



San Francisco Bay Area Chapter #31

Internet website: www.ikebana.org
E-mail: Ikebanasfo@gmail.com
Postal mail: P.O. Box K; Sunnyvale, CA 94087
Telephone: (650) 854-8897

In the sea-surf edge
Mingling with bright small shells
Bush clover petals.....Basho

Date and Time: **Friday, February 21, 2014 at 12:00 noon**
Program: **Spring Awakens – Haru Asashi**
Demonstrators: Mitsuko Maruyama and Mitsuko Umemoto, Ohara School
Program Chair: Kathy Toy
Location: San Francisco Co. Fair Bldg., 9th Ave. & Lincoln Way
Admission: Members admitted free. Non-members are welcome if \$5.00 admission fee is paid in advance. Call (510) 531-5720 or email heidabruce@sbcglobal.net for payment information.
Parking: Very limited. Please carpool with members near you.

TWO OHARA ARTISTS WELCOME SPRING

A hint of early springtime blossoms in February when two accomplished Ohara School arrangers come on stage to demonstrate. Both have been students and teachers for many years and their polished artistry is often seen locally. They are active members of the North American Ohara Teachers Association, the Suiyo Flower Club, and the Ikebana Teachers Federation, as well as this chapter of I.I.

Mitsuko Suiko Maruyama is well known to us as a Past President of the chapter and a leader of Ohara School in the Bay Area. Born in Ohita, Japan, she came to the USA at age 15. She began studying with Ohara Grandmaster Kayoko *Suiyo* Fujimoto in 1971 and continues under her guidance today. She received her Teachers Certificate in July 1977 and in 2008 she was named First Term Master.

After a career in banking, during which she managed a bank, Mitsuko retired and has devoted herself to ikebana since then. Since 2000 she has served as President of the Ohara Ikebana School of Northern California Chapter. She served as President of I.I. San Francisco Bay Area Chapter from 2001-2003, again in 2007-2009, and now holds the office of Treasurer. She demonstrates and exhibits in Ohara and I.I. Flower Shows, the Cherry Blossom Festival, museums and department stores.

Mitsuko Suiko Umemoto is a Retail Florist, having received her Retail Florist Certificate from San Francisco City College in 1988. She was born in Himeji-shi, Japan, and after coming to California has studied Ohara ikebana with Grandmaster Kayoko *Suiyo* Fujimoto since 1976. She received her Teachers Certificate in 2000 and the Second Term Master rank in 2012. She is a resident of El Cerrito.

Mitsuko volunteers at the Kimichi Senior Center in San Francisco. In addition to her ikebana affiliations noted above, she demonstrates and exhibits for I.I., the Cherry Blossom Festival exhibition presented by the Ikebana Teachers Federation, and has exhibited at the San Francisco Asian Art Museum.

GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello Friends,

I have wonderful news to tell you this month. In January our chapter unveiled a beautiful, brand new, sparkling website. Please take a look and enjoy it online at <http://www.ikebana.org>. We are deeply indebted to the team who created the new website and transferred (and continue to transfer) data from the former site to the new. Our latest events and activities will be added each month. Also, historical archives will be available.

We hope the new design's easy navigation will bring ikebana and our activities to the attention of many viewers, new and former. Our goal is to reach out to a larger audience, to stimulate awareness and interest in ikebana. The website is optimized for mobile devices such as smart phones and tablets and it is interactive -- linked to popular social media sites. This revised and updated website replaces our original site which was created in 1997. At that time we were one of first I.I. chapters with a functional website and it served us well for many years. The new website uses state-of-the-art technology to present our chapter.

A new feature of the site is a Members-Only Page with confidential data such as the Membership Directory which only members can access. You will need a log in name and a password to access the Members-Only Page. To get this information in a private and secure way, please phone me at (650) 854-8897 or (650) 248-9127.

Our next website goal is to include video streaming of monthly demonstrations. To do this we need a volunteer videographer – a chapter member who loves to work with video, edits footage carefully, and who attends all the monthly programs. If this sounds like you, please contact me at ikebanasfo@gmail.com or talk to me at our monthly program.

The January program greeting the New Year was especially festive. The demonstration by Dorothy Chu and Susan Okada was elegant and the exhibition was extraordinarily fine. We celebrated our chapter's 54th anniversary in great style and I send my thanks to all who exhibited, helped to present the program, and serve the lavish tea table.

Last month we did not have a quorum of members present, so we were not able to adopt the revised Constitution and Bylaws required by Headquarters. As a result a ballot is being sent by email or postal mail to all members. Please do not ignore this when it arrives. Vote promptly and return the ballot **before February 15, 2014** to Parliamentarian Agnes van Boeschoten; 1653 Skycrest Dr. #14; Walnut Creek, CA 94595. Thank you for your attention to this important vote.

I hope your gardens are surviving the lack of rain. I welcome your thoughts about our new website. Meanwhile, I wish you a happy Lunar New Year and Valentine's Day and I hope to see and chat with you on February 21 at the exciting Ohara program.

Thanh Nguyen

President

IKEBANA SUPPLIES

Many thanks to Irene Jenkins for her donations to the sales tables last month. In February please bring branches, greens, potted cuttings, plastic nursery pots, etc. for the Supplies table. Also, if you have containers in good condition which you no longer use, please donate them. Sumi Metz and Katsuko Thielke, co-chairs for Ikebana Supplies, will put them to good use.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Chapter members must vote to adopt the newly revised Constitution and Bylaws which are required by Headquarters. These were sent to all members in December. A vote to adopt them is required in order to maintain our status as a legitimate chapter of Ikebana International.

When you receive your ballot, please vote and return your ballot promptly. Thank you very much.

AN ELEGANT ANNIVERSARY TEA

In January the tea table was especially alluring, centered with a cake celebrating the chapter's 54th anniversary. Past Presidents were photographed with the cake, and Louise Ow Ling and her helpers served punch. Those who brought refreshments and helped to serve were Ash Anik, Yayoi Aoki, Ron Brown, Heida Bruce, Jeff Fine, Christie Hastings, Kazuko Kajima, Gloria Lee, Fiona Li, Thanh Nguyen, Kathy Or-Dye, Louise Ow Ling, Christine Schucknecht, Keeth Souza-Courpet, and Sophia Wu. Many thanks to all!

When the Sign-Up sheets for bringing refreshments at future programs is passed around, please choose a month convenient for you and bring a snack for the tea table.

SUPPORT YOUR CHAPTER

The membership dues we pay each year do not provide sufficient funds for the monthly programs we enjoy. After sending the required membership fees to Tokyo headquarters, only a small amount remains to fund our programs. That is why we have fundraising events throughout the year and have always relied on the generosity of our members to contribute and meet this need. Our chapter has a long history of generous monetary donations from members and we hope this practice will continue to replenish our programming fund.

Gifts of any amount are welcome. They may be designated for special events such as birthdays, memorials, graduations, etc. or may simply to support programming.

To make a donation: please make your check payable to “Ikebana International” and enclose a note or write in the check’s memo space stating your gift’s purpose. Mail it to Fiona Li, Treasurer; 535 Cherry Avenue; San Bruno, CA 94066. All donors receive an acknowledgment note. Donations to I.I. may be tax deductible as allowed by law.

COMING EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR

March 17-23, 2014: “Bouquets to Art” at the De Young Museum in Golden Gate Park. I.I. will be represented with an arrangement by Joan Suzuki, Sogetsu School. On March 20 Soho Sakai will demonstrate for a large audience at 10:00 a.m. (not later as reported earlier).

May 18-22, 2014: 17th I.I. North American Regional Conference in Asheville, North Carolina. Conference schedule and registration info at www.ikebanaasheville.org.

<p>Please complete your ballot and return it promptly to our Parliamentarian. Thank You!</p>
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