

Sakura News

Ikebana International

Volume 67 Issue 3

June 2023



International
President
Nobuko Sakata

Dear Members of Ikebana International:

You may be surprised that you are receiving this issue of Sakura News by email. As I explained in the previous issue of Sakura News (Vol. 67-2), Sakura News is now going to be sent by email to chapter presidents and to members who do not belong to a chapter. In addition, we are uploading Sakura News on our website's Members Only page as soon as it is published. We are doing this to meet the challenge of sending information from Headquarters to members as rapidly as possible.

If you have any difficulty accessing Sakura News online, please ask your chapter president for help. Also, I would appreciate receiving feedback from you so that we can evaluate how well this is working for the members.

Sakura News is published three times a year, on November 10, March 10, and June 30. I encourage you to check our website soon after each of those dates.

In May in Japan, there is a long string of national holidays. During this year's holidays, every sightseeing spot was crowded. I went by train to visit Nagano Prefecture. The seats on the train were fully booked, the way they were before the COVID pandemic. People are going out now, and many events, including local festivals, have resumed. People are extra enthusiastic, as if they are trying to recover the excitement that they lost during the past three years.

Of course, the coronavirus still remains. We have to continue to be cautious. But we expect that many Ikebana activities will start again soon, and that many I.I. members will come back to active participation.

The new business year 2023-2024 will start soon. We are asking you to renew your membership now.

Last year, many chapters increased their membership. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the chapter presidents and NCAR liaison officers for their hard work and great effort to promote the Membership Drive Campaign. As I have said, the activities of our organization are funded by your membership dues. The extent of the future growth of Ikebana International depends on how many members we can regain. Please invite your friends, students, children, and grandchildren to join Ikebana International. Please introduce the wonderful world of Ikebana to your community.

My presidency ends in September 2023. I always admire the energy and enthusiasm of I.I. members and their love for Ikebana. I was encouraged by the power of our members and power of flowers as well. I would like to thank everyone for giving me such a wonderful opportunity to serve this organization.

See you soon at a Regional Conference or at the World Convention.

Believing in the power of flowers and plants,

Nobuko Sakata

International President

Ikebana International 13th World Convention

Nobuko Usui, *Start Up Committee Chair*

It is my great pleasure to announce that the Ikebana International 13th World Convention will be held in Kyoto on April 25 to 28, 2025. At that time of year, fresh green leaves come out, and early summer flowers start to bloom.

The venue of the Convention will be the Kyoto International Conference Center

Starting in 2020, we were hit hard by COVID-19, but we were able to reaffirm the importance of social interactions in people's lives. We also realized the importance of culture and art, which enable people to have peace of mind, enjoy a fulfilling life, and face the future courageously, comfortably, and happily.

Recently, normal life is slowly being restored.

The preparations for the I.I. 13th World Convention have started and, thankfully, are going smoothly.

The Convention theme is "Succeed and Continue". I.I. has had the motto "Friendship through Flowers" for nearly 70 years. Our hope is to use the spread of Ikebana, an important traditional Japanese culture, as a means of contributing to friendship and peace between the nations of the world. I invite you to carry on the hopes of our predecessors and to pass the spirit of Ikebana on proudly to future generations.

Membership

Tomiko Uesato, *International Third-Vice President*

As of May 31, 2023, Ikebana International has received 6,228 membership registrations from 133 chapters, 5 prospective chapters, and individual members.

The number of members is gradually increasing, but unfortunately we have not yet reached our goal of at least 7,000. We need more members to support the 13th World Convention, which will be held at the end of April 2025.

During the Membership Drive Campaign, 26 chapters have increased their membership by 10% or more, and 24 other chapters have added 10 or more new members. We will soon send Certificates of Appreciation to the presidents of those chapters that have had particularly significant increases. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Please continue to support the Membership Drive Campaign and encourage people to join Ikebana International. We hope to have many more members to help us spread the spirit of "Friendship through Flowers" throughout the world. "Friendship through Flowers" can bring joy to everyone in these difficult times.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at member@ikebanahq.org or i.i.thirdvp@ikebanahq.org.

New Year Luncheon 2024

Shizuko Okubo, *Chairperson of New Year Luncheon 2024*

After several years in which the I.I. New Year Gathering was held on-line, we are now able to hold this event in person. The New Year luncheon 2024 will be held on Thursday, January 25, in the Fuyo no ma room at the Hotel New Otani in Tokyo, in the presence of Her Imperial Highness Princess Hisako Takamado.

The demonstrator will be Naohiro Kasuya, the fourth Headmaster of the Ichiyo School of Ikebana.

Japanese Imperial Court music, called gagaku, is scheduled for the entertainment. This musical form dates from around the 10th century. The player will be Hideki Togi. Mr. Togi has played an important role in introducing traditional Japanese culture both in Japan and overseas, and in promoting international friendship.

We are planning to have an exhibition of ikebana by I.I. chapters in the room where the luncheon will be held. The deadline for applying to participate in the exhibition is December 1. Details and application forms will be sent to chapter presidents if requested. If your chapter is interested in participating, please write me: <shizuko.okubo@gmail.com>



Hideki Togi

Naohiro Kasuya

We encourage chapters from outside of Japan to participate if at all possible.

The Hotel New Otani is offering a package price so that I.I. members can stay at a lower rate than usual at this high class hotel.

More details about the luncheon, the exhibition, and the hotel will be provided in the November issue of Sakura News. Meanwhile, please contact me if you have any questions.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the luncheon in January.

As in the past several years, the New Year Luncheon will be videotaped and, later, streamed online.

Future Regional Conferences

Shizuko Okubo, *International First Vice-President*

In November this year, the 15th Asian Regional Conference will be held by the Hyderabad Chapter; in October next year, the 19th North and Central American Regional Conference will be held by the Philadelphia Chapter. In April 2025, the I.I. 13th World Convention will be held in Kyoto. A European

Regional Conference is also in the pipeline.

We warmly welcome you to join us at the Regional Conferences. We hope to see you there. Please look at “Special Conferences or Conventions” under Future Events on the I.I. website for a detailed schedule of dates. <https://ikebanahq.org/future-events>

From now on, both the participants and the hosts will be busy with a big event almost every year. We fully support the Regional Conferences, in addition to the World Convention which is hosted by I.I. headquarters.

***15th Asian Regional Conference** will be held **November 17-20, 2023**, in Hyderabad, hosted by **Hyderabad Chapter #250**.

***19th North and Central American Regional Conference** will be held **October 13-17, 2024**, in Philadelphia, hosted by **Philadelphia Chapter #71**.

For further information, please contact

Deborah Dickinson <dldpac@aol.com>

Donna Eroh-Rothstein <cormurmur@aol.com>

Please check the I.I. website frequently for additional information about these events. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact First Vice-President Shizuko Okubo (i.i.firstvp@ikebanahq.org).

Tribute to Wakako Ohara, Honorary Adviser of Ikebana International

Nobuko Usui, Past International President

I was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Wakako Ohara on February 18, 2023, at the age of 82. I am certain that the world of ikebana, including Ikebana International, has lost an important and beloved supporter.

Ms. Ohara made tremendous efforts to spread ikebana throughout the world for most of her life, always with wit and graceful expression.

Everyone recognizes her achievements as a missionary for ikebana.

Ms. Ohara was the daughter of Houn Ohara, the third Headmaster of the Ohara School of Ikebana. Headmaster Houn generously lent his passion for ikebana and his support at the time of the founding of our organization in 1956. Furthermore, he taught ikebana to the founder of Ikebana International, Ellen Gordon Allen.

Ms. Ohara's academic background included graduating from a college in the state of Ohio, where she majored in art history and religion. After returning to Japan, she always accompanied her father on his

overseas Ikebana-related activities. In addition, she led an active and energetic life as Acting Headmistress.

Ms. Ohara graced the stage at the Ikebana International 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th World Conventions, providing profound commentary and insights from behind the podium during Ohara School professors' Ikebana demonstrations. Her graceful figure still comes clearly to mind.

It was a great honor to Ikebana International when Ms. Ohara graciously accepted our invitation to become an Honorary Adviser in 2013. That was during my tenure as International President. After that, Ms. Ohara shared powerful and encouraging messages with us whenever possible.

I, together with the members of Ikebana International, express our condolences to Ms. Ohara's family. Her generous and powerful words certainly have been a guiding principle for the development of Ikebana.

With profound appreciation and gratitude, I would like to quote a sentence from her book "Children of Flowers" that shows her boundless love for flowers.

"When you really love someone, Flowers take on new beauty"

Chapter Anniversaries 2023 Congratulations

65th Anniversary

Okinawa #10	Jan.
Houston #12	May
Dallas #13	May
Boston #17	Sep.
Harrisburg #18	Sep.

55th Anniversary

Leicester #102	Sep.
Johannesburg #110	Aug.
Baltimore #118	Jan.
San Diego #119	Jul.
Orlando-Winter Park #132	Aug.
Jefferson County #137	Aug.

50th Anniversary

Bangkok #177	Sep.
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45th Anniversary

Fayetteville #140	Sep.
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40th Anniversary

Zurich #214	Jan.
Dubai #221	Dec.

35th Anniversary

Osorno #195	Apr.
The Jordan #226	Feb.
Basel #227	Feb.
Mexico City #228	Feb.

30th Anniversary

Johor Bahru #235	Sep.
Sendai #238	Mar.

25th Anniversary

San Salvador #244	Feb.
Hana Chapter of Belgium #248	Feb.
Hyderabad #250	Nov.

15th Anniversary

Saitama #260	Sep.
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In Memoriam February 2023 - May 2023

Tokyo	Tokyo Founding	Ms. Wakako Ohara	Germany-South	174	Ms. Sonja Illig
Washington, DC	1	Ms. Sachiko Furlan	Germany-South	174	Ms. Margarete Lutz
Seattle	19	Mr. Jim Burns	Mexico	228	Ms. Iliana Rodriguez de Valdes
Denver	66	Ms. Ruby Maruyama	Monterey Bay	231	Ms. Carol L. Marchette
Fayetteville	140	Ms. Barbara Lepper	Monterey Bay	231	Ms. Eunie Shiffman

Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends.

Payment Options

Kumiko Kameoka, Treasurer

No Foreign Currency Checks

No major banks in Japan accept checks in foreign currency that are drawn on overseas banks.

Make Donations to I.I. by Bank Transfer

If you would like to make a donation to I.I., please send the funds to Japan by bank transfer. We apologize for any inconvenience that this might cause. Thank you for your understanding. You have to use bank transfer because laws and regulations do not allow PayPal to process donations to organizations like I.I.

How to Send Payments to I.I.

1. Credit card – Paypal on I. I. Website

For membership dues and online shopping

PayPal Handling Charge: 5%

- 1) Credit Card: Visa, Master Card, American Express, etc.
- 2) PayPal Account Transfer: account@ikebanahq.org

2. Money Transfer – Mizuho Bank, Ltd

For membership dues and donations from anywhere in the world

Amount charged by bank in Japan: JPY 4,000 per transfer

Name of bank: Mizuho Bank, Ltd. Kudan Branch.

Address of bank: 2-4 Kanda Jimbo-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0051, Japan

Branch Number: 532

Account Number and Name: 0719019, Ikebana International

Swift Code: MHCBJPJT

3. Money Transfer – Japan Post Bank

Only for membership dues and donations from within Japan

Account number and name on account: 00170-4-719272, Ikebana International

Important information about bank charges

All payments to Ikebana International must be in **Japanese Yen**.

In addition to the amount that you are paying I.I., please also pay all of the **sending bank's** charges, and, importantly, the **Japanese bank's** charge (JPY4,000).

Sakura News can be read
on our homepage.

Visit I.I. Website <https://ikebanahq.org>
Log in to Members Only page, password: 1956sakura

Nominees for 2023-2024 International Board of Directors, Accounting Auditor, and Auditor

Nobuko Matsubara, International Nominating Director

1. Directors	
01 Takada, Tomoko (President)	Born in Yokohama, Japan. Sogetsu School. Joined I.I. Tokyo Founding Chapter (TFC) in 1990. TFC: Protocol Chairperson (2002-2004), 2nd Vice President (2003-2004, 2007-2008). International Nominating Director (2005-2006). International Development Director (2006-2007). International Protocol Director (2020-2021). I.I. 11th World Convention Protocol Chairperson (2017)
02 Akagawa, Sumiko	Born in Tochigi, Japan. Sogetsu School. Joined I.I. Saitama Chapter in 2018. Saitama Chapter: Historian (2019-2021), President (2021-2023)
03 Arai, Mikie	Born in Tokyo, Japan. Sogetsu School. Joined I.I. Saitama Chapter in 2008. Saitama Chapter: 2nd Vice President (2017-2019), President (2019-2021). International Publication Director (2021-2023)
04 Hamanaka, Mika	Born in Yokohama, Japan. Koryu Katabamikai Joined I.I. Tokyo Founding Chapter (TFC) in 1999. TFC: Reception Desk Chairperson (2019-2021), Hospitality Chairperson (2021-2023)
05 Hamada, Reiko	Born in Tokyo, Japan. Sogetsu School; Joined I.I. Tokyo Founding Chapter (TFC) in 2012. TFC: Historian Committee (2012-2014), Public Relations & Website Committee (2014-2015), Hospitality Committee (2021-2023)
06 Inumaru, Reiko	Born in Tokyo, Japan. Ohara School. Joined I.I. Tokyo Founding Chapter (TFC) in 2006. TFC: Protocol Co-Chairperson (2014-2015), 2nd Vice-President (2015-2017), Fair Co-Coordinator (2016). International Public Relations Director (2017-2019). International Treasurer (2019-2021). International Amendment Director (2021-2023). I.I. 11th World Convention General Affairs Information Co-Director (2017)
07 Ishii, Misako	Born in Kyoto, Japan. Ohara School. Joined I.I. New York Chapter in 1999, transferred to Kobe Chapter in 2001, transferred to Tokyo Founding Chapter (TFC) in 2004. TFC: Reception Desk Chairperson (2010-2012), Hospitality Chairperson (2012-2014), 1st Vice President (2015-2017), President (2017-2019). International Coordinating Director (2022-2023)
08 Kameoka Kumiko	Born in Osaka, Japan. Saga Goryu School. Joined I.I. Tokyo Founding Chapter (TFC) in 2011. International Treasurer (2013-2015), International Historian (2016-2018). International Corresponding Secretary (2018-2020). International Assistant Treasurer (2020-2022). International Treasurer (2022-2023). I.I. 11th World Convention Ikebana Demonstration Co-Director (2017)
09 Kasuga, Kaeko	Born in Tokushima, Japan. Ikenobo. Joined I.I. Tokyo Founding Chapter (TFC) in 2005. TFC: Secretary (2010-2011), Treasurer (2011-2012, 2013-2014), Office Manager (2012-2013, 2014-2015), Ways and Means Chairperson (2015-2017). International Assistant Treasurer (2022-2023)
10 Nakajima, Junko	Born in Tianjin, China. Sogetsu School. Joined I.I. Tokyo Founding Chapter (TFC) in 2005. TFC: Recording Secretary (2012-2014). International Translation Director (2006-2007, 2016-2018, 2020-2022). International Recording Secretary (2018-2020). I.I. 11th World Convention Recording Secretary (2017)
11 Obikane, Chisato	Born in Tokyo, Japan. Koryu Shookai. Joined I.I. Tokyo Founding Chapter (TFC) in 1986. TFC: Treasurer (1987-1988), Public Relations Chairperson (2005-2007), Ways & Means Chairperson (2007-2009). International 3rd Vice President (2010-2012). International Assistant Treasurer (2019-2020). International Coordinating Director (2019-2021). International Nominating Director (2021-2022)

12 Okubo, Shizuko	Born in Aichi, Japan. Sogetsu School. Joined I.I. Auckland Chapter in 1986. Tokyo Founding Chapter (TFC): 1st Vice President (2010-2012). International Historian (2012-2014). International Nominating Director (2014-2015). International Protocol Director (2016-2018). International 3rd Vice President (2018-2020). International Corresponding Secretary (2020-2021). International 1st Vice President (2021-2023)
13 Otsuka, Hiroko	Born in Yokohama, Japan. Sogetsu School. Joined I.I. Kamakura Chapter in 2009. Kamakura Chapter: Treasurer (2014-2015), Program Chairperson (2017-2018), 1st Vice-President (2018-2019, 2022-2023), President (2019-2020)
14 Sato, Hanako	Born in Tokyo, Japan. Sogetsu School. Joined I.I. Boston Chapter in 1987. Boston Chapter: 1st Vice President (1988-1989). Tokyo Founding Chapter (TFC): 3rd Vice President (2000-2002), Reception Desk Director (2003-2005). International PR Director (1990-1992). International 3rd Vice President (1994-1996). International Website Director (1995-2004). International Historian (1996-1997). International Treasurer (2007-2009). I.I. 8th World Convention PR Director (2001)
15 Tsuchiya, Ikuko	Born in Tokyo, Japan. Hakuhoukai School. Joined I.I. Tokyo Founding Chapter (TFC) in 2015. International Website Director (2017-2019). International Historian (2019-2020, 2022-2023). I.I. 11th World Convention General Affairs: Photography, Historian Director (2017)
16 Uesato, Tomiko	Born in Okinawa, Japan. Ohara School. Joined I.I. Kobe Chapter in 1995. Kobe Chapter: Treasurer (1999-2001). Tokyo Founding Chapter (TFC): Protocol Chairperson (2005-2007). International Publication Director (2009-2011). New Association Preparation Committee (2009-2012). International 3rd Vice President (2013-2015, 2022-2023). International Treasurer (2015-2017). I.I. 11th World Convention Program Co-Chairperson (2015-2017)
17 Yamazaki, Akemi	Born in Osaka, Japan. Mami Flower Design School. Joined I.I. Kobe Chapter in 1988. Tokyo Founding Chapter (TFC): Office Manager (2009-2010), Historian (2010-2011), Nominations (2012-2013). International Public Relations Director (1998-1999). I.I. 9th World Convention Lunch & Dinner Director (2006). I.I. 10th World Convention Historian Director (2012)
18 Yanagisawa, Kimie	Born in Tokyo, Japan. Sogetsu School. Joined I.I. Tokyo Founding Chapter (TFC) in 1986. TFC: Protocol Co-Chairperson (2012-2013). International Protocol Director (2022-2023)
19 Usui, Nobuko	Born in Tokyo, Japan. Ohara School. Joined Columbus Chapter (USA) in 1983. International President (2013-2015). I.I. 10th World Convention Chairperson (2012). I.I. 13th World Convention Start Up Committee Chairperson (2022-2023)

2. Accounting Auditor for 2023-2024

01 Koyano, Mikio Certified Public Accountant, Koyano CPA Office

3. Auditor for 2023-2025

01 Usui, Yoshimasa Member of First Tokyo Bar Association and New York State Bar Association. I.I. Legal Advisor since 2003. Auditor (2021-2023)