



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

AILYN LUM



Dear Friends in Flowers,

Summer has rolled by much too quickly! I hope everyone had an opportunity to enjoy a little vacation, refresh their spirits, or perhaps discover something new along the way.

My husband and I were fortunate to enjoy a Mediterranean cruise in August, visiting 12 ports of call and taking in the many wonderful sights and land tours.

One particularly fascinating stop was the Greek island of Santorini, where we visited the archaeological site of Akrotiri, an ancient city buried beneath volcanic ash following a massive eruption around 1600 BCE. Among the discoveries were beautifully preserved vases and pottery. Naturally, my ikebana mind began to wander! I found myself imagining what floral arrangements

might have looked like back then and what materials they may have used.

Another interesting discovery was Santorini's unique method of growing grapevines. Using a traditional technique called kouloura, viticulturists train and weave the vines into low, circular baskets close to the ground, protecting the grapes from fierce winds and intense sunshine. I even came across baskets fashioned from old grapevines at a street market and was tempted to purchase one. Unfortunately, my suitcase was already overflowing with souvenirs! Hubby gave me that familiar look—his suitcase was just as full!



Turning to Ikebana International news, Headquarters has announced the election of our new President, Ms. Chisato Obikane, who was elected at the September 15 Annual General Meeting for the 2026–2027 term. Her President's Greeting and Business Plan were previously forwarded to all members by email.



Closer to home, our chapter has approved a few changes regarding the use of our General Funds. Moving forward, members attending luncheons and workshops will pay the actual cost of their participation, while General Funds will cover room rentals, honoraria, and miscellaneous expenses. Discussions regarding a possible reduction in membership fees will continue at our January Board Meeting. We hope these changes will encourage greater participation in the wonderful activities our committees work so diligently to organize for everyone's enjoyment.

A special mahalo to Pat Kubo and Joyce Kaneshiro for hosting a delightful cooking and floral workshop at Mānoa Library on August 9. It was a well-attended and truly onolicious event! Pat generously shared a mother special sauce recipe, demonstrating how one basic recipe could be transformed into several delicious variations. Joyce, always so thoughtful, brought an abundance of additional flowers and greenery, allowing some participants to create two miniature arrangements. She even had giveaways for attendees!

Kudos also to Carol Murakami for spearheading our garden tour with Stan Miranda in Kahaluu and Waiāhole. Stan graciously welcomed us to explore his beautiful grounds, expansive property, and nursery. His home was filled with remarkable furniture and art pieces he had personally created from salvaged trees, wood, and other discarded materials. What others might consider "junk," Stan transforms into beautiful treasures. Such creativity and inspiration!

Our membership directory will be forthcoming. In the meantime, please take a peek at the inside pages for more exciting events and workshops. We'll continue sharing reminders in our newsletters so no one misses out on these wonderful opportunities to learn, create, and enjoy one another's company.

And next on our calendar is our November 15 Luncheon at Natsunoya Tea House, featuring the theme "Seven Gods." I look forward to seeing many of you there!

Until then, may we continue to nurture friendships, share inspiration, and find beauty in the simplest things.

Hana wa Kokoro – Flowers are the Heart,

Ailyn

PROGRAMS

CHARMAINE YEE-HOLLISON

SAVE THE DATES:

- ✿ Tuesday, October 27, 2025 • Japan American Society of Hawaii (JASH) Event at JCCH, 5th Floor Ballroom • 9:00 – 12:00 • Please reach out to Caroline Abe if you are interested in volunteering
- ✿ Sunday, November 15, 2026 • Lunch at Natsunoya Tea House • 11:00 a.m
- ✿ Friday, November 20, 2026 • Nippon Culture Day at UH Manoa • 9:00 – 12:00

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL LOGO

Barbara Tinius contacted I.I. Headquarters in Tokyo to inquire about the significance of the symbols in the logo. The second Vice-President, Hiroko Otsuka, responded:

This Logo was designed by Ms. Fay Kramer, First I.I. President and Ms. Gyokushi Yamaguchi, a calligrapher. Upper part of the picture means 4 grass as Koukotsu character which is one of the old Chinese characters. Upper part of Kanji 「草 "grass" is made from this design.



Thanks to Barbara for helping us understand some of our history.

JAPANESE TREATS AND CRAFTS WORKSHOP

PATRICIA KUBO



On Sunday, August 9, 2026, a workshop led by Patricia Kubo and Joyce Kaneshiro was held at the Manoa Public Library. Members attending learned to make origami bird chopstick rests using the paper wrappers from disposable chopsticks. They also made mini Spam musubi and somen sushi. Pat also gave out samples and printed recipes for sushi su, namasu, lilikoi jello kanten and kinpira with Portuguese sausage. She also demonstrated how to do a fancy cut for the kanten. (Let Pat know if you would like a copy of the recipes emailed to you.)

Corynne has agreed to become a member of Ikebana International and will be serving on the Program Committee. Evelyn Iha has also agreed to serve on the Program Committee.

Joyce presented each participant with a lovely bouquet of flowers and assisted them in making mini flower arrangements. She donated the flowers and greenery. Joyce was assisted by Corynne Akitake.



We would like to thank Charmaine Yee-Hollison who assisted in arrangements at Manoa Library, collecting the mail/checks, passing out materials and serving as "parking attendant". Mahalo also to Robin Hollison and Chrystal Zhou who helped pass out supplies and food samples.

Later the Moiliili coordinator sent thank you letters from each participant thanking us for coming and teaching them how to create an Ikebana arrangement. They also want us to come again next year.



SHATEI'S CORNER

A Wonderful Gift

On July 29" Grace Sekimitsu celebrated a long-awaited bloom of her lotus plant. She waited patiently for 3 years but the gift was stunning! Grace commented that, 'it's so perfect right now, I want the time to stand still.'

Nelumbo nucifera (sacred lotus) is native to Asia. India, China, Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia It has been revered since ancient time. Seeds have been found after thousands of years and still able to germinate.

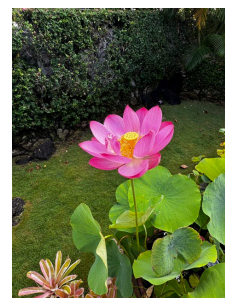
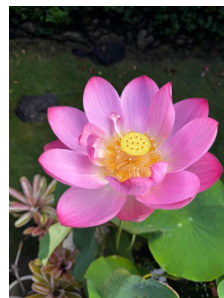
The lotus can be grown from seed or tuber. Tubers will take 90 to 120 days to flower. If by seed, it takes a couple of years. The lotus needs full sun and still warm water. In Ikebana the flower and leaves are used to make stunning arrangements especially by the Ohara and Ikenobo schools. A specialized Ikebana syringe is used to pump water into the hollow stems. If done correctly the material will last several days.

Congratulations, Grace

Buddhist quote: "As a lotus flower is born in water, grows in water and rises out of water to stand above it unsoiled so I rise above the world and remain unpolluted."



The Traditional Method in Landscape Moribana - Lotus by Grace Sekimitsu



JAPAN WIZARD 2.0

SUSAN HIRATE

Chicken *katsu* vs. Solo-*katsu*

If you like Japanese food, you know what *tonkatsu* is—a thick slice of pork breaded in Japanese breadcrumbs, deep fried until golden, served with a special sauce and a huge mound of shredded cabbage. In Hawaii, we can also find chicken *katsu*, shrimp *katsu*, and *menchi katsu* on the menu.

“*Katsu*” is the Japanese shortened form of “*ka tsu re tsu*” (cutlet).

But there is another kind of “*katsu*” that has nothing to do with fried food. The word *katsudō* 「活動」 means “activity.” Here are some examples of typical *katsu* (activities):

1. *kon-katsu*: *kon* refers to getting married; so *kon-katsu* means to actively look for a marriage partner.
2. *Shū-katsu*: *shū* refers to employment; so *shū-katsu* refers to actively seeking employment).
3. *Shū-katsu*: here, *shū* refers to the end; so *shū-katsu* refers to actively preparing for one’s final days by downsizing, preparing one’s estate, etc.
4. *Solo-katsu*: Solo is taken from English, so *solo-katsu* refers to doing things by oneself.

On a recent Japanology Plus program on NHK, the term “Solo-*katsu*” was explained in detail.

A person may choose to do something by themselves or with a group. For example, a person who enjoys karaoke may go to a karaoke lounge that caters to singles in order to practice and gain confidence before joining a group karaoke party.

Eating alone allows one to savor the meal without chatting. Many restaurants now cater to such customers by creating a comfortable atmosphere for single diners. Office workers who have a short lunch break appreciate these kinds of places, as do students who study while eating.

Experts predict that by 2040, unmarried people will make up 40% of the population in Japan. As the population ages, such lifestyle changes are inevitable. Table for one, please.



GARDEN TOUR

CAROL MURAKAMI



On September 12th, eleven members of Ikebana International attended the Garden Tour with Stan Miranda and his son, Nathan. We visited the area around Stan’s home and were very impressed with his landscape and plants. Nathan was very knowledgeable about the different plants and we loved what Stan has done with the huge curb rocks and moss rocks in his yard. Very impressive is the way Stan has worked with wood and stone to make such unique tables, chairs, sculptures and even a wash basin in the bathroom.

Stan had us drive to another area where he has a garden. We enjoyed our bento lunches there as we marveled at the beauty of the area. Stan has huge rock and metal sculptures decorating the area. We also loved the beautiful black bamboo. Stan was very generous in letting us take pieces of bamboo and gave us some tillandsia for our future workshop.



Nathan invited us to his nursery that is close to the Waiahole Poi Factory. He shared how the flood impacted the area a week ago. Nathan gave us an interesting lesson on how to cross pollinate anthuriums. He even shared some starter plants that he nurtures in small plastic containers. Nathan has a landscaping business called Kipuka Landscapes (Kipukalandscapes.com).

We are very grateful for Stan and Nathan's hospitality and for all the things that they shared!

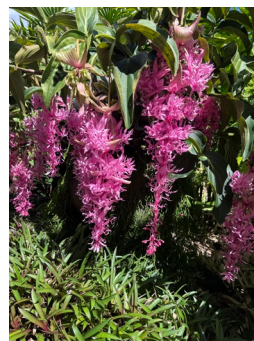


PHOTO GALLERY

Karen Kirk's Sogetsu Class: Green Arrangements



Jennifer Shintani



Dawn Sur



Mestisa Gass



Sue Shimabukuro



Geri Takata



Soo Boo



Yukari Sato

Ikebana International Chapter 56

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PHOTO GALLERY CONTINUED

Karen Kirk's Sogetsu Class: Baskets



Gerri Takata



Soo Boo

Ikenobo: Freestyle



Barbara Tinius



Sogetsu Freestyle
Morimono by Amanda
Cottis



Sogetsu Book 4 Lesson 10 -
Variation #4 Hanging
nageire with fruit by
Amanda Cottis



Sogetsu Book 4 Lesson 10 -
Variation #4 Hanging
nageire by Charmaine Yee-
Hollison

