



From one flower friend to another



Life continues, quieter because of the Summer break from II chapter happenings. The other reason for the silence is my attempt to simplify commitments because of my new full time job as Chair and Professor at Nova Southeastern University in Tampa, FL – an opportunity to serve the global community in a

different way – that of designing a curriculum and managing a higher education department that educates future generations of individuals wishing to serve others after graduating with a Doctor of Occupational Therapy degree. While maintaining the family home with my spouse in Winter Park, a Tampa apartment serves as shelter during the work week – involving back and forth commutes during the weekends.

The transition has been rough, and some of you may feel neglected, if not abandoned – I feel responsible for that, but I know that friends understand that I have to take care of myself and family. Feel confident that my intent is to resume, in a more predictable way, fulfilling my Ikebana commitments. These include classes, exhibitions, demonstrations, Epcot annual festival, and responsibilities to II Chapters 132 and 65. This means that as my life in academia settles into a routine, I will announce workshops once a quarter or trimester at the university where I can negotiate a convenient space and location. A long term goal is to certify more teachers in the manageable future so that more classes can teach the style of *Banmi Shofu Ryu*.

I know *Banmi Shofu* friends understand this transition and remain dedicated to preserve and grow the legacy of Bessie *Banmi Fooks* and the Founding *Samurai*. See you during the meetings and workshops in Orlando or St. Petersburg Ikebana International chapters. *Arigato gozaimasu*.

In friendship through flowers & driftwood,

Ric Bancho Carrasco



Children's Day, Part II: *Kodomo no hi* こどもの日

As mentioned in Part I, Children's day or こどもの日 *Kodomo no hi* combined Boys' Day (*Tango no Sekku*, also known as Feast of Banners) and Girl's Day (*Hinamatsuri*). It is not known exactly when the festival started, but possibly during the reign of Empress *Suiko* (593-628 AD). Clearly, the assignment of *Tango no Sekku* to the 5th day of the 5th month was after the *Nara* period.

To mark the celebration, families raise carp-shaped flags, called *Koinobori*, which look like they are swimming as they catch the wind. The use of a carp figure comes from a



Chinese legend about a carp that swims upstream and becomes a dragon. When the *Koinobori* features multiple carps, the top windsock is usually black (*Magoi*) representing the father. A red carp (*Higo*) represents

the mother, and other colors below them represent their children denoting rank and age by color or another feature.

Families would also display a *Kintarō* 金太郎? doll riding a large carp, and a traditional Japanese military helmet, *kabuto* (see images on this page). *Kintarō* and the *kabuto* symbolize strong and healthy boys or children. *Kintarō* is the childhood name of *Sakata no Kintoki*, a hero in the *Heian* period, a subordinate samurai of *Minamoto no Raikou*, famous for his strength as a child. It is said that *Kintarō* rode a bear, instead of a horse, and played with animals in the mountains when he was a young boy.





"Japanese Festival in Honor of the Birth of Children" from *Sketches of Japanese Manners and Customs*, by J.M.W. Silver, illustrated by native drawings, published in London in 1867

Relating *Haiku* to the Situation

by Monique Noujaim



If you have an opportunity to walk near a lake or hike in the woods, you would have haiku flowing through your veins. You could sit in a day dream and compose a brilliant *haiku*. But this is when *haiku* gets tricky – that is when you need to make it relative to a situation.

Well, yes you can always look at a flower arrangement; maybe superimpose an idea of pond water and branches. Can you look at your arrangement and write about IT?

For instance, while living in Japan, I heard members of a karate team write about the movement of their feet and the sensation of the wood or mat against their skin.

Baseball is so popular in Japan that *haiku* has been written many times about that very subject. For example:

*batting practice
tiny broom to clean the plate of
dust leftover from last year*

Of course, in Japanese it is metered with 5-7-5 and it could be done here. The bottom line for you today is to try to compose what you see, forget the meter and remember three lines - no capitals.



*lush branch of summer
deep blue and green berries
dried twig of winter past*

Barbara
Cohen

August 22, 2011

Written with nature in mind; now to compose with THE ARRANGEMENT in mind. How would you do it?

For previous issues of *BanmiShofuNews*, go to <http://ikebanabanmishofu.com/Newsletter.html>

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Flowers of the Month in Japan

Seven Grasses of Autumn - *Aki no Nanakusa*

by Monique Noujaim

Seven grasses of Japan are not necessarily what Westerners envision grasses to be. Different seasons, different materials, different purposes or even festivals. The picture and description below show typically used "grasses" in Autumn:

- ✚ *Suzuki* – *eulalia* or a type of river grass closely related to sea oats
- ✚ *Hagi* – *lespedeza japonica* like golden rod
- ✚ *Kuzu* – arrow root - invasive species in Florida
- ✚ *Nadeshiko* – *dianthus* or pink
- ✚ *Ominaeshi* - *patrinia*
- ✚ *Fujibakama* – mistflower
- ✚ *Kikyo* – Like a bellflower



Okay, I can't use nor do I have most of the above in Florida where I live. So, what I suggest is to create your own formula for autumn beauty: Fountain Grass, Cat Tail, Yellow flowers, and figure out the rest. The notable and intentional exclusion from the list is the chrysanthemum or *Kiku*, due to its own celebration. *Kiku* is Japan's flower. Add it to your design if you will, but know that it belongs to in its own time!

The capacity of the autumn grasses for inspiring deep emotion among people in olden days may be viewed through their composite nature of beauty tinged with sadness. More than flowers of any other season, autumn grasses washed by rain and bent in the wind attain a beauty unsurpassed, and this is the beauty of *chabana*.



Natsumatsuri, Summer Festival in Seffner

It was hot, it was humid, and it was fun! But no one seemed to mind. Sounds, smells sight, and lots of movement kept everyone busy and having a good time. Some highlights of the program included: *Kyokushin* Karate of Florida with *Senpai* Javier, *Banmi Shofu Ryu* with *Iemoto Ric Bansho Carrasco*, Monique



Noujaim, Laurel Banbara Fooks, Greg Alderson, Irene Gomulka and Gil Fooks; *Koto* music by *Mayumi Hopkins-sensei*, vocal performance by *Chii*, with *Shakuhachi* accompaniment by Rev. Nicholas *Ozuna*, and finally, *Bon Odori* & raffle for items including 3 donated Ikebana arrangements.

BanmiShofuNews is a quarterly publication meant to inform about *Kado* and related activities in accord with the vision and mission of *Banmi Shofu Ryu*: to preserve, grow, teach and communicate the *Ikebana* legacy of its 1st generation Headmaster, *Bessie Yoneko Ibrao Banmi Fooks* in alignment with the motto, "Friendship across the globe through Flowers & driftwood."

