



Dear I.I. Friends,

Hopefully, 2020 has treated everyone well so far. As we enter a new year and a new decade, we look ahead to some wonderful opportunities to gather together. We have some exciting programs lined up (and more in the works), thanks to our Programs Committee. While our 50th anniversary is behind us, we can continue to celebrate our chapter and our camaraderie through flowers. Please join us!

***Kokedama Workshop*** - Fellow chapter member Amber Tritabaugh will be leading a fun workshop on Kokedama at Johnson & Sons Florist on February 29th. This hands-on program involves creating a 4-inch green plant Kokedama with moss and decorative colored twine. Johnson's will have an assortment of plants and colored twine to choose from. Amber will go over plant care of the varieties to guide students in making selections, as well as demonstrate the process and assist in making Kokedama. The cost is \$25 per person and includes instruction, materials and tools. The class will last approximately 45 minutes and will be preceded by a brief business meeting. The meeting and workshop will be from 1 to 3 p.m. and both will be held in the greenhouse adjacent to the florist shop. There is a 30 person capacity for the class, which requires pre-registration and advance payment. To reserve your place, please call Johnson & Sons Florist directly at Tel. **651-698-6000** to register for "the Kokedama class on February 29th" (you will be asked to provide a credit card number for payment). Johnson & Sons Florist is located

***Living Clay Exhibit at Mia*** - A docent led tour of this exhibit is scheduled for Thursday, March 19th, at 1 p.m. The docent will meet our group in the lobby of the Minneapolis Institute of Art (please arrive a few minutes prior). The tour will last 1 hour and the cost will depend on the number of people attending (total cost \$75 for up to 15 people). Please RSVP to Claudia Allison: [callison1117@gmail.com](mailto:callison1117@gmail.com). See below for more information or visit: <https://new.artsmia.org/exhibition/living-clay-artists-respond-to-nature/>.

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## What is Kokedama?

**Kokedama** (苔玉, in English, literally "moss ball") is a ball of soil, covered with moss, on which an ornamental plant grows. The idea has its origins in [Japan](#), where it is a combination of the [nearai](#) 根洗い (literally "root wash," but meaning "no pot") [bonsai](#) and [kusamono](#) planting styles. Today, Kokedama is very popular in Japanese gardens.



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**Living Clay Artists Respond to Nature**

**March 23, 2019 - April 26, 2020**

**Mary Griggs Burke Gallery of Japanese Art (Galleries 251, 252, 253)**

From the golden age of Japanese ceramics at the turn of the 17th century to the avant-garde movements in the postwar era and up to the present day, Japanese ceramicists have sought inspiration in the natural world. This exhibition highlights the work of more than a dozen living Japanese women clay artists whose primarily nonfunctional works represent diverse evocations of or responses to the natural world. Organized in thematic groupings, such as micronature, aquatics, and flora, the exhibition presents recent ceramic works inspired by everything from cells and mold spores to snails and leaves in conversation with contemporary works in other media.

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### **New Website Coming!**

We are happy to announce that our new chapter website will be launched very soon! Among other things, the website will have a Members Only section where you will find past meeting minutes and newsletters (from 2019 forward). Shortly, when the website goes live, you will receive an invitation from Word Press via email. Once you have access, please take a look around the website. We'd love to know your thoughts and suggestions and those can be forwarded to Myrna Little: [myrna0118@gmail.com](mailto:myrna0118@gmail.com).

Our new website director, Rebecca Chesin, logged in countless hours to create the website and we think you will be very pleased with the results! Thank you, Rebecca! Our appreciation also goes out to Donna Winberg for creating the original website and for maintaining it all these many years. We are very fortunate to have so many talented people as part of our organization.

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## REVIVAL? RENEWAL?

The theme at the 18th North & Central American Regional Conference (NCARC) last year was Grow Ikebana. Many ideas were shared at the conference during the Grow Ikebana forum, mostly centered around ways to cultivate the art of Ikebana. With 2020 being a special year and with our chapter on the heels of a golden anniversary, we thought it would be nice to come up with a theme - something that would spark continued interest in our chapter as we move into a new decade. We welcome your thoughts and ideas! To make it fun and interesting, we're making a contest of it. Please email your suggestions to Anne-Lise Whitescarver at [annelise.ny@hotmail.com](mailto:annelise.ny@hotmail.com). We will vote on the suggested themes and the winner will receive a prize! C'mon, join the fun!

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## Friendship Through Flowers

Have news to share? Send an email to Myrna Little at [myrna.little@gmail.com](mailto:myrna.little@gmail.com)

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