



**PRESIDENT'S TEA,
JAPANESE TEA CEREMONY CHABANA WORKSHOP
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 10:00 – 12:00**

After our business meeting, there will be a short demonstration expressing this unique style of arrangement, followed by:

**SMALL FLOWERS – THE WORLD OF CHABANA
WORKSHOP**

Chabana, literally, means tea flowers (cha for tea, b(h)ana for flowers). Rooted in Zen Buddhism, chabana arrangement is traditionally displayed in the tokonoma alcove of a tea room for Chanoyu. Chabana arrangements are minimal, usually not more than one or two stems, with a bud or flower.

The method of arranging the flowers is according to the nageire, or ‘thrown in’, style of flower arranging. In turn, nageire is recognized as a certain stylistic category of Kadō, the Japanese "Way of Flowers". These all developed from ikebana, which had its origin in early Buddhist flower offerings. Chabana, however, refers specifically to the flower display in the room or space for chadō, ‘way of tea’, and though it fundamentally is a form of ikebana, it comprises a genre unto its own. An important part of the tea ceremony, these arrangements were meant to symbolize the ‘harmony between nature and humanity’, which is at the heart of Japanese culture.

Tea Master, Sen No Rikyu, gave some rules about which wildflowers would be most suitable. Ones with strong fragrance are to be avoided, since they might interfere with the incense burned in the brazier for ritual purification of the tea room. Ferns are not allowed. Buds are chosen over fully open blossoms because of their mysticism and flowers that anticipate the coming season are preferred, although it is acceptable to honor the “last camellia of the season”, for example.

There are Chabana Schools in Japan. Students are instructed to gather a chosen stem or stems, hold them gently with their fingertips, adjust heights so that they mimic each plant’s true stature in Nature. Then place them in the container. There is to be no more touching after that. Though it is a simple design, it is considered difficult to arrange and greatly admired.

Above all Chabana are to remind us of ‘Nature’s Wonder’!

Listed below are some Guiding Principles for Creating Chabana

- **Chabana should not be too elaborate or overworked**
- **It should be like flowers from the garden or fields**
- **Bronze, ceramic, porcelain, stoneware, bamboo or woven basket are usual containers**
- **If the container is slender with a small mouth, then only one or two flowers are used**
- **The larger the mouth of the container, the more flowers are allowed, usually odd numbers**
- **Restraint and simplicity must be practiced**
- **Weeds, vines and twigs can be used along with flowers, as these represent nature**
- **Flowers should not have a strong fragrance**
- **Material should express current or coming season**
- **Should be simple representing one's spirit and natural beauty**