

In **Ikebana International, Boston Chapter**, there are three schools represented: **Ikenobo, Ohara and Sogetsu**.

**Ikenobo** continues a tradition of creativity that began over 500 years ago. The Ikenobo School is based in Kyoto, Japan at Rokkaku-do temple. The Japanese word IKE means “pond” while the word BO means “a priest’s hut”. The two words combine in the name of the family that has headed this school of Ikebana for generations. Succeeding generations of priests were famous for their skill in arranging flowers thus: Ikenobo became “the origin of Ikebana”. Ikenobo’s current 45<sup>th</sup> generation Headmaster, Sen’ei Ikenobo believes that the possibility of creating new Ikebana depends on the desire to refine one’s own character, a spirit that has been passed down to us as the essence of Ikebana itself.

**The Ohara School** of Ikebana was founded in 1895 by Unshin Ohara, when Japan opened itself to the influence of Western culture. His departure from traditional Ikebana lay in the creation of a new form which is called the Moribana style. He also designed and produced the wide, shallow containers suitable for works in the Moribana style. The Ohara School emphasizes seasonal qualities, natural growth processes and the beauty of natural environments.

The **Sogetsu School** of Ikebana was established by Sofu Teshigahara in 1927. The philosophy of Sogetsu is that plants are beautiful as they are but with the help of people they can be arranged in a style to be even more appreciated. The philosophy of Sofu was that anyone can arrange Ikebana, anywhere with almost anything. Just as people are different from each other, Ikebana students are encouraged to be individual and imaginative.

\*information for this article is from the Ikebana International website: [www.ikebanahg.org](http://www.ikebanahg.org)