



Message from the President

Dear NAOTA Members,

Happy New Year to all of you! We have just ended a very good year for NAOTA and are now buckling down to do the same for 2011.

We begin with the announcement that NAOTA has a new treasurer, Satsuki Palter from Los Angeles. Satsuki is a 1st Term Master of the Ohara School, a past president and current treasurer of the Los Angeles Chapter of Ikebana International and 1st vice president of the Los Angeles Chapter of Ohara School. I look forward to working with her. My thanks go to Pat Schneider for having done such a great job for nearly three years and for having stayed on through the Chicago conference.

It is now my pleasure, on behalf of the entire NAOTA board, to invite you to attend our next NAOTA conference, set for August 29 – September 2, 2011 in Victoria, BC. The committee, under the chairmanship of Lorian Roberts, and her colleagues of the Victoria Study Group, is now hard at work to insure another beautiful conference. We are pleased to have Assistant Professor Akihiro Nishi as our instructor. Present plans include the opening reception, three days of workshops, a demonstration, and the Sayonara banquet. As a special attraction there will be an excursion to the 55 acre Butchart Gardens, a national historic site of Canada. This conference promises to be a real treat for those of you who sign up. More information and the application form are to be found elsewhere in this newsletter. **Remember, before your name can be placed on the conference list of attendees, your dues must be paid up to date.**

I look forward to seeing many of you in Victoria,

Sincerely,

Judy

Judy Melton, President



Some of what you will see at the beautiful Butchart Gardens when you sign up for the tour being planned for the Victoria Conference.

Switch in Banks Means Savings for Some

NAOTA's change in the bank it uses has resulted in lower costs for members who have had to pay a \$10 charge for sending a bank check to pay their conference fees, according to Pat Schneider. Wells Fargo, the new bank for NAOTA, charges only \$5 fees for handling foreign checks. The only thing you have to know is whether the bank on which your check is written is affiliated with a bank in the United States. If it is, there is no fee charged. Also there is no fee if you send a money order written in US dollars. All checks written on non-affiliated banks have to add a \$5 fee to the total. Have a question that is not answered? Contact the NAOTA president or secretary and either one will be happy to help.

Did You Know?

The new treasurer from Los Angeles is a lady of many talents. In addition to what is written in the President's letter, Satsuki Palter is a real ikebana enthusiast.

She has performed ikebana demonstrations and exhibitions at the Getty Museum, Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles Arboretum, and the Japanese American National Museum. Satsuki is also responsible for ikebana at the UCLA Japanese Garden.

Satsuki was born and raised in Kobe, Japan. She moved to Los Angeles in 1996 and has studied there with Shofu Shohara.

We all look forward to working with her.

Welcome New Members

We are happy to add the names of our newest members and welcome them to NAOTA.

Bowers-Klaine, Beth (513) 377-2413
 Instructor
 Miami Valley
 1300 Forest Glen Boulevard
 Batavia, Ohio 45103-2775
 beth.klaine@gmail.com

Iwami, Setsuko (415) 225-4677
 3rd Term Master
 Northern California
 2179 29th Avenue
 San Francisco, CA 94116-1736
 Setsuko.iwami@gmail.com

Wells, Kristi (330) 242-0831
 Instructor
 Northern Ohio
 6151 Champagne Shores
 Medina, Ohio 44256-7470
 kristi.wells@hotmail.com

A Flower for Your Ikebana Arrangement

The Christmas rose blooms from Christmas throughout the winter months. The blossoms last for weeks and will be most attractive in a simple ikebana arrangement. The Christmas rose is surely a miraculous plant. Its botanical name is from its Greek name *helleborus*. It was used as a medicine, especially to cure worms in children. It was also used in ancient Greece by the shepherd Melampus to cure the daughters of Proetus, King of Tiryns. Because it was said they had treated with contempt a statue of either Hera or Dionysus, they were deprived of their senses and streaked naked through the Peloponnesus. Melampus, got them to stop to drink milk from his goats. The goats had eaten hellebore so the girls were cured.

The helleborus seeds are spread by snails. The snails eat the oil covering the seed and carry the rest away in their slime. When you find this plant growing in your garden in winter you will find it frozen solid. When the ice falls away the petals are as soft and fresh as spring blossoms. You may find a more scientific explanation but this is the story of its name as told by ancient Greeks.

You may find other stories but the main thing to do is to look for it blooming in the snow (its leaves are evergreen so it should be easy to find unless the snow is extremely deep). Enjoy the beauty of this flower and, if you have time, do create a simple ikebana with it.



From *100 Flowers and How They Got Their Names*
 by Diana Wells

Please note that this is an abbreviated issue of the **NAOTA Newsletter**. The next issue will be published in Spring 2011. Remember to send news of your chapter and its members, by March 30 to Judy Melton, jmlton@clmson.edu and Christine Norman, cdfan@roadrunner.com.



10th NAOTA Conference
August 29 - September 2, 2011
Inn at Laurel Point
Victoria, British Columbia - Canada

Conference Fee \$625 is the total fee for this conference and includes the Welcoming Reception, six seminar lessons, Demonstration, and the Sayonara Dinner.

Registration Deposit \$300

Accommodations Inn at Laurel Point - 680 Montreal Street - Victoria, BC V8V 1Z8
Reservations - (800) 663-7667 toll free or (250) 386-8721

Ask for the 10th NAOTA Conference group rate of \$189 per night plus taxes for a single or double room, plus \$25 for each additional person. The NAOTA room rate is good through July 14, 2011. There is no charge for a written cancellation received earlier than 24 hours prior to the arrival date, but a fee of one night's cost will be charged for cancellations after that date. Please make your reservations directly with the hotel.

GUESTS of NAOTA members are welcome at the following events for the indicated costs:

Welcoming Reception \$40 Demonstration and Banquet \$75

Guest fees are due with the final payment no later than July 5, 2011

Detach information below and mail to

Satsuki Palter - NAOTA Treasurer - 3735 Wade Street - Los Angeles, CA 90066 - Phone - (310) 477-3952 FAX (310) 477-9956

Name Please print legibly Ohara Certificate Degree and Year Granted

Address Street or Apt. No. City State Zip

Telephone FAX E-Mail

Names of Guests Give guest's names if applicable

Registration (\$300 or full amount \$625)

Welcoming Reception (\$40 plus number guests -) Amount

Demonstration and Banquet (\$75 plus number of guests -) Amount

If residing outside the USA please add \$5 US Bank fee for checks drawn on banks outside the USA.)

TOTAL ENCLOSED Check Number and Bank

Please circle how you would like your receipt: None Notify by E-Mail Notify in Self-Addressed, Stamped Envelope

Please mail to: Satsuki Palter
NAOTA Treasurer
3735 Wade Street
Los Angeles, CA 90066