



SOGETSU SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

April/May 2016

NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Spring has finally arrived here in Sonoma County. The hills are still green, which is something that we have not seen for quite a few years. As we approach the celebrations for the 90th anniversary of the founding of Sogetsu School, it is well to remember the words of our founder, Sofu Teshigahara: "I regard myself as a creator of shape who uses mainly flowers as his metier, rather than purely as an arranger of flowers." We create three dimensional shapes in the space around us. And while we may use unconventional materials in our creations, our starting point is the natural world around us.

2017 marks the 90 anniversary of the founding of the Sogetsu School. The beginning of our Branch celebration will be ArtScape 2016 on September 24th and 25th. The steering committee is in place and working to make this an exceptional show. Many hands will be needed make this a successful show. When asked, please volunteer. It is a great way to get to know the members of our branch. The set up days for the show are September 21 through 23.

May 28th Program: We have a very exciting program planned of May 28th. Liz Soshi Vernon chairing a program entitled "**Photo Focus Surprise**". It is based on the Floral Focus section of the Ikebana International magazine, but with a twist. After arranging with the Focus materials, Charlotte Masson, Branch member and great photographer, will discuss the best way to display and photograph our arrangements. She will then photograph each arrangement using various coloured show boards. This is a unique opportunity. See the program announcement for details. The May meeting will be held at the Marin Buddhist Temple in Mill Valley. There is plenty of parking in the lot that is shared with Whole Foods.

Thanks to the generosity of Gina and John Hook and their son, we have more containers from the collection of Gina Hook that will be for silent auction during the program.

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

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. We may consider having an outdoor workshop at an appropriate location.

December 17, 2016 - Holiday Program/Workshop

Membership: If you have not already renewed, Elan *Soshun* Rosenquist will have membership renewal forms available at the May meeting. A reminder, you **must renew your Branch membership** by June 1st in order to participate in ArtScape 2016. As this marks the start of our celebration of our 90th year, you will want to be part of this event.



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Bring a Guest: We continue with our "Bring a Guest" program. It is a very successful way to introduce people to our Branch and share our love of Sogetsu Ikebana, not mention growing membership in our Branch.

Social Media: In the capable hands of Sharon Doi, our website and other social media outlets are reaching an every wider audience. If you are giving a demonstration or are involved in an event, let Sharon know so that it can be posted on our pages.

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

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