



Southeastern U. S. Ohara Chapter

Newsletter Summer 2020

Greetings members,

2020 certainly hasn't turned out as we planned! I was so looking forward to our seminars to learn from our outstanding senseis and to renew friendships over great food in the beautiful mountains of Highlands. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has disrupted our plans. To add to the bad news, we mourn the passing of Grand Master Betty Taylor. Her memorial service has been delayed due to the continued spread of the virus. Jane Newman shared information about a memorial fund which her Ikebana International chapter has developed and can be found in this newsletter. As members of NAOTA are aware, the annual conferences scheduled for San Diego this year and for Portland in 2021 have been cancelled.

The good news is we are proceeding with our plans for the Southeastern chapter seminars in 2021. Much of the planning work for the 2020 seminars can be easily transferred to 2021. The June seminar will honor Betty Taylor by incorporating arrangements, containers and materials she loved. As I write this letter, I am waiting to hear from Ohara School Headquarters regarding our request for a sensei.

The Board of Directors has been conducting chapter business virtually. Julia Van Huss (Vice President) and Marjorie DaVanzo (Secretary) have jumped right in to help us navigate these uncharted waters. Thank you to our outgoing officers Jennie Johnson and Susan Thomas for their outstanding contributions.

The proposed constitution/bylaws change to our fiscal year, was unanimously approved so future Treasurer's reports will reflect our new fiscal year of Jan-Dec. Twenty-seven votes were received



Nineteen members returned the survey. I've summarized the results for you.

**** There is very strong interest in adding a 4th day of lessons to the June 2021 seminar and potentially to other seminars. The board will explore this idea for feasibility

**** Members like having 2 seminars annually and predictability in knowing when the seminars will occur but having advanced notice of any changes is more important than a set week.

**** There is some interest in holding seminars in other cities but minimal interest in chairing one. Having members residing in a city where a seminar is held is important for planning a seminar. Logistics are of particular importance since we store all our equipment in Highlands

**** There is interest in an online presentation via Zoom or similar platform

Ohara School Headquarters has had their usual business interrupted by the pandemic. Overseas mailings were suspended earlier this year so issues of SOKA have not been sent. Certificates are being awarded but have not been sent. The new learning materials we were expecting are delayed and the online catalog for ordering is not available to us. 2020 began with the start of the revised curriculum. A further refinement regarding Free Expression has been issued which I will be emailing to you shortly..

I've adapted my teaching to incorporate masks and distancing. My students and I have found arranging has been a bright spot of normality when most other activities have been shut down. I'm fortunate that my garden and those of some friends has been a steady source of materials. I hope that you will find ikebana a continuing source of happiness and personal growth.

Beth

Seminar News

Summer Seminar

June 11 -14, 2021

(additional day)

Highlands, North Carolina

In Honor of Betty Fuller Taylor

Instructor: TBD

Autumn Seminar

September 23 - 25, 2021

Highlands, North Carolina

Instructor: TBD

Members in the News

Susan Thorpe
Ikebana International Sarasota
Chapter



Beth Bowers-Klaine, Landscape in suiban from Betty Taylor, (Covid Therapy)

In Memory of Betty Jane Fuller Taylor

April 24th, 1924 - May 7th, 2020

Grand Master
Ohara School of Ikebana

Betty dedicated her life to her students of The Ohara School of Ikebana. She taught lessons every week for over fifty years and her students are all levels up to first degree master. Many of her students are teaching, demonstrating and exhibiting. She was such a gifted teacher and left us with an enduring legacy. She conveyed the love and spirit of nature which is such a part of the Ohara School ideology. Through her we came to love Ohara Ikebana and appreciate the joy it brings.

Her life of sharing her love of Ohara Ikebana are accomplishments of so many teaching seminars, daily teaching at the Stone Lantern in Highlands, North Carolina for eight seasons. Six study tours to Japan which included participating in master lesson seminars and many, many demonstrations and exhibitions including exhibiting in Japan. Serving as President and other board positions for Ohara Chapters and Washington, D. C. Chapter One Ikebana International plus serving on numerous committees.



Betty presenting Ohara Certificate to one of her students 2016

When Betty attended her first Ikebana International World Convention in Japan with the late Mrs. Ellen Gordon Allen her obsession with all things ikebana began. Upon her return home after this trip she immediately started her studies of Ohara Ikebana in New York City with the late Grand Master Mutsuo Tomita, traveling to the City by train. She also studied with the late Headmaster Houn Ohara during several of her trips to master lessons in Japan. Both of these great teachers encouraged her to take the path of teaching.

When the Stone Lantern discontinued Ohara Ikebana lessons at the end of the season in 2000, Betty continued to come to her Highlands cottage each season, arriving mid May and would teach at her home each week. She and the late Mr. Ralph deVille created the beautiful flower arrangements the store was so well known for until Mr. deVille's passing in 2015.

Betty taught many workshops for Ohara Chapters and her home Ohara School of Japanese Flower Arrangement Washington D. C. Area Chapter in Virginia. She taught twenty-four seminars for the Southeastern U. S. Ohara Chapter and was instrumental in the revival of this Chapter. She also introduced us to other great teachers for our Chapter's seminars: Grand Master Mutsuo Tomita, Grand Master Reiko Kawamura and First Degree Master José Salcedo.

With Betty's unique talent she was able to create magic with only a few flowers, branches or leaves.



Jane Newman
Fourth Term Masters'

She was a gracious, unassuming, intelligent woman with a gentle soul and love of nature.

Every time we see a beautiful blue sky with white puffy clouds or a butterfly floating by, Jane and I, family, friends and students will remember her and her beautiful smile and the sparkle in her eyes. We are so thankful the paths of her journey in life intertwined with ours. Her spirit will live on in all of us.



Sbbie Wilson
Associate First Degree Master

Sbbie Wilson and Jane Newman

Betty, she was a lady, above all. She had an air of calm about her, I guess it's called grace. I knew her from The Stone Lantern. I had fallen in love with Ralph's arrangements in the store. I had never seen anything so beautiful and imaginative.

Ralph told me about Betty teaching a class upstairs, so I signed up and returned for 3-4 days of classes.

Betty sat on a stool at the end of a long wood table upstairs with a large drawing pad on an easel. She would introduce the style we would practice, then draw a strange drawing with angles and proportions and we built our arrangements. She was so calm and so ladylike and elegant. Her instruction at that time lit a fire in me that caused me to seek Ikebana classes whenever I could! I was completely in love. She paid me a lovely compliment about having a good sense of beauty. I owe my love of Ikebana to her. (And Ralph)

Still, she is someone I admire and strive to learn the grace and beauty she had in her.

Jaclyn Macaulay



I first met Betty Taylor when I was a member of the DC Chapter - my first Chapter in the USA. It was Betty that put me in touch with my Sensei Kay Lee and she did so with such kindness and thought. I was so thrilled to be part of such a vibrant group and was awestruck with the events they organized - she demonstrated at the first one I attended and her arrangement was just perfect. I had moved from Asia and knew that, as soon as I went to the first exhibition at the arboretum, I'd be loving Ohara Ikebana in the US as much as I had in Japan and Singapore. As I moved around the USA Betty was a constant and I was thrilled to have her influence strongly felt in our chapter too. I consider myself very fortunate to have known her. Fay Charlesworth 7 of 16

In addition to my wonderful cherished memories of an extraordinary, gracious, talented teacher. I am thankful to have a treasured, tangible legacy from Betty: her Chinese Celadon Jug.

Betty described a bit of its history for me, a history which provides insight about her early ikebana experiences, ones that took place long before any of us knew her.

As you read, try to go back in time to imagine a younger Betty yearning and eager to learn, talking to us about the provenance of one of her containers.

This is what Betty wrote:

"The Chinese Celadon Jug has a history with memories.

"In my hands it has traveled to many demonstrations and exhibitions since the 1970s.

"To learn ikebana, we would train-ride to New York City for a week in January, repeating a week in July, to study with Grand Master Mutsuo Tomita.

"One cold, icy January evening, after dinner my friend Louise and I carefully walked to shop at B. Altman's. No available taxi.

"Altman's was showcasing "Chinese exports" as a special sale.

I spotted the jug! It was successfully shipped to my home.

"May you enjoy as I have! Always one of my favorites."

Betty Fuller Taylor

July 15, 2017

Shared memory of Karen LaFleur-Stewart



Memorial Fund in Honor of Betty Taylor

Make your Donations payable to the
Ikebana Iwaya Fund

Then the fund will forward ALL collections to the
National Arboretum to enhance and expand
the Peony
Collection in honor of Betty

Betty F. Taylor

April 24, 1924 ~ May 7, 2020

**Proceeds will be used by the
U.S. National Arboretum for
Increasing and improving
the Peony collection**

**DONATION FORM can be found on
last page of this newsletter**



**Checks Payable to:
Ikebana Iwaya Fund**

**Mail to: Ikebana Iwaya Fund
J. C. Solenberger, Treasurer
5 Wood Road
Wilmington, DE 19806-2021**



**Acknowledgement and receipt
will be sent to donors.**

Directory of Teachers

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

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

Alice Buch
Arlington, Virginia
703-524-4055
alicesbuch@verizon.net
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Marjorie Storck DaVanzo
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bevwillm@bellsouth.net
Teaches in home selected Fridays at
10:00 am

Linda Taylor
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727-515-1497
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Teaching and Exhibition

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Demonstrations

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Teaching, Workshops,
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Contact directly

Ohara Reference Page

Corrections, Additions and Notifications of Events

Please submit to Elizabeth Clark
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Or mail to:
1165 Prospector Place
Whittier, North Carolina 28789

Our Website

<http://seohara.org>

Ohara School of Ikebana

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Ohara Chapters in Our Area

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Lynne Hamilton
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Washington DC Area Chapter
Victoria Melzer
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<https://iichapter1.com>

Lagniappe: A little something EXTRA

An excellent tribute to Betty Taylor has been published by the Ikebana International Chapter No. 1 Here is the LINK to be able to read their newsletter



<https://iichapter1.files.wordpress.com/2020/08/sept-oct-2020.pdf>





Thank you
Grand Master Betty Fuller Taylor
Your students from Southeastern US
Ohara Chapter



Southeastern U.S. Ohara Chapter. SUMMER 2020



Donation Form

Ikebana Iwaya Fund (IIF)

The Ikebana Iwaya Fund (IIF) is an IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed by Sumako Iwaya Solenberger in 2006 to provide support for ikebana activities both in and out of the U.S. Donations to I.I.F. are tax-deductible. Income generated by its permanent endowment fund is disbursed to support the ikebana community.

Designated Organization:	U.S. National Arboretum Increasing and improving the Peony collection.		
Contact Name:	Elizabeth Biddle		
Address:	6217 Thornwood Drive, Alexandria, VA 22310		
Email:	biddlene@hotmail.com	P h o n e:	571-218-08 95

Donor Name:			
Address:			
Email:		P h o n e:	

In Memory of:	Betty Jane Fuller Taylor
I wish to remain anonymous	
I have informed the Designee by sending them copy of this form	

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Checks Payable to: Ikebana Iwaya Fund

Mail to: Ikebana Iwaya Fund
J. C. Solenberger, Treasurer
5 Wood Road
Wilmington, DE 19806-2021

