



## HQ Headquarters Annual General Meeting Headquarters Japan

First of all, HQ has to note our mistake in the previous I.I. Activities, 58-3. Through an oversight on our part, we captioned the report from Kuala Lumpur as “#175, Kyoto”; it should have been “#72 Kuala Lumpur.” We apologize for any inconvenience and confusion this error may have caused.

On September 19, HQ held an AGM and Chapter Presidents’ Meeting. At the AGM, International President Usui presented the business report, International Treasurer Kameoka presented the financial report and Assistant Treasurer Kuroda presented the Proposed Budget for 2014–2015.

Following the AGM, the Chapter Presidents’ Meeting was held with 45 participants. The participants had a more than fruitful discussion on the following topics aimed at actively publicizing Ikebana International, promoting membership, and realizing Friendship through Flowers.

- Publicity
- Membership Drive
- 11th World Convention
- New Year Luncheon 2015

The chapters were impressive with their vigor and activity; several chapters have made efforts to spread Ikebana abroad to places lacking I.I. chapters such as Mongolia and Sakhalin. Hiroshima Chapter demonstrated how Ikebana workshops can reduce costs—a smart idea indeed.



Ikebana International Annual General Meeting, September 19, 2014



Chapter Presidents' Meeting



Hiroshima Chapter demonstrating a plastic bottle as a flower container.

## Ikebana, Dance, and Music

Paris #219 France

**219** Paris On March 11, 2014, Paris Chapter held a spectacular event with 3 other organizations, under the patronage of the Japanese Embassy in France, and in conjunction with the third anniversary of the natural disaster that struck East Japan. Proceeds were in aid of the Midwives Association in Miyagi Prefecture.

A performance with Ikebana, dance, and music was specially designed and created for this occasion. Butoh and contemporary dancers danced around a giant ceramic egg, suspended in midair, which symbolized the unborn. It was followed then by a scene of chaos and destruction after tragedy struck.

Spotlights focussed on 3 huge cubes with strategically placed driftwood, debris found the day after. Six artists from Ikenobo, Ohara, and Sogetsu schools re-created the scenery of the land, mountains, and seashore with fresh branches and flowers. The scene portraying life and recovery with a butterfly flitting among the flowers was magnificent, and through our art of Ikebana, rebirth was symbolically depicted.

It is perhaps unprecedented that three Ikebana schools performed together, creating giant Ikebana simultaneously, assembled together to form one single harmonious Ikebana.

A strong symbol of cooperation, solidarity, and harmony between three different schools and three different arts like Ikebana, dance, and music was made real. The performance was a complete success, and the spectators were charmed.



Group photo after the performance

## 231 Monterey Bay

## Children’s Ikebana Workshop for Mother’s Day

Monterey Bay #231 USA

For the past 17 years it has been the custom of Monterey Bay Chapter to visit local a public elementary school on the occasion of St. Valentine’s Day and Mother’s Day and give an Ikebana workshop after school to children who are predominantly from agricultural immigrant families from Mexico. This is one of our secondary signature projects; the primary one is donating Ikebana to Westland House (former called the Hospice) in Monterey every five days, which we started when the Hospice was opened in November, 1993. In November 2013 we celebrated the 20th anniversary of our civic service to the community. Also we have been donating Ikebana on a weekly basis to the Monterey Museum of Art-La Mirada.

On May 9, 2014 (Mother’s Day), eight members of Monterey Bay Chapter visited Martin Luther King Elementary School and gave a workshop. In preparation, we collected empty wine bottles and color-sprayed them to be used as containers. Roses were purchased, while greeneries were provided by members. We made small cards to be attached to each Ikebana in a bottle. Both boys and girls were happy and showed great interest to learn how to arrange flowers for the first time. Moreover, they were very excited because they could present the Ikebana to their parents or loved ones as a gift. Being children of low-income families, they had little opportunity to give a gift to their parents.



# 167

Sun Cities

## David Payne's Workshop

Sun Cities #167 USA

On January 19, 2014, a workshop and demonstration of the *nishuike* shoka (two materials shoka) style was given by David Payne. The workshop was divided into beginners and pros, with David doing two demonstrations. Following the workshop there was a class taught by Kate Secrest and Pat Kuffler, which featured the use of wire in a free style arrangement.



David Payne demonstrating

# 223

Vienna

## Reality and Illusion

Vienna #223 Austria

The meeting on March 13, 2014, was opened by the Chapter President Eva Dungl, who welcomed members and announced three events: East Meets West, in which some chapter members were taking part, and two ikebana exhibitions organized by chapter members. The evening's topic, Reality and Illusion, was introduced, and an interesting discussion on its meaning and interpretation followed: The concept focused on the reality of the actual arrangement (*jitsu*) and its expression (*kyo*). This idea was inspired by Frau Ayako Graefe's "piercing branch" (*tsutsunuki*), creating something that looks natural but is not possible. In a European understanding of the theme, it might be called an optical illusion. We then viewed and discussed members' arrangements.

## Gerbera Demonstration

Sydney #36 Australia

# 36

Sydney

Gerbera was the flower chosen for the exhibition. Elizabeth Fuller (Sogetsu) had a bright red gerberas subdued by a dark oblong container and contrasted with bright green camelia leaves. Leela Vankataraman and her friend Mangai gave a demonstration/workshop making leis from chrysanthemums, roses, tuber roses, jasmine, and carnations. Some members attempted to make leis, but found it challenging. Leela also spoke about Diwali, the Indian Festival of Light, which celebrates the meaning of victory of good over evil. Celebrants wear new clothes, exchange sweets, and place candles inside and outside of the house.

The event also included exhibitions by Ohara, Sogetsu, Ikenobo, and Chiko schools.



Elizabeth Fuller, Ikebana demonstrator

# 145

Cebu

## Fun Through Flowers

Cebu #145 Philippines

In the afternoon of March 21, 2014, an Ikenobo Ikebana exhibit titled Fun through Flowers was unveiled to showcase the works of its members to an appreciative public. On the second day of the exhibit, which ran till March 23, an ikebana demonstration by Ma. Rose Santos, Margie Sy, Malou Hyden, and Norma Sanchez, was open to the public. The Japanese Counsellor and Consul in Cebu Hon. Shoji Otake was the guest of honor. He attended both events with his wife, Naomi. Hon. Otake viewed each of the 32 exhibits and gave out a positive critique to each. Meanwhile, Mme. Otake gamely participated in the demonstration of the second day. Aside from the Cebu Chapter members, exhibiting were officers and members from I.I. Manila, Davao, and Cagayan De Oro chapters. A total of 250 visitors signed the guest list of the exhibit.

# 267

Shanghai Prospective

## Blossom Ikebana Demonstration

Shanghai Prospective #267 China

September 9, 2014, Ikebana International Shanghai Prospective Chapter collaborated with the Consulate General of Japan in Shanghai to hold a Blossoms-Ikebana Demonstration at the Consulate Hall of the Consulate General of Japan to Shanghai. This event was the chapter's first activity after its founding on July 1, 2014, with the objective of promoting ikebana and mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and other countries through ikebana in China. Some 120 attendees, including Chinese, Japanese, French, German, Iranian, Indian, and Kazakhstan nationals as well as 3 members of TFC enjoyed the event.

The Consul General of Japan to Shanghai Mr. Kohara Masahiro delivered a congratulation speech and wished that Ikebana International become a bridge of friendship between China and Japan. I.I. Shanghai Prospective Chapter President Lily Zhang gave a lecture on the history of ikebana and Ikebana International. Mark Tajima of Sogetsu, Fanqi Tan of Ohara, and Lily Zhang of Ichiyo made successive demonstrations. The event was a great success and received much enthusiastic encouragements. Many of the attendees applied to join I.I. Shanghai Prospective Chapter, which will continue to promote ikebana in Shanghai and live Friendship through Flowers.



Rangoli arrangement of flowers and candles



(l to r) Mangai, Leela and V. Tan



## Lecture on Japanese Gardens

Asheville #74 USA

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Asheville

On February 2, 2014, landscape designer Mike Oshita gave Asheville Chapter a detailed lecture on Japanese gardens. First, he gave a brief history of the strolling garden, then turned his attention to a wide variety of Japanese garden designs. Using slides to illustrate his talk, he described in detail the major elements of Japanese garden design. He also described and illustrated rock placement and the different historical styles of Japanese gardens. Following the lecture he gave a workshop for I.I. members to design small rock and sand gardens.

## 46th Anniversary

Taipei #105 Taiwan

105

Taipei

To celebrate Taipei Chapter's 46th anniversary, we held our biannual ikebana exhibition at Sogo Department Store Chung-Hsiao Branch from March 14 to 16, 2014, with the theme Flower Dance. The ambassadors of Nauru, Austria, and Malaysia attended and highly praised this event. They also admired the fact that via ikebana, passion and care could spread throughout the world.

More than 2,000 visitors attended this 3-day event. Various ikebana schools demonstrated more than 110 flower arrangements, which included 14 big arrangements. There were also demonstrations by 8 ikebana schools held on the weekend, which received much praise.

## Botanical Garden Exhibition

Los Angeles #4 USA

4

Los Angeles

Los Angeles Chapter sponsored an exhibition and demonstration on March 15 and 16, 2014, at the Los Angeles Arboretum and Botanical Garden. Japanese Vice-Consul Yamada opened the exhibition and toured the exhibition, where each artist from the Ikenobo, Ohara, Sogetsu, and Sangetsu schools gave a small presentation of their beautiful arrangements. Approximately 500 people visited the exhibition during the two days, and the Ikenobo School demonstrated on Sunday for approximately 100 visitors.



Vice-Consul Yamada viewing the ikebana exhibition

69

Sapporo

## 50th Anniversary

Sapporo #69 Japan

Sapporo Chapter held its 50th Anniversary Ikebana Banquet and Exhibition on June 2, 2014. We received many congratulatory telegrams and expressions of gratitude at the celebration. Banquet guests had the opportunity to introduce themselves as well. Special attractions included a Japanese bamboo flute and koto performance after the banquet, and the event really became fun when volunteers from Okinawa Chapter performed a special dance on stage.

After the opening ceremony ribbon cutting of the exhibition, a guided tour of the venue was led by International President Usui and Sapporo Chapter President Yokoi and exhibition staff. Over 4,000 attendees came to celebrate during the event.

119

San Diego

## Elementary School Exhibition

San Diego #119 USA

Marina Khudobina conducted an ikebana workshop at the Painted Rock Elementary School in Poway to introduce the students to ikebana. She is a member of Ikebana International and a Sogetsu student of Riji Hiroko Fukuhara. She chose to conduct the workshop on February 7 before Valentines Day so the children could bring something special to their parents. The children were first graders, ages 6 and 7. They were so interested that even the teacher was surprised that they were so attentive on Friday, at the end of the school day. Mrs. Khudobina was very dedicated to bringing about this introduction to ikebana, and she provided the flowers and containers as well.

Mrs. Arikawa assisting a student



## Shoka Shofutai Workshop

Columbus #84 USA

84

Columbus

Ikenobo School teachers Chieko Arikawa, Senior Professor 1st Degree, and Lewis Shupe, Professor 1st Grade, taught a shoka shofutai arrangement class for the Columbus Chapter on March 21, 2014, at the Franklin Park Conservatory. The materials used were gladiolas. Gary Barlow, also an Ikenobo Professor 1st Grade, helped to assist the teachers. The students used gladiolas of the same color with five stems in the arrangements. The lesson was taught very thoroughly with many explanations of the school and the arrangements.

## 40th Anniversary

Kobe #181 Japan

181

Kobe

Kobe Chapter celebrated its 40th Anniversary on April 11, 2014, at the Kobe Portopia Hotel. Governor of Hyogo Prefecture Mr. Toshizo Ido, Executive Director of the International Department of Kobe City Mr. Takaaki Matsuda, President of Hyogo Prefecture Ikebana Association Mr. Kosho Nakayama, and I.I. International President Nobuko Usui, honored the ceremony with congratulatory addresses. Silent prayer was given for the deceased. We missed old familiar faces watching DVD of Kobe Chapter's 40 years' history.

After a 10-minute break, a performance of the Chinese *pipa* by Ms. Yan Jie started the banquet. Ms. Kosen Naruse, Iemoto of the Chiko School, made a toast to wish a bright future for Ikebana International. During lunch we enjoyed a jazz performance by The Woodstock. At the end of the party, attendees danced hand in hand making one big circle and felt united by the motto Friendship through Flowers.



## Exhibition in the Museum of Nature

Ryoko Itabashi performing in the Tsugaru shamisen style

Ottawa Centennial #120 Canada



120 Ottawa Centennial

Momentum was felt on March 19, 2014, during the Opening Ceremonies of our Annual Exhibition at the Canadian Museum of Nature (March 19–23, 2014). The Japanese Embassy kindly provided the services of Ms. Ryoko Itabashi, a talented musician, who performed in the Tsugaru shamisen style for the official party and our guests; her performance was outstanding! After the official speeches, chapter President Marie-Eve Coupal, Exhibition Chair Wendy Batson, and Exhibition Co-Chair Anne Breau invited Keiko Okuda, wife of Japanese Ambassador Norihiro Okuda, to preside over the floral garland-cutting declaring the official opening of the exhibition. The guests were then encouraged to view the 38 arrangements (23 from Sogetsu and 15 from Ohara), which reflected this year's theme of Momentum. Mr. Mitsugi Kikuchi, Sub-Grand Master (Ottawa) assisted by Wendy Batson gave an Ohara demonstration on March 22. Lenora Duffield gave a Sogetsu demonstration on March 23. Past history has shown that these demonstrations are important because they help in attracting new students to both schools. We were thrilled to have 4,661 people walk through the exhibition during this event.

## Star Festival Celebrations

Nagoya #100 Japan

100 Nagoya

On July 7, 2014, Nagoya Chapter held its annual Star Festival (Tanabata) event at the ANA Crown Plaza Hotel. Chapter members present wrote their wishes on *tanzaku* poetry slips and decorated bamboo stalks with them. Many members and foreign students participated, and the consul general of China was an honored guest. Before lunch, on the stage a No drama dance and flute were beautifully performed. We all had a wonderful time at the Star Festival event.

## Botanical Garden Workshop

Sarasota #115 USA

115 Sarasota

On April 2, 2014, Sarasota Chapter held an Introductory Ikebana Workshop at Selby Botanical Gardens.

Pat Bonarek, Sogetsu teacher, assisted by Adrienne Wagner, conducted this workshop, demonstrating both moribana and nageire style arrangements.

On April 15, 2014, Selby Botanical Gardens honored its many valued volunteers at a special Under the Banyan volunteer dinner for more than 200 guests. As the evening grew dark, an unexpected guest arrived, proud mother of two owlets.

110 Johannesburg

## Ikebana Cultural Day

Johannesburg #110 South Africa

The Embassy of Japan organized cultural day featuring Ikebana and bonsai in Japan Week from March 26 to 30. Victor Reed (Ichiyo) and Gisela Rotmann (Sogetsu) demonstrated.

147 Tacoma-Olympia

## Annual Flower Show

Tacoma-Olympia #147 USA

Tacoma-Olympia Chapter's Annual Flower Show took place May 2–4, 2014, at Lakewold Gardens, Lakewood, Washington. Our members displayed over 25 arrangements highlighting Ikebana schools of Ikenobo, Sogetsu, Ichiyo, Asakusa Enshu, and Ohara. Members were in attendance to answer questions and explain the art of Ikebana to visitors. The garden setting was ablaze with spring flowering trees and shrubs. Many varieties of rhododendron were in full bloom in glorious colors, and the weather was sunny. It was a truly lovely time to attend Lakewold Gardens, and our chapter was pleased to offer the public this opportunity to learn more about Ikebana.

 Ikebana Gallery



Pictures from Santiago Chapter, Flower and Autumn Festival



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