

I.I. ACTIVITIES

Visit to Konnichian

Kyoto #175 Japan

Although not open to the public, we were able to see the silhouette of the famed Yuin and Konnichian tea hut from the Kan'untei, which was built by Sotan to receive aristocratic guests.

Detailed explanations of the various architectural features of the rooms brought to our attention the rich cultural heritage that has been passed down through the Urasenke tradition of *chanoyu*.

Shortly Konnichian will undergo full restoration. We were very fortunate to have been able to visit, truly a once in a lifetime opportunity.



Urasenke Konnichian (Kabutomon), Helmet Gate

175 ^{Kyoto} Kyoto Chapter's October program was a private visit to the Konnichian, an Important Cultural Property and the home of the Urasenke tea school, on October 16, 2012. Passing through the Helmet Gate (Kabutomon), members were led to the entrance along a dewy path of freshly sprinkled moss and greenery.

Green tea was prepared by the *gyoteibu*, the deputy tea masters. With the weather becoming cooler, the charcoal brazier stand was centered, bringing the heat closer to the guests. From November, the winter season for tea begins with the use of the sunken hearth, thus extending yet more warmth to the guests.

Having enjoyed tea and sweets in the Hosensai room, members were guided to other rooms within the Konnichian complex: the shrine to Sen no Rikyu, the Rikyu Onsodo; Totsutotsusai, where the special ceremonial teas are conducted; and the adjoining Tsuginoma with its famous calligraphy on the sliding doors (*fusuma*) concerning tea practice. The Sotan ginkgo tree, the famed Plum Well and the water basin could be seen clearly as the sunlight shone brilliantly into the garden.

Brain and Ikebana

Albuquerque #41 USA

41 ^{Albuquerque} During Albuquerque Chapter's March, 2013 meeting, Ichiyo School instructor Mable Orndorff treated members to an illuminating and brain-teasing presentation: From Which Hemisphere Does Your Art Originate? The brain consists of two hemispheres, left and right, each with its own domain. The left hemisphere, which receives its information from the right eye, is more analytical and helps us remember and follow Ikebana's rules and instructions. In contrast, the right hemisphere, which receives its information from the left eye, grasps the big picture and sees patterns and relationships. Before creating our arrangements, we covered our right eye with a patch (to block visual signals to the left side of the brain) and thus influenced how we constructed our arrangements. Covering the right eye helps us get in touch with our right hemisphere, and quiets the left, more analytical hemisphere. We then covered the left

eye and made another arrangement, using the same flowers and stems as with the first arrangement. We compared the two finished arrangements to examine how filtering certain sensory data from our brain affected the composition of the arrangement.

Ichiyo instructor Mable Orndorff distributes cherry branches to members at her presentation *From Which Hemisphere Does Your Art Originate?* at the March chapter meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



HQ ^{Headquarters} Floriade

Headquarters The Netherlands

Fisheries request, from August 18 to 31, Headquarters participated to the exhibition with active collaboration of The Netherlands, Hana Belgium, Cologne chapters, and the Japan team (TFC and Sapporo). Twenty-eight members (3 days per chapter) hosted Ikebana exhibitions, workshops, and demonstrations. I.I. magazines, brochures and Members Registration Forms and posters were displayed at the I.I. information stand in the Japan Pavilion. International 3rd Vice-President (2011–2012) Mrs. Chisato Obikane and Coordinator Mrs. Corrie Van der Meer Fischer (The Netherlands) and all I.I. participants lived our motto Friendship through Flowers during the event.

The World Horticultural Exhibition, Floriade 2012, was held from April 5 to October 7, 2012, in Venlo, The Netherlands. Per Japan Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and



Floriade exhibition

Flower Dream Ikebana Exhibition

Headquarters Japan

From April 13 to 14, 2013, I.I. Headquarters participated to the Flower Dream Exhibition at Tokyo Big Sight. The event was organized by Japan Florists' Telegraph Delivery Association and Hana Cupid Cooperative with flower arrangement competition, exhibition, and workshop, as well as Ikebana exhibition and demonstration. A total of 50,000 visitors attended this event open to the general public.

I.I. participated for the first time in this event with the

objective of promoting I.I. and its publications and bringing chapters and members together to live our Friendship through Flowers motto.

I.I. Headquarters, Tokyo Founding Chapter, Kamakura Chapter, and 30 members from TFC, Kamakura, Kyoto, Sendai, and Saitama chapters made creative installations and Ikebana arrangements under the I.I. theme Bamboo and Friendship. I.I. Headquarters, TFC, and Kamakura Chapter used bamboo as the main material; then each added their own choice of materials. The event was a big success and welcomed by both I.I. members and the general public. I.I. Ikebana installation and arrangements, which are different from Western flower arrangements, attracted the general public's attention. The I.I. magazine and especially the *Flower Focus Dictionary* was sold out at lightning speed.



Flower Dream Ikebana Exhibition

International Book Fair

Headquarters Germany

The International Book Fair was held in Frankfurt in October 2012 at the request of PACE of Japan to promote Ikebana and Ikebana International publications. Four Frankfurt Chapter members installed Ikebana sculptures for the Japanese Booth. Ten Ikebana arrangements of different sizes were created, and the unique character of Ikebana was appreciated by many visitors.

International Book Fair





Geometry of Autumn

Moscow #38 Russia

256 ^{Moscow}

From September 28 to October 7, 2012, as part of the Japanese Autumn 2012 event, Moscow Chapter presented an ikebana exhibition entitled Geometry of Autumn in the Pharmaceutical Garden of the Botanic Garden of Moscow State University, with the support of the Embassy of Japan in Russia.

Arrangements by the Sogetsu and Ikenobo schools were featured. As well, *sumi-e* paintings, *oshibana*, and origami were presented in the exhibition. The exhibition united more than 50 participants.

After the official opening by dignitaries of the Japanese embassy, the Japanese community in Moscow, and Chapter President Olga Yudina, a demonstration of Sogetsu masters took place.

As usual, during the exhibition, free workshops of *sumi-e*, origami, *oshibana* took place, and an Ikenobo demonstration with the theme of Mandala with vegetable materials was given. During the two weeks of the event, the installations in the Botanic Garden were enjoyed by many visitors. The events of exhibition were covered by the mass media.

Bring and Buy

Omaha #60 USA

60 ^{Omaha}

On January 23, 2013, Omaha Chapter held a Bring and Buy, internal fund raising meeting. Members were asked to bring items they no longer needed and then “buy” from among the various offerings. There was a large number of items for sale; some related to ikebana or gardening, some Japanese themed, and some just odds and ends. What didn’t sell was packed away for the spring banquet.

Before this activity, we had a short business meeting, followed by an interesting discussion surrounding ikebana questions and comments. One question was about deciding how to determine the best way to trim a branch, another was how to identify negative space in an arrangement. Some tips for branch and stem placement and support were offered. One new member requested handouts for some of these conventions and techniques. A few of us thought it would be a good addition to every meeting to have a question/answer or “what’s on your mind”.

Annual Exhibition

Gurgaon #255 India

255 ^{Gurgaon}

At Gurgaon Chapter’s annual exhibition, held on January 19, 2013, 45 arrangements representing three prominent ikebana schools—Sogetsu, Ohara, and Ikenobo—were displayed.

Chapter members participated with great enthusiasm, adhering to the theme of the exhibition: Elegance. Seasonal flowers and foliage were used in the arrangements. Both classical and modern arrangements from the three schools were shown.

Mme. Akiko Yagi, wife of the Ambassador of Japan in India, Mr. Katsuma Doi, director of Japan Foundation, and Mr. Ryogi Noda, Counsellor of the Embassy of Japan, opened the exhibition by lighting the Indian traditional oil lamp.



Chapter members and dignitaries at Gurgaon Chapter’s Elegance exhibition

39th Anniversary

Bangkok #177 Thailand

177 ^{Bangkok}

On December 3, 2012, Bangkok Chapter celebrated its 39th anniversary by inviting four instructors of four different Ikebana schools from Fukuoka, Japan, to do demonstrations of ikebana arrangements.

- Tazaki Yuzan, Headmaster of Seitoku Ikenobo School.
- Oshima Yukiho, Headmaster of Seiwa Goryu School.
- Ichinose Hiroyuki, Vice-Headmaster of Shin Ikenobo School.
- Hatada Kyokusai, Vice-Headmaster of Kyushu Misho Ryu School.

This occasion helped promote Japanese culture through the art of ikebana. Many honored guests attended the event. The arrangements were all very beautiful and interesting. The masters inspired and advised us to create ikebana. We were excited to learn the styles and techniques of each school. Chapter members and guests enjoyed a lively exchange of ideas. The masters from Fukuoka were happy to meet ikebana friends and expressed their desire to return to Bangkok.

Cooking and Ikebana

Miami #131 USA

131 ^{Miami}

On February 19, 2013, Chef Shin’ichi Ogino demonstrated the cooking techniques of *shojin ryori*, the Buddhist vegetarian cuisine, for our monthly meeting program. Members and guests watched as he prepared spiritual foods associated with the seasons. Members’ ikebana arrangements, representative of each season, adorned the table as well as decorated the room. Chapter member Agnes Youngblood translated, while Michiyo Sloane (along with her children Mika and Takuma) assisted the chef’s wife, Rieko. Unusual vegetables, which he grew in his garden, along with intriguing cooking utensils, were used during his 3-hour culinary demonstration. The food was exquisitely arranged and presented on beautiful dishes and platters. Attendees were treated to tasty samples. Chef Ogino apprenticed for many years at a century-old restaurant before becoming the owner of the Shin-chan restaurant in Osaka, Japan. Since coming to the U.S., he has devoted himself to disseminating, promoting, and cultivating the artistry of Japanese culinary culture in America.



Chef Ogino prepares food

174 ^{Biberach / Riss}

Fairy Tales and Ikebana

Biberach / Riss #174 Germany

On December 9, 2012, some two hundred years after the first edition of *Grimm’s Fairy Tales (Kinder- und Hausmaerchen; 1812)* ikebana teachers of Biberach Chapter presented an enchanting ikebana demonstration on the famous tales. Despite heavy snowfall, an interested audience attended the performance.

The demonstrators sketched their chosen fairy tale with a few words, then created an ikebana that captured the tale. With bated breath, the audience was immersed in the enchantment of this very special atmosphere. After the interpretations of *Hansel and Gretel*, *Snow White and Rose Red*, *Rapunzel*, *Mother Holle*, *Star Talers*, *Peter’s and Anneli’s Journey to the Moon*, *The Fisherman and His Wife*, and *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, interesting discussions followed with the audience. We were dismissed by Hedda Lintner, Marianne Eisele, Margrit Schiffer, and Ursula Zembrot out into the snowy winter night, carrying with us the magic of the event.



(l to r) Ursula Zembrot, Hedda Lintner, Marianne Eisele, and Margrit Schiffer



Moribana *Kabuwake*

Copenhagen #293 Denmark

On November 10, 2012, Copenhagen Chapter held a demonstration focused on moribana *kabuwake* given by Birgitte Hinnerskov, one of the best teachers of Sogetsu School in Denmark. She created one arrangement with chrysanthemum and branches of pine and started by relating her experience with ikebana. She explained the idea behind the arrangement and stressed what we had to observe when we made our own arrangement.

Members each made an arrangement with their own flowers, and Birgitte Hinnerskov evaluated each arrangement. This evaluation is very popular with members and is very instructive.

As usual we had coffee and cake and a pleasant chat.

93 Copenhagen

Potluck Luncheon

Ottawa #120 Canada

On February 27, 2013, following a short business meeting, a potluck luncheon was enjoyed by members and guests. Nancy McDonald from the Ottawa Master Gardeners was guest speaker. Mrs. McDonald gave a wonderful presentation on Easy-Care Perennials, providing members and guests with many useful tips for a more successful garden in Ottawa. Since many of our members have splendid gardens and naturally are interested in flowers of all types, our 1st Vice-President of Programming thought that this would be a great topic to feature, particularly at this time of the year, when we are all thinking about our gardens. There was a question and answer period at the end of her presentation.

120 Ottawa

7^{New York} Ohara Demonstration

New York #7 USA

Ms. Young Yum and Ms. Young Oh of the Ohara School presented Ohara arrangements on December 5, 2012. Young Yum studied with Ohara international headmaster Mr. Mutsuo Tomita for 26 years and attended several master classes in Japan. She obtained the Ohara School's First Master degree in 2010.

The demonstration was very festive. The Ohara School emphasizes seasonal qualities, natural growth processes, and the beauty of natural environments, and Ms. Yum and Ms. Oh showed these concepts to great advantage.

The chapter also held the annual Ginza Bazaar, welcomed by all for its white elephant contributions, pottery, jewelry, and other goods for the holiday season. The highlight, though, is our homemade obento, with all ingredients made and contributed by the board. Delicious for all!

Flower arrangement by Shuko Sasaki, Sapporo Chapter



Marilyn Gianadda, Johannesburg Chapter



Arrangement from "The Three Friends of Winter" demonstration, Sun Cities Chapter



Workshop by Raynald Donais

Montreal #155 Canada

155 Montreal

On February 16, 2013, Montreal Chapter members had the pleasure of experiencing a demonstration and workshop by Raynald Donais of Ikenobo. A short history of Ikenobo was presented.

A rikka arrangement originated by Raynald Donais and another contemporary rikka as well as modern arrangements were created. We enjoyed the simplicity and exquisite materials of the other arrangements. Corrections were made following the workshop.



Young Oh and Young Yum demonstrate Ohara at NY Chapter.

At the Seasonal Inspirations exhibition, (l to r) Peter We, Marvina Low, Bernard Tay, Viola Yong



Ikebana and Paintings

Singapore #135 Singapore

135 Singapore

An exhibition was held at Japan Creative Center on October 3 to 10 on the theme Seasonal Inspirations—a combination of ikebana and paintings. This exhibition paid special homage to the stunning, transient beauty of Japan's four seasons and the wonder of nature's creations. Twelve exhibitors from different schools demonstrated their ikebana skills, inspired by the seasons. The arrangements were accompanied by paintings of seasons in Japan by Singaporean artist Jennifer Liao. Both art forms beautifully captured the beauty of the seasons in Japan, and the exhibition saw 200 visitors in its 8-day run. Demonstrations by I.I. members Hatsumi Kanatsu (Sogetsu) and Momoko Emmott (Ryusei-Ha) were well attended by members of the public.

ikebana Gallery

Flowers and Containers

Vienna #223 Austria

226 Vienna

On February 21, 2013, Vienna Chapter continued its study of the important concept of *ma*, a fundamental spacial principle of Japanese aesthetics. The theme this time was the relation between flowers and container. Participants studied and discussed some textual examples from the history of ikebana concerning this topic.

Already in the 16th century it was written that the relation between flowers and container and also the relation between the arrangement and where it was placed were very important. Exhibiting valuable vases was also very important. Depending on the occasion, the selection of the materials in relation to the container became increasingly important.



30th Anniversary

214^{Zurich}

Zurich #214 Swiss

January 12, 2013, was a sunny Saturday, when 11 Zurich Chapter members traveled to Schaffhausen, a small town in northeast Switzerland, to celebrate the chapter's 30th anniversary. After a delicious meal in a restaurant in the city center, we moved to the public library, where the librarian, Mr. Specht, showed us one album with letters and one with pictures mainly from Japan exchanged between a young Swiss lady, Mathilda Keller, and Takeo Arishima from Tokyo. Mr. Specht also explained the history of these special documents.

After his studies, Takeo visited his brother in Rome and with four other artists traveled to Switzerland. They made a stopover in Schaffhausen, where he met "Tildi" (his name for her), the daughter of the guest house owner. Tildi and Takeo fell in love, but his father had already arranged a marriage with Yasuko Kamio upon Takeo's return from Europe. The two lovers continued correspondence, but in 1923 Takeo died at the age of 45. In 1956 Tildi donated the letters and pictures to the library. In 1937, at the age of 60, she traveled to Japan for nine months, without any knowledge of the Japanese language, to visit friends and relatives of the Arishima family. Also members of the Arishima family, especially Takeo's brother Mibuma, visited her four times to copy the letters in order to publish them in Japan. Tildi died in 1970. With many new impressions, we returned home after an interesting day.

Members at the lunch



Planting Trees

TFC^{Tokyo Founding}

Tokyo Founding Japan / Toronto #208 Canada

On May 19 2013, a tree planting ceremony was held at Mount Anba Park on Mount Anba, symbol of Kesennuma city, with 1,000 attendees. The park was designed by famous architect Mr. Osamu Ishiyama to establish a forest park in memory of those who suffered from the March 2011 Great Eastern Earthquake and tsunami disaster. Kesennuma city mayor Mr. Sugawara, I.I. Tokyo Founding Chapter (TFC) President Noriko Kira and other guests greeted attendees with encouraging words. An *Euonymus oxyphyllus* was planted at the entrance of the Mount Anba Park by five TFC members. A weeping cherry donated by Toronto Chapter and TFC was planted in front of the Michibiki Jizo temple, which houses the guardian deity of children, as a prayer for those who survived the earthquake and tsunami disaster. Extending a hand to help rebuild the disaster affected region displayed the sympathy and friendship of I.I. members from Japan and other countries.

208^{Toronto}

Participants planting trees



100^{Nagoya}

Nagoya Chapter's Ikebana Exhibition was held on October 19 to 22, 2012, at the ANA Crowne Plaza Hotel. The exhibition was successfully created by 61 members, including 10 foreign students. A rich variety of works graced the hall, redolent of the autumn season. A number of dignitaries and important guests attended the Opening Ceremony, after which there was an opening party. Thanks to an article in the *Chunichi Newspaper* announcing our exhibition with a colored photo, there was a good turnout of visitors.

25th Anniversary

Monterey Bay #231 U.S.A.

231^{Monterey Bay}

February 19 2013, saw a wonderful celebration of Monterey Bay Chapter's 25th Anniversary. In spite of the rain, we enjoyed some lovely flower arrangements and art displays as well as a delicious lunch. Many thanks were given to Carol Marchette, Rimiko Ogura, Sylvia Owens, and Pat McDowell for their beautiful ikebana arrangements. We enjoyed also the lovely art work displayed by Sylvia Owens (handmade silk jackets, including the one she was wearing), Betty Jetter (an amazing array of creatively designed cards of various sorts), Kozue Knowles (her netsuke collection of Chinese zodiacal animals), Beverly Corbett (two lovely paintings and an engraving), and Pat McDowell (added a hand-woven scarf to her arrangement). Betty Jetter also designed special bookmarks for everyone to commemorate our 25th Anniversary.

Members getting ready to enjoy lunch



Autumn Exhibition

Nagoya #100 Japan

Japanese Aesthetics

Akron #114 USA

114^{Akron}

As part of Akron Chapter's community contribution program, a local garden club requested that we demonstrate some Japanese traditional arrangements.

On October 8, 2012, we demonstrated basic styles and a free style to the club members. Machiko Sugura (Ikenobo) and Hagiko Wattles (Sogetsu School) demonstrated basic style arrangements of each school, and Joy Furhmyer did a free style. Nancy Hall was in charge of explaining the procedures and historical background of Japanese flower arrangements. Since many members of this club were not familiar with ikebana, they were fascinated by the demonstrations. After the demonstration, the club members and four of us enjoyed a lunch, which was provided by the club.

46^{San Antonio}

Potluck

San Antonio #46 USA

Potluck luncheon and sale. This is our primary fund raiser for the year and is always a big success with lots of good foods, both Japanese and Western. Member Hiroko Fay demonstrated *shodo* and wrote all the member's names in *katakana* and some haiku and other poems.

221^{Dubai}

St. Valentine's Day

Dubai #221 United Arab Emirates

Dubai Chapter's February meeting was held at Mrs. Leila Mukhaimer's villa at Palm Island, Dubai. Red, the color of St. Valentine's day, dominated the event and was displayed in the tablecloths and the amazing arrangements of the Valentine theme. Seven ladies worked on the terrace overlooking the sea, where the fresh breeze gave the ladies more enthusiasm to produce beautiful arrangements.



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