

## LOOKING BACK ON OUR CHAPTER'S HISTORY—Early Exhibitions

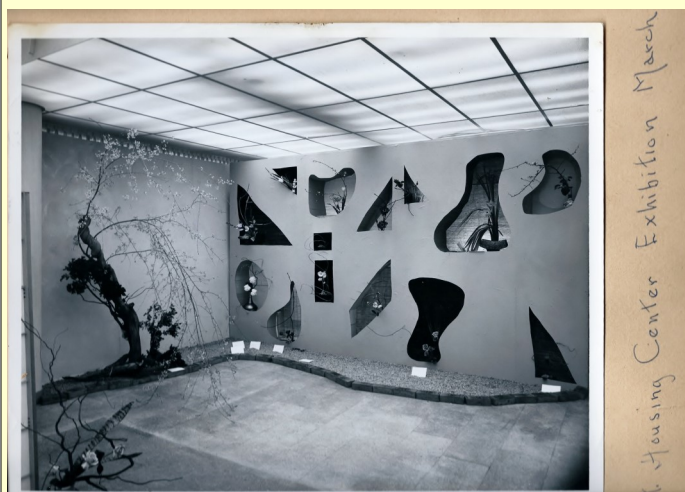
by Diana Cull, Chapter Historian

The first Ikebana International Exhibition by Chapter No. 1 took place in November 1957. It was held at the Japanese Embassy Chancery Annex on Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. It was a two-day event, open to the public free of charge, and featured 42 entries. The guest book recorded 800 visitors. Notes of regret from Mrs. Mamie Eisenhower and Mrs. Pat Nixon, stating they were unable to attend due to previous travel plans, are in our Chapter's archives!

Ribbon-cutting at First Ikebana International Exhibition, l to r Medrith Striker, Chapter President; Ellen Gordon-Allen, Founder of Ikebana International; Madame Koichiro Asakai, wife of the Japanese Ambassador to the US.



Subsequent exhibitions were held at the Chevy Chase Women's Club in 1958, 1959, and 1960. In 1961, the "Fifth Ikebana Exhibition" was held March 28-April 9 at the National Housing Center, Headquarters of the National Association of Homebuilders, then located at 1625 L St., NW. Described as "Huge" and "Mammoth," by the Washington Post, Evening Star and Sunday Star newspapers, *"The exhibit will include more than 300 different arrangements as well as butterfly kites, driftwood, stripped honeysuckle, stone lanterns, garden ponds and other materials that Japanese use to make their homes more attractive...the*



Ikebana Exhibition at National Housing Center March-April 1961

*arrangements will be done by members of the District of Columbia Chapter of Ikebana, and is expected to be the first such large show ever seen by an American audience."* A review in the Washington Post section "For and About Women" stated *"Ikebana is a study in artistic inventiveness and the arrangers have created beauty with bits of charred wood, sprouting potatoes, budding apple branches, sand fungi and futuristic lumps of plastic."*

The Chapter continued to exhibit at the National Housing Center as part of the national Cherry Blossom Festival through 1972. More on exhibitions in the next newsletter.



Mr. W. E. Buchanan, Vice President of the NAHB, Mabel Herweg, Exhibition Chairman and Mrs. Buchanan at the opening of I. I. Exhibition, National Housing Center, May, 1961.

Mr. W. E. Buchanan, Vice President of the National Association of Home Builders, Mabel Herweg, Exhibition Chairman, and Mrs. Buchanan at the opening of I.I. Exhibition, National Housing Center March 1961



Ellen Gordon Allen and Exhibitor Toku Miyakawa with arrangement at I.I. Exhibition March 1961