

## HQ <sup>Headquarters</sup> The Minato International Dialogue

Headquarters Japan

On January 24, 2014, Tokyo's Minato Ward held a panel discussion with the title Development of International Cultural Exchange. International President Nobuko Usui was invited as one of the panelists. Other panelists were the Ambassador of Burkina Faso, the President of the Romanian Music Society in Japan, Director-General of the International Artists Center, and Mr. Ronald Finne, a Japan resident and martial art Kyudo practitioner.

Illustrating her presentation with a Power Point screen, International President Usui explained that Ikebana International is administered by volunteers of many different nationalities and Ikebana schools to promote goodwill and understanding throughout the world, motivated and energized by the I.I. motto, Friendship through Flowers.

This initial panel discussion was very fruitful and attracted much interest from a large audience. Headquarters wishes to continue this fruitful and positive

aim of international cultural exchange and participate in further planning sessions as well as collaboration with other associations with the same objective.



International President Usui explaining I.I. activities at the Minato Ward panel discussion

## 266 <sup>Rome</sup> Rome Chapter Official Presentation

Rome #266 Italy

On January 25, 2014, Rome Chapter gave a presentation at the Museum of Oriental Art in Rome. After a welcome speech given by the director of the museum, Mrs. Gabriella Mazza, Mrs. Mayo Nishiike, cultural attaché of the Japanese Embassy, and Mr. Santovetti Fondazione, Vice-President of Italia Giappone, each gave a short welcome speech. Afterwards President Silvana Mattei presented an introduction to the public regarding what is Ikebana and what is Ikebana International. This was followed by demonstrations of three schools, explaining their school histories and characteristics. The final result was quite impressive.

We had the pleasure to have Jenny Banti Pereira, Grand Master of the Ohara School with us. President Mattei stressed the fact that our Prospective Chapter is in reality a renewal of Chapter 2, founded in 1957 by Mrs Banti. The entrance of Mrs. Banti (aged 90) was welcomed with a standing ovation.

We had an attendance of over 150 people (in a hall with 100 seats), and for security reasons at 11:20 the museum had to refuse entry to latecomers. A first step toward the creation of the Rome Chapter has been completed, and we hope to keep going forward to the creation of a lively and active group.



Rome chapter official presentation

## 38 <sup>Fort Worth</sup>

## BRIT Exhibition

Fort Worth #38 USA

Sharman Palmer, Mary Ripperton, Sandra Prachyl, and Pat Major-Harris represented Fort Worth Chapter at the public opening of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) exhibition on September 7, 2013. The exhibition featured historical botanical illustrations and preserved plant specimens from the collections of the Makino Botanical Garden in Kochi, Japan.

Other local Japanese groups were represented as well, with taiko drummers opening the exhibit. There was bonsai, calligraphy, origami, a kimono fashion show, and Okinawan folk dances.

Fort Worth Chapter exhibited four Ikebana arrangements and gave out chapter information, including our 2013–2014 program brochures. The opening day was very well attended by hundreds of people. The BRIT exhibit continued through November 30, 2013.

## 143 <sup>Geneva</sup>

## Baur Foundation Exhibition

Geneva #143 Switzerland

The Baur Foundation in Geneva is a private Museum of Far Eastern Art, housed in an elegant late 19th-century town house. The collection was acquired by the Swiss collector Alfred Baur (1865–1951) over a period of some 45 years. These exquisite works of art include Chinese imperial ceramic ware, jades and snuff bottles from the 10th to the 19th centuries, as well as Japanese prints, lacquer, netsuke, and sword fittings. Altogether, these represent the largest collections of Far Eastern art open to the public in Switzerland.

Mrs. Crick, the museum director, kindly invited Geneva Chapter to give an exhibition of our Ikebana art.

Consequently, 50 members, representing the Sogetsu, Ikenobo, and Ichiyo schools, brightened the museum with Ikebana under the supervision of Mrs. Ursula Papazian the exhibition manager. It was a premiere for Mrs. Papazian and a great success for her and the participants; she has exquisite taste in finding the right location for each arrangement. Approximately 850 visitors came and enjoyed both the museum and the exhibition. Many thanks to Sogetsu instructor Elsbeth Von Siebenthal for all her advice as well as Yumiko Shimada the Ikenobo instructor.



(l to r) Joanna Martin, Ursula Papazian, Nicole Meyfarth, Jacqueline Nikles, Elsbeth von Siebenthal, Brigitte Saalman, Anne De Castelbajac



Mrs. Yumiko Shimada (Ikenobo)



# 51 Kamakura Lecture by Wife of the Ambassador of Jordan to Japan

*Kamakura #51 Japan*

On September 26, 2013, Mme. Shifa Haddad, wife of the Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to Japan, presented Kamakura Chapter with a lively lecture/presentation about her home country. She gave many examples of similarities between Arabic and Japanese cultures and told us about her grandfather and her parents, showing many photos of her family. Her speech dispelled many misunderstandings about Jordan and its people.

Mme. Haddad's mother had learned ikebana in Alabama (USA), so Mme. Haddad has been interested in ikebana and related arts of Japan since she was a child. She has a master's degree in architectural engineering from Chiba University and is a member of I.I.

Mme. Haddad brought handmade and designer goods, which were sold to benefit medical care in Tohoku, especially for children and pregnant women. She also donated her honorarium to that cause.

Our meeting was held on a sunny, cool fall day at the Great Buddha (Daibutsu) in Kamakura, at the home of the priest of that temple. The late priest's wife was one

of the founders of our chapter. Twice a year, we meet in a room that she designed especially for our meetings.



*Mme. Shifa Haddad tells Kamakura Chapter about Jordan*

# 24 Hong Kong Sogetsu Demonstration

*Hong Kong #24 China*

At the membership tea on September 12, 2013, Mr. Ho Hin Shing, *Riji* instructor of the Sogetsu School, demonstrated with ease and style, showing nine creative arrangements using roses and unusual materials and containers to members and guests.

# Kenneth Pincus Ceramics Lecture

*Portland #47 USA*

# 47 Portland

On October 28, 2013, Portland Chapter was honored by potter Kenneth Pincus discussing his own career in ceramics and introducing the art of pottery. He has been a professional potter since 1980 and studied with Yoshihiko Yoshida in Tajimi, Gifu prefecture, Japan. After returning to the United States, he moved to Portland, OR, where he established his ceramic studio, using both a wood-fired kiln and a gas kiln. He is a production potter, creating cups, plates, and other functional wares as well as a wide variety of vases and containers for ikebana arrangements.



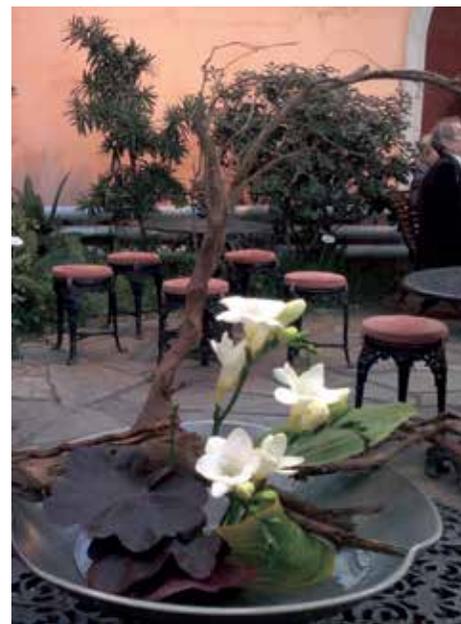
*Kenneth Pincus discussing pottery*

# Ikebana Exhibition

*Helsinki #193 Finland*

On the weekend of October 5 and 6, 2013, Helsinki Chapter organized an ikebana exhibition in the Helsinki municipal Wintergarden, which celebrates its 120th jubilee year. Chapter President Riitta Salastie curated the event. The place and season inspired the participants to create colorful arrangements with Finnish autumn materials. Part of the materials could be acquired on the site.

The Finnish Broadcasting Company YLE 2 made a summary of the ikebana arrangements for the Saturday evening news. The Wintergarden has been recently skillfully renovated, and the 19th century innovative steel-and-glass structure has been given back its wonderful lightness.



*One of the arrangements at the exhibition*

# 108 Manila Elegant Entertaining with Flowers

*Manila #108 Philippines*

The Manila Chapter event on October 8, 2013, titled *Elegant Entertaining with Flowers*, was hosted by Hosting Group 4. It was held at ID Furniture, where tables were set up to display table settings of china, flowers, and ornaments prepared by the members of the hosting group.

Peng Lazaro introduced the table settings and the hosting group. John Go Hoc gave a demonstration of Ikenobo arrangements. The participants enjoyed a *merienda* repast prepared by member Grace Saniez.

# Saksia Eller Demonstration

*Buffalo #50 USA*

# 50 Buffalo

On August 6, 2013, Buffalo Chapter was honored by guest demonstrator Saskia Eller, Third Term Master from Rochester Chapter #53, who presented an excellent demonstration tracing the history and progression of Ohara School styles. The many unusual materials she used came from her own garden. Three arrangements for which the school is noted—the Bunjin, Realistic Landscape, and Rimpa—specially delighted the audience. During lunch and a business meeting, we discussed the financial situations problematic to many chapters, with ideas from Rochester and Buffalo helpful and constructive.



## Morning Workshop

Detroit #85 USA

On August 14, 2013, member Toshi Shimoura offered an optional morning workshop of Ikebana basics. Her lesson was an Ikenobo moribana in a shoka container.

For our general meeting, member Rose Smitka led the workshop of flower wrapping. We each chose our patterned paper, folded it origami style, and inserted a glass tube to hold flowers. We used leaves and flowers arranged in our created flower holders for a small finished arrangement.

85  
Detroit

## Annual Exhibition

Montreal #155 Canada

155  
Montreal

Montreal Chapter's annual exhibition on April 20, 2013, received over 2,000 visitors with approximately 35 exhibitors. The theme of the exhibition was Voice of Flowers. Several haiku accompanied the arrangements. As well, we enjoyed viewing numerous miniature arrangements. There were four demonstrations conducted by teachers of the Ohara, Ikenobo, Sogetsu, and Koryu Shotokai schools. This exhibition was a memorable event.



Prime Minister's Prize:  
Sugisaki Keisou (Hanayoshi Ryu)



Kakubana:  
Masao Hirayama (Koryu Shutokai)



Free Style:  
Tadaatsu Nemoto (Koryu Shutokai)

## Ikebana Gallery

Ikebana Grand Prix 2013



Challenge Space:  
Hiromi Watanabe (Miyako Koryu Ikkokai)



Special Prize:  
Ibuki Fujita (Kado Enshu Wakatakekai)



Special Material (Weeping Willow):  
Asaka Moro (Okenobo Hosho Ryu)

105  
Taipei

## Keita Kawasaki Demonstration

Taipei #105 Taiwan

At Taipei Chapter's general meeting on September 16, 2013, the first order of business was to install a new board and chapter president and then discuss various fiscal matters.

Following the business meeting, Mr. Keita Kawasaki, Director of MAMI Flower Design School in Japan, gave a fine demonstration, which was narrated by Principal Keisuke Kawasaki. Mr. Keita Kawasaki demonstrated seven splendid pieces of modern flower arrangement, including a huge piece at the very end, which were greatly enjoyed by the audience.

Attendees also greatly appreciated the 29 flower arrangements made by members of R.O.C. Society for the Study of MAMI Flower Design displayed in the foyer of the meeting hall.

Sukuko Noll demonstrating the nageire hanging form



112  
Middle Georgia

## Sukuko Noll Workshop

Middle Georgia #112 USA

After the business meeting on September 19, 2013, Middle Georgia Chapter member and Misho School instructor Mrs. Sukuko (Jackie) Noll led a workshop on the basic nageire hanging form. Members had been asked to bring tall, cylindrical containers and three stems of flowers; Mrs. Noll provided all the line material. She distributed a handout describing the hanging form and explained step by step how to construct the design as she made a lovely Ikebana using pink lilies. Members were pleased with the demonstration and delighted to be together again to begin another Ikebana year.

198  
Asuncion

## Tanabata Festival

Asuncion #198 Paraguay

July 17, 2013, saw the first activities of the newly elected committee of Asunción Chapter. The program was held at the Tea Ceremony room of the Japanese Center in Asunción city. A tea ceremony was conducted by a tea master; Asunción Chapter members participated with much interest in the various steps of the ritual. After that, all present enjoyed the Tanabata Festival, writing wishes and goodwill messages and placing them on the bamboo stalk. Attendees were also delighted by the collection of Ceramic Masterpieces sent by the Japan Foundation through the Embassy of Japan in Paraguay. Lively commentary and explanation was given by Asunción Chapter President Emilia Kasamatsu (Mme. Enciso). Finally, all present shared Japanese tea and sweets in a friendly gathering before the end of the meeting.



## Annual Exhibition

Seattle #19 USA

Ribbon-cutting ceremony: Chapter President Katsuko Brooke, Japan Consul Shintaro Hara and Mrs. Hara, Seattle Asian Art Museum Curator of Japanese Art Xiaojin Wu



Seattle Chapter's 54th Annual Ikebana Exhibition was held on May 18 and 19, 2013, at the Seattle Asian Art Museum. The theme of the exhibition was Gateway to Beautiful Flowers.

Approximately 327 people visited the event. Comments from the attendees were positive, and many expressed a desire to study the art of ikebana.

The exhibits were placed together by ikebana school. A total of 36 exhibitors represented 11 schools—Senke (2), Ohara (2), Sogetsu (11), Ikenobo (13), Hua Yuan (2), Saga Goryu (1), Koryu Shoto-kai (1), Yushoryu (1), Ryuseiha (1), Shofu-Ryu (1), Ichiyo (1). Attendees were able to experience the joy and creativity that ikebana offers.

19 Seattle

175 Kyoto

Kyoto Chapter held an Ikebana Workshop and Tea Gathering for International Students at Kyoto International Community House and Kyoto City Important Cultural Property Tea House Kasuien in the Westin Miyako Hotel on May 18, 2013. A total of 33 students from 16 countries, both young women and men, attended.

In order to promote international exchange and friendship, this Workshop for International Students has been incorporated as our chapter's annual public event, planting seeds of ikebana appreciation among international students and fostering Friendship through Flowers.

The Tea Gathering was extremely rewarding, touching on culture related to ikebana. The students were

able to better understand the tradition of the Way of Tea coached by our members. We received enthusiastic impressions and suggestions from participating students via e-mail, which will be helpful in future planning.

*Kyoto Shinbun* and *Yomiuri Shinbun* newspapers on May 19, 2013 reported on our event with photos.



International students enjoy ikebana lessons from Kyoto Chapter members.

## Chabana Demonstration

Wellington #158 New Zealand

158 Wellington

Our Sogetsu teacher and I.I. member, Brigitte Takenaka-Procter, did a demonstration of four lovely chabana arrangements. She told us some of the history of chabana arrangements and how they are placed in the tea ceremony. Following that, His Excellency Nogawa, Japanese ambassador to New Zealand, and Mr. Ato, cultural director of the Japanese embassy, joined our meeting.

Mr. Nogawa honored us by being co-patron to our I.I. chapter, this was the first time he met our members at large. A special morning tea was organized to coincide with their visit, and a social time was had by everyone. After the men left, the members proceeded to do their own chabana arrangements, and Brigitte corrected our efforts with words of encouragement.

## Koh Sugita Demonstration

Saitama #260 Japan

260 Saitama

Saitama Chapter started its fiscal year on September 6, 2013. Following the business meeting and introduction of new board members, a demonstration of ikebana was given by Mr. Koh Sugita, 7th Headmaster of Katsura-Koryu/Katsura-Ryu. He arranged three different types of flowers. After lunch, we enjoyed a musical performance of the unusual collaboration of shakuhachi and keyboard. Table flowers arranged by board members and the flowers by Mr. Sugita were presented to the audience.

An example of the various baskets made by members at the workshop.



36 Sydney

## Basket Weaving Workshop

Sydney #36 Australia

On August 15, 2013, a basket-weaving workshop was led by Carolyn Cooper, a professional basket weaver. Carolyn brought samples of her work and provided different materials such as palm fronds and cane for members to use. The various materials gave interest and texture to the woven baskets. Members were very enthusiastic to experience and learn this fascinating craft.

61 Adelaide

## Bonsai Festival

Adelaide #61 Australia

Eleanor Chiew, Lily Chiang, and Maureen Arnott with some of the arrangements at the South Australian Bonsai Society Festival



Again the South Australian Bonsai Society invited Adelaide Chapter members to present a static display at the Goodwood Community Centre throughout the weekend of their Bonsai Festival on October 12 and 13, 2013. The weekend event attracted an audience of about 4,000. In addition, on Saturday and Sunday afternoon, Lily Chiang, Eleanor Chiew, and Maureen Arnott demonstrated ikebana to a total audience of about sixty each day.



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