



# BanmiShofuNews



Volume 1, No. 1; December, 2008

## From one flower friend to another



Welcome to the inaugural edition of *BanmiShofuNews* the newsletter of *Banmi Shofu Ryu of Ikebana* – an intentional attempt to inform you of activities and events not only to memorialize the legacy of *Banmi Bessie Fooks Sensei*, but also to support the growth of the tradition of Ikebana

in Japan, the United States and other parts of the world. For those who have given me unconditional and continuing support, please accept my thanks. This responsibility, although joyful, creative and spiritual, could easily be overwhelming without you. So to my *ohana*: the Fooks families, Greg Alderson, the Carrasco and Calara clans, as well as my Ikebana International friends, especially Chapters 132 (Orlando-Winter Park), 65 (St. Petersburg), and 56 (Honolulu). I also thank my students here in Florida, and Banmi Bessie's students in Hawaii for extending their help and support.

In friendship through flowers & driftwood,

*Bansho Ricardo Sensei*



## Family Launches 5-Year Plan to Memorialize and Grow Banmi Bessie Fooks Sensei's Legacy

On July 25, 2008, *Banmi Bessie Yoneko Ibrao Fooks*, 1<sup>st</sup> Generation Headmaster of the *Banmi Shofu Ryu* died surrounded by her husband Gil Fooks and family. After a formal Buddhist funeral service and Celebration of Life reception at the Soto Mission Temple in Waihawa attended by family, friends, joined by Ikebana, religious and other dignitaries from around the globe, her ashes joined the ocean waters where she grew up and lived: Kawaihoa and Waialua. Two days prior to her death, and in the presence of family, *Banmi Bessie Sensei* installed *Bansho Ricardo Carrasco Sensei* as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation Headmaster and Professor of the *Banmi Shofu Ryu* after close to 40 years of *Kado* study, practice, and *Banmi* apprenticeship. Within a month, *Bansho Ricardo Sensei* launched a 5-year plan to continue and grow *Bess Sensei's* legacy, and the tradition of Ikebana. In conference with both Fooks and Carrasco-Alderson families, the plan combined both *Senseis'* shared vision of practice, teaching, exhibiting, and promoting friendships through flowers and driftwood across the globe. The plan also includes the recently launched *Banmi Shofu Ryu* website and school brochure, printing a postcard featuring the Memorial design that *Bansho Sensei* created for her funeral service: *Oseika Banmitutu Gata*, and the publication of a curriculum manual and a book, namely: *The Manual of Banmi Shofu Ryu Kado* and *Connecting with the Spirit of Driftwood: Banmi Shofu Ryu of Ikebana*. On December 6, 2008, the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual *Banmi Shofu Ryu* workshop in Winter Park, Florida will be held in her honor, and has been renamed the Annual *Banmi Shofu* Workshop – Celebrating *Banmi*. In addition, *Bansho Sensei* has agreed to demonstrate and teach during the St. Petersburg Annual Exhibition, again in the memory

of Banmi Bess Sensei. See calendar for similar activities. Contributions are welcome to support all of *Banmi Shofu Ryu* programs.



The late Banmi Bessie Fooks critiques a creation by Anne Marie Spriggs at the St. Petersburg, Chapter 65 workshop in December 2007 after her Banmi Shofu Ryu demonstration during the Chapter's Annual Luncheon.

**Workshops, Demonstrations, Publications, & Exhibits**

Activities	Date & Location
<i>Demonstrating Kado: Reflecting the Link between Buddhism, Meditation &amp; Ikebana</i>	November 15, 2008, Orlando Insight Meditation Center Garden, Winter Park, FL, USA
<i>Contemplating Kado with Bushido</i>	Fall/Winter, 2008 Torukukai Aikijitsu Dojo Orlando, FL, USA
Website	Launch November 2008
<i>Celebrating Banmi: Way of Driftwood in New Year Kado</i>	5 <sup>th</sup> Annual Workshop: December 6, 2008 Winter Park, FL, USA
<i>Maiden Issue, BanmiNews</i>	December, 2008
<i>Exhibit of Designs in Support of Lecture on Camellias</i>	January 8, 2009, Leu Gardens, Orlando, FL, USA
<i>Demonstrating &amp; Exhibiting Kado: Ikebana with Camellias for Camellia Lovers</i>	January 17, 2009 Camellia Society of Central Florida Annual Exhibition Orlando, FL, USA
<i>Moribana: Bringing the Pond Scene into the Home with Banmi Shofu Ryu</i>	February 17 & 24, & March 3, 2009 Leu Gardens, Orlando, FL
<i>Demonstrating Kado: Ikebana for Garden Enthusiasts</i>	March 11, 2009, Winter Park Garden Club Winter Park, FL

Workshops, Demonstrations, continued.....

Activities	Date & Location
<i>Connecting the Spirit of Driftwood with Your Designs</i>	March 12, 2009 Ikebana International Chapter 132, Leu Gardens Orlando, FL
<i>Connecting with the Spirit of Driftwood in the way of Banmi Shofu Ryu</i>	March 21, 2009 Bessie Banmi Fooks Memorial Demonstration & Exhibition, Ikebana International Chapter 65, St. Petersburg, FL
<i>Infusing the Spirit of Driftwood in the Banmi Shofu Ryu Way, while Respecting the Integrity of Other Ikebana School Designs</i>	March 21, 2009 Bessie Banmi Fooks Memorial Workshop, Ikebana International Chapter 65, St. Petersburg, FL
Postcards: <i>Oseika Banmitutu Gata</i>	March, 2009
<i>Nageire: Flowers in Tall Vases – Perfect for Dining Tables &amp; Tight Mantle Spaces</i>	May 5, 12, 19, & 26, 2009 Leu Gardens Orlando, FL, USA
<i>Japanese Art of Flower Arrangement from 3 Ikebana Schools – East Meets West</i>	June 11, July 9, & August 13, 2009, Leu Gardens Orlando, FL, USA
<i>East Meets West in Holiday Decorations: Ikebana in Wreaths &amp; Holiday Decorations</i>	November 7, 2009 6 <sup>th</sup> Annual Banmi Bessie Fooks Workshop, Winter Park, FL, USA
<i>Connecting with the Spirit of Driftwood in the Way of Banmi Shofu Ryu</i>	11 <sup>th</sup> Asian Regional Conference, Manila, Philippines
<i>Exhibit: 11<sup>th</sup> Asian Ikebana International Regional Conference</i>	September 23 – 26, 2010, Manila Philippines
<i>Exhibit: 10<sup>th</sup> Ikebana International World Convention</i>	Fall 2011, Tokyo, Japan
<i>Exhibit: 17<sup>th</sup> North American Regional Conference</i>	May 19 – 24, 2013, Asheville, NC, USA

Spring departs.

Birds cry



Fishes' eyes are filled with tears

~ Matsuo Basho, (1644 - 1694)

BanmiShofuNews is a biannual 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."



A half an hour before start time, over 25 guests started arriving at the Buddhist meditation center. Everything was ready – from the demonstration table sitting low on a futon quilt, the center’s banner on the wall, and the line materials, containers and



driftwood, set up for assistants to bring forward for each planned design. But alas, three of the containers for the final hallmark piece were nowhere to be found. Greg went back home to search, and came back with substitute containers. The koto music began, and *Bansho* Ricardo Sensei began the first piece - the memorial *Oseika*. Before that, the *Dharma* teacher and host, Peter Carlson led everyone in a group meditative prayer, and Sharon Ghamari-Tabrizi gave a brief history and purpose of the demonstration. Gil Fooks retraced the beginnings of *Banmi Shofu Ryu*, showing certificates earned from *Bansui* Ota by his daughter Laurel Fooks who was in attendance. He also showed *Bansho* Ricardo Sensei’s kanban or wooden certificate (see above photo) installing him as Professor and Headmaster of the *Banmi Shofu Ryu*.



The second of five designs entitled Pond Reflections, was a double *Oseika* called *Kabuwake*, and typical of *Banmi Shofu Ryu* designs employs the hallmark use of driftwood in a vintage *Moribana* container set on a bamboo stand, featuring Dutch Irises (*Iridacea*

*Hollandica*) and multiple kenzans. Within the current transitional context of *Banmi Shofu Ryu* the design represented the generational succession from one Headmaster to another – a study in relatedness and smoothness of sustaining legacy and tradition. Assisting

*Bansho Sensei* were Gil Fooks, Jesus Minguez, Irene Gomulka, and Sharon Ghamari-Tabrizi; Greg Alderson provided the videography.

## Celebrating Banmi: Way of Driftwood in New Year Kado



Photo shows participants with their creations in 2007. This was *Banmi Sensei*’s last annual workshop.

As of the writing of this newsletter, 40 participants have officially registered for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual *Banmi Shofu Ryu* workshop on December 6. From hereon, the annual event will be called the *Banmi Memorial Annual Workshop*. As of this writing, registration has peaked at maximum capacity of 40, excluding assisting family and students. Attendance includes flower friends from South, North Central and Coastal Florida – a blend of Ikebana and garden enthusiasts. Participants will have the opportunity to view the holiday decorations as well as an exhibit of an outdoor installation, and indoor designs. After a demonstration of a classic *Moribana* and a large *Nageire* New Year Kado designs, participants will contribute to two group kenkas, create their own celebration pieces, and munch on Japanese New Year goodies while *Bansho* Ricardo Sensei critiques their work.

## Assisting Opportunities

*Bansho* Ricardo Sensei welcomes your willingness to assist during demonstrations, workshops and/or exhibitions. Assisting is an effective path to learning *Banmi Shofu Ryu Kaden*, from planning to



implementation. Learn how Sensei plans according to the theme of the event, selects designs and materials, prepares for the unknown, documents and evaluates the event. Please see the calendar for the schedule, and contact the *Sensei* to express your interest.