

I.I. Chapter 121 Business Meeting Minutes

Saint Louis Park Library – July 28, 2019

Welcome

Myrna Little welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m.

Membership Update

Myrna provided a brief membership update, including the current number of members which is 49 (up 6 from this time last year). Myrna welcomed the new members since the last meeting, including David Whitescarver (present), Nonnie Threinen (not present), and Mare Hagen (not present), who rejoined the chapter. The updated membership directory was previously sent out electronically to the membership and hard copies were distributed during the meeting.

Treasury Report

Debra Hjortland provided the treasurer's report. We have a current balance of \$3,574.47. Dues for this year (beginning July 1, 2019) were \$3,430.00, of which \$2,833.00 went to Tokyo Headquarters (HQ). The net income from dues was \$597.00 (\$12.18 per member), with some impact from the exchange rate. The vase sale during the annual meeting on June 6, 2019, contributed \$186 to our funds. Fees from our funds over the past year included monies for website maintenance, gifts (memorial for Bob Allison, late husband of Maggie Allison), the Obon Japanese Festival in 2018, the annual summer party in 2018, meeting (library) set-up fees 10/7/18 and 2/24/19, and the membership directories for 2018/2019. It was suggested that our chapter consider future fundraising activities and discuss at the next business meeting.

50th Anniversary Updates

Myrna provided updates for our 50th anniversary events:

- The gala dinner and event on September 22, 2019, will be from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. A-Mill Artist Lofts in St. Anthony Main in Minneapolis. This will be a ticketed event and the cost per ticket will be \$50. Each member is allowed one guest. An RSVP and advance payment will be required. The ticket will include: one bar drink, cocktail hour with live entertainment, an Asian-inspired dinner, program, slide show, silent auction fundraiser, and a raffle for prizes that have been donated to our chapter. All ticketed members will automatically be included in the raffle. Parking for the event may be an issue. There is limited metered parking. There is a parking ramp and community bank with free weekend parking 3 blocks from the venue. It was suggested that people carpool or take an Uber or Lyft. More details, including an RSVP form, will be sent with the 50th anniversary update newsletter later this week (approximately mid-week).
- The outdoor installation at Como Park Zoo and Conservatory will be exhibited starting tentatively on September 24, 2019. Anne-Lise, by default, is the coordinator for this teacher-led project. Anne-Lise and Yoshie will be meeting with Como staff on July 29, 2019, and many more details will be available after that time. Help is needed with the installation and interested members were asked to reach out to Anne-Lise. [Addendum post-meeting: the installation will start on October 10, 2019]
- The expanded Mum Show at Como, part of the annual Fall Flower Show, will take place November 4th (set-up) through November 10th (take-down). Members were encouraged to participate in the

table arrangements, which will be displayed in the Bonsai Room. Some larger scale floor arrangements will be created by some of the teachers and will be exhibited in the adjacent Ordway Hall, along with a history panel display that will run throughout the Mum Show. Sue Bagge offered to be coordinator, and Myrna Little offered to help if no other members were interested in assisting.

- The planned Youth Program (children's Ikebana lesson) will be tabled for now as we were unable to get a volunteer to lead the program. Hopefully, the new Program chairs can assist in launching this program sometime in the near future. Outreach to the youth is important, especially if we want to grow and sustain the chapter.
- Chapter funds will be needed for some of the 50th anniversary events, such as insurance for the outdoor installation and funding for part of the gala dinner. Tokyo HQ offers a Subsidy Procedure whereby our chapter would be reimbursed up to \$500 USD (for public exhibitions, workshops, and demonstrations). The use of funds will need to be approved by the Board of Directors at the next Board meeting (slated for late August 2019).

Other Events

Anne-Lise provided updates and reminders for other upcoming events this year:

- The Obon Japanese Festival will take place at Como on Sunday, August 18th, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Kim Gordon is the coordinator for this event. Anne-Lise and Keiko Borer have volunteered to assist with demonstrations.
- The Normandale Japanese Garden Fundraiser will be on Saturday, September 21st, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pat Farnham is the coordinator. Several volunteers will be assisting with demonstrations, including Sue, Cindy Chapman, and Jenny Sun. It might be difficult to recruit other volunteers since it is the day before our chapter's 50th anniversary gala.
- The National Sumi-e Exhibition hosted by the local Ming Chiao Chapter will be August 9th through September 20th. Don Marier, a local Ming Chiao member, is the coordinator for this event. The chapter needs assistance with making 3 large arrangements for the exhibition at Bloomington Center for the Arts 9/6-9/10/19 and 10 table arrangements for the banquet dinner at the Hilton Minneapolis-Bloomington on September 7th. Anne-Lise, Sue, and Barbara Kennedy will be assisting.

Donated Items (Myrna)

Someone reached out to our chapter via our website to donate several vases, kenzan, and other flower arranging items. Donna kindly brought the items to today's meeting and they were available for members to purchase. None of the items were priced and members could pick items and donate whatever amount they felt was fair. Funds went toward supporting our chapter.

Miscellaneous (Myrna)

The Japan America Society of Minnesota (MN) held a memorial concert today in honor of Mr. Ishida, member Noriko Ishida's late husband. Several of our members attended the concert and could not be at our chapter meeting and program today due to the scheduling conflict.

AOB

Barbara Kennedy inquired if any donated items were needed for the silent auction fundraiser at the gala. Myrna informed everyone that we currently have enough donations from other members.

Myrna opened to floor to other questions/comments, but none were raised. The next business meeting will likely be several months away. Myrna encouraged members to reach out to the Board for any concerns in the interim.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:20 p.m. Motions for adjournment were made by Pat Farnham and Anne-Lise.

Program

Myrna introduced Anne-Lise and Sue, the presenters for today's program. Anne-Lise attended the 10th North American Sogetsu Seminar in Hawaii this past May and Sue recently attended the 60th anniversary event for the Seattle I.I. chapter. They both shared their respective experiences. Sue shared photos from the Seattle's anniversary event and Seattle's Japanese Garden via slide show presentation. Anne-Lise talked briefly about mizuhiki and the use of movement in Ikebana (Sogetsu Lesson 18, Book 5) and described Iemoto Teshigahara's workshop and demonstration, a video of which is available for our chapter to view together in the future, if wanted. Following the presentation, members enjoyed tea and snacks, including a 50th Anniversary celebration cake.

The workshop involved creating freestyle flower arrangements with a focus on movement using one of two themes: Arrangement for Someone Special and Self Expression through Flowers.

The workshop ended at approximately 3:15 p.m.

Members in attendance:

Anne-Lise Whitescarver, Myrna Little, Sue Bagge, Janeen Rae, Debra Hjortland, Marge Modell, Peggy Doi, Pat Farnham, Patricia Boehne, Donna Winberg, Barbara Kennedy, Barbara Foss, David Whitescarver, and Rebecca Chesin. Some members could not stay for the workshop.

Respectfully Submitted,

Myrna Little



