



Honolulu Chapter 56 / www.ikebana-hawaii.org

Issue 134, Sept. 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PAT KUBO



Aloha Everyone!

Mahalo for renewing your membership in Ikebana International, Honolulu Chapter 56. Our membership committee is hard at work on getting your information to headquarters in Japan and working on your membership booklet. Your Ikebana board of directors is serving their second year and new officers will need to be elected in June. Please let me know if you would like more information.

Thank you also for your generous donations. The Ways and Means committee really appreciate the donations of vases and your help in volunteering at their events. I want to thank Lorna Kawahara, M. Yoshimura, Joyce Kaneshiro, Caroline

Abe and Yutei Floral for their generous monetary donations. Thank you also for participating in our fund raiser at Kahala Mall which was run by Susan Hirate. All these donations assist our organization in achieving our goals of sharing the joy and love of flowers and reaching out to our youth.

The program committee, headed by Karen Kirk, Debra Lau-Shiroma and Jennifer Shintani have an exciting year planned with luncheons and fabulous workshops. I hope you will be able to attend the luncheon at Natsunoya that they have arranged. They will have more to share with you there.

I would like to offer a special thank you to Barbara Tinius. With her busy schedule of going back and forth to Japan, she has taken the time to work on not only our newsletter, but also the website. If you are interested in learning more about electronic communication, please volunteer to work with her. She will help you as you learn more.

If you have any questions, please contact me at klemamo@hawaii.rr.com or call me at 808-425-6044.

Aloha with Friendship Through Flowers!



Figure 3: Sogetsu by Geri Takata



Figure 1: Fish vase and fan by Charmaine Yee-Hollison



Figure 2: Sogetsu by Amanda Cottis

Ikebana International Honolulu Chapter 56

Membership Luncheon

Date: Sunday, September 28, 2025

Time: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Place: Natsunoya Tea House
1935 Makanani Drive
Honolulu, HI 96817
First Floor

Limited Valet Parking: \$8.00
Car pooling encouraged

Attire: Yukata or Happi Coat encouraged
for Obon Season Finale

Ways & Means and Earl's Vase Sale

Menu: Japanese buffet

Cost: \$55.00/person
Event will accommodate
45 people, so please hurry.

~ Door Prizes welcome ~

R.S.V.P. by September 10, 2025
No walk-ins



Fans by Karen Kirk

For more information, please contact Debra Lau-Shiroma (debshiroma@gmail.com).

I.I. 2025 Membership Luncheon

Name: _____

Guest(s): _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Number of attendees: _____ x \$55.00/person = Total \$ _____

Check payable to:

I.I. Chapter 56

Mail form and check to:

I.I. Chapter 56

Debra Lau-Shiroma

P.O. Box 61306

Honolulu, HI 96839-1306



SASHIKO WORKSHOP

KAREN KIRK

Mary Kamiya and her two friends taught 11 Chapter 56 members and relatives the fine art of Sashiko. Not quite embroidery, but a running stitch which creates beautiful lines. Originally, Sashiko was a method to patch worn out clothing but has evolved into an art form using cloth and thread. This event was held at Moanalua Gardens Missionary Church on Sunday, July 20, 2025, from 1:00-3:00pm. Mary generously donated all needed supplies and additional patterns participants could complete at home.



Figure 5: Mary Kamiya



Figure 4: Some teaching materials



Figure 6: Stitching away...



Figure 7: Class at work



Figure 9: Samples



Figure 8: Samples



Figure 10: Samples

COMMUNITY SERVICE

CAROLINE ABE

Tanoshii Hawaii (Joyful Hawaii) is a keiki culture camp hosted by the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii in July. This summer program offered children from ages 8 to 13 hands on learning of Japanese and local culture through music, art, crafts, food, language traditions and history. Ikebana International was invited to have an Ikebana session for about 60 children in the ballroom. This was quite a challenge with so many children. They were divided into age groups assigned to 8 tables with 7 to 8 students at a table. Each table had an I.I. helper who provided one-on-one assistance. The helpers were Grace Kam, Debra Lau-Shiroma, Gale Kobayashi, Gwen Nagata, Joyce Nakamura, Valerie Wong, Brennan Yamaguchi and Charmaine Yee-Hollison. These volunteers set up the tables with newspaper and containers with oasis. They proceeded with placing the green materials, flowers and garden shears at each student space.



Figure 11: Filling containers with oases



Figure 13: Caroline's presentation

Caroline started with a short talk on the safe use of garden shears as this was the first experience for some students. They were told that should an accident occur they needed to notify a counselor immediately to clean the wound and cover it with a bandaid. This was followed by a brief history of Ikebana. A short demonstration on how to get started with the placement of different heights of green material using straight lines and adding curve lines and the placement of the flowers. The students were encouraged to be creative in the use of all the materials, then they immediately went to work. What a sight to see these excited children working so diligently being helped by our experienced I.I. members. Finally, it was time to start cleaning up. The time passed so quickly as the children were amazed at the Ikebana arrangement that they had created to take home on their final day of camp. We had a bunch of very happy kids! Thanks to our hard-working volunteers.

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Figure 12: Student arrangements



Figure 15: Student at work



Figure 14: Volunteers (photo courtesy of JCCH)

UPCOMING EVENTS

KAREN KIRK

Save the following dates! More details will be provided as things get closer:

- Sunday, September 28, Membership Fall Luncheon -- see sign up sheet on page 2
- Our next 'Garden Tour' will be a lecture and observation of the latest breeding and genetics of Orchids and Anthurium at the University of Hawaii Department of Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences to be conducted in October or November 2025.
- Saturday, January 17, 9-12 New Year's Luncheon, Waioli Kitchen & Bake Shop
- February 26-28, Splendors of Ikebana at Manoa Public Library
- March 2026 Ikebana Workshop
- May 2026 Aloha Luncheon

JAPAN WIZARD 2.0 (2)

SUSAN HIRATE

UDE O MIGAKU

In the last newsletter, the expression "*hana yori dango*" was introduced. It describes someone who prefers the practical (*dango* = sweets) over the aesthetic (*hana* = flowers).



Figure 16: 101 Japanese Idioms, Maynard, 1993

The Japanese language is filled with such colorful idiomatic expressions. "*Ude o migaku*" is another example. "*Ude*" means "arm" and "*migaku*" means "to polish." So, the literal translation would be: "to polish one's arm."

But what does that expression really mean?

Since the arm is essential in doing many things, like calligraphy and Ikebana, it refers to one's ability in that field. Thus, "*ude*" refers to one's ability or skill in something. Other definitions of "*migaku*" include "to improve, to hone, to refine."

Therefore, "*ude o migaku*" means "to work at mastering one's craft, to improve one's skill."

Whether a novice Ikebana student or sensei with many years of experience, don't we all aim to continuously "polish our arms" through practice and training?
Ganbarimashoo!



Figure 17: Sogetsu by Malina Kaulukukui



Figure 18: Sogetsu by Amanda Cottis

NORDSTROM EXHIBIT

Carole Sakata and her students will be exhibiting at Nordstrom.

Linda Hamasaki and her students will be exhibiting at Neiman Marcus

Save the date for two exciting Sogetsu exhibits in September:

September 19-21: Play More at Nordstrom, Ala Moana Center

September 26-28: Avant-Garde Fashion and Flowers at Neiman Marcus, Ala Moana Center



PHOTO GALLERY (SONTINUED)



Figure 21: Sogetsu by Shisho Kikuta



Figure 20: Sogetsu by Soo Boo Tan



Figure 19: Sogetsu by Jennifer Shintani



Figure 25: Sogetsu Nageire by Karen Kirk



Figure 24: Sogetsu by Ailen Kaneshiro



Figure 23: Ikenobo Iris Rikka Shofutai by Barbara Tinius



Figure 22: Ohara summer basket arrangement by Grace Sekimitsu



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PHOTO GALLERY (CONTINUED)



Figure 26: Bon Dance by Charmaine Yeee-Holison



Figure 27: Ikenobo Rikka Shofutai by Barbara Tinus

Figure 28: (above) Sogetsu by Yukari Sato