



SOGETSU SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

February 2016

NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR

I hope that the new year has been treating you well. I wish to thank Sharon Doi for arranging the luncheon that we had on January 30th at the China Village in Albany. A great time was had by all. Many old friends joined us in welcoming the year of the Fire Monkey. Of his many traits, the Fire Monkey is very creative, dynamic and is good with people. Let's make this year a very creative and dynamic one for our Branch.

March 12th Program: Please note that the date for our March program has been changed from the 19th to the 12 to accommodate the schedule of our demonstrator.

Our demonstrator is Katsuko *Biko* Thielke. She will be conducting a workshop using dried lotus leaves and fresh materials. Katsuko is known for her extraordinary and creative artistry. Author of two books on Ikebana, she has exhibited in many Sogetsu, Ikebana International and Cherry Blossom Festival flower shows. This program will be held at the San Mateo Japanese Community Center. More information about the workshop will be sent later this month.

This is also our Annual General meeting. We will have a short review of the past year's activities and financial status. It is also time to elect the Branch officers for 2016 to 2018. The slate of officers is:

Director:	Ron <i>Kodo</i> Brown
Deputy Director:	Yoshiko <i>Hogetsu</i> Williams
Treasurer:	Jane <i>Suiei</i> Naito
Recording Secretary:	Christie <i>Fusetsu</i> Hastings
Corresponding Secretary:	Shirley <i>Ryokuho</i> Chan
Historian:	(Pending) - Additional nominations may be made from the floor, provided the consent of the nominee has been secured.

We will also be having a silent auction for containers from the collection of Gina Hook. These are very nice large containers from her collection.

Future Programs: Save the following dates for our Branch meetings in 2016

May 28, 2016 - Workshop - TBA

August 27, 2016 - Program given by Nobuko Relnick - Director of the Seattle Sogetsu Branch.

Nobuko is a Riji and has participated in many Headquarter exhibitions. More information to follow.

September 24 and 25 - Branch Biennial Flower Show - ArtScape 2016 - Sogetsu School's 90th

October 15, 2016 - Post Flower Show Field Trip. We are looking at a number of locations for this program. Our field trips have been a great success in the past. If you have a favourite outdoor space, let me know it just may become the location for our trip.

December 17, 2016 - Holiday Program/Workshop

Membership: It is time to renew your Branch membership. Elan Soshun Rosenquist will have membership renewal forms available at the March meeting. A reminder, you **must** be a Branch member by June 1st in order to participate in our September flower show, ArtScape 2016. We start the celebration of Sogetsu's 90th year with this show. You will want to be part of this event.



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Bring a Guest: A great way to introduce people to our Branch and share our love of Sogetsu Ikebana is to invite them to one of our meetings. This may be the stimulus they need to begin Sogetsu Ikebana studies and hopefully join our Branch. Three people joined the Branch after attending our last program.

Social Media: Sharon is always looking for content and pictures for our website. Also, if you are giving a demonstration or workshop, please let her know so that it can be put on our events calendar. This is one of the best ways to reach the large audience that we have in the Bay Area and beyond.

Your thoughts and suggestions are always welcomed. Please contact me at anytime with any concerns you may have.

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