

# The SAORI LEADERS' COMMITTEE

## How and Why to Join

(Translated and Edited by Mihoko Wakabayashi and Nathaniel Needle)

The SAORI LEADERS' COMMITTEE is part of the "SAORI-HIROBA" non-profit organization in Japan. It is also known by its Japanese acronym, *SARICO*. It is an association for people who deeply love SAORI as an art form. For these people, the association is a way of:

- Helping them create free-form SAORI art in their own daily lives
- Making friends
- Helping them interest and educate others, and coach them to weave
- Finding mutual support from others as leaders and coaches
- Promoting SAORI in the world among diverse people

Anyone of any nationality who agrees with these purposes and who would like to work as a leader can apply to be a member of this committee.

### SARICO as a "Certification" Process: Note to Potential Applicants Outside Japan

SARICO membership is the closest thing there is at present to a SAORI "teacher certification" process as one might understand that, for example, in the US or Canada. In Japan, being a SARICO member is not necessary for one to teach or coach SAORI. Nonetheless, membership does represent a distinct level of recognition as a peer by others who have practiced SAORI with variety, depth, and a full grasp of its unique philosophy and mission. Knowing that one's SAORI teacher has earned SARICO membership can therefore serve to reassure the student, as well as anyone who might recommend a student to that teacher. With that said, SARICO is not a controlling guild. It is generally accepted that there may be otherwise qualified SAORI teachers who do not join SARICO, as well as SARICO members who are not actively teaching.

SARICO membership, above all, involves a commitment to activities such as:

1. SAORI study and "spreading the word"
  - a. Educating oneself and others about SAORI
  - b. Organizing SAORI Exhibitions
  - c. Training leaders to help grow local "SAORI-kai" (SAORI associations)
2. Collecting and distributing information
  - a. Publishing newsletters
  - b. Publishing manuals and reports
3. Organizing exchange programs
  - a. with sister SAORI groups worldwide
  - b. with sister institutions such as VSA Arts (international organization on Arts and Disability [www.vsarts.org](http://www.vsarts.org)) & various Japanese non-profit organizations devoted to life-long learning

(Continued next page)

## SARICO Application Process

This is administered by SAORI in Japan. Email in English to **Madoka Jo** for information on application fees as well as membership fees: [Osaka@saori.co.jp](mailto:Osaka@saori.co.jp) US/Canada applicants may consult with these **SARICO members in the US:**

### *Mihoko Wakabayashi\**

SAORI Worcester, 18 Winslow St., Worcester, MA, 01609 Ph: 508-757-4646

Email: [mihoko@saoriworcester.com](mailto:mihoko@saoriworcester.com) Website: <http://www.saoriworcester.com>

### *Chiaki O'Brien\* and Dan O'Brien\**

SAORI Studio Fun, 1475 Meadow Lane, Chaska, MN, 55318 Ph: 952-448-0527

Email: [saoriminnesota@yahoo.com](mailto:saoriminnesota@yahoo.com) Website: <http://www.geocities.com/saoristudiofun/>

### *Yukako Satone\**

Loop of the Loom Studio, 490 Curry Ave., Englewood, NJ 07631 Ph: 201-567-8771

Email: [loopoftheloom@hotmail.com](mailto:loopoftheloom@hotmail.com) Website: [www.loopoftheloom.com](http://www.loopoftheloom.com)

### *Catherine Galbreath*

9 Moosehorn Hill Circle, Hubbardston, MA 01452, 978-928-4021 [cogalbreath@verizon.net](mailto:cogalbreath@verizon.net)

\*Can provide application essay translation services at low cost, as well as other individualized application support services for a negotiable fee.

SAORI founder Misao Jo's book, "SAORI Self-discovery through Free Weaving", a key resource, is available by mail from SAORI Worcester (see website).

## Elements of the Application Process:

- ✓ Submit application **form**, listing at least **one current SARICO member as a reference** (Ask your referring member to transfer your Application in English below to the original Japanese form).
- ✓ Write a brief **essay** (1-2 pages) on the subject: "What is SAORI?" This must be translated into Japanese.
- ✓ Weave the SAORI **items** listed below for juried evaluation. Submit one of each assigned item. Attach a tag to each item with your name and the item's title. Indicate which one of all your items is your favorite. All items will be returned to you once evaluation is completed.

### **Items Required to be Submitted for Juried Evaluation**

1. "Loose" ("*Ara-ara*") work, in which the warp and weft are extremely loosely woven.
2. "*HA-DE JI-MI*" scarf: "wild and outstanding, yet elegant and calm"
3. Tapestry demonstrating techniques shown in the book "SAORI Self-discovery through Free Weaving", pp. 56-59: Weft Variations, as shown in drawings #1-12 (pp.56-57); Warp Variations, as shown in drawings #13-15 (p.58), Float Weaving as shown in drawing #17 (p.59), and Knotting as shown as drawing #18 (p.59). \*\*
4. One-piece dress
5. Coat
6. Pants
7. Blouse ( Pull-over)
8. Item finished by pulling/condensing some warp threads (after removal from loom)
9. Item with changes in the width of the warp
10. Free Tapestry

\*\*Anyone who has been admitted into the Gendai Teori Association by its Governing Board may skip this item.  
(Application Process Continued Next Page)

### **Application Process – continued from p.2**

- ✓ Submit 5 **photos** of yourself wearing 5 different SAORI items you have woven for your everyday use (do **not** include any of the juried evaluation items).

Please consult with one of the SARICO teachers mentioned above for detailed information on any of the above requirements.

### **Periods of Submission & Evaluation**

- February 15<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> (For accepted Members, membership will begin April 1st.)
- August 18<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> (For accepted Members, membership will begin October 1st.)

### **Notification of Member Acceptance**

One week after the end of your Submission & Evaluation Period, notification of acceptance or non-acceptance will be sent to you directly. If you are accepted, you will be given the opportunity to meet and receive your certificate directly from the President of the SAORI non-profit association.

### **Membership Fees**

Newly accepted members are expected to pay a one-time entrance fee as well as their initial annual membership fee (see below). Your membership does not officially start until these payments are received.

- One-time Entrance Fee: 25,000yen (includes certification, as well as the “SAORI REPORT” books I, II, and III).
- Annual Membership Fee: 5000 yen (However, if your membership starts on October 1st, you pay only 2500 yen for the first year.)

(See Application Form in English next page)

## SAORI LEADERS' COMMITTEE

### Application Form

Year      / Month      / Date

Name	Photo of face
Address	
Phone	
Email	Your experience (# years)
Reference (SARICO Member)	
Reference's Studio or Class Name	

#### Teaching Experiences

Name/location of the studio where you took classes:

How long have you been doing SAORI? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you any SAORI teaching experience?    Y    N

If Yes, did you.....

Open your own studio

Teach at a craft/art class or center

Teach at another kind of institution (describe): \_\_\_\_\_

Other (describe): \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been teaching? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you exhibited your SAORI work? If yes, explain:

Questionnaire – attach separate sheet as needed:

1. How many SAORI items have you made? (OR, how many SAORI warps have you set up?) \_\_\_\_\_
2. What kinds of items have you made most? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What kinds of items do you like to make most?  
Tapestry   Scarf   Garment   Sash   Kimono   Bag  
Small items   Other: