



Southeastern U.S. Ohara Chapter

Dear Fellow SEO Members,

2017 is marching along and I know we are all keeping step. Many things are going on to make this a banner year. New people and new ideas are moving us forward.

I am not saving the best news for last. Our seminars this year will be over the top! First of all, you will be happy to know Grand Master Betty Fuller Taylor has agreed to be our sensei in July. And then, in September Associate Professor Akihiro Nishi is coming from Japan to teach our autumn seminar. Some of you will remember him when our Chapter hosted the NAOTA conference in 2012 at Clemson. You may want to consider early hotel reservations if you are planning to attend these seminars. Seminar dates are listed in the newsletter.

Soon you will be receiving the new membership directory with the Chapter Bylaws. The board will be working on the Handbook of Duties of Board members and Officers. Any change in address, phone number, etc. should be sent to Vice-President Jane Newman. Maintaining a current directory is one responsibility, which comes with her office. Thank you Jane Newman, Sibbie Wilson and Susan Thomas for your time and diligence in this latest version

If you are participating in any Ikebana activities in your community don't forget to send pictures and a description of the event for our website. If you have not visited the website recently, Russ Harker, Sibbie and I have been updating the look and content. It is not finished but it is certainly worth a moment of your time. Thank you Russ and Sibbie.

When you are out and about I hope you take the opportunity to promote our wonderful group. New members are always welcome. Perhaps you have thought of doing a program at your local library to showcase the Ohara School of Ikebana. I recently had the opportunity to participate in a Japanese one-stroke dragon painting exhibition where Ikebana and Sumei were supportive arts.

Thank you so much for renewing your membership in the Southeastern U.S. Ohara Chapter. I look forward to seeing you in the months to come.

Sincerely,
Susan
Susan H. Thorpe
President

Members in the News

Susan Thorpe was fortunate to participate in the recent "East Meets West: New Japanese Traditions" Exhibition in Tarpon Springs and Clearwater, Florida.! Ikebana and Sumei were supportive arts to enhance the experience of seeing beautiful woodcrafts and the exciting one stroke dragon painting.! January 26 and January 28, 2017.

Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art
THURS. JAN. 26
JAPANESE PERFORMANCE ART EVENT WITH
KEISUKE TESHIMA
Master of One-Stroke Dragon Painting
TOKUMA TAKEBE
Wood Craftsman

EVENT TIME:
11:30 am – 1:00 pm (performance at 12:00 pm)
5:00 – 7:00 pm (performance at 5:30 pm)

WHERE:
SPC Tarpon Campus Fine Arts Building Lobby
600 E. Klosterman Rd., Tarpon Springs, FL

Event in lobby **FREE** to students and public
Museum admission applies to see exhibitions

Clearwater East Public Library
SAT. JAN. 28
EAST MEETS WEST SHOW & DEMO

EVENT TIME:
12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

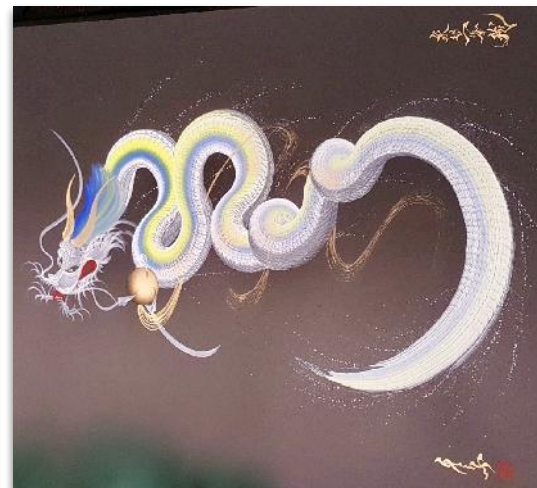
WHERE:
Clearwater East Public Library
2251 Drew St., Clearwater, FL

East Meets West: New Japanese Traditions
Exhibition on view: Jan. 15 - Feb. 5

S. Pransburg College
SPC
LRMA
Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art
415 North Main Street
www.leepa-rattner.org
600 E. Klosterman Rd., Tarpon Springs, FL 34689
727.522.5102



Bunjin by Susan Thorpe
Exhibited during East Meets West Event





Life in Bloom

LOUISE BENNETT



My love affair with ikebana began in 1957 when living in Japan. My husband Joe Mente, was stationed at Tachikawa Air Force Base and no base housing was available so he had a house built in the town of Fussa-machi. We had several American neighbors, but most were Japanese. One of my Air Force neighbors asked if I would be interested in learning ikebana. Our homes were small and we were expected to support the Japanese in our town so I jumped at the opportunity to learn more about our new home and their culture. The dear little woman who was the sensei, rode the train and brought our flowers to us rolled up in newspaper. I'd like to see any one of us try that! We later moved on base and I studied another school. Even though there are hundreds of modern schools, it was interesting to see how similar the basics are.

After three years it was time to head home with everything I could buy and stay close to the pound limit. By now there were 2 little boys in our family and I was expecting our 3rd child. By our 4th wedding anniversary we were a family of 5, which included a little girl. We built another home and this time we were near my home town of Dayton, Ohio. Soon neighbors showed up on our doorstep with interesting things to do. I was not familiar with garden clubs but soon learned and also found that there was an ikebana chapter here, II Chapter 33. Of course I joined everything and became active as an accredited flower show judge in the Ohio Association of Garden Clubs and eventually served 4 years as State Chair of the Judges' Schools and then as 3rd Vice Pres. A generous man in our community gave the City of Dayton a gift to build a civic garden center but additional money was needed so the garden clubs were approached. This project was too good to pass up so the 5 year project was done in 4 years and I served as the 1st President of the Board of Trustees. I've been on this Wegerzyn Foundation Board for 50 years in various capacities, now as Historian.

My world fell apart in 1971 when my husband died suddenly. We had 16 wonderful years with lots of travel and fun with our children and a deep commitment to our church. He was a pilot and an engineer and we frequently used a single engine plane for trips, including a month long trip with 3 children to visit his family in California. Interestingly, our oldest son also became an engineer and a bomber pilot.

I discovered the Ohara School in 1984 when our II chapter sponsored a demonstration by Grand Master Mutso Tomita. Say no more! We were so inspired that we decided we should have our own Ohara chapter. At least five teachers were necessary to have a chapter. So five of us studied everywhere we could to get the required credits, Cleveland, Columbus, Pittsburgh, Ann Arbor and San Diego. In three years five of us each had the 5 certificates required to be instructors: so in 1987 we became the Miami Valley Chapter of the Ohara School of Ikebana.

In 1978 I married Ron Bennett, also an engineer, not with the Air Force, but with General Motors. In helping Ron track his genealogy we discovered he had a Japanese great grandmother and a Scottish great grandfather who was very famous in Japanese history for bringing Western technology to Japan. Thomas Blake Glover arrived in Nagasaki in 1859 and lived in Japan the rest of his life. He received the Second Class Order of the Rising Sun from Emperor Meiji in 1908, an unprecedented award to a civilian. His daughter, Hana, who was Ron's grandmother, married an Englishman and lived in Inchon, Korea the rest of her life. In 1987 we were guests of the City of Nagasaki for 5 days and it was a trip of a lifetime. We had tea with Wakako Ohara and found that she knew more about great grandfather than we did. We also visited with the parents of Akihiro Nishi, a very popular Ohara teacher and I had the good fortune to have 6 lessons with his father who was a sensei in the Ohara School. Great grandfather Glover's home in Nagasaki, Ipponmatsu, is a tourist attraction and the last time I saw Associate Professor Nishi he mentioned that he had made an arrangement in the home for a special occasion.

Over the years I have continued to study in the Ohara School and have spent a great deal of time and energy teaching whenever and wherever asked to teach. We all must spread the word so this beautiful art form continues long after we are gone. Our Miami Valley Chapter is sponsoring a 2 day Seminar in Dayton June 14-15 and I will serve as the sensei.

Our Miami Valley Ohara chapter is small, but is alive and well and four of our members also belong to Southeastern Ohara. I joined Southeastern in 1998 when Akira Suzuki was sensei for the Autumn Seminar and have come every time I could. I really enjoy the lessons with Grand Master Betty Taylor, whom I admire greatly. She could be a role model for all of us. Another plus, of course, is meeting new and old friends and continuing our studies in those awesome mountains of North Carolina.

By now my children, Phillip, David and Karen, are grown and have their own families and we have seven grandchildren and last year our first great grandson. When I married Ron I also added 2 more sons to my family. We still live in the Dayton area and we plan to move to a lovely retirement area soon where I will only have a small area to grow ikebana materials, but I will! Leaving my garden is almost as hard as deciding which containers I must part with. (Bad sentence structure, I know)

Ikebana, this precious perishable art form, has been a very important part of my life, enjoying all the beautiful plant material that nature provides and all the beautiful people who have become part of my life. Enjoy it at every opportunity.



Seminar News

Southeastern U.S. Ohara Chapter Seminar Dates for 2017

Summer Seminar
July 13, 14, & 15th, 2017
Grandmaster Betty Fuller Taylor

Autumn Seminar
September 28, 29, & 30th, 2017
Associate Professor Akihiro Nishi

Dates for 2018 Seminars

**Summer Seminar
July 26, 27, & 28, 2018**

**Autumn Seminar
September 27, 28, & 29, 2018**

Upcoming Events & Programs

May 2017

May 9, 2017

Ikebana International Asheville Chapter #74
Annual Luncheon

Guest Presenter : Rekha Reddy, First Degree
Master, Ohara School of Ikebana
Asheville, NC

www.ikebanaasheville.org

JULY 2017

July 13, 14, & 15, 2017

Southeastern U. S. Ohara Chapter
Summer Seminar

Highlands, NC

Instructor: Grandmaster Betty Fuller Taylor

SEPTEMBER 2017

September 28, 29, & 30, 2017

Southeastern U. S. Ohara Chapter
Autumn Seminar

Highlands, NC

Instructor: Associate Professor Akihiro Nishi

OCTOBER 2017

October 9 to 13th, 2017

NAOTA Conference

C.O.P Associate Professor Akihiro Nishi

Demonstration by the Master & Banquet on Friday,
October 13 open to the public

Hosted by Ohara School of Ikebana Houston
Chapter

Westin Houston Memorial City

Houston, TX

Susan Flanagan

flana@sbcglobal.net

October 24, 2017

Ikebana International Asheville Chapter #74

Ohara Demonstration by Sibbie Wilson

"Joy of Baskets"

Folk Art Center, Asheville, N. C.

www.ikebanaasheville.org

Directory of Ohara Teachers in Our Area

Jane Bell
Reston, Virginia
Contact directly for information
703-476-4822
jjbell2263@yahoo.com

Louise Bennett
Dayton, Ohio
937-439-9123
ronloubnt@gmail.com
Teaching, Demonstrations &
Seminars

Beth Bowers-Klaine
Batavia, Ohio (Cincinnati)
513-377-2413
Beth.klaine@gmail.com
Teaching

Alice Buch
Arlington, Virginia
703-524-4055
Contact directly for informaton
alicesbuch@verizon.net
Teaching

Karen Chevrotee
Leland, North Carolina
901-383-3456
Karen@wilmingtonsouthrealty.com
Teaching

Diane Harker
Travelers Rest, South Carolina
864-836-6525
diharker@aol.com

Beverly Maurer
Wilmington, North Carolina
910-256-4046
bevwillm@bellsouth.net
Teaches in home selected Fridays at
10:00 am

Judy Melton
Tryon, North Carolina
864-654-0657
jmlton@clemsion.edu
Teaching

Susan Thorpe
St Petersburg, Florida
727-515-1497
shthorpe@tampabay.rr.com
Teaching, Demonstrations

Sibbie Wilson
Franklin, North Carolina
828-524-1281
sibbiwilson@frontier.com
Teaching, Workshops,
Demonstrations, Exhibition
Contact directly

Ohara Reference Page

Corrections, Additions and Notifications of Events

Please submit to Elizabeth Clark
Newsletter Chair
jeclark80@yahoo.com

Or mail to:

19415 South Lakeway Ave
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810

Our WEBSITE:

<http://seohara.org>

Ohara School of Ikebana

Website:
<http://www.ohararyu.or.jp/english>

Email: international@ohararyu.or.jp

International Division
Ohara Center of Tokyo
7-17, Minami-Aoyama
5-chome
Minako-ku, Tokyo
107-8607 Japan
Phone: 03-5774-5097

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Lagniappe: A little something EXTRA



Virginia Mathews would like to share her source for the great wire tote she had this past year at the seminars.

The wire case is sold by ***Ikebana by Junko*** on the internet. The company is in England but there is no problem ordering by credit card.

ROLL-UP IKEBANA WIRE CASE

Comes in 3 colors: red, green or blue

<https://www Ikebanabyjunko.com/product/Ikebana-wires-case/>



Ikebana International, Washington, D.C. Chapter No.1

Luncheon

and

Ichiyo Shiki Ikebana Demonstration

by

Valerie Eccleston, Executive Master

“Spring Palette”

Saturday, March 25, 2017

*Columbia Country Club
7900 Connecticut Ave, Chevy Chase, MD 20815*

Registration Deadline: March 18, 2017

Members: \$40 Guests: \$45 Demonstration Only: \$15

More Information Available January 2017



Ikebana International Washington, D.C. Chapter No.1 60th Anniversary Event



Persian Garden Tour

Saturday, May 20, 2017

12:30 – 4:30 pm

At the Home and Garden of Shahla Butler

Please Park at Huntingtown United Methodist Church,

4020 Hunting Creek Road Huntingtown, MD 20639

Park close to the church playground and avoid parking at the front. Shuttle provided.

Advanced Tickets Required: \$25 per person Maximum: 200 Rain or Shine

Tickets can be purchased through Area Workshop Groups and Teachers