

## **IKENOBO SWISS CENTRAL CHAPTER**

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**IKENOBO SWISS CENTRAL SCHOOL: Director** – Shunzuen Suzue Rother-Nakaya

**Governing Committee of the School:** Maja Hug, Marie Louise Johann, Anna Klopfenstein, Renate Garbe, Cornelia Anderegg, Chaoyu Du

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*“We are stronger together – against the virus”*

Klaus Storch, Forsheim am Main

## **CHAPTER SUMMARY 2020 and OUTLOOK 2021**

Dear members of the Ikenobo Swiss Central Chapter, dear friends of Ikenobo Ikebana,

**Very Best Wishes for the New Year, under the Sign of the Ox!** どうもありがとうございます。

**2020** – what a year!! No-one could have imagined, in January, what lay in store for the world. Everything had started out so well. Planning for the Anniversary Seminar with Furukawa-Sensei was almost complete when we heard about this new virus that was spreading across the globe at lightening speed. A few weeks later, we were in lockdown and had to cease all Ikebana activities. “Do not meet people, keep your distance and constantly disinfect your hands”, was the motto. Hence, learning together in a seminar room was clearly out of the question. The only benefit was that we had more time to enjoy the Springtime - which was particularly intense this year, producing blossom and flowers of enchanting beauty.

Communicating on-line and holding teleconferences became the more important order of the day. Sensei therefore very quickly offered to check, via Skype video call, arrangements made at home by students; to correct them where necessary and to offer advice on what to look out for when collecting plant material.

During Summer, the situation relaxed somewhat but in Autumn the second wave swept over Switzerland with full force. Planned weekend seminars had to be cancelled at the last moment and our annual excursion and Advent Apero could not take place, either. Nevertheless, small groups continued to be taught during this difficult time, conforming with existing health regulations.

We are particularly pleased that our Chapter was invited to the Opening Ceremony of the Senbukan Budo School in Kriens on 19 September 2020. Renate Garbe, Cornelia Anderegg and Chaoyu Du mounted a small Ikebana exhibition, gave a Demonstration and then taught some arrangements to visitors – all of which is planned to be repeated next year. We wish them every success!

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Further Ikebana courses await us in the coming year, too. We hope to be able to carry these out, despite the tense situation, and look forward to welcoming you to one of these events. Unfortunately, due to the Corona pandemic and associated travel restrictions, we cannot hold our planned seminar with a Visiting Professor from Japan in 2021. However, if the Corona situation allows, we do hope to have our regular Spring Seminar in Brissago. Because the current health situation remains uncertain we have had to postpone our AGM scheduled for end January 2021. It will now be held on 29 January 2022 and you will see this date already listed on the programme for next year. Invitations will be sent out with the next Chapter letter. We feel confident that the Advent Aperó will be able to go ahead on 4 December 2021.

Also, this year we arranged for the Ikenobo calendar 2021 to be sent directly from Japan to all members. You should have received it by now and we hope it will give you joy and provide inspiration for the coming year.

Thank you, everyone, for the lovely hours of Ikebana we have shared, for the enjoyable conversation and kind thoughts, as well as for your continued interest in our great Art form.

### **Membership Fees 2021**

For the forthcoming year, the general membership fee remains at CHF 80. Special Members – Cornelia Anderegg, Renate Garbe, Dora Hirt, Roger Kropf, Quynh-Nga Nguyen-Vu, Nittaya Schindler, Susan Walters – have the following rates: Membership Fee CHF 100, provided that the Hana-no-Akaruto magazine and Special Members calendar can be collected directly from Sensei as part of a lesson or: Membership Fee CHF 115 if the calendar and magazine are sent to your home by post. We ask all members to transfer the relevant fee to the association by 2 February 2021 at:

Aargauische Kantonalbank, 5001 Aarau, Ikenobo Swiss Central Chapter - IBAN CH29 0076 1016 0985 6930 7

A payment slip is included. The Ikenobo Swiss Central Chapter is also happy to receive donations; these are always very welcome.

The Special Members Fee for Japan is again 84 Euros, for above-mentioned members. Renate Garbe will submit this by hand at Ikenobo Headquarters in Kyoto as a total sum, once trips to Japan are possible again. Therefore, we ask that you pass this amount directly to Renate Garbe by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 at the latest.

On behalf of the Governing Committee, we wish you all a Very Happy New Year that is full of creative moments with Ikebana.

Best regards,

Shunzuen Rother-Nakaya, Roger Kropf

Enclosures: Payment Slip, Annual Programme