

LOOKING BACK ON OUR CHAPTER'S HISTORY 2nd Installment
 by Diana Cull, Chapter Historian
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We were fortunate to have **Mika Tsujii** of Saga Goryū demonstrate for our 60th Anniversary Special Event, following in the steps of her grandfather **Kōshū Tsujii** and father **Hakushū Tsujii**. Over the years, Chapter No. 1 has hosted a number of the most prestigious Ikebana Masters.

Ohara school Headmaster **Houn Ohara** was the first headmaster to visit the Chapter when he gave two demonstrations in 1958. In 1969 he participated in the Chapter's exhibition "Festival of Flowers," which was held in the National Housing Center as part of the Ninth Annual Cherry Blossom Exhibit. According to *The Washington Post*: "Ohara placed one of his own arrangements in the fifth-floor exhibition area. The tallest of the arrangements on display at 7 feet, it was constructed of driftwood, pine, forsythia and chrysanthemums, topped by weeping cherry."



Mr. Houn Ohara with Chapter No.1 President Jane Bour and Madame Shimada, Japanese Embassy, viewing his arrangement at 1969



In 1962, Chapter No. 1 hosted the first "U.S. Get-Together" to which all U.S. Chapters and members at large were invited. **Sofu Teshigahara**, Founder of the Sogetsu School, was the guest demonstrator and also gave lectures and workshops.

Mr. Sofu Teshigahara with Ellen Gordon Allen receiving certificate from Japanese Foreign Ministry

Meikof Kasuya, Founder and Headmaster of the Ichiyo School, demonstrated at the Smithsonian Institution in 1966 and returned for Chapter special events in 1975 and 1978. His son and successor, **Akihiro Kasuya**, made his first Washington appearance for the Chapter's 25th



Meikof Kasuya at 1975 Special Event demonstration



Akihiro and Naohiro Kasuya at their demonstration for Chapter No.1's 50th Anniversary

Anniversary Celebration in 1982; and Akihiro's son, Ichiyo Headmaster Designate **Naohiro Kasuya**, demonstrated with his father at the Chapter's 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2008.

Other notable Ikebana Masters to headline Chapter No. 1 events included: Ikenobo Headmaster **Senei Ikenobo**; Chiko school Headmistress **Kobai Naruse**; Koryu Headmaster **Rihoh Semba**; Enshu school **Isshin Mori**; Professor **Shozo Sato** of Ryusei-Ha school; and Sogetsu Professor **Norman Spamon**.