors.

IKEBANA EVENTS COMING UP

May 31, 2015: Strybing Arboretum celebrates its 75th Anniversary with a day of festive events in the Arboretum’s Great Meadow. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

July 12, 2015: Ikenobo Ikebana presents the Tanabata Flower Show at the Hotel Kabuki, 1625 Post Street. Hours are 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

November 12-15, 2015: 13th Ikebana International Asian Regional Conference in Taipei, Taiwan at the Grand Hotel. Sogetsu Iemoto Akane Teshigahara will be guest demonstrator. For information, email lansing.chen@gmail.com.

