

Dear Ohara Chicago Chapter members,

Happy New Year! あけまして おめでとう ございます。

I hope you had a nice, relaxing holiday.

The board decided that our first event of the new year is the "**Ikebana Retreat**" on **Saturday, March 8th**, inviting Sub Grand Master Grace Sekimitsu. Please **renew your 2025 membership** before you register for the retreat. The renewal form is attached, and it is due by the end of January.

We are again volunteering to help with the **Japan Festival at Oak Park and River Forest High School** on **February 1st**. I have not received the detailed information yet, but it starts around 1:00 and ends around 3:30. We led a mini-Ikebana workshop for students and family and demonstrated Ikebana for the guests. Thank you to E-Ling, Hideko, Tom, Lynn for volunteering last year. We received very positive feedback. **Please reply to this email if you can volunteer your time.**

Lastly, **Ikebana International Chicago Chapter** is having a **New Year's Tea Celebration** on **January 19th** at Skokie Country Club in Glencoe. This event is open to non-Ikebana International members. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet Ikebana practitioners from other schools in Chicagoland. The registration form is attached.

If you have any questions, please let us know. May you have a healthy and prosperous 2025. Thank you very much for being our group.

Ohara School of Ikebana Chicago Chapter

Yuko Inoue Darcy - President

Jan Wiltsie - Vice President

Leigh Levine - Secretary

Patricia Rosenmann - Membership

Min Huang - Treasurer