

October 2016

NEWS FROM THE DIRETOR

Congratulations on a job well done!! ArtScapes 2016 was a resounding success. I am overwhelmed at the response we have received. I heard many times that we “hit one out of the ball park”. My deepest appreciation to the members of the ArtScape 2016 planning committee. Your dedication and hard work have been well rewarded. The focal point arrangement created by Yoshiko *Hogetsu* Williams and her students brought out our logo in a very creative way. To our demonstrators, you presented the varied beauty of Sogetsu Ikebana to great effect. You are amazing artists. And to all of you who entered the show, all the arrangements were outstanding. We have indeed raised the bar to a new height with this show.

We all owe John Rogers a tremendous thank you for providing the opening Ceremony. It was great beginning to our show.

Commendations: At the opening ceremonies of ArtScapes 2016, Joan Yusui Suzuki received a commendation from the Consul General of Japan honouring her dedication and many years of teaching Sogetsu Ikebana. It is an award well deserved. Congratulations Sensei!

Promotions: I am pleased to announce that the follow Branch members have been promoted:

Sharon Doi has received 4th Grade Teacher’s Diploma. Her flower name is “Suimei”
Chiaki Ikeda received her 4th Grade Teacher’s Diploma and flower name of “Suishu”
Mina *Hoshun* Lum promoted to 3rd Grade Teacher’s Diploma
Barbara *Shiko* Smith promoted to 2nd Grade Teacher’s Diploma, Sanyo
Jane *Suiei* Naito promoted to 2nd Grade Teacher, Sanyo
Keiko *Keiho* Yamamoto promoted to 2nd Grade Teacher’s Diploma, Jonin Sanyo

Please join me in congratulating them for their accomplishments.

Future Programs: Note change of date for our October program. It will be on October 29th. A very special field trip awaits us for our October program. We have been invited to the studio of noted well know Bay Area ceramic artist John Toki. For over five decades, he has shaped the technical and artistic ceramic culture of the greater Bay Area and beyond. He is renowned for his work in welded metal. Mr. Toki

will conduct a workshop at his Berkeley studio in the construction of metal structures. He will provide the materials and his assistants will help with the constructions. This workshop is limited to the first 20 registrants. There is still space available. Workshop information accompanies this email. If you have any questions, please contact me.

December 3, 2016 – A unique two-part program is planned for December. The program will be held at the Alameda Buddhist Church. Karen Zakaria will lead a Kokeama workshop. Kokedama is the art of creating “moss balls”, a new gardening trend from Japan that was recently featured in Sunset magazine. Karen Zakaria has developed her own version of Kokedama incorporating succulents. She has a proprietary design which allows the Kokedama to hang from a specially crocheted bag. Her workshop begins at 10 and ends at noon. Workshop fee is \$30.00 and will include all materials and succulents. You will go home with 2 gift quality Kokedama, one of which will be hanging style. At 12 noon, we will have a potluck lunch. This will be a time to relax and be with your Sogetsu friends. At 1 pm, we will have a “Container Exchange”. You may bring gently used containers that you are no longer using, offer them for sale and bid on another container that you just have to add to your collection. We will have several rounds so that everyone has a change to bid on containers. Also, if you have other Ikebana supplies you would like to “exchange”, please bring those, as well. **If you cannot attend the workshop, please feel free to join us only for lunch and the “exchange”.**

January 28, 2017 – New Year’s Luncheon at Agenzen Japanese Restaurant in Millbrae. This is a very good restaurant with a private room. Price for the luncheon is \$45.00. More details to be announced.

March 25, 2017 – Annual General meeting and Text Book #5 workshop. Further details and location to be announced.

The celebration of Sogetsu School’s 90th anniversary is a time to reflect on how our school has changed the character of Ikebana over the years. Each Headmaster brings their own vision of what Ikebana means, adaptable to the times in which we live. We, in turn, bring our own vision of Ikebana to our arrangements. The study of Sogetsu Ikebana is a lifelong exploration of this art form. It is also a lifelong exploration of our own selves and our relation to the world around us.

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