IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL

San Diego Chapter #119
www.ikebanasandiego.org

January 1, 2026

Saying nothing:	*mono iwazu*
Guest and host	*kyaku to teishu to*
And white chrysanthemum	*shiragiku to*

Oshima Ryota (1718-1787)

Board Meeting and Intro to Ikebana – 10AM, January 21, 2026, Room 104 Balboa Park Casa del Prado

General Meeting – January 28, 2026, Room 101 Balboa Park Casa del Prado

Dear Ikebana Friends,
As we come to the close of 2025, I am grateful for this wonderful year.
Our gatherings in Balboa Park—workshops, demonstrations and show—have been filled with creativity, generosity, and incredible teamwork. Each meeting has strengthened our friendships and reminded us why this art form continues to inspire us: *it brings beauty into the world, and it brings us closer to one another.*
From welcoming new members to laughing together over stubborn branches, this has truly been a year of connection and growth. **Thank you** for showing up with such spirit and energy.
As we look ahead to 2026, we also recognize that change is on the horizon. The City has announced new parking fees for Balboa Park, and these adjustments may affect how we plan and participate in our activities. (see attachment)
While this will require some flexibility from all of us, I have every confidence in our group's resilience. We have weathered challenges before, and we have always done so with a shared commitment to keeping our Ikebana chapter thriving.
I look forward to another year of learning, beauty, and friendship—no matter what changes come our way.
With much appreciation,
Cecilia

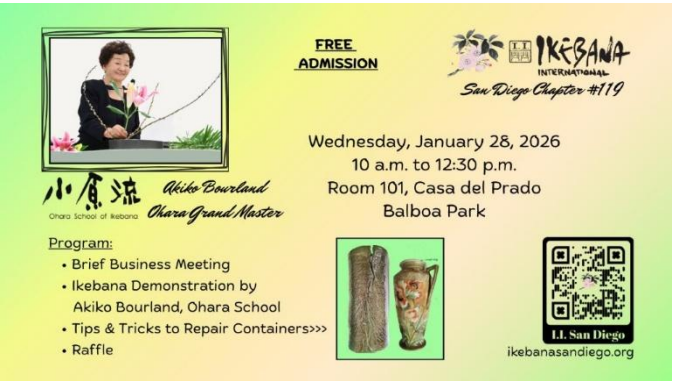
An Introduction to Ikebana and Board Meeting – January 21

January24-25 Sogetsu Exhibit - Students of Sensei Yumi Rakers are hosting a Sogetsu Exhibition at the San Diego Japanese Friendship Garden and Museum on January 24 and 25, 2026. Hours are Saturday, 11 AM to 4:30 PM and Sunday, 11 AM to 4:00 PM. Floral demonstrations will be held from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM each day. Admission to the exhibition is free with paid admission to the garden.

General Meeting January 28 – Featured will be a demonstration by **Grand Master Akiko Bourland (Ohara)**.

Also:
Tips and Tricks for Healing Injured Containers
A workshop by Ginger Truschke, Carole Scott, and Rose Tyson

At the January meeting, there will be a free workshop on how to fix small problems with favorite containers. If you have a container with a small chip or crack – or one that slowly leaks and you can't find the defect – then maybe we can help.
Ginger will bring her trusted clear latex to treat the bottom of the container. Carole will bring her mending material and paints to fix small chips. Rose will bring her tubes of clear epoxy to mend interior defects.
Also, there will be some examples of how to create new containers by using candle holders from the thrift store to make colorful centerpieces.
Members may bring their problem containers for diagnosis and suggestions, or just attend for the information. We can't work miracles, but maybe we can fix some simple problems.



Report on General Meeting December 17
Our Holiday Showcase featured 24 wonderful arrangements and explanations of sources of inspiration and material types. Participating were: Chris Jones, Pui Lan Ng, Patricia Fuchs, Jeff Fine, Debbie Warriner, Eileen Kelley, Rose Phuc Pham Nguyen, Sharon Bristow, Connie Cameron, Jenny Sun, Yuriko Caldwell, Maureen McBreen, Ellen Sakagawa, Judy Cliffton, Carole Scott, Momoyo Kiyono, Mitsuko Takeya, Shilin Wang, Rose Tyson, Laura Hoffman, Joan Azar, Ginger Truschke, Marina Khudobina, and Rena Asai.

We celebrated the 90th birthday of Rose Tyson, sent her shopping with gifts from her ikebana friends, and enjoyed a delightful potluck luncheon.

View the video courtesy of Patricia Fuchs: Holiday Showcase 2025

Shilin Wang

Mitsuko Takeya

Rose Tyson

My Birthday Thank You!

What a surprise! You certainly all know how to keep a secret.

Thank you a million times for the wonderful birthday celebration: the Big, Beautiful, Birthday card with all the names and notes, the delicious chocolate cake, and the $$$ for continued thrift shopping – or as anthropologists call it "Hunting and Gathering."

Thank you for making my 90th birthday so special.
Love, Rose

Poinsettia Videos – The Ikebana Iwaya Fund recently published a video featuring poinsettia arrangements submitted by 170 participants from 23 countries. Our Chapter submitted a video courtesy of Patricia Ann Fuchs. Both can be viewed by these links:
Iwaya Fund Poinsettia Video
San Diego Chapter Poinsettia Video

Japanese Friendship Garden & Museum
Tokonoma photos from December: Please contact Debbie Warriner at dswarriner.sd@gmail.com for information. https://www.niwa.org/
https://www.ikebanasandiego.org/gallery#tokonoma-arrangers
Jan. 2-4: Cecilia Carrick
Jan. 8-11: Pui Ng
Jan. 15-18: Rose Mizrahi
Jan. 22-25: Sharon Bristow
Jan. 29- Feb. 1: Ginger Truschke

Pui Lan Ng

Dorie Goldman

Rose Tyson

VIEW VIDEO OF TOKONOMA ARRANGEMENTS JULY 2025-DECEMBER 2025 ***courtesy of Patricia Fuchs***
Tokonoma Photos July 2025-December 2025

Sharon Bristow

From the Editor – If you have announcements or suggestions for the next newsletter, please email me at gingert@san.rr.com

Visit our Website and Social Pages – https://www.ikebanasandiego.org/ - Remember to check the Members Only section for updates.
Contact JLVONH@gmail.com for password

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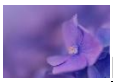
Instagram https://www.instagram.com/sandiegoikebana/

YouTube https://youtube.com/@ikebanainternationalsandiego



Like Fancy Japanese Toilets? You'll Love the Sound of This

[excerpts from https://www.nytimes.com/2025/12/02/]

In Japan, sound-generating devices that do the job of courtesy flushes are commonplace, and while they come in a variety of forms, they're often called Otohime, or "Sound Princess," made by the Japanese toilet maker Toto Ltd. It's a form of bathroom etiquette where noises that can be embarrassing are drowned out by the roar of a rushing river, perhaps flecked with other sounds from nature. Some older models simply emit the recorded sound of a toilet flushing.

These devices have been standard in Japanese ladies' rooms for years, both for concealing unwanted sounds and conserving water: In 2016, a survey by the newspaper Nikkei found that women flushed an average of 2.3 times without a sound device, and 1.5 times with one.

Toilet noise-masking technology may seem like a modern contrivance, but the concept goes back centuries. At Rendaiji, an ancient Buddhist temple in Okayama Prefecture, monks have preserved a bronze urn installed in 1799 near a toilet once used by feudal lords. The urn has a spout that splashes water onto a roof tile below, cloaking noises. The urns were used throughout Japan, including at Edo Castle, the seat of the shogun, Japan's supreme warlord, according to Rendaiji's official history.

The basic concept wasn't updated until the 1970s, while Japan was struggling with nationwide water shortages — in part because massive volumes were being lost to courtesy flushes.

Amid an intense drought in Tokyo in 1979, Orihara Manufacturing, a local toilet distributor, debuted Etiquettone, Japan's first electronic device for stifling toilet sounds. Aimed at women and doubling as a deodorizer, it was so popular that Tokyo's City Council endorsed its use as an emergency water-saving innovation.

"We found that women wanted not only masking effects but soothing sounds when using the toilet," said Mr. Matsuyama, the Toto technician. That set the stage for the evolution of Otohime. Around 2009, Mr. Matsuyama traveled across Japan in search of the perfect sound: ocean swells, waterfalls, caves, rivers, streams. He'd record them all and test them with focus groups. Finally, on the island of Kyushu, not far from Toto headquarters, he found what he was listening for in a stream and mixed it with the tweets of sparrows and nightingales.

Users have asked Toto to reveal the location of the river, but it's a secret.

"We decided that the murmur of a stream was best, and of all of these murmurs, this particular stream had the greatest noise-reduction effect," Mr. Matsuyama said. "We hope that with Otohime, users will enjoy exercising their imagination to discover the 'secret' of not specifying the location."