



Sangetsu North America

Winter 2013
Newsletter #13

Director's Message

December 2013

During these months of holidays, it's difficult to absorb yet another human and natural tragedy in the Philippines. May the restoration of their country go smoothly in the months ahead with nations offering plentiful help. And we have learned of the passing of Nelson Mandela. What a soul for the world, may his wisdom come to us as we debate the issues of immigration and justice.

Please come to Tucson for our conference in the Sonoran desert April 11th, 12th, and 13th with instructor testing on the 14th. A \$300. fee per participant (students are invited) includes most meals, flowers and instruction. A contingent may even lengthen their trip to enjoy some Tucson attractions and art classes. (Fees for those additional items would be on your own) A \$50. non-refundable deposit will assure you a spot at the conference. Please remember membership fees (of \$30. due Jan. 1st 2014) must also be current. If testing, your membership is not yet required (nor for students).

Those of you wishing to test, please have your instructor or an advisor write a letter of recommendation. Candidates please provide a brief resume of your qualifications and any special projects you may have undertaken during your flower arranging experience. A donation to Sangetsu North America of \$325. is requested. You may send all correspondence and deposits to our treasurer Asst. Prof. Karey Karam at 7201 E. Paseo San Andres, Tucson Arizona, 85710. You may also elect to send required paperwork to me at my email address: terry.quinn8@gmail.com

Please let us know of your travel plans as soon as you are able so airport pickup arrangements can be made. We ask that you book flights for Thurs. April 10th with arrival after 4 pm Tucson time if possible. Also, if you are not testing, please plan flights home for later in the day on Sunday (after 4 pm) so we may take several of you to the airport at once. We do realize that for some of you, those flight times may not coordinate well and we will do what we

can to arrange your transport to the airport. In some cases, you may need to make your own arrangements with the airport shuttle. Some are electing to stay at the Windmill Inn at St. Philips Plaza. We hope to have some home stays as well, however they may be limited. We will keep you informed as home stays become available.

Speaking of possible travel.....stay tuned for an article from Professor Helena Arouca. Plan to be amazed!

Travel took me to Denver for Sangetsu. Instructor Natalie Montecalvo had a glitch in HER traveling schedule (she is making routine trips to Jamaica and had wedding flowers to do).....and asked me to sub for a presentation with the Ikebana International Chapter 66 at the Denver Botanic Gardens. Natalie hooked me up for two overnights with Sogetsu instructor, Karen Hench in Colorado Springs. I was treated like a celebrity and had a wonderful time presenting a talk centering on Mokichi Okada's concept of "Paradise on Earth". There were four other panelists from Ikenobo, Ichiyo, Sogetsu and Ohara. Ikebana International is a wonderful organization (their motto is "friendship through flowers") and we hope to have a Chapter in Tucson one day.

Finally.....Rev. and Mrs. Ajiki along with Assistant Professors Karey Karam, and Marta Vergara and students: Jody Saito, Dee Hannon, Drinda Green and Cheryl Diamond, participated in the Yume Japanese Garden's *Ikebana Exhibition* during the Thanksgiving weekend. Several other ikebana schools were also represented and a garden dinner was featured with evening viewing. Please enjoy the pictures on page six.

All for now. Dust off your suitcase (your bags must be checked to carry your scissors) and do join us for some Sangetsu traveleven some possible globetrotting in the future! Happy Holidays and Happy New Year, I hope you all have great adventures with flowers.

Best,

Terry Quinn

Helena's News

Helena Arouca

The news is that we will have an International Sangetsu Conference in Sao Paulo Brazil, in November 2014, celebrating 40 years of Sangetsu in Brazil. I don't have any details yet but I will be in contact with the Events General Manager and will share any news I have. This is going to be a nice opportunity to visit Brazil.

For our seminar this coming Spring in Tucson, I will have possibly two instructor candidates. I am so happy about that!

I continue teaching here at my house as well as in Washington,DC. We had our last class of the year last Saturday.

Yesterday one of my students, Sandra, and I, did a workshop at the Boys and Girls Club of Central Virginia. 25 kids did arrangements using apples as the "vases".



2013 Sangetsu Activities

Mayumi Ichino

I have Sangetsu classes at the Vancouver Centre once or twice a month. There are 3 to 4 students in each class and we always have fun together. I try to integrate Meishu sama's teachings in Sangetsu although most of the students are not Johrei members. Some of them receive Johrei and some of them love to work in the Vancouver Centre's garden to grow flowers and vegetables.

In the summer, I did a Sangetsu demonstration at the Powell Street Festival. That is a festival showcasing Japanese culture. Since it was very informal, I took the time for questions and answers. When I demonstrated an upright style with Sun, Moon and Earth lines facing each other, a couple of audience members asked me why I was showing the back of the branches for Moon and Sun lines. They expected that all of the branches and flowers to be facing front. This was something that we take for granted but something that was strange to others. I had to explain how to arrange naturally and create depth.

In the fall, one of my friends hosted a fund raising gala for orphans from the Tsunami that hit Northern Japan in 2011. There are still many orphans who are staying at their relatives and having difficult times. The purpose to raise funds was to build a home for them. I was asked to donate an arrangement for the venue. There were a few more Vancouver Ikebana Association members who brought in arrangements and flowers definitely added light to the gala. In addition, there was a painter, a photographer and a jewelry designer who donated their art works for auction. A musician donated her time to play violin as well. It was a wonderful experience to be a part of that many different artists working together to make a better world.

Ikebana Demonstration at the Vancouver Japanese Consulate's Home

Written by reporter Louise Akuzawa, translated by Mayumi Ichino

On October 16th, the Vancouver Association of the Wives of Consul Generals hosted a party at the Japanese Consulate's home. Eighteen of the wives attended. Mrs. Yasuko Okada, the wife of the Consul General of Japan, introduced Japanese culture through an Ikebana demonstration by teachers of the Ikenobo, Ohara, Kado-Sumi, Sangetsu and Sogetsu schools.

The Association of the Wives of the Consul General

The duties of the wife of the consul general include not only supporting her diplomat husband but also introducing their culture by developing relationships with different countries. They hold monthly meetings and plan activities such as a luncheon social, Vancouver city tour and publication.

Networking is the important task of this association. The newly arrived wife of the Consul General of Korea was introduced at the party and welcomed by other members.

Ikebana schools

The venue was decorated with the flower arrangements made by Mrs. Okada who has been appreciating Ikebana of the Ohara School. Kaz Takahashi, president of the VIA, began the Ikebana demonstration with a short talk on the history of Ikebana and the importance of cultivating love for nature and flowers. Ikenobo School was the origin of Ikebana but many schools branched off afterward. She also explained that Ikebana played the important role in art.

Following her speech, instructors from different schools demonstrated Ikebana unique to their own style using many materials such as dahlia, azalea and willow. After the demonstration, open discussion with instructors was held. Participants enjoyed viewing the arrangements and gave comments like "It is interesting to know how to combine different flowers.", "I learned a lot" and "Using wire is something complicated."



L - R: Hiroko Yasuoka, Ohara; Kaz Takahashi, president, Barbara James, Kado-Sumi; Martha Banno, Ikenobo; Annie Santini, Sogetsu; Joan Fairs, Sangetsu



Sangetsu in Vancouver

Joan Fairs

Since returning home to Vancouver in April from Japan, Sangetsu has been very busy. The annual Vancouver Ikebana Association Spring Show was three days after my return. My students and I displayed six arrangements and I did a demonstration aided by Mayumi Ichino and narrated by Kimberly Fairs. About 360 people visited our two day show.

Cecily Chang of Ikenobo and I participated at the Rhododendron Festival on May 5th, at Deer Lake in Burnaby. We made arrangements throughout the day and displayed several of them. All the while, I was teaching my ongoing students every other week, and had an eight lesson beginners' course going weekly. Classes stopped for the summer, but the demonstrations and displays kept on...

The annual Powell Street Festival was once again held at the Oppenheimer Park grounds, and Buddhist Church. The Ikebana display was in the latter place, and Mayumi did the Sangetsu demonstration. (See Yukiko Tosa's writeup)

At the beginning of September there was the early Mum Show which had two Sangetsu arrangements by Bianca Ozawa and myself. In October there was the large display at the Chinese Classical Garden with 21 arrangements, six of which were by Sangetsu members. There was also a request by Mrs Okada, the wife of the Consul General of Japan to do a demonstration at her home. See article translated by Mayumi, which was originally written by a reporter from the Japanese language newspaper. At the beginning of November there was the Late Mum Show and four of us displayed.

The VIA Christmas Party was at the heritage house on the grounds of the townhouse complex where I live, so at the class just before the party, we all made different styles of Ikebana using pine, holly, cedar, red carnations, white mums and lilies. We decorated the large amenities room as well as the entrance hall, library and washroom with our arrangements. The arrangements turned out beautifully!

The final Ikebana event for the year was for the celebration of the birthday of the Emperor of Japan. Usually, the five different schools take a turn each year to make a large arrangement for the party. This year we got a request for one from each school. I borrowed a beautiful large vase from my student Naomi Sawada, and was able to get some beautiful variegated holly from a neighbor. (See next page for picture of the arrangement.)



Actually, the Emperor's Birthday celebration was the second to last Sangetsu event of the year. On the 19th, I had a Christmas Ikebana workshop and had eight people attend. We had tea and goodies after the class, and enjoyed each others' company.



POWELL STREET FESTIVAL IKEBANA -- FIRST IMPRESSIONS

It was during the Powell Street Festival 2012 that I first watched the Ikebana demonstration by Sangetsu teachers, Joan Fair and Mayumi Ichino. The Vancouver Ikebana Association's exhibit has always been one of the highlights of my annual visit to the Festival but this was the first time I actually watched a demonstration and decided then and there to take lessons!

Who would have believed that one year later, Joan would ask 3 of her beginner students to participate in the 2013 Powell Street Festival's Ikebana exhibit!! The 3 of us were feeling much trepidation about participating. I even had Joan come to my garden to help me pick out the flowers for the display. Without Joan and Mayumi's encouragement and assistance during the set-up, the 3 of us would have been shaking in our boots!

The other Ikebana schools' exhibitions were absolutely breathtaking. This year I was able to go to two demonstrations – one by Mayumi Ichino of the Sangetsu school and the other by Hollis Ho of the Sogetsu school. It would have been fabulous to go to all the other demonstrations and hopefully I can watch all four next year.

A childhood friend who grew up in this neighbourhood with me and who now lives in Seattle came all the way to see the exhibit and marvelled at how Hollis could find such a large broken branch and make it into something totally amazing during her demonstration! She emailed a week later to share that one of her tree's limbs had fallen and she was able to look at it with different eyes and see its potential – her first impressions of Ikebana will last forever.

Most of the visitors we saw at the exhibit and at the demonstrations were in awe of how you could take so few flowers, branches and limbs and create such beauty – that had been my first impression in 2012! Hearing their cheerful exclamations made me recall a quote by Sangetsu founder and master, Mokichi Okada: "Know that the happiness we feel when we bring joy to others is the greatest happiness in the world."

I felt very honoured that I could bring a bit of joy and happiness to others by participating in this year's exhibition.

Yukiko Tosa



Left to right: Mayumi Ichino, Yukiko Tosa, Joan Fairs, Beth McLaren, and Bianca Ozawa at the Powell Street Festival

COLORADO UPDATE

BY NATALIE MONTECALVO:

Sangetsu activities continue for my visits to Jamaica which right now is about six months out of the year! However when I am in Colorado, I continue to represent Sangetsu with the local Ikebana chapter in Denver. A very exciting opportunity occurred when I was asked to participate on a panel with Ikebana members representing Ohara, Ikenobo, Ichiyo, and Sogetsu this past October. The panelists were asked to share the philosophy of the individual schools based on the theme, “The Spiritual Insight of Ikebana”. The original date that I had volunteered, had to be changed and unfortunately it landed on the day before I was asked to do flowers at a wedding in Jamaica. Well I wasn’t going to let this opportunity go so I contacted Terry Quinn and asked her if there was someone she could approach to fill the vacancy on the panel. As it turns out, Henry Ajiki had suggested to her to perhaps begin outreach in other places outside Tucson. Here was a timely request and soon enough arrangements were made for Terry to attend on my behalf and for Sangetsu. Serendipity? Call it what you may, but it was certainly meant to be! Several of my Sangetsu students went to the October meeting to support Terry and to see what the other forms of Ikebana exist.

The Denver Ikebana chapter presents an annual flower exhibition at the Denver Botanic Gardens, which I am a member as well. It was held on September 20th with the theme, “Ki/Chi: The Enduring Life Force of Bamboo”. I created a parallel lines arrangement consisting of long lucky bamboo, taller dry bamboo, anthuriums, tropical fleur, Song of India that were created in two separate blue containers – one nagiere and one moribana. It is always with great joy to participate in this annual exhibition and of course to represent Sangetsu here on the local level.

Another wonderful opportunity came my way as a result of Terry Quinn’s presentation in Denver. A Sogetsu student who is also a member of the Denver Ikebana chapter, was so impressed with what Terry spoke about that she wishes to study Sangetsu. Because I will leave soon for my winter stay in Jamaica, we have scheduled several private classes before my departure December 29th. We are aiming to complete 10 lessons by then and an idea of how she can continue studying Sangetsu while I’m away is being worked out with guidance from Terry. I truly feel blessed for these opportunities to fall into my lap and to continue to share the experiences, study and purpose of Sangetsu.

In the meantime, my work in Jamaica continues as I pursue various venues to do special occasions, demonstrations, teach classes and always to do service through flowers. The ongoing Sangetsu adventure continues.....



Arrangement at the Denver Botanic Gardens. Jamaican arrangements below.





Our three arrangements at the Yume Japanese Gardens



Other schools' arrangements



*Whenever I see
Any beautiful flower
I'm newly impressed
By the wonderful art works
God created on this Earth*

Mokichi Okada