



Southeastern U.S. Ohara Chapter

Newsletter Summer 2017

Dear Fellow SEO Members,

Another spectacular summer seminar is in the books. Grand Master Betty Fuller Taylor led us through six beautiful arrangements based on the slanting style. As always she shared her expertise in her special, gracious way. Our new co-chairs, Karen LaFleur-Stewart and Jennie Johnson worked their magic and organized everything and everybody. So many people pitched in from set up to tear down. It was a true group effort including our wonderful ikebana husbands.

The autumn seminar plans are in place. We are fortunate to have as our sensei, Assistant Professor Akihiro Nishi from the Council of Ohara Professors. Co-chairs Julia VanHuss and Marcia Wright are busy with preparations. Twenty two attendees will be accepted for the seminar.

At our board meeting July 11, it was decided that maintenance fees for the Martha Neese Garden will be supplemented from the general fund if there is a deficit in the garden fund. This decision will be revisited in 5 years. Sibbie Wilson is currently looking for a gardener in the Highlands area so as to avoid transportation costs with our current gardener. After our recent seminar Louise Bennett kindly made a generous donation to the garden fund. Thank you Louise.

Our annual business meeting was held on Thursday, July 13. Future annual business meetings will also move to Thursday since it is our least busy day. At this meeting the membership decided that addresses, etc. will be sent out by email or USPS as needed. Some members did not want this information published in the newsletter since it is posted to our website.

After days of refreshing mountain air, I arrived safely home to my loving husband and little dog to the heat and humidity of Florida. No wonder I see so many FL license plates in Highlands! Memories of our wonderful seminar are fresh and practicing Heika is high on my to do list. "See you in September when the summer's through..."

Susan H. Thorpe, President

Members in the News



Louise Bennett received her **First Degree Masters' Certificate.** Grand Master Betty Fuller Taylor did the honors of presenting it to her at our July meeting.

Julia VanHuss received her **Third Term Masters' Certificate.** from her Teacher, Sibbie Wilson



Seminar Report- Summer 2017

“It was the best of times and the worst of times...” Perhaps not quite in the Dickensian sense, but Summer Seminar 2017 provided a wide range of experiences that led us from utter frustration to joyous success in floral composition.

Early arrivals on Wednesday morning, Elizabeth Clark and Marcia Wright were in the woods harvesting Bear huckleberry even as Julia VanHuss and Sibbie Wilson were collecting lichen. Concurrently our storage building was emptied and buckets, screens, and other equipment were brought to the Community Center with the additional and welcome help from Jack Flanagan and Tom Klane. Flowers were delivered after Wednesday lunch - earlier than expected, enabling the conditioning team of Jane Newman, Susan Flanagan, Susan Thorpe, and Susan Mitchell and others who had spare moments and willing hands, to treat, fill, sort and move filled buckets. Somewhere during the busy afternoon Diane and Russ Harker assembled and checked the sound system while Helen Aitken was setting up the coffee bar. Susan Mitchel, Russ Harker and a team of husbands were able to set up and position the lights. Everything was in place ready for the beginning lesson in the morning. We turned off the lights, locked the door and went to dinner.

When our Community Center meeting room was unlocked Thursday morning, the carefully placed tables and chairs had been scattered and shifted. The Highlands Board of Zoning had - without our permission or knowledge - used the room the previous night, departing and leaving the room in disarray. By the time the early ikebana students arrived, order had been restored. At their workstations, Betty Dols and Beth Bowers-Klane delivered the first of the lessons' black buckets.

Following the theme of *Creating Beauty with Beauty*, accomplished Grand Master Betty Taylor, amplified by Diane Harker's audio set up, began the seminar introducing the deceptively simple Hana-isho Basic Inclining Form Variation in a Low Bowl composition. It was noted that Hana-isho arrangements are recent introductions designed to make floral displays suitable for the home as well as to make it easier for introductory students to learn key placements and terminology. Grand Master Taylor reminded participants that the *Kikyo magazine* provides insights as



Hana-isho-Basic-Inclining Form- Variation -Low Bowl

to current trends of the Ohara Professors.

Betty's carefully and beautifully assembled Hana-isho included three *Pandanus amaryllifolius* (screwpine) blades (The blades were collected and brought from Florida by Susan Thorpe.), peachy pink gerbera, and leather leaf fern. As critiques began, from time to time participants carefully studied (and photographed) her lovely arrangement.

After a filling lunch catered by The Kitchen, now under new management, the afternoon began with the Chapter business meeting, a wise schedule change that made Chapter dinner preparations on Friday easier. Two certificates were presented. Louise Bennett proudly accepted her beautiful First Degree Masters' Certificate from Grand Master Betty Fuller Taylor. Julia Van Huss was delighted to receive her Third Term Masters' certificate from Sibbie Wilson.

In the lingering glow of students' pride, Grand Master Taylor began the afternoon lesson as she described the nuances of making a Moribana - Color Scheme - Color Method - Slanting Style arrangement. Using only two materials - *Aspidistra* and *Helianthus*, she placed five manipulable aspidistra leaves perfectly, then carefully inserted the rigid-stemmed sunflowers on a kenzan placed in the lower right of her container. She emphasized that the initial placements of the subject and secondary are key to the success of the design of this minimal but lovely composition



Moribana - Color Scheme - Color Method - Slanting Style

The first seminar day concluded with the seminar participants dispersed to different dinner locations. We thank Susan Thorpe for arranging to have these large tables reserved for our group while in town. While dining at Cyprus, Wild Thyme and Paeoletti's participants were served palate-pleasing meals as animated discussions were held.

Friday Judy Sheldon and Susan Thomas distributed the plant materials for the morning - azalea branches, alstroemeria, and leatherleaf fern. Grand Master Taylor began the lesson by pointing out the differences between traditional and realistic Moribana landscapes as well as describing the types of plant materials used when composing far view, middle view and near view landscapes. Students were reminded that the landscape container is always a suiban, whether round, oval or rectangular. She then demonstrated how to create the Moribana-Landscape- Realistic Method- Middle View with Slanting Style influence.



Moribana - Landscape - Realistic Method - Middle View - Summer with Slanting Style Influence

After a delicious and restorative lunch from The Kitchen, our Sensei composed an elegant Rimpa using forsythia branches, hydrangea, and hosta- our equivalent of seasonal Japanese plants. Sibbie kindly cut the forsythia branches; Julia and Marcia provided the hosta leaves. Grand Master Taylor discussed the Rimpa paintings influenced the Ohara Rimpa designs. Grand Master's Rimpa was left in the room to be enjoyed that evening.



Rimpa

Then the classroom was tidied in preparation for the Chapter Dinner. Susan Thorpe decorated the tables with obi and take-away chopsticks and chopstick holders that she gathered on her recent trip to Japan. Fresh tablecloths and silver flatware also helped to make the room more festive. The Kitchen of luncheon “fame” catered the evening meal. We were honored to have the new owners, Suzanne and Dan Young, act as our servers so we could meet the new faces behind the familiar name.



Heika - Slanting Style

Early on Saturday, Sherry Blom and Linda Taylor delivered to the work stations the flowers for the final morning lesson - five bear huckleberry branches, three Sweet Unique pink roses, and three hosta leaves needed for the Heika Slanting Style Basic. Julia and Marcia were again the source of the hosta leaves.

For this difficult-to-assemble arrangement, Grand Master Taylor carefully admonished students to use only part of the opening of the vase - in other words, to limit insertions on one side of the bracing piece. She described lengths of each of the five, then selectively pruned bear huckleberry branches to expose the beauty of the line. Each stem was carefully inserted - an exercise requiring patience and persistence. The object grouping placements merge with bear

huckleberry stems - placements that were no less difficult to achieve. When complete, Betty's exquisite composition revealed none of the struggles needed to assemble it. As she worked her way through our critiques, she found evidence of our less-polished attempts to compose our own Heika Slanting Style Basic.

The last seminar lunch from The Kitchen was a welcome respite from the challenging morning. After the Ginza ended, successful bidders were busy paying sellers and packing up so they could focus on the afternoon lesson.

The final arrangement of the seminar - a Shohinka Heika - employed lichen branches, lilies, and sword fern. Grand Master Taylor reminded students that the container selected should be beautiful, and elegant; it should always be placed on a base. The plant materials selected should match the container; the goal is to compose without revealing assembly techniques - one last challenge for learners! Grand Master Taylor noted that Shohinka Heika is not described in most Ohara classifications since it is intended to be composed for demonstration or exhibition.

Since the assembly goal of the Shohinka Heika is to have all materials emerge from the vase as if they had one single point of origin, and, like the Heika of the morning, only a small portion of the container opening is to be used, assembly is time consuming even with few stems being used. The sensei's arrangement beautifully illustrated the principles she described, again echoing the seminar theme of 'Creating Beauty with Beauty.'



With seminar evaluations written, containers carefully packed, strainers, jugs and buckets washed and dried, arrangements disassembled, a summer storm soaked those making trips to their cars. Fortunately, every free hand pitched in to help. Husbands who had loaded their cars helped dismantle the lights, pack seminar boxes, and load up for the trip to the storage unit. With rain dripping on their faces, Jack Flanagan and Don Blom undauntedly transferred seminar gear into the storage unit. Their dedication is noted and appreciated!

Reflecting on the experiences of the seminar, Grand Master Betty Taylor is to be applauded for designing an excellent program for Summer Seminar '17 one which provided a series of related (Look back: how many were slanting?) but subtly different lessons, by gently forcing us out of our arranging comfort zones. By putting increasing demands on arranging skills, her plan was designed to help embed ideas in long-term memory. To move ikebana students from the worst of arranging times to self-directed successes is a strategy employed in sound instructional design, something we are fortunate to have always had from our revered sensei, Grand Master Betty Taylor. We thank her for passing on to us her lifelong enjoyment and love of Ohara.

A Big Thank you to our Summer Seminar Co-Chairs



Karen LeFleur-Stewart



Jennie Johnson

IN MEMORY

Memories of Mattie Evelyn (Connie) Howell

July 16, 1925 – July 02, 2017

BY: Susan Flanagan

Connie was a charter Member of Ohara School of Ikebana Houston Chapter, and through the years was an inspiration to many. In addition to Houston Ohara Chapter, she was a member of the Southeastern U.S. Ohara Chapter, NAOTA and Ikebana International Chapter #12. She was also an active member of the Houston Garden Center and owner of the Christmas Shop “The Holly Sprig”.

Those of us who have a long history with her will remember her fondly for her love and support of Ohara School. She was very artistic and her flower arrangements always showed that talent. The flowers in her hands seemed to know what was expected of them. All the while, I labored to get the correct placement; it came natural and effortless to her. Her favorite arrangements were made in her Japanese baskets and her next favorite was Bunjin. She was a beloved teacher, with a deep passion for Ohara. She was a mentor to me and many others.

Connie was the kind of friend that could look over your garden fence and never see the weeds. She will be missed by all.



*IN MEMORY***JANE BELL**

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of one of our dear members Jane Bell on June 23, 2017 after a brief illness. Jane has been a member of Ikebana International Chapter 1, Washington, DC and the Southeastern U.S. Ohara Chapter for many years. She was president of the Washington DC Ohara Chapter for 9 years and an officer on the NAOA board. Her studies began in the 1970's when her family lived in Korea. Upon returning to the USA she began studying with Grand Master Betty Taylor which continued to the present. Jane has been an active and dedicated Ikebana teacher and participated in many exhibitions, seminars and conferences. In 2014 her son Rob and daughter Whitney joined her as she received the honor of First Degree Master at a ceremony in Kobe, Japan. Last August, Jane joined her many friends at the NAOA Conference in Cambridge, MA. Headmaster Hiroki Ohara conducted the conference and was assisted by Professor Yokohigashi. She had a wonderful time seeing old friends and studying her beloved Ohara School arrangements. Of particular note was her Moribana- Color Scheme-Color Method-Slanting Style arrangement. After his review, Professor Yokohigashi leaned back in his chair, smiled up at Jane and said "perfect". Few have received this accolade. Her Ikebana skill and techniques beautifully represent the theory and naturalistic philosophy of the Ohara school.

In addition to her excellence and expertise in Ohara Ikebana Jane had numerous other interests. She was involved and active in local garden, book, gourmet and tennis clubs. Jane will be remembered fondly for her kindness, elegance, grace, and wry wit.



Professor Yokohigashi & Jane Bell

Seminar News

Southeastern U.S. Ohara Chapter Seminar Dates for 2017

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

SEPTEMBER 2017

September 16, 2017
Ikebana International Chapter #33
Ohara Demonstration by Beth Bowers-Klaine
Knollwood Garden Center
Dayton, OH

September 28, 29, & 30, 2017
Southeastern U. S. Ohara Chapter
Autumn Seminar
Highlands, NC
Instructor: Associate Professor Akihiro Nishi

OCTOBER 2017

October 9 to 13, 2017
NAOTA Conference
Associate Professor Akihiro Nishi, Council of Professors
Demonstration by the Master & Banquet on Friday,
October 13 open to the public
Hosted by Ohara School of Ikebana Houston Chapter
The Westin Houston, Memorial City
Houston, TX
Susan Flanagan
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Directory of Ohara Teachers in Our Area

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Ohara Reference Page

Corrections, Additions and Notifications of Events

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Lagniappe: A little something EXTRA



-Ginza Matters - “ Enriching the Legacy”

Our Ginza's are the best source of used ikebana containers, especially types or styles no longer in production.

We are transferring a piece of the past, a legacy of ikebana, to the other members. In that transaction is an overlooked potential. The individual from whom we trade may have stories about that container that could be shared. Knowing such information as who made the container; where was it purchased; was it used by a visiting master; or at a special exhibit? Providing the answers to these questions will add extra meaning to the new owner, enriching their future arranging experiences.

To those of you who are downsizing your cherished collection, please, before the next Ginza, take the time to record your memories and experiences. A simple slip of paper to accompany your containers and boards will transfer a unique legacy to the happy purchaser of your items.

So as you consider what to bring, as you assemble your treasures, please search your memories to try to supply all the details about the container or board. Anything you can provide will add a new dimension to the container. By passing forward your recollections and information, you will be sharing vicariously in the happy experiences of the next Ohara student who will remember not only the facts you supplied but will remember with pleasure the exchange of memories. What a beautiful legacy you will have created.



**A Big Thank You to
Grand Master Betty
Fuller Taylor for a
marvelous Summer
Seminar 2017**

