



Dear NAOTA Members,

A number of our membership will very soon be on the way to Victoria for the 17th NAOTA Conference where we will study the art of ikebana with our Headmaster Hiroki Ohara and Professor Yokohigashi. We are looking forward to the workshops and demonstration in Victoria and remind all the attendees to remember their passports, bring three rectangular kenzan and also remember to bring your attendance cards. And the latest news is that our reception will be at the Palm Court Room at 6 p.m. on Friday

We are pleased to announce that the 18th NAOTA Conference in Chicago June 9 –12, 2019 will be taught by Associate Professor Ami Kudo, daughter of Professor Kazuhiko Kudo. This will be a NEW FORMAT and we will start the conference with Ms. Kudo's demonstration at the Morton Arboretum. Conference chair E-Ling Lou is busy making all the arrangements.

A registration form for Chicago is attached and we encourage your completing it as soon as possible to avoid disappointments. The conference is being held at the Sheraton Lisle Hotel Naperville Hotel. The telephone number is **(800) 325-3535** and the Group name is North American Ohara Teachers Association. Or you can use the following site to book reservations

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/NAOTA>

Standard Rooms (1 king or 2 queen beds) are \$99 plus tax per night. A discounted \$12 breakfast voucher is available for the guests. The room rates are available three nights prior and three nights after the conference until May 17, 2019. Cancellations must be made no later than 48 hours prior to intended arrival.

Chairman E-Ling has also given us the Distances from Chicago's O'Hare as 30 miles NE and Midway airport as 35 miles E, and that the hotel does not provide shuttle service from the airports. If you have any questions please direct them to Alice Buch, E-Ling, or me.

On a sad note we tell you of the passing of two long time members—Martha Wiltsie of the Chicago Chapter and Mona Lutz from the Los Angeles Chapter. We will miss them.

On an upbeat note we thank Grace Furuya of Ottawa Chapter for her financial gift to NAOTA.

Looking forward to the future and a meaningful experience at our conferences. Remember—make those reservations asap so you are assured you will be with us.

*Ingrid*