

Minutes of the Urasenke Tankokai Philadelphia Annual Meeting
January 27, 2018

President Frank Chance called the meeting to order at 11:33 p.m.
The agenda was adopted with amendments.

Election of Officers

The slate of proposed officers was presented as follows:

- President: Frank Chance
- Vice President: Brandon Forsht
- Chief of Administration: Morgan Beard
- Treasurer: Drew Hanson
- Japanese Language Recording Secretary: Keijiroh Yamaguchi
- Manager: Derek Finn, Sachiko Houck, Mary Lynn Howard, Terry Sherwin
- Supervisor: Shoko Kato

The slate was accepted by unanimous vote.

2018 Financial Report

Treasurer Drew Hanson reported on association finances. A separate sheet was distributed with a summary of income and expenses for the year. Drew noted that Hatsugama is consistently one of our biggest expenditures for the year (with income to match).

This year we also made a major investment in buying a new set of 12 and ½ tatami mats. The mats cost \$4,128, plus shipping of \$3,009 from Japan, for a total expenditure of \$7,137. While the mats were expensive, they are a special thinner type designed to be more portable, which is very useful for events.

There was a question about expenditures for Taeko Shervin sensei's farewell activities. We had total expenses of \$2,824 and expenses of \$1,215, for a total cost to the association of \$1,609. We had asked members to pay for the cost of their entrees at the farewell dinner; the association covered drinks, dessert, service charge, room rental fee, and gifts for Taeko-sensei.

Total cash on hand at the end of the year was \$8,620. Our current net asset figure of \$7,445 includes the items in the Tankokai collection, including the new tatami mats, but not the items donated by Taeko Shervin sensei (see below), which have yet to be valued.

The financial report was accepted by unanimous vote.

Report of the Collections Committee

President Frank Chance, also chair of the Collections Committee, reported that the committee met in September to create a catalog of the utensils that were from the tearoom at La Salle University, and also utensils that were subsequently donated to the association. The committee created a catalog of items in

the collection and photographed each items; currently work is in progress to combine the catalog with the photographs.

The collection was previously housed in the home of association member Morgan Beard, and has been moved to Sachiko Houck's house in King of Prussia.

In addition to those items, Taeko-sensei left a substantial amount of dogu to the association when she moved back to Japan. Sachiko Houck is working to create a catalog of that dogu for our records; Morgan Beard will collaborate with her to get the inventory to add to our net assets, and credit Taeko-sensei for the donation.

The question was raised of insurance for the collection. Sachiko will investigate.

The collection is available for use by Tankokai members, but a more formal written borrowing policy is needed. The Collection Committee will meet to determine details. In the meantime, Sachiko is in charge of administering the collection; she will have a sign-out book at the house to keep track of who is borrowing which items.

There was a question about borrowing tatami mats. The new mats are for association use, and it was decided that we would avoid lending them out for demonstrations to help extend their usable life. However, there are a number of older mats in King of Prussia: a set of 6 left behind by Taeko-sensei, and another 4 ½ that had formerly been used for classes at the Sakura Pavilion (the classroom next to the Horticultural Center, operated by the JASGP) and are now in King of Prussia and available for use in demonstrations.

The entire set of new mats is being stored at the Sakura Pavilion. A question was raised about the safety of the mats in a multi-use space. It was decided to keep an eye on the way in which the space was being used and evaluate periodically.

Report of the Demonstrations Committee

Committee Chair Drew Hanson reported that in 2018 members did fifteen off-site demonstrations throughout the Delaware Valley, in addition to the monthly demonstrations at Shofuso. One of the most significant was the presentation at the Nakashima Studio, which marked a historic reunion of two families of artists (the Raymonds and the Nakashimas); there were also private demonstrations, and a number of demonstrations held at universities, including Villanova, the University of the Arts, Swarthmore College, Muhlenberg College, and Cedar Crest College. There were also demonstrations done for associations like the Tea Society of New York and the Acorn Club.

We have already had a number of demonstration inquiries in 2019.

There was a discussion of how demonstrations are booked. Requests should be directed to Drew as the Committee Chair. He then forwards requests to other members of the committee, which currently consists of Mary Lynn Howard, Terry Sherwin, and Sachiko Houck. However, if others are interested in doing demonstrations, they should contact Drew and he will put them on the distribution list.

Mary Lynn talked about considerations when preparing to do public demonstrations.

There was an inquiry about fees. There is a standard fee structure (a sliding scale depending on the requester, their location, and other factors) that Drew can e-mail to people who are interested.

Report on Classes and Events

Morgan Beard led the report by talking about classes at Shofuso. There were two beginners sessions this year; signup were lighter than usual because of promotional conflicts, but we had a couple of continuing students who are keeping up with their study. We are also opening up a new beginner session at the beginning of February because of some requests from new students.

Drew Hanson, Morgan Beard, and Keijiroh Yamaguchi are now having classes in King of Prussia on Thursdays (as of January 17, 2019). The fee structure initially remains the same, and we will re-evaluate going forward depending on what kind of expenses are incurred and who will cover the cost. There is an online sign-up sheet for people to sign up.

Sachiko confirmed that the space could be available for lessons on other days, or private events like demonstrations – contact her directly for details.

There was a discussion about how to find more students. There was a suggestion to advertise in language schools, for example Japanese language programs. Japanese arts and arts in general might also be a good source of interested students.

Dates for future events:

March 30 or 31 (tentatively) – Keenanki / Rikyuki (see below)

Nodate demonstration at Shofuso: first Sunday in April (7th)

Sakura Sunday: April 14th

Obon Festival at Shofuso: August 24th (Sat), rain date is 25th

Otsukimi – September 13 (Fri), 7:30 p.m..

Robiraki – tentatively November 3rd. May be held at either Shofuso or King of Prussia; more discussion needed.

There was also a discussion of having a cherry blossom viewing in the spring, weather and schedules permitting. We will keep an eye on the weather and projected cherry blossom scheduling to see if it is feasible.

Drew will send a complete list of Shofuso demonstration dates shortly.

Old Business

It was suggested that we should put together a book (possibly a photo book) with history of tea in Philadelphia for the record. It was mentioned that the La Salle University archives might have photos and documents related to the teahouse.

New Business

There was discussion of holding a memorial tea for Brother Joseph Keenan; the 20th anniversary of his passing will be in February 2019. It was decided to aim for the weekend of March 30-31, to be held at the tearoom in King of Prussia in case of inclement weather.

There was a discussion of the calligraphic board with the name of the tea room at La Salle, Sanbikanshaan, which has strong historical connections for the association. Derek says that it's currently at Shofuso. Morgan will follow up and see if they would be willing to transfer it to us.

Drew presented the idea of organizing a group trip to the Freer tea archive. There was general agreement that it would be a great idea. A time frame of July was suggested. Drew will be the point person for organizing the trip.

There was also a suggestion of a group trip to Kyoto/Osaka, with visit to Taeko-sensei. It was likewise agreed that it would be a very good idea.

Announcements

Brandon Forsht announced that the February 21st Ikebana International meeting will be about kimonos. There are going to be a number of similar programs throughout the year. Morgan has details and will circulate to the membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:21 p.m.