



## From one flower friend to another



A flurry of activities since August lead to more definite plans for 2012, Banmi Shofu's Golden *Otsukimi* year to celebrate Bessie Banmi's first *Ikenobo* steps in Japan. They were the critical milestones which directed her to the *Shofu kaden* from the founding *Samurai*, and eventually led to the hallmark use of driftwood

in *Banmi Shofu Ryu*. To celebrate this Golden Year, we will host quarterly workshops at Nova Southeastern University starting in January 2012 (see *schedule on page 3*). They will culminate in October with a celebratory demonstration and exhibition featuring the work of participating *deshi* or students. To further promote friendships through flowers, we have invited other Japanese culture groups in Tampa Bay.

This edition features images from the Seffner *natsumatsuri* and other events, starting with the *Rhissokasseikai* festival which offered Okinawan dances, food, *shakuhatsi* (flute) *music*, *chado* (tea ceremony) and other cultural fare at their meetup place in Clearwater. Brenau University in Atlanta invited me to be their occupational science scholar and to present part of my phenomenological studies called *The Power of Doing*. Of course, I had to cap the keynote with a demonstration of an *oseika* design. Laurel Fooks and Irene Gomulka, *Banmi Shofu Teacher Apprentices*, demonstrated their flower designs to a big crowd at St. Alban's Church in Oviedo. This *BanmiShofuNews* edition introduces two new features: Flower of the Month and Book Reviews. These add novelty and layers of information that we share but also recognize writers or accomplished *Ikebana* practitioners. We hope that you enjoy *BanmiShofuNews* as I drop it off at your virtual doorstep. *Arigato gozaimasu*.

In friendship through flowers & driftwood,

*Ric Bansho Carrasco*



## Chrysanthemums in Japan 菊

Chrysanthemum (*kiku*) is the Japanese flower for the month of October. It means strength, courage and dignity. It is used to provide encouragement to one who struggles. The imperial throne (literal English translation of the term Chrysanthemum Throne) is occupied only by the Japanese Emperor. It also refers to very specific seating, such as the *takamikura* (高御座) in the *Shishin-den* of the Kyoto Imperial Palace.



The Emperor's standard is a gold chrysanthemum on a red field. Only the Imperial family is allowed to use the 16-petal chrysanthemum crest on its tea cups, towels, and other items.

Sometimes the chrysanthemum symbol with a purple background is seen in other places: at Shinto shrines, on the shrine above the ring at *sumo* tournaments and on nationalist flags.

## A little Folk Lore

According to legend a servant girl named *O-kiku* ("Chrysanthemum Blossom") drowned herself in a well after she discovered that one of the ten golden plates she was responsible for was missing. It is said that every night her ghost rises from the well to count the plates, and when she counts only ten she lets out a terrible scream. Out of respect for her troubled soul, the people of *Himeji* agreed not to grow chrysanthemums in their city.

*Source: People's Almanac*



## Golden Otsukimi Launches Workshops Series, Demonstration & Exhibition

Activities that lead to the Golden *Otsukimi* celebration in October 2012 include quarterly workshops at Nova Southeastern University Tampa, Department of Occupational Therapy, capped by a demonstration on October 12 and a public exhibition on October 12-14. Mark your calendars to attend the workshops on January 20, May 25, August 17, and October 12.

The workshops will teach all *Banmi Shofu* designs to meet the need of each participant, so that beginners can learn as well as the intermediate or advanced learner. Students will learn about traditional flowers used for each season in Japan, and identify those that are available or native to Florida. Commitment to all four sessions includes membership at the *Banmi Shofu* Rose Level, a Learning CD, printed guides for each lesson, a drawing tablet, 2 invitations to the demonstration event, one space during the Golden *Otsukimi* Exhibition, and a *Banmi Shofu Ryu* Certificate of Completion. Lessons between quarters will supplement the quarterly workshops in convenient locations. More information from 813-574-5429; or 727-510-2490; and [RicBansho@ikebanabanmishofu.com](mailto:RicBansho@ikebanabanmishofu.com), or [sakamoni@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:sakamoni@tampabay.rr.com)

### In this Issue:

• <i>Iemoto's</i> Message -----	page 1
• Chrysanthemums in Japan -----	1
• Golden <i>Otsukimi</i> Launches Workshops, Demo & Exhibit -----	2
• Lafcadio Hearn & Japanese <i>Haiku</i> -----	3
• Clearwater <i>Rhissokasseikai</i> Festival -----	3
• Ikebana Events -----	3
• Book on Ikebana Wins Award for Joan Stamm -----	4
• A New Japanese Phrase -----	4
• <i>Morimono</i> & <i>Haiku</i> -----	4

Previous issues of *BanmiShofuNews* are available from: <http://ikebanabanmishofu.com/Newsletter.html>

*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 1<sup>st</sup> generation Headmaster, Bessie Yoneko Ibrao *Banmi Fooks* in alignment with the motto, "Friendship across the globe through Flowers & driftwood."





## Book on Ikebana Wins Prestigious 2011 Nautilus Book Award



Joan D. Stamm, a long time member of I.I. Seattle Chapter 19 won a Nautilus Book Award for *Heaven and Earth are Flowers: Reflections on Ikebana and Buddhism*. Winning titles are selected by a three-tiered judging process comprised of book reviewers, authors, editors, college professors, librarians and leaders in publishing. Past Nautilus Award Winners have included Deepak Chopra, Thich Nhat Hanh, Frances Moore Lappé, Barbara Kingsolver and the Dalai Lama, to name

a few. The Nautilus motto is “changing the world one book at a time.”

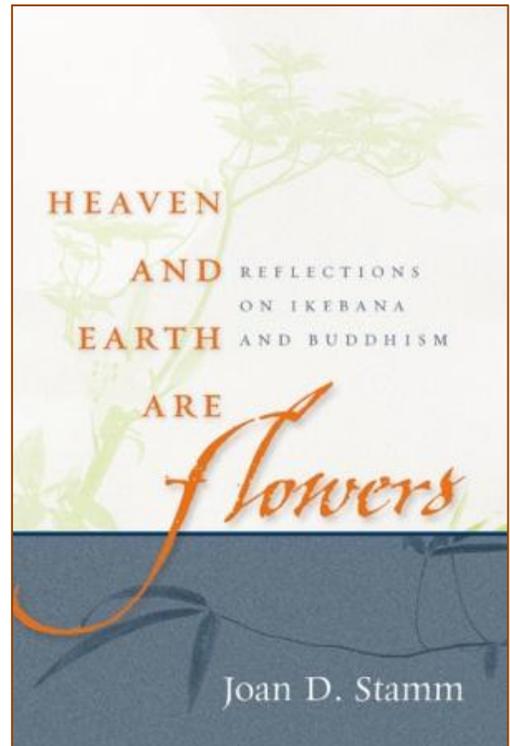
Inspired by her life in Japan, and the study of ikebana and Buddhism upon her return, Stamm reflects on her twin paths of Buddhist practice and artistic endeavor and how they intertwine. Diane Norman, author of *Ikebana: A Fresh Look at Japanese Flower Arranging* said, “This is a gentle book, beautiful and meditative, that goes right to the heart of ikebana. It is a book that I will recommend to my students to take their understanding to a different plane.”



*Heaven and Earth are Flowers* is dedicated to Stamm’s mother (who had a passion for growing flowers) and her ikebana teacher Mary Hiroko Shigaya (who taught her how to translate the love of flowers into a living art). The book was written while Stamm lived in Seattle. Today she resides on Orcas Island where she teaches ikebana as a contemplative practice. The



book was published by Wisdom Publications in 2010, and is available commercially.



## A New Japanese Phrase

by *Kyoko Williams & Monique Nonjaim*

ホテルはどこですか？ *Hoteru wa doko desu ka?*

Where is the hotel?

いくらですか？ *Ikura desu ka?*

How much is it? (I omitted the usage of "this" or "that", and generally used "it")

*Ogenki de ganbatte kudasai.*

*Kyoko & Monique*



*fruits glow abundantly topped with orchid lemongrass rosemary  
flavors of thanks ~ yummm*

*Haiku & Morimono by Ric Bansho, Thanksgiving, 2010*