

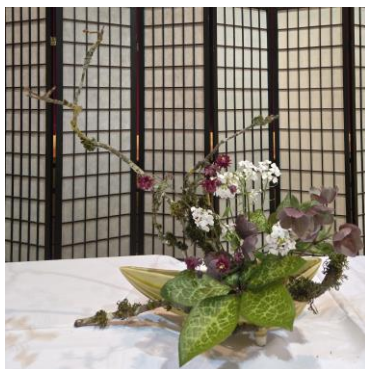
Sangetsu North America



Summer Newsletter #31 June 2025

Editor's Message:

Happy Summer! Where has the time gone? I am just finishing up another season of ikebana classes and am looking forward of some time traveling. The Vancouver Ikebana Association recently held its annual Spring Show at the Nikkei Centre in Burnaby, and celebrated its 60th anniversary with 60 arrangements on display! Sangetsu had eleven ikebana displayed, as well as having a sold out workshop headed by Kimberly Cooke; Joan Fairs showcased the Sangetsu demonstration using flowers from her garden as well as material foraged from the surrounding area, emphasizing "naturalness".



The Sangetsu Directive Council has been working on updating the Policy and Guidelines. We will have hard copies available at our next conference.

Speaking about our next conference, the tentative date is **October 22nd to the 26th 2026**, in Tucson, Arizona, so save the date!

AN OVERVIEW OF SANGETSU ACTIVITY IN NORTH AMERICA

This last year has been both busy and productive. We held our 2024 Sangetsu Conference in June in Burnaby, British Columbia, which was attended by 26 participants, and taught by four current and former Council Members. The Instructor Examination afterwards yielded us six new Instructors—four Canadians and two Americans.

Quarterly regional intensive workshops helped prepared our newest instructors for their successful completion of the course, which provided a successful model of working on a regional basis to better support and prepare new instructors. We will be employing this same strategy in preparing future instructors in the years ahead.

INSTRUCTORS AND ACTIVITIES

- Number of Active Instructors: 26
- Classes taught in at least 13 locations
- Demonstrations/Workshops/Exhibitions/Display At least 80
- Regular Altar and other Sangetsu arrangements in 10 centers/groups/mini-groups
- Represented Sangetsu at Ikebana International and other Ikebana Association Events
- Increased Community Outreach Activities

LOOKING AHEAD

We will have an East Coast Ongoing Instructor Training Workshop in July 2025. As mentioned before, we are planning to hold more regional workshops to offer Sangetsu where there are no local instructors available—and especially to support students who are working towards becoming instructors there. We have the goal of ultimately having a qualified instructor in every Johrei center and group, so that all members and their local

communities will have access to this important pillar of Mokichi Okada's Teachings.

We are already laying plans for the next Conference in the Autumn of 2026. We are working on improving our website and technology, and updating our Policies and Guidelines to better reflect the times and our purposes. As always, we will be encouraging more community outreach and service, to share the beauty of flowers in these challenging times.

ONE OTHER THING...There are still a few of you who are late in remitting you 2025 dues to stay on our roster. Please send a check of \$75.00 to Sangetsu North America c/o Terry Quinn 2642 Devon Street, Tucson Arizona 85716.

Lorna McMurray

Exciting News!

Dear Instructors and Senior Students:

We are very pleased to inform you that a monetary grant has been given from the Tucson Johrei Center to support classes and arrangements in areas where instructors and senior students are located. A total grant of \$1,500 will be allocated for materials needed during the 25/26 fiscal year.

Materials for reimbursement include vases, foam and flowers so that classes, or stand-alone arrangements, could be presented or taught in public places such as libraries, prisons, schools, hospitals and senior centers. The most allotted per project is \$100. Gas will be admitted as an expense if your project has not gone over budget. All receipts for the project (including gas) will be required and hard copies mailed to Terry Quinn, 2642 E Devon St, Tucson, AZ 85716. This is a volunteer/service project and you will be reimbursed for your expenses when receipts are received.

The overall management of the program will be administered by Terry, who invites you to submit your proposal. Please identify your: 1) Location for the project. 2) Estimated number of participants, and 3) Estimated budget. You will be asked to take several

photos of the students and their arrangements, or stand-alone arrangement(s) in their locations. A brief written summary of the project would be asked for our future newsletters.

The grant follows the goal of our Sangetsu founder, Mokichi Okada and his vision for *Paradise on Earth*. The grant also honors the memory of Reverend Yukihiro Ibuki who loved Sangetsu and its principals. If interested please respond by email to terryquinn821@gmail.com

News from Natalie Montecalvo

Many of us were fortunate to attend the long awaited summer conference last June in Vancouver hosted by Joan Fairs. The last newsletter showcased all that took place during that wonderful weekend. Since then we must find the personal motivation to continue to build and practice our Sangetsu experience. For myself, I have become an Ikebana International member at two chapters... in Denver Colorado and in St. Andrew, Kingston Jamaica. Not only do I get to explore Sangetsu skills but also to showcase and represent Sangetsu to other Ikebana enthusiasts who know very little of our school.



A highlight for the Denver chapter is the annual exhibit held at the Denver Botanic Gardens. Last year's theme was Winter White. Living here in a four season climate, we really get a sense of the beauty of each season. It is always a challenge to do something unique, find beautiful fresh flowers and execute something where the natural beauty of the flowers is displayed. The annual exhibit for 2025 has been set for September.

The Kingston chapter has resumed monthly meetings and activities in person. Prior to that (since Covid), Zoom meetings were held which I could often participate in. A highlight that I had during my winter stay was a field trip we took to the Blue Mountains where a person with a beautiful garden allowed us to cut whatever flowers we wanted so we could create a flower arrangement, as well

as to have some extra materials for other arrangements to make at home. It was quite a trek in which I assisted with transportation, but let me say: the beauty of the place was breathtaking!



If you haven't made a connection with an Ikebana group in your area, I highly recommend that you seek others. My only connection with other Sangetsu practitioners are my students. Knowing about other Ikebana schools can expand our vision of what we do and how special Sangetsu is as well as the other schools. However, whenever the next Sangetsu conference is, I will be there!

Sangetsu Report from Terry Quinn

Sangetsu instruction and workshops were held at the Tucson Johrei Center in 2024 during the months of March, May, October and November.

*Once a week I lead three students for volunteer flower arranging decoration at the Tucson Center. The session concludes with a critique of the arrangements.

*A small arrangement and Sangetsu publicity information was provided for the Japanese Festival of the Arts held in March of 2025 in Tucson.

*I have participated during several Sangetsu Council meetings in an advisory capacity.

Here is a photo of sunset at Tucson:



Happenings in Vancouver by Joan Fairs

Senior Instructor Mayumi Ichino teaches two classes at the Johrei Centre every other week with 5 or 6 students in each class. She had two mini flower workshops for the Johrei members to distribute throughout the community as a symbol of Love and Light. She displays at the Vancouver Ikebana Association's Spring Show.

New Instructor Beth MacLaren has also displayed at the Spring Show as well as at the Powell Street Festival, and at a fundraiser at the Fraser Pacific Rose Society. She also did two demonstrations and held three workshops, one with



fellow new instructor Carol Zhang.

Carol has been very active holding classes twice weekly, has done two demonstrations and three fund raising workshops, as well as special workshops for 18 daycare children and 30 special needs adults. She displays at the VIA shows and



has also displayed independently at the Vancouver Chinese Cultural Centre.

Instructor Kimberly Cooke is our workshop expert and held two workshops for the Vancouver Ikebana Association this past year. She displayed at the Powell Street Festival, Burnaby Blooms and the Spring Show. She made a beautiful arrangement of black pussywillow, lilies and camellia for the Emperor of Japan's birthday celebration in down town Vancouver this past Spring.



Master Instructor Joan Fairs is always busy with flowers... She had three special projects including making seventeen centrepieces with origami flowers, ikebana style, in February. During the same month she made a fresh ikebana for a Netflix episode. In July, she visited the San Francisco area and held a triple workshop at the Johrei Center there, coordinated by Sandra and Steve Hu. She also made 7 ikebana centrepieces with three other teachers of other schools for a fund raising gala this past fall.

Joan has about 20 students, and teaches four classes weekly. She has also displayed at many venues and held a workshop for children at a United Church camp. She demonstrated making 5 arrangements at the recent Spring Show and displayed a large arrangement there using mostly local material.



Report From Helena Arouca in Virginia

Since my last report for the Sangetsu newsletter, I have been busy teaching, making new vases, demonstrating and doing workshops. I have 4 new students and that makes me very happy.

Several garden clubs groups are very interest to learn more about ikebana and I am getting requests for demonstrations. But the big news is we are planning, an East Coast Conference for new instructors for the first time. The East Coast conference will be in July from the 10th to the 14th. Mary Jane Sasser and I are diligently planning for it. We would like to give the new instructors every tool possible in order for them to be more confident and go out there in a search for new opportunities. I am also preparing Mary Jane and Marcelo Santos to become Master Instructors during the coming conference in the autumn of 2026, in Tucson, Arizona.



I am so grateful to share this beautiful and unique art.