



Consulate-General of Japan in New York
在ニューヨーク日本国総領事館

News Letter



<http://www.ny.us.emb-japan.go.jp/en/c/2010/japaninfo1009.html#5>

Friendship through flowers - Ikebana Demonstration



On August 28th, the Consulate General of Japan in New York partnered with Ikebana International, Buffalo Chapter #50 to host an Ikebana (Japanese Flower arrangement) demonstration in East Amherst, NY. This year, Ikebana International, Buffalo Chapter celebrates its landmark 50th anniversary while the Consulate continues to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the first Japanese Delegation's arrival in the U.S.

Ikebana International is dedicated to the promotion and appreciation of Ikebana. The organization consists of people from many different backgrounds and nationalities. There are currently about 8,500 members from over 60 countries across the world.

At the beginning of the event, the President of Ikebana International, Buffalo Chapter, Ms. Eleanor Wolford, gave a speech followed by remarks from Mr. Joe Koessler, Honorary Consul General of

Japan in Buffalo. Finally, Mr. Yasuhisa Kawamura, Deputy Consul General of Japan in New York and Director of Japan Information Center, spoke about the celebration of Japan-U.S. relations, the Ikebana demonstration and Ikebana International, Buffalo Chapter.



Mr. Kawamura, Mr. Williams, Mr. Koessler (From left to right)

After the remarks, Mr. Gregory Williams from Ikebana International Toronto took part in the demonstration. During his career, he has exhibited his Ikebana skills in the U.S, Japan, Australia, Europe and Canada. Mr. Williams began studying Ikebana in 1977 and is now a First Class teacher, Ikkyu Shihan Riji (the highest level attainable) at the Sogetsu School. During his demonstration, he created many wonderful Ikebana, using various kinds of flowers such as Glad's orange, Roses, Chrysanthus, Dahlias, Calla Lily, and Agapanthus, while explaining Ikebana techniques and floral materials. The participants were impressed by his great work and paid close attention to his choice of flower materials and containers, the placement of the branches, and the relationship of the branches to the container and surrounding space.

During the reception, participants discussed the history of Ikebana and Mr. Williams' demonstration. The event served not only as a celebration of two important anniversaries but also as a realization of Ellen Gordon Allen's dream that her organization would unite "peoples of the world through their mutual love of nature and enjoyment of Ikebana".

