

We will remember you...

Remembering Ms. Taniguchi Noriko
We mourn the sad demise of Ms. Taniguchi Noriko, former Pres. of Argentine Chapter of the Ohara School. Born in Japan in 1944, she spent her early childhood in a rural environment close to nature. As a teenager her family emigrated to a nearby town in Misiones, 1000 kms away from Buenos Aires,



Ms. Taniguchi Noriko

Argentina's capital city, again surrounded by nature. As a young adult, she chose to look for other life options. Once in Buenos Aires, she studied and worked until retirement. She then found in ikebana a realm to channel the aesthetics of natures' beauty. She has been our leading ikebana instructor for several years running, she shared her passion and enthusiasm, participating in a large number of demonstrations and exhibitions, travelling largely and attending NAOTA Conferences all over. A member of Ikebana International Buenos Aires Chapter too. A dear Ikebana friend and teacher.

*Contributed by Ms Leticia Tanoue, Pres. of Argentine Chapter

Remembering Katsuko Fujikado Lee
Katsuko Fujikado Lee's passing leaves us with great sadness: all of us in the Ohara School who had the privilege of knowing her admired her devotion to Ikebana. Indeed, it was contagious. I fondly remember her art and talent from so many occasions of working together. We spent many hours and shared many notes as Ohara students while both of us took Mr. Tomita Mutsuo's Seminars in New York City. And who can forget her wonderful weekly arrangements in the Japanese Embassy in Washington D.C. that she often shared with all of us? She is deeply missed.



Ms. Katsuko Fujikado Lee

*Contributed by Ms Ingrid Lüders, Pres. of NAOTA

Remembering TOMITA Mutsuo
We mourn the loss of our beloved Sensei, Tomita Mutsuo, who passed away on March 5, 2019. Mr. Tomita, as he was known to us, was the director of the Ohara School of Ikebana, New York Center. In that capacity, he conducted classes on a regular basis in New York City. In addition, biannual intensive seminars were held in New



Mr. Tomita Mutsuo

York, and attracted his most gifted students from far and wide. During his tenure as director, Mr. Tomita also helped establish more than twenty-eight Ohara School chapters throughout North America and the Caribbean. He traveled widely and often, giving workshops and demonstrations to various chapters for the Ohara School, as well as Ikebana International. When visiting professors from Ohara School arrived, Mr. Tomita served as host, as well as assisting in their demonstrations. He traveled with Third Headmaster Houn Ohara throughout North and South America. Until his retirement in 1995, Mr. Tomita devoted his life to furthering the pursuit of Ikebana within the Ohara School. In 2010, Mr. Tomita received the Award of Honor (Meiyo Ichijikin), at which time his name was written on the Memorial Stone at the Ohara School Headquarters in Kobe, Japan (note: the Kobe Headquarters has been closed by now, however, the stone sits at the same place).

Mr. Tomita was a beloved teacher to hundreds of students during his long career. His expectations were exacting, but criticism always came with a healthy dose of humor. He was a lover of all things beautiful: nature, opera and fine food. He will be sorely missed by his adoring students and friends.

*Contributed by Ms Bobry Rita, a longtime student and close family friend of Mr. Tomita

2019-2020

The Ohara Newsletter

Ohara Center of Tokyo

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Headmaster Ohara Hiroki

Headmaster Ohara Hiroki's Message

Greetings to Ohara School members across the world,

As you know, the outbreak of the novel coronavirus is instilling fear and causing disruption everywhere. My thoughts are with those of you who are affected, especially those who reside in regions where the impact has been severe. In Japan, the virus is spreading quickly too, and the Ohara School in Japan has had to cancel many exhibitions and seminars. Unfortunately, this includes the Master's Seminar which was scheduled to take place at the end of March. I sincerely hope that the virus will come under control soon and normalcy will be restored to everyone's lives.

Infectious diseases have always posed a threat to humankind, sometimes altering the course of history. The novel coronavirus that we are confronting today seems to have impacted the world in an especially short period of time. This reflects the times in which we live. With advanced modes of transportation, we are able to move from one place to another quickly with relative ease. Together with this, the rapidness with which information travels has also played a large part in compounding fear and uncertainty.

At times like this, it is vital to remain calm and objective. It's important to ascertain whether or not what we are hearing is valid, or just a rumor, and to act according to facts and evidence, not fear.

Ikebana is about respecting the life of a flower or plant and creating something beautiful with it. Everybody can find beauty in ikebana, which can help to ease anxiety. I believe that the ikebana of the Ohara School can provide solace and hope during these uncertain times. I hope you will always remember the positive power of ikebana, and continue to share ikebana with those around you.

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小原宏貴

Ohara Hiroki
Headmaster

Headmaster's International Activities in 2019

Ikebana International (I.I.) Kyoto Chapter's New Year Meeting

January 22: Headmaster's demonstration was before the unprecedentedly largest audience in the chapter's history. He was assisted by Council of Ohara Professors (C.O.P.) Assist. Profs. Yokoyama Horei and Yamaguchi Kafu at the Kyoto Brighton Hotel. With a wish for the year of progress, he arranged five large arrangements. The arrangements, combined with the gala-dressed attendees, produced a brilliant atmosphere for the New Year Meeting.



Headmaster's arrangements displayed on the stage

The Japonismes 2018 in Paris, France

January 27-February 4: The Headmasters and Headmistresses of five leading ikebana schools (Ohara, Ikenobo, Sogetsu, Misho and Ichiyo) jointly participated in the ikebana event for the grand finale of the Japonismes 2018 at Maison de la Culture du Japon à Paris. Headmaster not only exhibited arrangements and hosted workshops but also attended the symposium with Assist. Profs. Hirota Satoshi and Matsuura Yoshinori as his assistants. The ikebana event was enthusiastically received. The attendees said that it was very rare for such many Headmasters and Headmistresses to be on the same stage together in Paris.



Headmaster's large-scaled arrangement



The symposium in progress

The EOTA Seminar in La Rochelle, France

March 29-April 15: Headmaster, accompanied by Assist. Prof. Oyamada Hozuki, took part in the EOTA (European Ohara Teachers Association) Seminar hosted by the La Rochelle Chapter. During the two-week seminar, 50 European teachers attended each of the workshops and demonstrations in the first and second session. Headmaster gave a lecture in English by himself and also enjoyed mingling with the members of EOTA. The attendees expressed that it was a good seminar and they could feel very close to the Headmaster.



Headmaster correcting an attendee's arrangement

Headmaster giving a lecture with Assist. Prof. Oyamada

I.I. Tokyo Founding Chapter (TFC) June Luncheon Meeting

June 10: Headmaster conducted a demonstration at the I.I. TFC June Luncheon Meeting with the honor of the presence of HIH Princess Takamado. He created four large-scaled compositions which would bring the 400 attendees early-summer breezes.



Headmaster conducting a demonstration

I.I. Fair

December 17: The I.I. Fair is the annual exhibition of the arrangements by Headmasters and Headmistresses of different ikebana schools hosted by the I.I. TFC. Headmaster exhibited a large-scaled composition and also attended the entertainment programs with Honorary Pres. of I.I. HIH Princess Takamado and wives of ambassadors at the fair in the Royal Park Hotel.



Headmaster explaining about his arrangement to HIH Princess Takamado

Sending Masters abroad in 2019

*for details and photos, please refer to Chapter/Study Group's reports or Headmaster's International Activities in 2019

Xiamen Huajian Qingyou Chapter's Exhibition in China

February 26-March 3: Prof. Suzuki Sachiko and Assist. Prof. Suzuki Akane were sent to Xiamen, China to supervise the Xiamen Huajian Qingyou Chapter's founding commemoration exhibition, jointly hosted by the Hangzhou Chapter. The exhibition attracted a lot of attention and was well reported by the press.



Prof. Suzuki, Assist. Prof. Suzuki, the Xiamen Huajian Qingyou Chapter Pres. Ms. Lian Qinglian (right), and the Hangzhou Chapter Pres. Ms. Deng Feng (left).

The exhibition was successful with many visitors

Workshops for Tainan Chapter

April 17-22: Assist. Prof. Hirota Satoshi was sent to the Tainan Chapter, Taiwan to conduct workshops for the chapter members.



Assist. Prof. Hirota, the Chapter Founder Ms. Chofu Mikami (center), and the chapter members

Toronto Chapter's 45th Anniversary in Canada

May 21-29: Prof. Yokohigashi Hirokazu was sent to Toronto to conduct a demonstration and workshops as well as supervise the commemorating exhibition for the Toronto Chapter's 45th Anniversary celebration.



Prof. Yokohigashi correcting an attendee's arrangement

Workshops & Demonstration for Germany Ikebana Association

May 30-June 6: Assist. Prof. Hirota Satoshi was sent to Frankfurt to conduct a demonstration and workshops for the annual congress of Ikebana Bundesverband (lit. Association) in Germany.



Assist. Prof. Hirota conducting a demonstration

The 17th NAOTA (North American Ohara Teachers Association) Conference in Chicago, U.S.A.

Workshops for Chicago Chapter's 45th Anniversary
June 5-13: Prof. Kudo Ami (then Assoc. Prof.) conducted a demonstration and workshops for the NAOTA Conference for 50 attendees. At NAOTA's request, the workshop was characterized by Hosun Moribana, and the attendees learned a lot from her lecture. She also attended the Chicago Chapter's 45th Anniversary celebration for the commemorating workshops.



Prof. Kudo with NAOTA Pres. Ms. Ingrid Lüders (2nd from right) and Conference Chair Ms. E-Ling Lou (2nd from left) in front of her arrangement

The attendees creating an assigned arrangement in workshop

The International Horticultural Exposition 2019, Beijing in China

July 3-7: Assist. Prof. Shoka Hitomi exhibited a large-scaled Landscape Moribana arrangement at the AIPH (International Association of Horticultural Producers) A1-class Exposition in Beijing, sponsored by the Japanese Government. Throughout a six-week Ohara School's round, Ohara members in Beijing offered their full support to take good care of the exhibited arrangement. Assist. Prof. Shoka also offered a mini-demonstration before an audience in the Japan pavilion.



Assist. Prof. Shoka with supporting members: Beijing Hua Yun Chapter Pres. Ms. Huang Xuemei (front row, 2nd from right) and Beijing Hua Jian Chapter Pres. Ms. Ye Linqing (first row, 2nd from left)

Assist. Prof. Shoka offering a demonstration

Workshops for Yvelines Bords de Seine Study Group, La Rochelle Chapter in France and Switzerland Chapter

August 1-21: Assist. Prof. Hirota Satoshi was sent to France and Switzerland to offer workshops for the Yvelines Bords de Seine Chapter, La Rochelle Chapter and the Switzerland Chapter.



Assist. Prof. Hirota, the Yvelines Bords de Seine Chapter Pres. Ms. Kato Ikuko (first row, left) and the attendees of the chapter workshop



Assist. Prof. Hirota giving a lecture at workshop



Assist. Prof. Hirota, the Switzerland Chapter Pres. Mr. René Mutti (right) and the attendees of the chapter workshop

Workshops & Demonstration for Bangalore Chapter's 30th Anniversary in India

September 21-28: Assoc. Prof. Tochimura Mamiko assisted by Assist. Prof. Matsuki Hiroko conducted a demonstration and workshops for the 30th Anniversary of the Bangalore Chapter at the auditorium in the Bangalore International Centre.



Assoc. Prof. Tochimura conducting a demonstration

Workshops for Southeastern U.S. Chapter Demonstration for I.I. New York Chapter

September 21-30: Assoc. Prof. Nishi Akihiro conducted workshops for the Southeastern U.S. Chapter and a demonstration for members of the I.I. New York Chapter at the Nippon Club, Manhattan, New York.

The 5th Workshop for Instructors in Beijing, China
 October 9-15: Prof. Suzuki Sachiko, Assoc. Prof. Miyahara Naomi and Assist. Prof. Suzuki Akane conducted a three-day workshop for instructors in China at the 5Lmeet China World Apartment Hotel in Beijing. Most of the participants practiced *Morimono* for the first-time and said that it was a valuable experience.



Prof. Suzuki correcting an attendee's arrangement



Assoc. Prof. Miyahara correcting an attendee's arrangement



Assist. Prof. Suzuki correcting an attendee's arrangement

**Workshops for Jordan Chapter
 Demonstration for I.I. Jordan Chapter**

November 26-December 3: Assist. Prof. Oyamada Hozuki gave workshops for members of the Jordan Chapter and also conducted a demonstration for the Christmas program of the I.I. Jordan Chapter.

International activities in Japan in 2019

Ikebana Lecture for Diplomat Trainees

November 18: Prof. Kawakami Hiroyuki (then Assoc. Prof.) gave a demonstration and lecture to 160 diplomat candidates of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs assisted by Assist. Prof. Nomura Yoshie.



Prof. Kawakami giving a lecture-demonstration

The 4th Workshop for Instructors in China, in Osaka

April: Prof. Iwata Kasen, Assoc. Prof. Hiraide Kimiho and Assist. Prof. Kagami Moeno conducted a three-day intensive workshop for 57 instructors in China at the Kenshu Kaikan in Osaka. The participants mainly practiced the Traditional Method in Landscape Moribana (*Shakei Moribana Yoshiki-hon-i*) Spring and Early Spring Arrangements.



Prof. Iwata correcting an attendee's arrangement



Assoc. Prof. Hiraide correcting an attendee's arrangement



Assist. Prof. Kagami correcting an attendee's arrangement

I.I. TFC November Monthly Meeting

November 14: Assoc. Prof. Chiji Masakazu (then Assist. Prof.) conducted a demonstration for the I.I. TFC November Monthly Meeting. For the finale of his demonstration, the image video of the water stream in nature was reflected on the Landscape Moribana Arrangement, which depicted a fantastic atmosphere.



Assoc. Prof. Chiji conducting a demonstration



Completed arrangement with a reflection of clear water stream

Welcome New Faces!

We are pleased to inform you of the new Chapters and Study Groups.
 (See the Chapter and Study Group report for their activities)
 *as of January 1, 2020

<New Chapter>

China: Hangzhou Qiantang Chapter, Dalian Huaihua Chapter, Beijing Song Feng Xue Hui Chapter, Shenzhen Huazhao Chapter, Beijing Hua Yun Chapter, Shandong Jiquan Chapter, Shanghai Yuchang Chapter

U.S.A.: Oregon Chapter

France: Yvelines Bords de Seine Chapter, France South Chapter, Provence Côte d'Azur Chapter

Germany: Frankfurt Furu Chapter

Korea: Seoul Chapter, Daegu Chapter

<New Study Group>

China: Wuhan Huahui Study Group, LanZhou Guo Se Tian Xiang Study Group, Shandong Jixia Study Group, ChongQing ShiJian Study Group, Chengdu Nianhuaqu Study Group, Qing Dao Kang Cheng Study Group, Suzhou Hanami Study Group, Ningbo Jingshang Study Group

France: Lyon Kiku Study Group

Chapter and Study Group Reports in 2019

Antilles Guyane Chapter

April: Members participated in the La Rochelle EOTA Seminar and were happy to study with Iemoto Ohara Hiroki, assisted by Assist. Prof. Oyamada. Everyone was able to appreciate the great professionalism of the teachers.

June: Pres. Simone Ryuwa Gruel held a four-day seminar for Madinina Ikebana Association in Martinique with 60 participants from beginner to master. It was followed by a large exhibition, "Fleurs et Effluves," organized in the museum of the St. James Distillery in Martinique. The exhibition was visited by 2000 visitors over five days. People appreciated the different styles of arrangements placed among the copper stills, barrels of rum and the entire history of this distillery. It was magical. The copper glow of the stills gave an enchanting light to the arrangements and the evening.

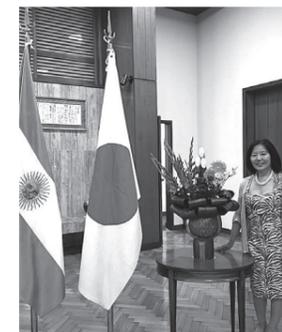


Antilles-Guyane Chapter members with Iemoto Ohara Hiroki and Assist. Prof. Oyamada

October: It was a great joy to study with Grandmaster Annik Howa Gendrot in the aquatic plants garden at Le Temple sur Lot. Also in Guadeloupe the third, "Terra Sylva" was held – a major exhibition for all art lovers of Ikebana, bonsai, floral design, painters, sculptors.

Argentine Chapter

A full activity program keeps our small chapter busy all year round from March to mid-December. Weekly Ikebana lessons in downtown Buenos Aires and other near-by locations. Ohara Ikebana demonstrations and exhibitions in various venues and cultural events such as: Orchids in Art, Japan in José C. Paz, Japan Arts & Culture, Ikebana for Children (5th. Annual workshop – winter holiday activity), 6th. Bunkasai at Raspanti Institute, Nipponmania at Nichia Gakuin, Ikebana arrangements at the Japanese Embassy and for the main exhibition hall at the Buenos Aires Japanese Garden. Ikebana International Chapter #40 activities including Ohara Ikebana arrangements at several conferences and at the annual Exhibition. With two highlights: special arrangement in memory of late Ms. Taniguchi Noriko and we are proud to share information about Diploma of Merit granted by the Japanese Government to Ohara Chapter in Buenos Aires. In February 2019, Japanese Ambassador in Buenos Aires, Mr. Fukushima Noriteru, convened a number of Japanese culture related institutions and we were given the Emperor's recognition for our work in Argentina.



L. to R., Ms. Susana Pollicelli (Ohara Chapter Director), Ms. Leticia Tanoue (Chapter Pres.), Ms. Kaneko Natsue (Japanese Embassy Cultural Attachée in Argentina).

Arizona Chapter

Arizona Chapter held monthly morning workshops and afternoon classes at the Tucson Botanical Garden (TBG). Mornings emphasize learning and experience practicing past lessons. Members bring containers and floral-branch material to make self-selected Ohara Ikebana arrangements. Master teachers provide afternoon classes for all levels. Coordinating with TBG, fall and spring beginning classes are taught to encourage membership and the joy of Ohara

Ikebana. Additional activities included exhibitions for two Yume Japanese Garden Festivals, fall and spring garden parties, and as models of Ikebana artistry two-day workshops with Satsuki Palter (November) & Ingrid Luders (April). The Annual General Meeting with a luncheon was held on the TBG Xeriscape Outdoor Patio with lunch provided by the 'Gallery of Food' through Cafe Botanica. Besides chapter business, we celebrated member accomplishments with certificates during the annual meeting.



Garden Party Nov 2019

Bangalore Chapter

January: A visit to Madhavi Organics and Aquaponic Farm, which is the first farm in India to set up this, innovative new age, ground-breaking agri-technology.

June: It was a workshop on 'Organic Terrace Gardening' by a leading urban farming company, My Dream Garden.

August: Our members displayed "Rainy Season." arrangements.

September: This was the highlight of the whole year's activities. We were fortunate to have COP Assoc. Prof. Tochimura Mamiko and Assist. Prof. Matsuki Hiroko from Japan. We had a two-day workshop for Beginners to 2nd Masters' level. Participants from Bombay, Hyderabad and Delhi Chapters took part in this very educational event which all participants thoroughly enjoyed. This was followed by a spectacular demonstration by the professors.

Mr. Maruo Katsumasa, the Deputy Consul General of Japan in Bangalore attended.



(L-R) Assist. Prof. Matsuki Hiroko, Assoc. Prof. Tochimura Mamiko, Honored Guest Mr. Maruo Katsumasa, Shyamala Ganesh, and Mallika Rai

Beijing Hua Jian Chapter

June: A show in Joy City was organized for our first chapter anniversary, "Endless Summer," in a stylish Beijing department store. The show exhibited over 50 student works with seasonal flowers like hydrangeas and water lilies. We decorated Lady M, a high-end dessert brand from New York, with Hana-isho styles. Our teachers held four public workshops during the show of Ohara Ikebana.

We also organized two trips for instructors to attend lectures at the Tokyo headquarters. So far, members from our chapter have opened up 17 classrooms all around China. To refine the skills of our students we held seven seminars around the year each on one specific style. Two corporate events were held. We were the exclusive floral arrangement partner for Mr. Araki Nobuyoshi's first flower-themed photography show in Beijing. Our chapter has actively volunteered in headquarters' activities in Beijing, such as the instructor seminar in October and the exhibition of Ohara School at Expo 2019.



Hana-isho decoration in "Endless Summer" flower show

Beijing Hua Yun Chapter

The Ohara School participated in a two-month long Ikebana event in the Japanese Pavilion of the Beijing International Horticultural Exhibition. Assist. Prof. Shoka Hitomi led the installation of a Far-view Landscape Moribana with assistance from our chapter and the Huajian Chapter. "The Winds of Summer" represented a fresh mountain valley where the orchids bloom silently—scant exposed water and specific branches were used to represent the perspective of a distant mountain landscape. The two-month exhibition was the longest in history for Ohara Ikebana exhibitions. Our chapter led the maintenance work in the hottest part of the summer and it was not easy. However, 14 maintenance trips gave us not only more experience, but also creative courage and confidence. We much appreciate the trust of the Headquarters. Thanks very much to Prof. Kudo Ami for the advice and re-install work, and thanks to all volunteers in the production period. We were happy to hear that the Japanese pavilion won the Grand Award in the exhibition's International Group.



Belgian Chapter

June: An Ikebana seminar was held in the southern Belgium village of Falaen. We rented a cottage surrounded by nature giving us the opportunity to cut beautiful materials in the surroundings. Every day, meals were prepared by the participants which made a pleasant atmosphere in which we had time to discuss the arrangements of the day. Greta Vervoort and Gisela Leuther from Germany led six workshops with 14 people. *September:* Retired Assist. Prof. Ishibashi Yoshiko led the autumn seminar for 26 attendees in Hotel Corsendonk Sol Cress Spa. The materials, as well as, the professional explanations demonstrations and corrections by her were highly appreciated. *December:* At the request of the Botanic Garden Workshop board we organized a beginners' course for members in the Meise Botanic Garden.



Bergamo Chapter

It was a very productive year. The Beginners' Course was taught by our new teacher Giovanni Marziali, while Pres. Elena Kikoh Salvi teaches the advanced courses. With the new members of the association we have participated in flowers fairs and events in our area, reaching the interest of many people. *June:* We hosted an international seminar dedicated to bamboo with Grandmaster Rene Mutti and students from various places in Italy and Europe. We learned how to work with this noble plant and how to create very interesting arrangements and sculptures.



International seminar 2019

Bombay Chapter

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Bombay Chapter, members brought out an Ikebana diary with 40 gorgeous Ohara Ikebana arrangements, depicting the talent and creativity of its members. The diary, with unique and impressive arrangements, is a memento of the Chapter's 50 glorious years. Bombay Chapter has organized a grand exhibition in March 2020 to celebrate its 50 glorious years. 41 students qualified for the Ohara Exam in 2019. This including high diploma's too.

Chicago Chapter

March: we had our annual New Year party at a member's residence. *June:* Our chapter's 45th anniversary was celebrated with honored guests Prof. Kudo Ami (then Assoc. Prof.) and Grandmaster Ingrid Luders at our anniversary dinner at the Arrowhead Golf Club. *November:* The fall activity was origami and Morimono. Everyone enjoyed the whole day program and we were glad to have some new students.



Prof. Kudo Ami and Ingrid Luders (center)

Dalian Huaihua Chapter

October: We received approval to establish our chapter. We are committed to disseminate the art of the Ohara School and standardized teaching according to Headquarters' requirements. We have 148 members registered as of now with 78 certificates applied for this year. *May:* We held the Dalian Ikebana show, "Meeting the Blooming Flowers." More than 80 people participated in the creation of 100 Ikebana works and it attracted tens of thousands of viewers. We invited Retired Assist. Prof. Ishibashi Yoshiko and Retired Assist. Prof. Yokokawa Ikuko for on-site guidance. *April 2019:* Members attended the Tokyo Chapter Exhibition and workshop led by Retired Assist. Prof. Ishibashi Yoshiko. *September 2019:* For four years we have lectured and taught students of Dalian Maritime University. We have been invited by the famous art museum, Dayun Library Art Museum in Dalian to have Ohara School arrangements exhibited all year round.



The Dalian exhibition, "Meeting the Blooming Flowers."

Delaware Valley Chapter

March: Several members exhibited at the Philadelphia Flower Show, which draws thousands of visitors. *April:* Our exhibition was held at the Scott Arboretum, Swarthmore College as part of the arboretum's "Sakura Matsuri" celebration during Philadelphia's annual Subaru Cherry Blossom Festival. Lessons and tours were given by Ohara instructors. *June:* For four weekends with I.I. Chapter #71's summer tradition we installed arrangements at the Shofuso (Japanese House). *September:* We participated in the Shofuso Exhibition. *October:* We exhibited for Autumn I.I. Chapter #71 at Longwood Gardens during "Blooms and Bamboo." *September:* First Term Master José Salcedo, led I.I.'s Chapter #71 annual Demonstration and Luncheon event. Two Ohara workshops were held, both filled to capacity. *December:* Several members participated in Art in Bloom in a new collaboration between I.I. Chapter #71 and the Delaware Museum of Contemporary Art.

Delhi Chapter

February: Kobayashi Noriko-sensei came all the way from Tokyo to give our members a week of workshops where we reviewed all of the styles. *December:* Our Ikebana exhibition of 50 arrangements was titled "Splendour in the Vase." It was inaugurated by Mrs. Suzuki Chikage, wife of the Ambassador of Japan. Members certainly showcased their creativity and talent. Besides these two important events, we had several Ikebana demonstrations, workshops, and fun-filled lunches. We also won several trophies when we participated in shows like the Rose Show and Kitchen Garden Show.



Members of the Delhi Chapter of Ikebana with Mrs. Suzuki Chikage, spouse of the Ambassador of Japan

England Chapter

February: We enjoyed the workshop with Iemoto Ohara Hiroki when he visited Paris. Shoko Holness, Takahashi Hiromi, and Kojima Ruriko attended his Bunjin workshop. *May:* We had great success at our exhibition with a demonstration by Shoko Holness, Jeddi Bassan, and Kojima Ruriko. *September:* Shoko Holness, Jeddi Bassan & Kojima Ruriko were invited to do demonstrations with I.I. London Chapter which were well appreciated. *November:* Retired Assist. Prof. Ishibashi's seminar was attended by 15 people. She also demonstrated and taught a



group of 22 architects and designers with great success at Ocee Design International in London. We attended the "Hyper Japan Festival 2019" twice with our exhibitors Jeddi Bassan, Toshiko Bradley, Shoko Holness, Chifumi Orgler, and Kojima Ruriko. And sadly this year, former VP Reiko Castles passed away. Our chapter provided the flowers at her funeral. We will all remember her forever.

France Chapter

January and February: Participation in "Japonismes 2018," in Paris was our high point, in particular the days devoted to the Ohara Ikebana exhibition, workshops, symposium organized as part of the House of Culture of Japan. Pres. Marcel Vrignaud actively contributed to the preparation of the compositions made by Iemoto supplying him with flower material, containers and accessories. In exceptional circumstances, Iemoto has agreed to devote an entire day to two workshops in the studio of the France Chapter in Paris, on February 1st. In the morning the theme "Moribana Color Scheme" was taught to nine students of the Paris Chapter, 11 students of the Bords de Seine Study Group and eight students of the France Chapter. The afternoon, the theme "Bunjin Bana" was taught to ten students of the Ohara Paris Chapter, 18 European members and chapter presidents from Belgium, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, and Spain.



France South Chapter

February: The most important events were in Paris, "Colloque at Maison Culture of Japon" and Headmaster's master class. *March:* A samisen concert inaugurated an exhibition of 15 Ikebana arrangements each paired with a Japanese sumi-e painter. *April:* We had the 5th spring matsuri with a new association for promotion of the Japanese Arts. Also, an exposition was held by our group for the Thales Alenia Space Company and as well, a demonstration for a multicultural association in Roquette near Toulouse. *May:* An exposition and demonstration was held at the Fédération Française du Bonsai at the national congress and EBA (European Bonsai Association) at Albi. *August:* A lecture and small exhibition was given for Japan Natsu festival events at at Labege conference center near Toulouse. *September:* Retired Assist. Prof. Ishibashi led a 4-day seminar to perfect the knowledge of plants and Ikebana for ten students of the Belgium Chapter in Puy Leveque.



Retired Assist. Prof. Ishibashi in Belgium

Frankfurt-Main Chapter

January and March: Seminars were held by Pres. Inge Lehnert. Fascinating materials were used to arrange expressive Basic and Free Style Arrangements. *April:* Chapter members gratefully attended the EOTA

seminar in La Rochelle led by Fifth Headmaster Ohara Hiroki, a uniquely enriching experience that deepened the knowledge of Ohara Ikebana and the Ohara School.
May: An exhibition in the Castle of Koblenz was very successful and visited by a large number of people. Later, chapter members led workshops and presented Ohara Ikebana during *Ikebana-Bundesverband* at Naurod. Assist. Prof. Hirota's demonstration and two-day seminar as a part of the conference were well attended.
August: 10 chapter members created arrangements at the Ikebana exhibition during the Heilbronn 'Bundesgartenschau' which were well appreciated by visitors.
November: A two-day seminar at Vallendar led by Pres. Lehnert, on "Chrysanthemum." completed the chapter activities in 2019.



November seminar with Pres. Inge Lehnert (third from right) and participants

Frankfurt Furu Chapter

March-April: We started this year as a Study Group and organized a special *Hanami* (cherry blossom viewing) tour to Japan. Our members very much enjoyed this special encounter with the original country of Ikebana and a lesson at Ohara School of Ikebana.
May-June: We participated in our annual seminar of all German Ikebana chapters and gave a workshop about the tradition of the "Iris in the Ohara-School." The Traditional Method in Landscape Moribana, The Traditional Method in Color Scheme Moribana and Rimpa-cho were arranged by our participants. Some of our students had the chance to participate in a 2-day workshop with Assist. Prof. Hirota Satoshi after his demonstration at our seminar.
July: We organized a lotus and water plants seminar in southern Germany as a special chance to work with this extraordinary material which is not available anywhere else in Germany.
August: We were appointed the Frankfurt Furu Chapter. During the rest of the year we continued to work on the qualification of our students.



Seminar workshop participants with Sabine Dechant, Pres. Regina Oberndorfer and Linda Koller in the middle.

Greek Chapter

October-June: Pres. Barczyk organized two-three seminars monthly for students of three levels.
November: The Japanese Embassy invited Pres. Barczyk to arrange at the Emperor's birthday reception.
February: At the New Year celebration, we were honored by Japanese Amb. and Mrs. Shimizu, Deputy Chief Consular

Ida, Cultural Attaché Shintani, and Amb. Vassis. Mrs. Shimizu Yoshimi was named Honorary Pres. of the Chapter.
March: Pres. Agrios invited Pres. Barczyk to offer a lecture and Ikebana arrangements at the New York College Japan Festival.
May: We are delighted to announce the Medal of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays was awarded by His Majesty, the Emperor of Japan to Pres. Joanna Barczyk at Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center.
 Under the auspices of Japanese Embassy, we organized an Ikebana exhibition and lecture, "Tawaraya Sotatsu and Ogata Korin, two Painters of the Rimpa School" by Dr. S.Papalexandro-poulos for the 120th anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation signed by Japan and Greece in 1899.
June: Japanese Amb. Shimizu presented a tea ceremony at the Tatoi Club. Pres. Barczyk was invited to arrange a *chabana* arrangement.



Mr. and Mrs. Shimizu with of Greek Chapter Pres. Joanna Barczyk



Honorary Chapter Pres. Shimizu Yoshimi

Guangzhou Chapter

In 2019, with the efforts of Pres. Ling Yang and all members of the Council, Guangzhou Chapter continued organizing different types of learning and public activities to promote Ohara Ikebana in China.
May: Pres. Ling Yang gave an open lectures and demonstrations in Guiyang to the public. Vice Pres. Xiaoye Li and Yan Chen performed the buddhist floral offering or *kuge* with students at the Wanfu Temple in Fujian.
 Pres. Ling Yan, with students assisted the Fushan Yanzou classroom to host an Ohara Ikebana flower exhibition to promote Ikebana.
September: We supported the Foshan Yanzou classroom to organize an Ohara Ikebana exhibition entitled "Visiting Painting Through Flowers" to demonstrate the ancient lifestyle of literati, or *Bunjin*.
October: We participated in the Guangzhou International Floral Art Exhibition with work designed and crafted by Pres. Yang and over 20 students. It was over four meters long and received the Floral Art Exhibition Award.



Hangzhou Chapter

March: We and Xiamen Elegant Flowers Chapter with Prof. Suzuki Sachiko jointly organized the flower exhibition of "Huajian Qingyou" (Strolling among Flowers) in Xiamen. This exhibition gathered nine other chapters and study groups from all over the country, with 100 Ikebana students displaying 120 works. During the Flower Exhibition, different activities were held including member workshops and trial lessons. The exhibition attracted lots of attention from different parts of the country. The Vice Mayor of Xiamen City came to visit the exhibition and gave high praise to the works.



Hangzhou Qiantang Chapter

March: We participated in the annual I.I. Shanghai Chapter's Ikebana exhibition and demonstration at the Shanghai Botanic Garden. Our members exhibited six Ohara arrangements.
 VP Ji Jianming, I.I. Shanghai Pres. Zhang Xinhong, and I.I. Shanghai Honorary Advisor Ms. Lily Zhang, jointly cut the ribbon for the exhibition. During the two days 40 thousand visitors came.
October-November: Shanghai was colorful at this gorgeous and fruitful season, we were invited to demonstrate Ohara iconic style—Landscape Moribana (*Shakei*) at East China University, Meilong Campus. Pres. Xiaolan Pu used grape vines, chrysanthemums, club moss, and cypress to create a classical Ohara Landscape Moribana describing the idyllic scenery of picking chrysanthemum under a fence while viewing the south mountain. After the demonstration, faculty, ECUST students, and Ikebana enthusiasts exchanged ideas and their understanding of the arrangement.



Demonstration in East China University of Science and Technology

Hangzhou ShuangQing Chapter

Wrapping up our year of 2019, we would say that our Chapter was putting our best effort in leading the students forward. Every month, ShuangQing Chapter holds seminars which their contents were in sync with the Tokyo Chapter, and we stayed in close contact with Tokyo Chapter. By the end of 2019, ShuangQing Chapter already has over 30 studios. We assure our quality of teaching; every student would need to pass both written and technical examination before proceeding to next stage of study. Up till now, the teaching quality of ShuangQing has outstanding reputation throughout China. In spring and summer, we invited Assoc. Prof. Chiji Masakazu (then Assist. Prof.) and Retired Assist. Prof. Kobayashi Senpo to China to hold training seminars, letting students experience the potential applications of seasonal flower materials. This helped a lot in constantly improving students' Ikebana skills. We also bring students to Japan for further training, and hold Ikebana-related seminars twice a week with Chapter Members. In November, we hold a extremely successful exhibition at JiuJiang City Cultural Center in LuShan, and started a trend of studying Ikebana in JiuJiang. In 2020, following the lead by Hiroki Iemoto, we will continue spreading Ohara Ikebana with our best effort.



Hauts de France Chapter

Regular lessons took place in different towns: Arras, Blenod les Pont-à-Mousson, Cambrai, Campigneulles-les-Grandes, Douai, Lac des Rouges Truites, Lens, Villeneuve d'Ascq, Marange-Silvange.
March: Exhibitions were organized in Abbaye de Vaucelles during the international orchid exhibition. And as well, demonstrations in Abbaye de Vaucelles and in Le Tholly during a QI Gong course and in Basse sur le Rupt.
May: To celebrate the new emperor Nahurito and the new "Reiwa" era, a cherry tree was planted near the town hall of Lac des Rouges Truites.
June: "Ikebana and Paint." Exhibition was in Lac des Rouges Truites.
July: Seminars took place in Stella plage Hauts de France, in St Dié des Vosges
October: Seminars took place in Blenod les Pont à Mousson We also took part in small exhibitions at the Village of Associations in Lens, festival of the Japanese school in Villeneuve d'Ascq, in Wattrelos koï show, and Christmas workshop at the Wattrelos Museum of Arts and Traditions.



Seminar in St Dié des Vosges

Honolulu Chapter

February: We opened the year with our Annual General Meeting and New Year's Luncheon at Natsunoya Teahouse. At this event, students who recently received their certificates exhibited their floral arrangements and gave a brief description of the Ohara technique they chose. Dr. Nancy Stalker, of Japanese Culture and Traditions, University of Hawaii, was our guest speaker. She shared her research on the role of Ikebana in constructing national and international identity of Japan in the twentieth century. At this event, members raised over \$600 for the Hawaii Food Bank. This enabled the Food Bank to fill their warehouse with non-perishable food to be distributed to local soup shops, rehabilitation shelters, and churches that help feed Hawaiian families in need. To promote the study of the different techniques used in Ohara flower arrangement, the Program Committee divided the activities into two parts: Community Service and Workshops.



Dr. Nancy Stalker sharing post-war role of Ikebana in reconstruction of Japan

Houston Chapter

April: Several members participated in a day-long exhibition at Houston's Japan Festival. The location for the exhibit was in a lovely garden pavilion overlooking the Centennial Green at Hermann Park. Each Ohara School participant created several arrangements showcasing the Ohara style. Our Pres. Sushila Mathew created a large piece that was a focal point of the exhibit. We had many visitors with lots of questions. The well-attended Japan Festival is always a perfect opportunity to showcase the Ohara School.



Pres. Sushila Mathew's display from Japan Festival 2019

October: Three of our members had a great learning experience at Demonstration Day of the 18th I.I. North and Central American Regional Conference. There were close to 100 member exhibits, a number of large displays, as well as four major demonstrations by masters of the various schools, including Ohara. The Conference inspired our members to come home and as the Headmaster has suggested, continue and grow in our dialogue with flowers.

Hyderabad Chapter

January: Hyderabad Chapter organized a fundraising program. "Festive Bonanza," There were stalls of various artists from different fields. One of the highlights of the whole day event was an ikebana demonstration every half hour by the members of the chapter.

March: We organized the annual ikebana exhibition, "Guru Samhitha" in memory of Founder Advisor Horyu Meena Anantnarayan.

August: Chapter masters Usha Bhagia, Raj Kumari Singh and Poonam Panwar received their respective Master's certificates. In a demonstration performed by the masters, three styles were demonstrated Hana-kanade, Hanamai and Bunjin.

October: On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanthi, members exhibited ikebana arrangements based on Gandhian themes. The three-day exhibition was open for public viewing. Members actively participated.



Annual Exhibition - "Guru Samhitha"

Jordan Chapter

March: Two morning workshops were conducted. *November:* We hosted Assist. Prof. Oyamada from Ohara Headquarters, who conducted workshops for 25 members. *December:* Assist. Prof. Oyamada conducted a demonstration at the Annual I.I. Christmas Luncheon. attended by Minister of Tourism Shweikeh, and Japanese Amb. and Mrs. Yanagi. The lunch was attended by 220 guests. It was a very successful activity.



Assist. Prof. Oyamada's Workshop at the St. Regis Hotel Nov 27 - Nov 30

La Jolla Chapter

Our 2019 began with a lovely seaside New Year's luncheon. We held a spring exhibition at the San Diego Botanic Garden, which included daily demonstrations by Yaeko Ohta, and moderated by Karen Morikawa. In the fall we held an exhibit at the Japanese Friendship Garden, showcasing materials of the season. Yaeko Ohta and Tina Wei, pictured with Prof. Kudo Ami (then Assoc. Prof.) at NAOTA, received promotions to Sub-Grand Master and Assoc. 2nd Term Master, respectively, while Chris Iwasa achieved 3rd Term Master. We took a summer field trip to a local museum for a docent led tour of Roland Reiss's exhibit "Unrepentant Flowers," followed by a luncheon celebrating Yaeko Ohta's promotion. Our member instructors conducted five informative and inspiring workshops throughout the year. In December we enjoyed our annual holiday potluck. The highlight of our year was hosting a workshop conducted by Grandmaster Ingrid Luders. It was a great learning experience for all.



Our chapter members with Grandmaster Ingrid Luders following two workshops she conducted.

La Rochelle Chapter

September 2018-June 2019: Regular courses (beginners, intermediate, advanced) took place twice a month in La Rochelle, Niort and Saintes. Throughout the year, Anne-Marie Morin also runs advanced training courses as well as a training group for teachers from various regions of France. *January:* We organized for a 15 person group for a guided visit of the Rinpa painting exhibition "The Treasures of Kyoto" at the Cernuschi Museum in Paris. *February:* Animation of an introductory lesson of ikebana for the neighborhood children, 10-12 years old. *April:* The La Rochelle Chapter was very strongly mobilized for the EOTA seminar led by Iemoto Ohara Hiroki, with Assist. Prof. Oyamada. The seminar was followed by a two and a half day workshop for the chapter members and students of the teachers. *August:* Assist. Prof. Hirota led two 3-day workshops of for 29 members of the chapter, Ekuko Yans did the translation.

Los Angeles Chapter

December: Grandmaster Shohara Hisako received The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, awarded by the Emperor of Japan for distinguished contribution to promoting Japanese culture. She traveled to Japan to receive the award.

January: We had a busy year as usual. We did a demonstration and a 25-day ikebana display in combination with Headmaster's *Novus Plants* photo exhibition at the Japan Foundation. We held a 3-week New Year exhibit, and gave a demonstration at I.I.'s New Year event.

March: We had a *katen* and mini-demonstration.

April: We led an I.I. workshop.

June: Ten members attended the NAOTA conference. And during the summer, we held an exhibit at the Nisei Week festival.

November: We had a demonstration and exhibition with 60 displays at the L.A. County Arboretum. There were also several small exhibitions and demonstrations for the community over the course of year.



L.A. board members at New Year's luncheon

Melbourne Chapter

March: We participated in the Melbourne International Flower Show (MIFS) 2019 - Royal Exhibition Centre, Carlton Gardens, Melbourne as part of I.I. Melbourne Chapter. Nakada-sensei prepared an arrangement with the theme "Green Bamboo and Autumn." The structure was put up by Nakada-sensei and a team of students using bamboo, chrysanthemums, Japanese maple and camelia leaves. The other schools that participated included Sogetsu, Ichiyo, Ikenobo, and Shogetsu Koryu. The I.I. team display won the bronze medal in floral arrangement.

May: Our annual Ohara exhibition was a window display in the District Docklands shopping center to celebrate the official opening of Uniqlo in Docklands as well as to celebrate the new Reiwa Era. For the display we chose the traditional flower cart using black pine and chrysanthemums as well as another large display using cymbidiums and black pine. The display attracted many visitors and was well received.



Milan Chapter

During the year courses continued at all levels with new beginner courses started. Our qualified teachers held presentations and workshops in flower shows and art galleries. Our past Pres. Maria Masera, held four special lessons for advanced levels and we organized conferences and presentations on various topics such as tea ceremony and feng shui.

May: We participated in the ikebana exhibition, "Ikebana: Nature Goes on Stage!" at the Piccolo Teatro Grassi in Milan. *June:* A workshop on Lake Como was held by M. Masera "The Flowers of the Man'yoshu, Poems and Light Feelings like Feathers."

September: We had three meetings in the Chiostro Piccolo Teatro Grassi entitled "Japanese Conversations" on topics of Japanese culture and ikebana.

November: We attended the ikebana exhibition at MUDEC, Museum of Cultures in Milan entitled "Shining Beauty: Paintings and Rinpa Ikebana" which was honored by the visit of the Japanese General Consul in Milan.



Como Lake Workshop

Monterey Bay Chapter

During 2019 we had our Annual General Meeting in January and monthly meetings.

May: A members' workshop was held and we all enjoyed the retreat.

July: During the well-attended Obon festival, we displayed arrangements and conducted demonstrations at the Seaside Buddhist Temple.

August: Minami Ikuko did a flower arrangement lesson at the new Rancho San Juan High School in Salinas. Students were able to enjoy the hands-on experience of arranging flowers as part of a Japanese culture lesson.

October: Ms. Minami and Yoshiko Saito-Abbott assisted by Atsuko Veio did a demonstration at the Cannery Row Cultural Festival in Monterey.

December: Finally, to wrap up the year, Ogura Rimiko also did a demonstration at the I.I. Monterey Bay Chapter, in Pebble Beach.



Montreal Chapter

Adrienne Doedel and Lynne Williams continue teaching classes to an enthusiastic group of Ohara School students and long-standing student Truus Roest-Chapman received her Associate Second Term Masters' Certificate. Ohara students arranged at the annual I.I. exhibition in the Japanese Pavilion of the Montreal Botanic Gardens. Members of the public are always most impressed by the variety and beauty of all the schools' arrangements. Ms. Williams attended the Chicago NAOTA Conference with workshops and demonstration by Prof. Kudo Ami (then Assoc. Prof.). Ms. Doedel and Ms. Williams held a demonstration during the summer for visitors to the Japanese Pavilion as part of I.I.'s ongoing activities with the Botanic Gardens.

Four members of the Montreal Chapter, attended the two-day workshop given by the distinguished French sensei Marcel Vrignaud to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Ottawa Chapter. Ms. Williams and Ms. Doedel helped to organize and prepare for one of the workshops.

Nanjing Jinling Chapter

Part I Synopsis: After two months of attentively preparation, and two days of serious creation, we held a flower show from December 11th to December 15th, 2019, this show was also the first anniversary for Nanjing Jinling Chapter of OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA. The theme of this flower show was "Thanksgiving at the end of the year", We want to thank you for everyone's love during the past one year and invite you to witness our results with us. The exhibition area showed off all arrangement type in the course, many of them was Bunjin Arrangement, this pattern was more popular among Chinese people because of our traditional culture. During the days of exhibition, there were some performances like the opening ceremony, Ikebana show of our teachers, performance of Chinese chin and tea. In course experience area, people can learn more about Ikebana culture, also, the first five people each day can create their own Ikebana arrangements. Finally, in course consultation area, we can answer the visitor's questions, so that, they would learn more details.



Netherlands Chapter

Chapter members continued their Ikebana study through workshops and lessons as well as organized four workshops in this year.

March: Bea Batelaan conducted a workshop on Hana-isho Hiraku using the principles of line, plane, and mass.

May: Noriko van Lit-Suzuki conducted a workshop with iris in Traditional Method Landscape Moribana (*Shakei-Moribana, Yoshiki hon-i*). Beginners made a summer arrangement and advanced-level made early summer arrangements.

June: A 1-day workshop for teachers was held with members bringing materials for Bunjin and *Shuko-bana* to be found in Kikyō 2018.

September: Pres. Conny van Dongen conducted a Heika workshop using characteristic green leaves, anthurium and dried mitsumata. Beginners made a Heika Slanting Style (*Keisha-kei*) and advanced-level members made Heika Free Style.

November: Pres. van Dongen and Ms. van Lit-Suzuki conducted a demonstration using flowers and branches from Japan before the ceremony for 14 members receiving certificates.



New York Area Chapter

The chapter has had a busy year reorganizing after the sad passing of Tomita Mutsuo, our inspirational leader for so many years.

June: We were fortunate to have Sub-grandmaster Matsuyama Hiroko come to New York to do a double workshop.

September: The chapter hosted a demonstration and luncheon at the Nippon Club in Manhattan with COP Assoc. Prof. Nishi Akihiro.

November: Our 2019 program offerings concluded with a workshop led by Saskia Eller, 2nd Term Master from Canandaigua, NY.

In addition, members exhibited arrangements at the Kitano Hotel, Nippon Club gallery and for an Ikebana luncheon event in the home of Mrs. Kawamura Miho, spouse of Amb. Kawamura Yasuhisa. Regular Ohara lessons are being offered at the Nippon Club by Marjorie DaVanzo and by Takahashi Asae at Resobox and Zenshowny in Manhattan. As a result of these workshops and classes we now have 13 new members!



Assoc. Prof. Nishi, the New York Area Chapter Pres. Ms. Takahashi Asae (5th from left), and the I.I. New York Chapter Pres. & the Ohara New York Area Chapter former Pres. Ms. Beverly Hashimoto (2nd from left)

Northern California Chapter

We have had an active year supporting the School, I.I. Bay Area Chapter, and the community.

January: Advisor Fujimoto Kayoko-sensei opened the I.I. New Year with four teacher advisors depicting "New Beginnings."

February: Y. Grave brought Hawaii to I.I. with four other schools.

March: Ohara was well represented at the I.I. biennial show with Y. Gill and Y. Naiki demonstrating.

April: Y. Naiki demonstrated at the San Francisco Cherry Blossom Festival with eight Ohara exhibitors.

June: K. Treadway demonstrated at the Sacramento I.I. 150th memorial of the first California Japanese colony.

September: Fujimoto-sensei with other school advisors interpreted "The Seven Grasses of Autumn."

October: Pres. Maruyama demonstrated for Monterrey I.I. M. Sullivan did arrangements for her school's accreditation team. California Bijutsu Club enjoyed K. Matsumoto's arrangements.

November: Y. Gilli and S. Iwami demonstrated "Gratitude to Nature" at I.I.

December: "Holiday Flowers" were demonstrated for I.I. by Y. Grave with other schools.



Our Advisor, Ms. Fujimoto Kayoko (center) with Mrs. Uyama Keiko, (right of Ms. Fujimoto) Honorary Pres. of I.I. Chapter #31 and wife of the Japanese Consul General of Japan. Members surround them with a large Free-style demonstration finale arrangement in the background and Traditional Color Scheme arrangements in the foreground.

Northern Ohio Chapter

Our members continue learning the curriculum through seven workshops held at the Cleveland Botanical Garden and one special outdoor workshop at a daylily farm. Our wonderful instructors devoted their time and talent to teach members.

June: Our exhibit at the Cleveland Botanical Garden was very successful with arrangements everyday by students and large arrangements by instructors including Grandmaster Ingrid Lüders. We had almost 50 visitors try Ikebana for the first time at Create and Take activity.

Isa Ranganathan continues to teach two classes at John Carroll University for college students. Some of our members created arrangements for the Flower Fund of the Women's Council of the Cleveland Museum of Art.



Create & Take Activity during our exhibition at Cleveland Botanical Garden

Oregon Chapter

We participated in many events with I.I. Portland Chapter such as Mochitsuki, the Iris Show, Natsu Matsuri and the Mum Show.

December: We hosted the I.I. program demonstrating Shohinka and Hosun. For Hina Matsuri we taught 50 children basic Ikebana using peach. We studied Hanamai and ornamental grasses at our meetings. We gave five demos at the Japanese Garden.

Four members attended the NAOTA conference in Lisle, IL led by Prof. Kudo Ami (then Assoc. Prof.). While there we officially announced that we will host the 20th annual NAOTA conference. Upon return to Portland we got to work securing a venue and dates for mid-September 2021. We celebrated our 25th anniversary as the Portland Study Group during our fall Hanamai show at the Portland Japanese Garden. Twelve members interpreted various



Hanamai "Ballet" by Carolyn Alter at 25th anniversary of Portland Study Group

styles of dance such as ballet, breakdance, disco and tap. This was the highlight of our year until word arrived from the Headmaster granting us permission to become the Oregon Chapter on December 1st!

Ottawa Chapter

September: For our 30th anniversary, we invited Grandmaster Marcel Vrignaud to come to Ottawa to do a demonstration with four extra large arrangements. These were a giant landscape arrangement, Eiffel tower representation, Canada-Japan composition and a very large Rimpa-cho arrangement. He also gave us four workshops. We were privileged by the attendance of Japanese Amb. and Mrs. Ishikane. The coordinator of this event was Elizabeth Armstrong, demonstration chair Marie-Eve Coupal, and workshop chair Cliff Byrnes. For more details and pictures, please look at our website: oharaottawa.com.

We also exhibited twice at Nordstrom's department store as well as in Gananoque. Several beginner workshops in schools and museums were presented to promote our school. Our membership presently has more than 70 members.

Paris Chapter

January: An exhibition was held by five headmasters and I.I. members. The visit the headmasters from five Ikebana schools was the most successful Japanese event, organized by the Japan Foundation, MCJP, and I.I. Paris. Pres. Dias and her team assisted

Headmaster Ohara Hiroki and Assist. Prof. Hirota and Assist. Prof. Matsuura. The headmasters conducted the seminars and workshops with Japanese Amb. and Mrs. Kitera, MCJP Pres. Sugiura, and the exhibition participants attending. Iemoto Ohara honored members of France, Paris, and YBS Chapters with two workshops on Bunjin and Landscape Moribana.

April: Members attended the EOTA seminar led by Headmaster Ohara and Assist. Prof. Oyamada. We will keep very nice memories of their interesting teaching! Pres. Dias and students participated for five weeks in MCJP exhibitions with specific themes: 360° Ikebana, Basket Ikebana, Ikebana and Water, Landscape Ikebana, Chabana and Small Ikebana. Additionally, we have exhibitions every three months at MCJP with I.I. and three demonstration by Pres. Dias.

Provence Cote D'Azur Chapter

October: During a five-day lesson with waterlilies and lotuses at the temple, we were able to cut materials for Traditional Method Landscape Moribana and Bunjin.

November: In Tokyo, on a 16-day trip to Japan, we worked with Prof. Ito and Assist. Prof. Oyamada studying Rimpa and Traditional Method Landscape Moribana; and in Osaka with Assist. Prof. Hirota, we studied Morimono and Heika. **March and April:** VP Monique Fuuki Levantis participated in the La Rochelle EOTA France and then took classes for a week with Headmaster Ohara Hiroki and Assist. Prof. Oyamada.

June: Grandmaster A.H. Gendrot led an intensive four-day course of Landscape Moribana (*shakei*), Hana-kanade,



Heika for the New Year with a Rimpa Screen (nandina japonica with berries and white chrysanthemum)

Free Expression (*jiyu hyogen*) with the plants of Provence differing from other regions and the application of the new rules of the Ohara School. Ikebana always gives great pleasure to trainees who continue to study Ohara School Ikebana.



The teacher Monique Fuuki Levantis demonstrating Bunjin-cho.

Rome Chapter

April: The Pres. Annamaria Ratto, VP Araki Mayumi and Ms. Maruyama Yuri are invited by Director of Japanese Cultural Centre in Rome to an exhibition for the Olympic Games in Tokyo 2020, many interested visitors and all together we drank the new sake from the bottle opened by the Director.



May: Our chapter masters' exhibition titled, "Satsuki L'incanto di Maggio" was held at the Art Gallery Doppio Creativo with great success to celebrate the 20 years of Rome Chapter. Honored guests were the Japanese Ambassador in Rome and the Director of Japanese Culture Centre.

November: We had many demonstrations and workshops at Caffè Letterario and the Little Japanese Market. Pres. Ratto and Ms. Maruyama Yuri helped by Lucia Urbini, 2nd Degree Master, gave monthly demonstrations and held workshops attended by many interested visitors who enjoyed the Ohara School Ikebana.

San Diego Sakura Chapter

We taught 63 Ikebana lessons in three levels, held eight workshops, and six major public demonstrations. These included an "Ikebana Living Sculpture" demo using 15 large bamboo poles and eight arrangers at the County Fair, interpreting works of art by two members at the Museum of Art's annual Art Alive event plus two workshops, 11 displays, and two demos at I.I. meetings as well as, their annual exhibition. Three members attended the NAOTA conference.



San Diego County Fair, from (L to R), Naomi Goking, Kiki Zhong, Fair Special Program Director Cathy Mordente, Pres. Jackie Zhang, and Tracy Guo.

Sixty members gathered at a congratulations party for our Pres. Jackie Zhang, who received the First Term Master certificate this year. Pres. Zhang also taught workshops for the University of California Summer Campus program, local and west coast garden clubs, conducted a Traditional

Method 3-mum Moribana fall workshop for our members, and a week long workshop in Beijing for 30 school deans, who took their experience back to their schools. At our annual holiday workshop and party with 50 participants, three honorary members were recognized and 15 Ohara certificates were presented.

San Diego Wabi Chapter

EVENTS: Wabi Chapter's events in 2019 were the popular Wabi Ohara Spring Flower Show with public demonstrations (1000+ attendees), the New Year's Celebration with teachers' displays & dance performance, & the General Meeting and Lunch. **ACTIVITIES:** Regular Ohara arrangements for the Honorary Japanese Consul's Office & Tokonoma in the Japanese Friendship Garden. Grandmaster Akiko Bourland demonstrated Inclining Form, Heika & Rimpa for Ikebana International, she presented at the Ikebana International Flower Show & designed an arrangement for the Japanese Brush Painting Show. Master Teacher Ken Fernandes participated in Art Alive at the Art Museum. Master Teacher Mary Le won First Place at the San Diego County Fair. Master Teacher Pui Lan Ng represented Ohara in the Flower Display at Balboa Park's December Nights. Many members made Ohara arrangements for the Ikebana International Flower Show. Akiko Bourland and Master Teachers Rose Mary Johnston & Eiko Reuer attended the NAOTA Conference.



Seattle Chapter

The year 2019 was a busy year for our chapter. Many exhibits and demonstrations were given by our members in the Seattle and Portland area as well as throughout both states. And during much of the year, our members worked on preparations for the Headmaster's visit to Seattle in February 2020, about which we are very excited. Once again, the chapter held its annual exhibit at the Portland Japanese Garden, with Pres. Phyllis Danielson also providing a demonstration in the main hall. Phyllis celebrated cherry blossom time near the entrance in the exhibit with a large floor arrangement. Other noteworthy arrangements among the many were Phyllis' Free Style using wood, succulents and orchids, a Circular Form and a simple arrangement with Quince and white Camellia by Garnet Ascher, a Bunjin-cho by Judy Harpel, and a Landscape Moribana with wood, pink dogwood, mountain fern, azalea and trout lily by Phyllis.



Seoul Chapter

Our 2019 has been a busy and an accomplished year. We held a successful fourth exhibition under the auspices of the Embassy of Japan in Korea with more people participating, especially Korea, Japan and China. The Embassy provided a gallery of Japanese culture to the Institute in Korea. The opening ceremony included Ms. Nagamie Ayako, Assoc. Prof. Chiji (then Assist. Prof.), Pres. EunSook Jeong and many more. Assoc. Prof. Chiji, also performed a well-attended Ikebana demonstration and gave us special lessons. Our main focus was on encouraging and helping students to learn as many Ikebana works as possible. Moreover, we were able to participate in a very meaningful event, the exhibition named "Family" with Assoc. Prof. Chiji. Thanks to the hard work of Pres. EunSook Jeong, her executive JiEun Roh and many more members our chapter is developing and growing by increasing the number of students and offering regular courses with qualified instructors at several flower schools located in Seoul and Gwangju.



Pres. Jeong (dressed in Kimono), Assoc. Prof. Chiji with Seoul Chapter members.

Shanghai Chapter

Ohara Shanghai Chapter was established on June 1, 2017. We have nearly 200 members from all over China; including more than 100 members engaged in professional Ikebana teaching. Since 2015, the chapter hosts or co-organizes various flower exhibitions each year. *March - April:* "Blossoming Echoes" Ohara Ikebana exhibition was successfully held in Takashimaya Shanghai. The exhibition was made by 88 chapter members from all over the country who created nearly 100 artworks. The Ikebana exhibition was divided into five areas, each area featured different themes: colors, nature landscapes, and so on. The Ikebana exhibition got support from Takashimaya Shanghai, the General Japanese Consulate Shanghai, as well as members of the Ohara Shanghai Chapter. We hope through the joint efforts of all members from the chapter, more and more people can join the Ikebana journey and listen to the whisper of the blooming flowers, sense the beauty along the path of life.



Listen to the whisper of the blooming flowers in Ohara Ikebana

Shanghai Dong Fang Chapter

January: Pres. Fangqi Tan attended the New Year Party at I.I. Headquarters, and as well, attended the inaugurating party of the Consul General Isomata in Shanghai who spoke of the Ohara School of Ikebana. *March:* We held an event for Heqing Town leaders in Shanghai to experience Ohara School Ikebana. As well, we held an event for VIPs of Credit Ease (Invest Fund) to also experience Ohara School Ikebana.

April: We attended Tokyo Chapter's Ikebana Exhibition. *June:* We attended Ms. Morii's seminar in Tokyo. With her guide we enjoyed a special demonstration by Ohara and the luncheon party at I.I. Tokyo Founding Chapter. *October:* For the China-Japan Friendly Exchange Month 2019, we hosted a public lecture "Ikebana in Life". *November:* We hosted "Jade Buddha and Chrysanthemum Rhythm - Ohara School Ikebana Art Exhibition" in the Jade Buddha Temple. The Amb. and Mrs. Isomata, Mr. Abbot, Juexing Master, attended the opening ceremony and spoke.



Luncheon party at I.I. Tokyo Founding Chapter

Shenzhen Huazhao Chapter

August: Pres. Dong and chapter members were invited by Sino Nordic Association to join the Arctic International Tea Culture and Oriental Ikebana Exhibition held in Berlevåg, Norway. It was the first cultural festival ever held in Berlevåg with the support of the Norway government. The festival was mainly about oriental culture consisting of six parts: tea, flower arrangement, calligraphy and drawing, music and porcelain. Our chapter, with the aim of promoting Ohara Ikebana, was responsible for the flower arrangement part, which included a live demonstration and exhibition. The exhibition lasted for three days, with 30 pieces created. More than 1000 visitors came and made a great buzz in town. It was also covered by Norway national media and newspapers throughout the festival. We were very impressed by the strong interest our Nordic friends had toward oriental culture and Ikebana. We are very honored and will be happy to spread the beauty of Ikebana towards every corner in the world in the future.



All the flowers and plants used were either from local market or freshly picked from the natural surroundings.

Singapore Chapter

March: Our 35th Annual General Meeting, exhibition and demonstration was the opening ceremony of "Spring Sonata" - Ohara School of Ikebana Singapore Chapter at the JCC (Japan Creative Centre). About 60 members of the chapter, as well as 135 members of the I.I. Singapore Chapter attended the occasion. Gaku Mizota, JCC Deputy Director gave an opening speech, after which Pres. Daisy Koh, PBM also said a few words to welcome members and guests. Following the speeches, Kathleen Meyer-Ohle demonstrated three styles of Ohara for members and guests: Hana-kanade, Rimpa-cho, and Shohinka in a basket. The Annual General Meeting was also held at the Japan Creative Centre before the opening ceremony.



Seated Front Row: Pres. Daisy Koh, PBM, Mrs. Yamazaki, guest, and Chris Parry

Song Feng Xue Hui Chapter

July: Beijing world horticultural exposition Ohararyu works exhibition volunteer:

In order to cooperate with Ohararyu to China to participate in the exhibition of exhibition works, purchase flower materials and appliances in the early stage, strive for zero mistakes in the whole exhibition process, during the 60-day work maintenance process, around 1000 km, three-five days for a water quality replacement, flower materials replacement, active participation, until the exhibition.

October: Ohararyu Chinese professor to study Song Feng Xue Hui Chapter volunteer:

A professor of the Ohararyu training class to be held in Beijing, the teacher of our branch a pregnancy seven months, still to discuss the issues relating to training classroom for many times, and go to view environment, contact with the supply of tables and chairs, as well as logistics, seven volunteers from our branch. In the process of material preparation, teacher of Song Feng Xue Hui Chapter went to eight large flower markets of Beijing many times, looking for the most suitable flower material, flower material allocation and as well as material storage and evacuation in the later period of the course, at the same time, we provide a variety of tools for the event about one hundred items. On the third day training class, for the teachers and students present volunteers provide 120 we have made Japanese Sweets, low cost to support the training class.



South Africa Chapter

We celebrated our 40th anniversary with an exhibition at Danie Craffords' home. Lovely arrangements, together with Japanese artifacts were displayed. Each visitor received an origami gift of a butterfly made by Ms. Izumi's talented children. Izumi demonstrated the tea ceremony every day of the exhibition and gave workshops to members of public. Amb. Maruyama Norio did the official opening and handed out certificates to six beginners and two advanced students.

March: Ohara students, as part of I.I. were invited by the Japan Embassy to do arrangements for the Japan Expo. Danie Crafford did a demonstration.

An arrangement was done at the Japan Embassy for the celebration of the ascension to the Throne of Emperor Hirohito and the beginning of the Reiwa Era.

An arrangement was done at the Japanese Embassy to celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the Japanese Defense Forces. Members participated in the well-attended Johannesburg I.I. Chapters' annual exhibition held at the Floreum.



Ohara members and Amb, Maruyama for our 40th Anniversary

Southeastern U.S. Chapter

Our members from eight states gather in the Highlands, North Carolina twice a year. We hosted two 3-day seminars in the newly renovated Highlands Community Center. First Degree Master, Jose Salcedo led our Summer Seminar.

This focused on Heika arrangements and mechanics. Additionally, we arranged Color Scheme Color Method with all tropical materials and Rimpa-cho using locally-sourced bamboo. Our September seminar was led by Assoc. Prof. Nishi who taught upper level lessons in Shohinka, Bunjin, and Hosun Landscape. We were able to incorporate seasonal bittersweet into Heika Cascading arrangements and local galax into Circular Form designs. A group dinner at the Highlands Country Club was a special treat. We recognized several members receiving certificates as Instructor 4th Term, 3rd Term and Associate 2nd Term Masters. Our chapter had a large representation at the NAOTA conference in Lisle, Illinois reflecting our member's commitment to learning and teaching Ohara Ikebana.



September Seminar 2019 with Assoc. Prof. Nishi

Switzerland Chapter

August: The main event for our chapter has been our 3-day Seminar with Assist. Prof. Hirota Satoshi. It was held in the Kappel Abbey, a seminar hotel located in the countryside, surrounded by forests, meadows and fruit trees, with a spectacular view over the Alps. Granted beautiful weather, the 25 participants did practiced Sanshu-ike, Heika, Rimpa, Realistic Landscape Moribana, Bunjin, and Basket arrangements.

Assist. Prof. Hirota closed the seminar with a splendid short demonstration. It is always a pleasure to witness and admire his great talent and to share his friendly and joyful presence.



Sydney Chapter

August: We held our 31st Anniversary Exhibition at Edo Arts Showroom opened by Deputy Consul General Matsuo Hideaki of Japan, Ms. Nakano demonstrated to a large audience. A total of 18 arrangements were displayed around the showroom by members which were enhanced by the Japanese artifacts and furniture.

September: Ms. Nakano was again invited to demonstrate at the Cherry Blossom Festival in Cowra. She travelled with six other members and presented two wonderful demonstrations to a large audience with the participation of the members. Each session exhibited six arrangements with a total of 11 different arrangements. Ms. Nakano prepared and brought all the materials from Sydney. In addition, a large welcome arrangement was created with flowers and several 4-5m long, heavy branches cut from the Japanese garden. The generous cooperation of the Japanese Garden gardeners allowed her to choose some exceptional materials for the arrangements.



Ms. Nakano with her demonstration arrangement and members at our 31st anniversary.

Taipei Chapter

November: Our chapter held a membership meeting at Taipei Shelton Hotel. The performances were executed by senior teachers Chen Li-Shu and Wu Shu-Mei and also followed additional performances of senior teachers' students. It symbolizes the significance of Ohara School Ikebana that will be continuously inherited in the field of flower arrangement in Taiwan.



Teacher's performance

Toronto Chapter

May: Our 45th Anniversary Floral Exhibition was a great success. NAOTA Pres. Ingrid Luders was very impressed with dedication of our chapter member's participation. We received very positive feedback from our special guests Consul General Ohyama Tomoko, her husband Mr. Claude Ito, Japanese Foundation Executive Director Shimizu Yuko, MPP Logan Kanapathi, Massachusetts Pres. Matsuyama Hiroko, Washington chapter members and Ikebana friends. Prof. Yokohigashi assisted by Sub-Grandmaster Matsuyama Hiroko, created and demonstrated 10 stunning arrangements using a variety of different containers which included; modern and European glassware, Chinese influenced vases, unusual Chinese dress, stalactite-shaped ceramic vases, fan-shaped and large oval landscape containers. The Rimpa-cho arrangement using Canadian and Japanese Maples represented the 90th anniversary of Canada-Japan Diplomatic Relations. The landscape arrangement without using flowers was created to celebrate our chapter's 45th Anniversary.



Chapter's 45th Anniversary Floral Exhibition

Venice Chapter

Many presentations, workshops and demonstrations of the Ohara School arrangements were held in Venice and in a number of locations in north east Italy. All members gathered in Abano in early Autumn to give their support for a week-long exhibition of the Ohara School Ikebana held in the prestigious setting of the Montirone

Gallery. The exhibition was visited by many people and friends of our chapter. Among them the former Director of the Orientale Art Museum in Venice and the Councilor of Abano.



Washington D.C. Area Chapter

The Washington DC Area Ohara Chapter celebrated its 50th anniversary at the Army Navy Country Club on May 16th with a luncheon and a slide presentation and talk on Ikebana in Japanese art. Jane Newman was the chair of the committee that planned the event. She was assisted by Victoria Melzer, Uma Nagarajan and Yuko Wain. Members Alice Buch, Arlene Evans, Beverly Flowers, Holley Green, Victoria Melzer and Uma Nagarajan did table arrangements. Supriya Dutt did a bunjin for display. In October, the chapter provided both financial assistance and volunteers to Ikebana of Richmond when it hosted a demonstration and three workshops by Grand Master, Ingrid Luders. Alice Buch co-chaired the event. Victoria Melzer, and Yuko Wain helped with preparations the day before. Alice, Holley Green, Victoria, Yuko and Ha Yang attended the workshops.



the committee that planned the Chapter's 50th Anniversary celebration. From left Uma Nagarajan, Yuko Wain, Jane Newman, Victoria Melzer and Joan Kaufman who arranged the program.

Xiamen Elegant Flowers Chapter

Through the years we have utilized different channels to promote Ohara School and introduce our floral arts to more people in China. In 2019 we have organized or participated in a number of activities such as workshops, member events, study tours, etc. with an aim to refine the flower arrangement skills of our members. Below is a summary of the activities organized or participated in by Xiamen Chapter in 2019. Promotion of Ohara School through exhibitions, workshops, and experience events:

1. "Walking in Flowers" Exhibition in Xiamen, Fujian in March, 2019.
 2. "Feng, Ya & Song" Tea + Flowers Exhibition in Shenyang, Liaoning in June, 2019
- Lectures and experience events:
1. March 18th: Lecture at Huaqiao University in Xiamen
 2. March 20th: Experience Event at Dulu Teahouse
 3. March 26th: Experience Event at Japanese Overseas Chinese Osaka Chamber of Commerce in Xiamen
 4. April: Experience Event at Xiamen Broadcasting Group
 5. September: Experience Event at Huaqiao University in Xiamen and Lecture at Fujian Book Fair



Pres. Ms. Qing Lian Performing Ikebana

Xi'an Lan Impression Chapter

1. Ikebana entering the campus: "Ikebana entering the campus", we continued to provide publicity and lectures on traditional Ikebana art and the Ohara School of Ikebana for teachers and students from Xi'an Technological University, Northwest University, and Xidian University.
2. Invited to participate in the Children's Arts Center, a monthly parent-child flower course, to train children's hands-on ability and aesthetic ability.
3. Invited to do Ikebana Training for female employees of large enterprises in Xi'an, to improve the aesthetics of employees and the popularization of Ikebana Culture.
4. Learnings of members of Lan Impression Chapter Organized seven workshops for the Chapter members and twelve on-line courses: learning of flowers arrangement each month featured with different themes.
5. Outdoor Ikebana: organized members to conduct outdoor Ikebana activities aperiodically to appreciate the flowers and comprehend the growth habits and attributes of the plants.
6. Organized student tours to Japan: organized students to see the flower show and participated in the spring seminar courses.

**Yvelined Bords de Seine Chapter**

- February:* During the "Japonisme 2019", the French and Paris chapters jointly held a workshop inviting Iemoto Ohara Hiroki to the French Chapter president's atelier.
- July:* We hosted a workshop for children with the theme of "Tanabata" at the Japan-France Cultural Association.
- August:* Assist. Prof. Hirota Satoshi led a two-day summer workshop.
- October:* Rimpa was the theme of a workshop held at the Conflan atelier. Also, a flower exhibition was held at the French-Japanese Cultural Association in Paris.

**Beijing Sihe Study Group**

- May:* We participated in the Dalian Ohara Ikebana Exhibition led by Assist. Prof. Ishihashi Yoshiko (retired). The experience enhanced the friendship between our two study groups.
- October:* "Me and My Motherland" was the theme to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, our Mother's Birthday. The students' patriotic feelings were aroused in the creation of the series of works. The arrangements were loved by many people which enhanced their understanding of Ohara Ikebana.
- We are very honored to have seven members participate in the workshop of Chinese professors in Beijing, which ensured the success of the institute. Five members



volunteered to assist in the preparation of the workshop and the on-site work.

Still in October, we organized the members to learn from the ancients with a visit the "Wan Zi Qian Hang" exhibition in Palace Museum for a special exhibit of ancient cultural relics of Chinese flowers and trees.

Bologna Study Group

December 2018: We created a large Ikebana exhibition showing winter and religious celebrations with Japan's New Year in comparison with the occidental festivities of Christmas.

May: The group created ten Ikebana arrangements for the Bologna Flower Festival showing the differences between occidental flower arrangement and Ikebana. Noted Italian expert of the Japanese world, President Nino Peternolli, gave a lecture comparing Sogetsu School and the Ohara School. He also lectured, separately, about 'Japonisme.'

Our member, Antonella Iacoviello, lectured by on watercolor drawings of different varieties of chrysanthemums.



Training sessions and practical demonstrations by Pres. Fiorella Felavigna De Leo

Brisbane Study Group

June: The Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force's JS 'Ise' visited Brisbane. Our Study Group displayed and demonstrated Ikebana together with other Japanese cultural groups. A welcoming reception was held on board the JS 'Ise' by Consul General of Japan in Brisbane's with a magnificent feast of Japanese food.

August: This year the Japanese Garden celebrated its 30 year anniversary at Japanese Cultural Day in Mt. Coot-tha Botanical Gardens. The Japanese Cultural Day activities have increased in number and have spread out into the great area of the Botanical Gardens attracting approximately 10,000 people to the event. Our members displayed and demonstrated Ikebana to the general public.

September: Japanese Festival, "Matsuri Brisbane" was held at the Mr. Gravatt Showground. Three Ikebana schools participated an exciting day of celebration organized by the Japanese Social Club, Seinendan. Our young members displayed Ikebana.

**Chennai Study Group**

Every Monday classes are conducted. We have had several demonstrations and one exhibition for the year. There were eight different representations, showing all arts and handicrafts and Kimono fashion from the early years to present day. It was a huge success Ohara School of Ikebana was the main attraction. Thank you very much for giving us the privilege to learn and teach Ikebana.



Mrs. Uchiyama (Mr. Uchiyama Kojiro's wife of the Japanese Consul-General of Japan in Chennai) held the work shop in her home. She is third from the right.

Chongqing ShiJian Study Group

March: For International Women's Day, we held many flower activities with many corporations, like Chongqing Airport Group, Yubei District Women's Federation, Chongqing Pharmaceutical Group, and others.

May: We held outdoor Ikebana activities at Jinyun Mountain.

June: At Chongqing Youth Art Festival we held a small flower exhibition and live performance.

July: The mid-year summary meeting and south mountain home-stay flower design took place.

September: Many flower activities for the Chinese holiday Middle-Autumn-Day are held.

October: We held the second Chongqing Ohara Ikebana Exhibition and Academic Exchange Conference in Southwest University in China. Qiu Zhenglun, a professor, poet, writer and President of Chongqing aesthetics Association, curated the exhibition for us. The guests present were Chen Vice President (VP) of Southwest University Academy of fine arts, Chen, the VP of Beibei District Women's Federation, and other dignitaries.



performance

Dubai Abu Dhabi Study Group

February: This was our second year as a Study Group. The first activity this year was seasonal decoration for events by Japan National Tourism Organization, held at the residence of the ambassador of Japan in Abu Dhabi and Consul General of Japan in Dubai.

Next was Japan Cultural Day at Zayed University in Abu Dhabi, sponsored by the Embassy of Japan. We did workshops for both male and female students.

March: The Cherry Blossom reception was held at the residence of the Consul General of Japan in Dubai. Three members decorated whole residence by using genuine cherry blossoms from Japan and performed a demonstration and workshop for Consul Generals from all over the world and UAE VIPs.

April: The biggest travel exhibition, Arabian Travel Market 2019 was held and some of the SG members did decoration of Japan National Tourism Organization pavilion with specially bloom-controlled cherry blossoms imported from Hanamo flower shop in Tokyo.



Arabian Travel Market 2019 JNTO Pavilion

Finger Lakes Study Group

Students gathered around teacher Saskia Eller during a lesson about Hosun Moribana. Focusing on very small arrangements encourages us to look at nature more closely. During the summer months, Saskia brought in a selection of materials from her garden and nearby ponds to allow students to make large arrangements suitable for an exhibit, or medium sized arrangements for the home, or even miniatures for small spaces.

In addition to regular lessons, we exhibited at the Bonsai Show, the Orchid Society, in a shopping mall where we had a table for children to make a take-home arrangements, and at Gardenscape, an event that attracts several thousand people as they prepare for spring during the last weeks of winter.



Pres. Saskia Eller and students

Guiyang Yunzhishang Study Group

For one year and a half, since our establishment on May 1, 2018, the Ohara Ikebana Association has added 20 members, carried out elegant member activities, and regularly conducted research activities for community members to help improve the teaching level. This year, five new associate masters have applied for certificates, three SG members are studying in grade four, one SG member is studying in grade three, 20 primary subjects have been completed, and three associate masters have opened their own flower classroom. We use various forms of beauty of to show Ikebana in order to help more people embark on the path of Ikebana teaching and expand the team of Ikebana teachers.

As the official organization authorized by Ohara School in Guiyang, we are extremely honored and deeply responsible at the same time. In the meantime, we will let more people know the elegance of Ohara Ikebana and feel the happiness brought by Ikebana through various forms of flower exhibitions and cross-border cooperation!



Take the members to the flower show.

Gurgaon Study Group

Our Study Group was formed in 2005 for the purpose of learning and teaching Ikebana. We have classes three days in a week, for different groups like the seniors, Japanese students, and new and local students.

We have been propagating Ohara Ikebana in schools and universities. Last year we gave a talk and demonstration in Amity University, within the exhibition of pottery artists, and this month we are giving a five-day introductory class

to All India Kitchen Garden Association. Students have been taking the Certificates and studying Ohara Ikebana according to the Curriculum.



Hong Kong Kayu Study Group

March: We received the Design Excellence Award at the 2019 Hong Kong Flower Show. This year, the theme flower was the Chinese hibiscus with the theme “When Dreams Blossom.” Chinese Hibiscus comes in diverse colors, with its characteristic exuberance. In full bloom, its blossoms paint the landscape in strokes of striking hues bringing hope to the visitors. The show drew participation from 260 organizations, including 104 exhibitors from 20 countries – Australia, China, Estonia, Germany, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States and Vietnam. It was a showcase of exquisite flowers, landscapes and floral art displays. The show, organized by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, attracted over 630,000 visitors.



Pres. Chan Wendy received the Design Excellence Award at The Hong Kong Flower Show 2019.

Laguna Area Study Group

We meet monthly to create seasonal flower arrangements from the Ohara curriculum. A new member was welcomed this year.

September: We demonstrated several arrangement styles at a home and garden business venues in Corona del Mar, California.

June: S.G. Leader, Karen Lynn, attended the NAOTA conference in Chicago and subsequently shared lessons from the conference with members.



Members attending the November 23rd meeting, (L to R) Sally Morris, Bren DiGruccio, Dana Uzzo, Karen Lynn, Janet Johnson.

Lyon Kiku Study Group

November: Our Study Group was approved this month in 2018. The first Ikebana lessons were given in Lyon in 1967 and the “Japanese Floral Art” association was created in 1972. The creation of the Study Group is a recognition and an encouragement to continue sharing our cultures, and our passion for Ikebana. During 2018/2019, we welcomed 90 students and lessons are given by eight graduate teachers.

October: We had the pleasure of welcoming Grandmaster Annik Howa Gendrot to Lyon for a training seminar.

November: We participated in the Silk in Lyon Festival, the guest of honor was the city of Kyoto. Our Ikebana exhibit was surrounded by the bundles of raw silk that arrived in Lyon in the early 20th century to be woven in the local workshops. These labels came from the family business of Marthe Cornet (1922-2018), Master 3rd term, and Ikebana teacher for 30 years in Lyon. This exhibition was also an opportunity to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the twin cities of Lyon and Yokohama.



The new Study Group office with A.H. Gendrot

Madrid Study Group

August: We were invited to make an arrangement to decorate the impressive entrance of the 16th century palace in the ancient city of Medinaceli for its Lyrical and Opera Festival for their Festival. Our leader Pozo Medina made a large arrangement using loquat branches, orchids, red leaves, driftwood, among others materials which were highly appreciated by the festival guests.

We were asked us for two workshops for adults and children which were very successful, especially the one for children in which the youngest participant was only seven years old.

September: For Japan Week in the southern city of Malaga, member Ouchi Makoto, demonstrated for a large audience. In the afternoon she conducted an initiation workshop for numerous participants where Basic Hana-isho was practiced.



Ms. Ouchi and some participants

Ningbo Jingshang Study Group

October: Our Study Group was officially approved in this is a landmark moment for the Ningbo people. My colleagues and I are working hard to promote the Ohara School. Time flies, reviewing the four seasons, we did the spring, summer and autumn themed flower arrangement classes. It also hosted a small spring flower exhibition at Ningbo Dong Qian lake scenic area.

We are so excited to see that during this year we will explore more in flower arrangement and also have more people join us to start their flower arrangement class. We believe we will enjoy more flower arrangements in the future.



Flower artist Ma Liu Wen

Northern Lazio and Umbria Study Group

January: The Embassy of Japan in Italy and the Japanese Institute of Culture in Rome (Japan Foundation) invited our Study Group to represent the Ohara School at the exhibition, “Kimono, the Art of Wearing Stories.” During the exhibition, our teachers and students created compositions inspired by the precious kimonos on display.

For the finale, there was a demonstration of Ikebana held by the Ikebana schools in Rome (Ikenobo, Ohara, and Sogetsu). The title was very challenging “Hana Monogatari.” (lit. “Flower Story”) Silvana Mattei, our Group Leader, had the difficult task of presenting Ikebana to the large audience along with an introductory speech. She was also asked to create two demonstration arrangements representative of the Ohara School.



Shenyang Shengjing Study Group

May: Hosted by the Consulate General of Japan in Shenyang, we held a three-day “風詠於歸，宛然春駐” Ikebana Ohara exhibition at K11 Shopping Arts. The exhibition invited a former lecturer from the Ohara School, Retired Assist. Prof. Ishihashi Yoshiko as artistic director of the exhibition. All works by Shenyang Shengjing Study Group were as total of 50 works. The Consul General of Japan in Shenyang, Mr. Sugita, attended the opening ceremony of the exhibition as an honored guest. At the opening ceremony, Consul General explained the historical origin of way of flowers culture from China with hopes that the flower road culture will become a bridge of cultural exchanges and friendship between China and Japan. He highly confirmed the achievements and contributions made by the Shenyang Shengjing Study Group. The exhibition attracts a large number of enthusiasts, an estimated 50,000.

We also conducted a number of experiential sessions during the exhibition with lectures and activities such as the Ishihashi Yoshiko flower walk to spread Ohara Ikebana culture to more people.



Shenzhen Mengliangju Study Group

January: We held a charity Ikebana activity for children, which was attended by more than 100 teachers, parents and students. The average age of the children was less than five years old, but they are very active in our activities. We found that children are naturally close to nature.

March: A course on peach blossoms from the classic poetry, a traditional Chinese literary work, was held at a Shenzhen Huaqiang high school. In class, students are close to tradition and nature and learn the skills of Ikebana, which is very beneficial. Participating teachers



were VP Liu Wenfeng, and General Secretary Liu Bimin.

April: We received an invitation from Sheraton hotel to decorate a Kaiseki store on a continuing basis. It is positive work for the development of Ikebana.

November: We organized members to go to Shenzhen seaside park for an outdoor Ikebana class. This a tropical region and is very warm even in winter. Tropical plants are very hardy. The outdoor class at the seaside greatly increased the interest of members in Ikebana.

South West England Study Group

This has been a busy year in class with students working hard to improve their Ikebana skills. We have received 21 certificates at all levels and we are looking forward to 2020. It was a quiet year for exhibitions as we are planning a large exhibit next summer. We are running one- or two-day classes a week and ten residential courses per year. We are a very happy group and continue to enjoy our Ikebana. Follow us on Instagram at #Ikebana.uk



five members of our group in class

Stockholm Study Group

August 2019: Pres. Boel Lindbergh gave an Ikebana demonstration at the allotment gardens of Södra Årstalunden, Södra Årstalundens koloniträdgårdar, in Stockholm. The arrangements were made with flowers and plants grown in the gardens. Over 50 people, both allotment garden owners and visitors, took time to learn about Ikebana and open their eyes to a new way of looking at nature.

April 2020: Pres. Lindbergh held an Ikebana evening with demonstration and introductory class for members of the Foreign Press Association of Sweden. This was a follow up to the much appreciated first Ikebana evening held in 2018. Weekly arrangements are put on display at the International Press Centre.

June: An exhibition is planned to take place at the design shop Manos with the students of the SG.



The outdoor event 2019

Wuhan Huahui Study Group

The beginning of 2020 has been the a very tough period. We feared we might not launch our Ikebana activity because of the corona virus, but we are also hoping this terrible disease will be conquered.

These are our 2020 plans: Members will meet the last day of every month to learn Ikebana’s skills and details. We will promote Ikebana by going to bookstores, libraries, and other venues. Also,

we will prepare the materials for different seasons so that everyone can get the natural magic of the activity. To extend ikebana's effect, we have decided every ikebana classroom should make some activity free.

We hope to have great communication with the Ohara School and in time, when everything is prepared well, it will be our honor to invite an Ohara teacher to Wuhan. As yet 2020 is enduring its darkness but we still hope for good news and we are embracing spring with our arms warmly open.

Presentation Ceremony of Certificate for Special Degrees

May 30, 2019: 14 overseas members and 139 members of Japanese chapters received Special Certificates from Headmaster at the presentation ceremony at Hotel Okura, Kobe. Headmaster and the Chief Executive Ohara Wakako offered the congratulatory speeches both in Japanese and English. With the certificates in their hands, the proud recipients appreciated all the support from their teachers, families, and ikebana friends, and renewed their commitment to Ohara School of Ikebana.



A recipient receiving her certificate from the Headmaster



Recipients from the overseas with their accompanying families

<Sub Grandmasters: Eight recipients>

Liao Mei-Jung, Taipei Chapter
Marc Kapella Hanashobu, Hauts de France Chapter
Inge Lehnert, Frankfurt-Main Chapter
Genevieve Lecerf Ausenda, Milan Chapter
Hōsei Ohta, La Jolla Chapter
Satsuki Tsubota Palter, Los Angeles Chapter
Hiroko Matsuyama, Massachusetts Chapter
Suiko Maruyama, Northern California Chapter

<First Term Masters: Ten recipients>

Hsu Sen Chih, Taipei Chapter
Grace Chan, Singapore Chapter
Simone Gueredrat, France Chapter
Beatrice Pasenau, France South Study Group
Marie-Anne Cochet, Rhone-Alpes St. Etienne Study Group
Christine Hō-Sei-Sen Hamer, Frankfurt-Main Chapter
Romilda Iovacchini, Rome Chapter
Yuri Maruyama, Rome Chapter
Bernadette Koch, Switzerland Chapter
Jackie Zhang, San Diego Sakura Chapter

<Associate First Term Masters: 15 recipients>

Huang Chen-Chen, Taipei Chapter
Su Chun Lan, Taipei Chapter

Yan Suey Tsay, Tainan Chapter
Amrita Mankad, Delhi Chapter
Usha Bhagia, Hyderabad Chapter
Kalyanapu Hari Kumari, Hyderabad Chapter
Claudine Beduin, France Chapter
Lily Boehler, France Chapter
Yuriko Breton, France Chapter
Roberte Cailliez, France Chapter
Nadine Harivel, France Chapter
Robert Ng Kon Tia, France Chapter
Marie-Claude Sai-Ka Dutrut, Antilles Guyane Chapter
Damien Dufour, France South Study Group
Bette Hōka Uyeda, Honolulu Chapter

<Second Term Masters: 17 recipients>

Sandra Leung, Hong Kong Kayu Study Group
Yu Chen Lee, Tainan Chapter
Priyanka Khandekar, Bombay Chapter
Geetali Tilak, Bombay Chapter
Boryu Poonam Panwar, Hyderabad Chapter
Ohga Rajkumari Singh, Hyderabad Chapter
Marie-Thérèse Loncle, France Chapter
Genevieve Pelloux, France Chapter
Claude Morin, La Rochelle Chapter
Michiyo Fuchs-Shimizu, Switzerland Chapter
Liselotte Stutz, Switzerland Chapter
Koga Zara Ranases, Chicago Chapter
Susan Hirate, Honolulu Chapter
Suisetsu Iwami, Northern California Chapter
Cris A. Bugarin, San Diego Wabi Study Group
Peggy Cathcart, San Diego Wabi Study Group
Saskia Eller, Finger Lakes Study Group

Announcement

Revisions to the Ohara School Curriculum:

The revised Ohara School curriculum took effect on January 1, 2020. For details, please ask Pres. of your Chapter / Study Group.

The Traditional Ikebana of the Ohara School (Ohararyu Yoshiki Shusei)

New edition of English/Chinese Version of Ohararyu Yoshiki Shusei, covering Shakei Moribana Yoshiki-hon-i and Shikisai Moribana Yoshiki hon-i, quintessence of the Ohararyu ikebana, have been released with wide range of arrangements and clear explanations. All arrangements on the book have been newly revised, introducing total of 106 arrangements. Also includes every basic of combination-arrangements likewise the current "New edition of Ohararyu Yoshiki Shusei (Japanese original edition, published in 2004)". The book is full-colored, and contains all photo descriptions. Photos describing the position of hanadome are newly incorporated.

Make the best use of the "English Version/Chinese Version of Ohararyu Yoshiki Shusei", providing you greater understanding.

*Price: 8,000 yen (excluding tax), same price for English and Chinese Versions

*Please order from the Sales Department of the Tokyo Headquarters: shuppan@ohararyu.or.jp (English/Japanese only)

Hana-gata Cards (card-style textbook) English/Chinese translation

A new textbook in card format will become available following the implementation of the new curriculum in January 2020. The cards are divided into course levels. Each section carries explanations of the forms/styles/expressions studied at that level, together with examples of arrangements.

*Each set of cards (50 cards covering Introductory to 4th Term Master's) comes with a binder.

*Eligibility to purchase: Ohara School overseas members who are Instructor level and above

*Available on: July 2020 (subject to change)

*Sold as a set only.

*We will continue to accept orders for Ikebana for Everybody, which will now come with inserts for the revised Hana-isho Hiraku-katachi and Narabu-katachi. Teachers must follow the new rules when teaching the two forms.

*Price: 4,500 yen (excluding tax)

*Please order from the Sales Department of the Tokyo Headquarters: shuppan@ohararyu.or.jp (English/Japanese only)

Booklets for Advanced Learners (Shakei Moribana Shizen-hon-i, Rimpa-cho Ikebana, Bunjin-cho Ikebana, and Shohin-ka Booklets) English/Chinese translation

*Set of four booklets (8 pages each)

*Eligibility to purchase: Ohara School overseas members who are 3rd Master level and above

*Available on: September 2020 (subject to change)

*Price: 2,000 yen (excluding tax)

*Please order from the Sales Department of the Tokyo Headquarters: shuppan@ohararyu.or.jp (English/Japanese only)

Attention!

For overseas Ohara members wanting to purchase the original Japanese version of the Hana-gata Cards and the set of four booklets for Advanced Learners, the same guidelines as in Japan will be applied, as follows:

1. To purchase the Hana-gata Cards, you must be a registered as a teacher holding 4th Term Master's Degree and above.

2. To purchase the set of four Booklets for Advanced Learners, you must be a registered as a teacher holding Associate 1st Term Master's Degree and above.

*Registered as a teacher means having applied for certificates for students.

The New Ohara-ryu Soka Magazine

Subscription for the new Ohara-ryu Soka magazine starting with the January 2020 issue is now being accepted.

1) Magazine format (in Japanese only)

One copy 834 yen plus postage (Special rate for Ohara members)

*Annual subscription (January to December) varies depending on country. Please ask the Sales Department staff.

2) Digital Edition

Please download "小原流 eBooks" App.

*In Japanese only (original version): 840 yen/6.99 USD/7.99 euro

*With partial English translation: 1,340 yen/10.99 USD/11.99 euro (as of January 2020)

A digital edition of the magazine with partial English translation will also become available, and will be released approximately one month after the Japanese edition.

*The partial English translation will include the Headmaster's Message and sections on descriptions/explanations of ikebana arrangements (approximately 13 pages).

*No annual subscription available. Must be purchased monthly.

*The edition with English translation is available at the end of each month.

Changes to the Wording on Certificates:

Following the implementation of the new curriculum in January 2020, the wording on certificates have been changed, as follows:

1. From the Beginner's Degree up to the Associate Second Master's Degree

<Old> This is to certify that ●● has completed that the ●● Course of the Ohara School.

<New> This is to certify that ●● has accomplished the ●● Degree of the Ohara School.

*Certificates for degrees will be issued in the following order: The Beginner's Degree/ The Intermediate Degree/ The Assistant Teacher's First Term Degree/ The Assistant Teacher's Second Term Degree/ The Instructor's Degree/ The Fourth Master's Degree/ The Third Master's Degree/ The Associate Second Master's Degree

2. From the Second Degree up to the First Degree

<Old> This is to certify that ●● is granted the ●● Master's Degree of the Ohara School.

<New> This is to certify that ●● is granted the ●● Degree of the Master Course of the Ohara School.

*Certificates for degrees will be issued in the following order: The Second Degree/ The Associate First Degree/ The First Degree

3. Honorary Titles

<Old> Honorary Titles were not specified as a Degree.

<New> This is to certify that ●● is granted the Sub-Grand Master's Degree/ The Grand Master's Degree of the Ohara School.

*The Honorary Title is granted to Ohara School members in Japan and overseas whose outstanding contribution to the School has been recognized and highly appreciated.

Change to the Order of Japanese Names

In accordance with a government directive, as of January 2020, the Ohara School will adopt a new order of Japanese names when written in English in its official publications. The new order will be family name first, followed by the given name. For instance, Headmaster Hiroki Ohara will now be Headmaster Ohara Hiroki, as seen in this newsletter.